

# ANNALS OF PITTENWEEM:

BEING

NOTES AND EXTRACTS

FROM

**The Ancient Records**  
OF THAT BURGH.

1526—1793.



ANSTRUTHER: LEWIS RUSSELL.

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## P R E F A C E.

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HAVING had occasion to look into the old Records of the Burgh of Pittenweem, I was agreeably surprised to find that they contained much curious and interesting matter. The history of the Town for two centuries and a half has been preserved in them ; and it turns out to have been more eventful than the inhabitants of the present day had been led, by the traditions of the place, to suppose. It appeared to be matter for regret that the memory of so much life and energy, principle and suffering therefor, should be lost ; and, believing that some of my fellow-townsmen would feel an interest in the deeds of their predecessors, Notes and Extracts were made, which, with the sanction of the Town Council, were inserted in the *East of Fife Record*, and are now published in a form better adapted for preservation and reference.

The obsolete language and spelling of the earlier minutes make them less readable than they would have been if written in the modern style, but no alteration in that respect could have been made without depriving them of much of their force and quaintness. Generally, therefore, though not invariably, the Extracts are *verbatim et literatim*. In some instances, notes of the substance of minutes and papers are given in place of Extracts.

These Extracts connect Pittenweem with the general history of the country ; and as some of those who read

them may not have a very distinct recollection of the public events to which they relate, several explanatory quotations from books of history have been made as foot notes, for the sake of convenient reference. It will also be observed that a few Excerpts referring to Pittenweem from the Records of Privy Council and Convention of Royal Burghs have been placed amongst the Extracts from the Burgh Records.

Selections from the Minutes of Council of several of the Royal Burghs of Scotland have been published, but it is believed that in comparatively few places have the Municipal Records been so carefully preserved as, to the credit of the Town Clerks, they have been in Pittenweem. I have to express my obligations to the present worthy occupant of that office for the facilities he has afforded me in examining the books and papers under his charge.

It is obvious that Pittenweem had been a place of some trade and wealth at the end of the 16th and during the first half of the 17th centuries. In the Tax Roll of 1575, it ranks with Crail in the twelfth place among the towns of Scotland. No record of the population at that early date has been preserved, but in their first application for a minister (1583) the inhabitants describe themselves as "ane great congregation and mony people." From the facts that the stent rolls between 1640 and 1660 contained the names of from 80 to 110 persons ; and that the muster-roll of men fit to carry arms amounted to about 180, it may be inferred that the population was not under, although it probably did not greatly exceed, 1000. The transactions of that stirring time shew that the Burghers of those days were not behind their contemporaries in intelligence, nor inferior to them in strength of principle and manly courage. That many of them possessed edu-

cation and business habits is indicated by the style of the signatures at the National Covenants of 1590 and 1638, as well as by the fact that ordinary members of Council regularly took part in the deliberations of the Convention of Burghs, the General Assembly, and the Scottish Parliament.

Then as now, fishing was the staple trade, but the salt and coal works also gave employment to a number of people. The salters and colliers were in a manner slaves, being by law bound for life to the works at which they were employed, and sold and bought with them; and the personal freedom of the fishermen seems also to have been much restricted. The owners of the boats were landsmen, or shipmasters, who personally did not fish, but to whom the magistrates assigned a certain number of fishermen, who were "ordainit" to serve in the different boats for a specified time, during which any other person hiring them incurred a heavy penalty. Each inhabitant was entitled to a share of the fish caught, corresponding to the amount of taxes paid by him, at a price fixed by the magistrates. It was the practice to fish at Orkney and the Western Islands, as well as in the seas nearer home. The summer and winter draves of those days were as uncertain and fluctuating as they are still.

A good many ships of considerable tonnage and value, engaged in the foreign trade, and owned and manned by town's people, hailed from this place. Some of them appear to have occasionally brought their cargoes to Pittenweem, but the greater number sailed to and from the larger ports. Many of those whose names appear in the Records as leaders in the management of the town's affairs were shipmasters.

A sad blow was given to the prosperity of the town by the events of the civil war and the subsequent exactions of

Cromwell. First of all, large sums of money, freely given, were expended during the reign of Charles I. in fortifying the town, and sending soldiers to the Covenanting army. Then, several town's vessels laden with valuable cargoes were captured and robbed by the King's ships, and detained for considerable periods in English ports. Afterwards, forty-nine married men, with probably twice that number of unmarried, fell on the battle field of Kilsyth, whereby, in the simple language of the interesting record of these losses, the town was "left destitute of men, which were their onlie subsistence;" and six vessels, whose masters and whole crews had been slain, were sold and removed to other places. Finally, during the whole protectorate of Cromwell, the town had to send very large sums monthly towards the maintenance of his army; and the creditors of the town becoming alarmed at the daily increasing poverty of the place, pressed their claims, so that at length its whole wealth was wrung out of it. One of the duties of the Magistrates being to levy the assessments, it happened that no one would accept the unenviable office, and thus for nineteen months prior to the Restoration there was no Town Council.

From this time down to a period within the memory of the present generation, the town was in continual poverty and difficulties. Most of the men of spirit and enterprise left it; many houses became ruinous, and were sold by the Magistrates because the proprietors were unknown; and on more than one occasion, the Bailies were imprisoned for the debts of the town. Most fortunately, although frequently tempted to sell the common lands, they never did so; and these, with the progress of agriculture, having increased enormously in value, and a more judicious and self-denying system of managing the town's affairs than had prevailed in last century having

been introduced, the debts were at length completely liquidated, and many improvements effected. It is interesting to note the progress of the annual revenue :—In 1639, it was £16, 13s. 4d. ; in 1690, £28 ; in 1746, £69 ; in 1788, £175 ; in 1833, £558 ; in 1860, £970 ; and in 1866, £817.

To the straits of the burgh during the greater portion of the period to which these Extracts relate, may be in part attributed the irritability of the Magistrates and their excessive jealousy of their dignity, of which many amusing instances are to be found in their Records.

The witch cases of 1704-5 form a notable chapter in the history of Pittenweem. Many modern writers have referred to them, and it is the fashion to do so in a strain of mingled contempt and indignation at the superstition and severity of the “sapient Bailies of this benighted burgh ;” but it is easy to prove that in that matter they were neither in their creed nor their actions worse than their neighbours. The minister for the time, Mr Couper, who seems to have lacked prudence and moderation, was more culpable than they.

In this as well as in other matters, it is necessary, in judging of the conduct of these civic rulers, to take into account the state of the times in which they lived, for many of their acts, which, if performed now, would deserve and receive censure, were then in perfect accordance with the spirit and practice, perhaps also with the requirements of the age. They had, if not in law at least in fact, an absolute and exclusive jurisdiction, and being virtually irresponsible, they acted as men similarly uncontrolled always have done, and always will do. They had “a giant’s strength,” and sometimes they “tyrannously used it like a giant.”

But while that was the case, we cannot fail to admire

the generally bold, honest, straightforward character of their transactions. They seem to have spoken as they thought and felt, and to have acted as they saw to be right; and if in many cases they were narrow-minded and illiberal, it was because they fancied such a policy to be most conducive to the interests of the corporation they governed; and if in their judicial acts they were sometimes harsh, they were at least as ready to punish their own equals and colleagues, as any of the more obscure inhabitants.

DAVID COOK.

PITTENWEEM, April 1867.



NOTES AND EXTRACTS  
FROM THE  
ANCIENT RECORDS  
OF THE  
BURGH OF PITTENWEEM.

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CHARTERS TO THE MONASTERY.

1. *Charter* by King James V., dated 13th Nov. 1526, renewing the investiture of the lands belonging to the Monastery.—By this charter His Majesty, on the narrative that the monastery of Pittenweem and the Isle of May had been founded and endowed by his illustrious progenitors, in order that God might be daily worshipped at its altars; and being willing that such services should continue and be increased to the honour of God and the saints in heaven, and for policy and improvement within His kingdom, He gave and granted to the venerable father in God, John Rowle, prior of the said monastery,\* and to the convent of the same, and their successors, the lands of Pettinweme, Anstruther on the west side of the burn, the Milton, with the multures of the same, the lands of Falside, Lingo, Grangemuir, Cranriggs, the Island of May, the croft of Carrail, Pettotir, with the pertinents, the lands of Rynd, easter and wester, Mayscheill and Barro, the croft of Belhaven, and a croft near Arbroath; which lands formerly pertained to the

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\* John Rowle continued to be prior of Pittenweem till within a year or so of the Reformation, and it has been supposed that he had embraced its principles. He held, amongst other dignities, that of a Lord of Session. During his time, in prospect of the spoliation of church property likely to ensue upon the Reformation, a great part of the possessions of the monastery was disposed of. The lands in the vicinity of Pittenweem, all of which belonged to the Priory, were feued out by him to the inhabitants in small lots, as they still continue to be held. The "Register Book" of the Priory, containing copies of these grants, has been preserved in the Advocates' Library in Edinburgh.

said prior and convent as the patrimony of the monastery, and which said town of Pettinweme had been erected into a free burgh of barony by His Majesty's illustrious progenitor, King James the Third. The privileges of a barony are renewed, and power is given to exercise all kinds of trade, to have bailies and other officers, a market cross, markets on Sunday and Monday weekly, and public markets twice in the year, on the feast of Mary Magdalene in summer, and St Clement in winter, together also with the escheat of the goods of any person convicted by the justiciars of crime.

2. *Charter* by King James V., dated 24th Feb. 1541.—By this charter His Majesty “for the policy and building of the town of Pettinweme, and in order to its becoming a sufficient resort for the confluence of Our lieges,” created the town and lands of Pettinweme, with the pertinents, into a free burgh regal for ever, in favour of the prior and convent.

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#### CHARTER TO THE COMMUNITY.

*Charter*, dated 12th Feb. 1547, granted by “John Rowle, by divine permission Prior of Pittenweem and the Isle of Saint Adrian of May, and convent of the said place, of the order of canons regular of St Augustine, in the Diocese of St Andrews, with consent of James V., and of a venerable father in Christ, James, perpetual commendator of the monastery of St Andrews and convent thereof, our superiors and patrons; and upon which monastery of St Andrews our monastery depends, and is known to depend as an obediencial cell.”—Amongst other rights and privileges, this charter confers power on the indwellers and inhabitants to elect a provost and two or more bailies, &c.; of holding a court-house; appointing officers, creating burgesses, making constitutions, ordinances, and statutes; holding two market days weekly at the market cross, viz., on Monday and Sunday, and two public markets upon the day of St Mary Magdalene on the 22d day of July, and of St Adrian the martyr on the 4th of March; power “to pack and peel wool hides, skins, cloth, woollen and linen, broad and narrow, and to export beyond the kingdom of Scotland, as well salt water fish as fresh water fish, and other lawful merchandise whatsoever, and of importing the like and other things, as also wax, wine, cloth, woollen and linen, and silk webs, entirely or in separate pieces, and to buy, sell, and dispose thereof at pleasure; also, to have and institute all mechanical and necessary arts accustomed to be used in said burgh, viz., in particular, bakers,

brewers, dealers in fish and flesh, wool dressers, tanners, tailors, weavers, fullers, skimmers, workers in gold and silver and iron, wrights and joiners, masons and plumbers, and other mechanical crafts and arts." The charter was sealed with the common seal of the chapter of the monastery of St Andrews, and it bears the signatures of John Rowle, prior, and of the following monks, Patrick Andson, Robert Wry<sup>t</sup>, Patrick Forman, Bartholomew Forman, James Murray, Thomas Wry<sup>t</sup>.<sup>\*</sup>

#### A ROYAL LICENCE.

*License* Mary Queen of Scots to the bailies and community of Pittenweem, signed by Her mother, Mary of Guise, Queen Regent, dated 30th Sept. 1557 :—

#### *Regina.*

We, understanding y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Burgh of Pittinweme lyes upon y<sup>e</sup> sea coast, where easy landing may be had in case y<sup>e</sup> same be invadit be o<sup>r</sup> auld inymeis of England, gif substantious defence be no<sup>t</sup> maid in y<sup>e</sup> contrary—thairfor, and for diverse other reasonable causes and considerations moving us, and o<sup>r</sup> dearest moder, Marie, Quene Dowreane and Regent of our Realm, we haif licencit and be y<sup>e</sup> tenor hereof grantis and gevis license to y<sup>e</sup> bailies, counsal, communitie, and inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> said burgh, and within the freedom thereof, to remane and byde at hame fra our eist raid and army, devisit to convene on Fallow Moore, y<sup>e</sup> second day of October next to come ; and wills and grants that they nor nane of them sall be callit nor accusit y<sup>r</sup>for, nor incur any skaith or danger yairthrow in yair persons, lands, or guds, in ony wise in time coming, notwithstanding any other actis, statutes, letters, proclamations, or charges, special or general, maid or to be maid in y<sup>e</sup> contrare, or ony pains contenit y<sup>in</sup> ; anent y<sup>e</sup> quhilk we dispense w<sup>t</sup> thame be yir presents. Discharging herefore all our justices, justice clerk, advocattis, sheriffs, stewards, bailies, crownaris, and all others our present and to come, and their deputies of all dyting, attaching, arresting, summoning, encouraging, calling and unlawing, pursuing, poinding, troubling or intromitting with the said inhabitants or any of yame, y<sup>r</sup> lands or gudes yairfore ; and of y<sup>r</sup> offices

\* A number of charters granted by the prior and convent are extant, some of which, like that in favor of the town, are signed by the prior and *six* monks, and others by the prior and *nine* monks. As it was necessary that such deeds should bear the signatures of at least a majority of the chapter, this monastic establishment would appear to have consisted of from 9 to 12 members.

in y<sup>e</sup> pairt be yir or lres for ever : Gevin under or signet  
and subscribet be or said dearest moder at Edinburgh,  
y<sup>e</sup> last day of September, and of oure regne y<sup>e</sup> fyftnee  
zeir. (Signed) Marie R.

## A TAX ROLL IN 1575.

“ Follows the copy of the extent roll for payment of  
the soumes grantit to my Lord Regentis Grace, for  
discharge of the bulzeoun, for the charges of men to be send  
in Flanderis, for tryell of the falis cunzie, and for recom-  
pance of the expensis debursit and to be debursit for in-  
gathering of the same :—

Edinburgh, -	£4280 0 0	Forfar, -	£40 0 0
Dundee, - -	1107 7 1	Jedburgh, -	36 14 0
Perth, - - -	828 2 0	Peiblis, - -	35 17 0
Abirdene, -	699 18 0	Kirkcudbright,	35 17 0
Air, - - - -	357 10 0	Bruntiland, -	33 0 0
Sanctandrois, -	330 0 0	Kelsow, - - -	33 0 0
Glasqw, - - -	302 10 0	Dunbar, - - -	27 10 0
Dysart, - - -	252 19 0	Wigtoun, - - -	27 10 0
Kirkcaldy, - -	220 0 0	Dumbartoun,	27 10 0
Striveling, - -	192 10 0	Culros, - - -	27 10 0
Dumfries, - - -	192 10 0	Banff, - - - -	27 10 0
PETTINWEME, -	137 10 0	Forres, - - -	27 10 0
Craill, - - - -	137 10 0	Weik, - - - -	27 10 0
Cannogait and Leith on the north syde of		Lanairk, - - -	24 15 0
the brig, - - -	137 10 0	Selkirk, - - -	22 0 0
Montros, - - -	117 5 6	Dunfermeling,	20 0 0
Anstruther on the eist syde of the burn,	115 10 0	Abirbrothok,	18 6 8
Inverness, - - -	110 0 0	Quenisferry, -	18 6 8
Erowene, - - -	94 10 0	Wester Wemyss	16 10 0
Sanctmynanis,	82 10 0	Quhithorn, - -	13 15 0
Elgin, - - - -	82 10 0	Innerkeithing,	11 0 0
Prestoun and Prestoun- pannis, - - - -	82 10 0	Dalkeith, - - -	11 0 0
Anstruther on the west syde of the burn,	74 5 0	Annan, - - - -	11 0 0
Hadingtoun, - - -	73 9 0	Renfrew, - - -	11 0 0
Cowpar, - - - -	68 15 0	Lawder, - - - -	11 0 0
Linlithgu, - - -	68 15 0	North Berwick,	8 5 0
Leith on the south syde of the brig, - - -	66 0 0	Crunmatie, - -	8 5 0
Brichan, - - - -	55 0 0	Thaine, - - - -	8 5 0
Fersoche, - - -	55 0 0	Chanonrie of Ros,	6 0 0
Kingorn, - - - -	44 0 0	Abirnethie, - -	5 13 0
		Dornoch, - - -	5 10 0
		Nairne, - - - -	5 10 0
		Summa, - - - -	£11000 14 0

—(Records of the Convention of Royal Burghs, p. 48. \*)

\* This taxation was directed “ to be sett efter the chakker and  
custome rollis of every burgh, town, or sea port quhair traffic-  
quaris hantes or hes thair remaining,” and orders were sent to  
all burghs, &c., to send in their custom rolls and custom books,  
so that the tax might be levied according thereto. The roll is  
published here for the purpose of showing the position which

## LAWSUIT WITH CRAIL.

*Minute* of Convention of Royal Burghs, dated 4th March 1563.—The samyn day, in presens of the commissaris of burrois, Maister Peter Strang, commissar of Pettynweme, producit ane charter under the greit seill, contenyng the erecting of thair said toun in fre burch, grantit be King James the Fift, and desyrit to have their places amangis uther fre burrois, and offerit to sustein taxtis, stenttis, and uther portable charges amangis the remanent burrois, at all times neidfull, and desyrit answer. And Richert Bowsy and Thomas Bane, commissaris for the toun of Craill, opponand thame to the petitoun of the said Maister Richert (Peter), allegit that the said commissaris could not be juges in that mater they had intentit actionn aganis the said toun of Pettynweme, tuiching thair pretendit privelege and libertie befor the Lordis of Sessioun, and the samyn as zit liand undecidit. The quhilk allegeance the saidis commissaris knowing to be of veritie, continewis the admissioun of the said toun of Pettynweme, quhill the said actionn sould tak end befor the saidis Lordis, without prejudice of thair rycht for thair pairt, and the said commissar of Pettynweme protestit for remeid.—P. 531.

*Answers* for the town of Pittenweem to an action at the instance of the town of Crail, raised for the purpose of preventing Pittenweem holding weekly markets and levying customs thereat.—The town of Crail pled that they were infeft in the burgh of Crail, with all privileges used and wont from the middis of the water of Leven to the water of Puttikin;\* and that therefore they had exclusive right to levy customs within these bounds. To which it was replied that the town of Pittenweem had been in use for 30 years to hold markets and collect customs, and that the town of Pittenweem is by royal charter created into a free burgh royal, with power to hold markets, and to collect customs, anchorages, and shore dues. (This paper has no date.)

*Minute* of Convention of Royal Burghs, dated 24th Feb. 1579.—“Comperit, Stevin Martyne, and producit ane com<sup>n</sup> fra the bailies, counsal, and communitie of Pittenweyme, and desired to be admitted as commissioner, whom the haill com<sup>rs</sup> foresaid admitted without prejudice to the burgh of Crail; and the action intended and dependand betwixt thame, presently befor the

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Pittenweem held as a place of trade among the towns of Scotland in 1575.

\* Pitmilley Burn.

Lordis of Session ; and David Ramsay, com<sup>r</sup> for Craill, protested that the receipt of said com<sup>r</sup> suld nocht prejuge thair richt or privilege, nor zit the said action, becaus, as he allegit, Pittenweme was and is within the boundis freedom and liberty of Craill.”—P. 84.

*Contract* between the town of Craill and the town of Pittenweem, dated 31st May 1580, whereby, on the narrative of mutual actions then pending between the parties, and of the alleged right of the town of Craill to all freedom and traffic of merchandise within that part of the bounds of the Sheriffdom of Fife lying betwixt the water of Leven and the burn of Puttiken, within which bounds the haven of Pittenweem is situate, it is mutually agreed that the inhabitants of either town will have full liberty of trade and merchandise in the other, in consideration of which privilege to the burgh of Pittenweem, it is to pay to the town of Craill £4 Scots annually.\*

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#### DECREE OF REMOVING FROM THE PRIORY.

*Decree of Removing* at the instance of ane venerable father, Mr James Halyburton, commendator of the Priory of Pittenweem, against Thomas Scott of Abbotshall, decerning him to remove from the priory place and mansion of Pittenweem, where is also ane fortalice, dated 7th May 1580.

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#### LETTERS ORDERING A TAXATION.

*Signet Letters*, addressed to the bailies of Pittenweem, in name of James VI., dated 3d April 1581 :—

“James, be the grace of God, King of Scottiæ, to the bailies of our burgh of Pittenweme, and to our lovites, . . . messengers, our sheriffs in that part : Forasmeikle as we, being informed of the preparations making for armes in sundry pairts of Europe, and that our dearest sister and cousin the Quene of England, for the respect thereof, and the better securitie of her estait, has raisit sum forces and drawn thame towardis the frontiers of this our realm, to be in the mair reddiness, as weil for the respect and resisting of all foreign invasioun as for the repression of the thieves and broken men, inhabitants of the countries ewest the borderis of England, grown insolent upon the opinion that war sall arise between the realmes, qlk we lippen not for : Quhairupon we, our nobility, estaits, and a gud number of our burrows,

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\* This sum continues to be paid yearly to the town of Craill.

convening together in the month of Februar last by-past, and having maturely deliberate thereanent, thocht meet that sum reasonable forces suld be preparit, and sent to the borders for y<sup>e</sup> better resisting of all foreign invasioun, and repressing of the said thieves and disobedient subjectis; and for support of the chairges and expenses to be maid in that behalf, the estaits then convenit granted ane taxation of," &c. There follows a command to charge the inhabitants of Pittenweem to elect stentmasters, and to pay the sums so stented; and on the back of the letters there is the following:—

"*Memorandum.*—To charge Pettinweme and Anstruther be west y<sup>e</sup> burn, ane pendikill of Pettinweme, and subject with Pettinweme in all King's taxations, to pay conform to thir owr soverane Lord's letters thair part of y<sup>e</sup> taxatioun within expressit, extending to £44, 8s.—Pettinweme y<sup>e</sup> twa pairts y<sup>r</sup>of, and Anstruther be west y<sup>e</sup> burn, as pendicle foresaid, and subject in payment as said is, the third pairt of y<sup>e</sup> same."

#### AN EXCLUSIVE PRIVILEGE TO LEITH AND CRAIL.

*Petition* to the King and Parliament by the bailies, council, and community of Pittenweem, Anstruther, and other free burghs on the north side of the Forth, setting forth that by Act of Parliament (1583) it had been ordained that "all unfreemen fishers and slayers of herring and white fishes dwelland within the bounds of y<sup>e</sup> wattr of Forth on baith sides to y<sup>e</sup> water mouth of Tay, bring yair herring and white fish slain be them in time coming to the ports of Leith and Crail, there to be gaugit, markit, and sauld to y<sup>e</sup> free burgesses of this realm, and that na fishers or unfreemen sell their said herring and white fish to any stranger or unfreeman, or carry the same furth of this realm, under pain of escheating all their moveable goods; and that by the said Act we (the petitioners) have sustained great hurt and prejudice, and are like to sustain still further to y<sup>e</sup> extreme rewine and decay of our towns and free ports, utter wrack and perpetual beggary of y<sup>e</sup> haill inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> said north coast, being y<sup>e</sup> nowmer of mony thousand souls, your Majesty's puir lauboring and seafaring subjects, we havin little or na uther traid of handelling or trafique, except our fishing and seafaring laubor, and repairing with the fruits of our sair, costly, and painful laubor (as God of his merciful goodness sends us success) to our own puir free towns and harbours. For remeid whereof," the petitioners pray His Majesty, upon consideration of "us, your Highness' puir subjects, for our support and

comfort, and for providing that ane multitude and mony thousand pair souls, as we ar, be nocht depauperit, and our free townes and ports enlargit and lately biggit be us, upon our own great cost and expense, be not come to rewine and utter decay, for the preferment of any one particular," to suspend and discharge all action taken upon the said Act, and to take order that the Act itself be rescinded.

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#### APPLICATION FOR A MINISTER.

*Commission* to the Presbytery of St Andrews, dated 23d March 1583.—The quhilk day the bailies and council being convenit in yair counsal house, for the informing and directing yair commissioners to the Presbytery of St Andrews, for themselves and in name of the remanent haill parochinaris of y<sup>e</sup> paroche kirk and parochin of Pettynweme, makes, creatts, nominats, and constituts Martyne Dishingtoun, Stevin Martyne, &c., commissioners to compear before the said Presbytery, and schaw to their wisdoms how be y<sup>e</sup> late decease of Mr William Clark,\* their pastor and minister, the Roume vaiks, and they want ane minister and doctoire ever sen syne, be y<sup>e</sup> space of . . . oulks by gane, toy<sup>e</sup> said parochinaris great incomoditie, and therefore to humbly require and desire of yair wisdoms ane lernit, qualifiet, and weill experiencit man, to be given to the said parochinaris, to wait on and serve particularlie at yair kirk of Pettynweme in time coming; and till tak y<sup>e</sup> cure and chairge of yair soules, educatioun, and upbringing of yair youth, being ane great congregation and mony people. For quhas sustentatioun, stipend, and intertynement y<sup>e</sup> said constituents will provide and be oblist at y<sup>e</sup> reasonable agreement with yat gud man himself, or at y<sup>e</sup> reasonable modification of y<sup>e</sup> said present assembly; and gif need bes, with power to the said commissioners to nominate to the said Presbytery yat person's name whom the said parochinaris desires to be gevin to yame till serve and bear y<sup>e</sup> cure foresaid, ane Sunday to teche in y<sup>e</sup> Kirk of Pettynweme on y<sup>e</sup> west syde of y<sup>e</sup> burn of Anstruther, and y<sup>e</sup> other

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\* "Mr Wilyeam Clark, my predecessour, a wyse, godly, sweet man."—*James Melvill's Diary*, p. 128. "That was a dark and heavy wintar to the Kirk of Scotland, eclipsed and bereft of thrie great lights . . . in the end of wintar, Mr Wilyeam Clark, my predecessour, a man, howbeit nocht in rank of learning with the uther twa (Arbuthnot and Smeton), yit the light and lyff in the part he dwelt in, mikle belovit and regrattit of all sorts of persons that knew him, namlie that he had the charge over."—*Ibid*, p. 139.



Sunday to teche in Pettynweme town,\* ane kirk being biggit and provydit y'arin, quhilk y<sup>e</sup> said bailies, counsal, and community are of mynd, God willing, to cause be biggit with all godly expeditioun. †

COMPLAINT AGAINST THE COUNCIL.

*Minute of Convention of Burghs, dated 21st April 1581.*

\* Up to this time Anstruther-Wester and Pittenweem had formed one parish, and the parish church had been in West Anstruther.

† "In the yeir 1583, Mr Wilyeam Clark, of maist happie memorie for godlines, wesdome, and love of his flok, departed this lyff, leaving four congregatiounes, wharof he haid the charge, destitute of ministerie, viz., Abercrombie, Pittenweim, Anstruther, and Kilrynnie, whase desolat miserie was the mair that it fell in the yeirs of feirfull plages and confusion bathe upon the Kirk and Comounweill; to wit, the yeirs fourscore four, and fourscore fyve yeirs, in the quhilk unhappie tyme Bischope Adamsonne of St Androis, tyrannizing in the kirk, obtrudit to thame ane of whome they lyked nathing, whase name I spair, for the maist part; be occasion wharof thair enterit in very grait dissentioun in thair bowelles, quhilk vexed tham with anguise of mind, grait peanes and expences, during the said twa yeirs, and mikle of the fourscore sax also.

"To the remead and composing wharof, supplicatiounes wes gevin in to the presbyterie of St Androis, of the mercie of God newlie erected and restored againe, whilk directed commissioneris at dyvers tymes to visit the esteat of these kirks, and travell to draw the peiple's harts togidder in ane. and aggrie upon a pastour. Amangs the quhilk commissioneris was James Melvill, ane of the Maisters of the Collage of Theologie; whase doctrine and dealling, when they haid hard and war acquainted withe, they condisentit all in ane to crave at the presbyterie that his peanes might be employed and continowed with thame, nocht onlie for composing of thair controversies, and reconceiling tham in Chryst, bot also for undertaking of a pastorall charge amangs tham; sa the said Mr James being earnestlie delt withall, bathe be the presbyterie and the congregatiounes, yieldit to the calling of God and his kirk, and enterit in the simmer season, in the monethe of July 1586, to teatche at the kirk of Anstruther, situat in the middes of the said congregatiounes.

"It pleisit the Lord of the hervest to bliss his travells, sa that all debattes and controversies amangs the congregatiounes, and within the bowelles of everie ane of thame (quhilk war bothe grait and in number), being taken upe and removit, with grait joy and comfort, the communion was ministrat in the kirks of Anstruther and Kilrynnie, in the spring-tyme of the yeir 1587.

"Therefter, finding the four congregatiounes a burding intolerable and importable, with a guid conscience, whowbeit the said Mr James haid brought with him at the beginning a fellow-laborare, viz., Mr Robert Dury, yit nather could the said Mr Robert be provydit of a stypend, nather could they find thameselves able to discharge so grait a cair of saulles; therfor, the said Mr James sett him self cairfullie for the separating and severall planting of the said congregatiounes, resolving to tak

—“Upon the complaynt of the commissioner of Pittenweme, berand that in all extents the counsale of thair burch omittis thamselffs, thair freinds, and the maist substantious men, and lays the chairges on the puir, ordains the bailies and counsale of the said burch to follow the ordour of all the remanent burrowes in chosing of thair extentoures and setting of thair extenttis in tyme coming, sua that thai pretermitt nane that aucht to beir chairges, according to their substances, but feid or favour, according to their conscience and knowledge, as thai will answer upon thair allegeance unto our soverane lord and remanent burrowes of this realme.”—*P.* 120.

#### PROVISION OF A STIPEND.

*Charter* by James VI., in favour of William Stewart, commendator of Pittenweem,\* dated 8th Nov. 1588.—By this charter, His Majesty conveyed to William Stewart the whole property which had formerly belonged to the Abbot and Convent of Pittenweem, and erected the same into a temporal lordship to the said William Stewart and his heirs, who were to be called Lords of Pittenweem. The charter also contains this clause:—“And forder, our said soveraigne lord, be the said dissolution of said abbey of Pettinweme from y<sup>e</sup> estait and condition of ane monasterie and erection y<sup>r</sup>of in ane temporal lordship, not willing that y<sup>e</sup> parochinaris of y<sup>e</sup> said kirk of Pettinweme and Rindis (the fourth q<sup>r</sup>of was spendit heretofore upon the sustentation of the monks sustenit in the said abbey), suld now, after the reformation of the kirk within this realm, be destitute of

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him self to Kilrynnie alean; and delt with Pittenweim, and causit tham prepeare ane auditorie and kirk within thair awin town, in the quhilk he teached to thame bathe on the Sabothe and ouk dayes, nocht intermitting his ordinarie doctrines in the uther kirks, until Pittenweim was provydit and planted with a minister of thair awin, and that without hurt or imparing of the stipend of the kirk of Anstruther-Waster; the quhilk, be grait fascherie and travell at the Plat, and dyvers actions of pley befor the Lords of Sessioun and Exchacker, be the speciall blessing of God, he haid augmented from fourscore pounds to a hunder lib., and thrie chalders victuall, with glebe and manse recovered and repaired. And sa Pittenweim being planted with Mr Nicol Dalgleishe, the said Mr James quytted and resignes the said new purchassit stipend, with the kirk of Anstruther, gleib, and manse, to his fellow-laborar, Mr Robert Dury; and freithing himself of the charge bathe of Anstruther and Pittenweim, with all the stipend and commodities thair of, whowbeit disponit to him steadfastlie under the King's privie seall, and took him to the kirk of Kilrynnie alleanerlie.”—*James Melvill's Diary*, p. 3.

\* The Commendators were liferenters of the priory revenues.

the counsel of any pastor for preaching to them the word of God, and administration of the sacraments, our said sovereign lord hes erectit, and be the tenor of the said charter erects ane rectorie or personage in every ane of the said kirks of Pettinweme and Rindis, qlk rector or person sall have y<sup>e</sup> glebe and manse of his own parochie kirk, and sall mak continual residence at y<sup>e</sup> same for serving of y<sup>e</sup> cure thereof in all time coming. Every ane of the qlk parsons, for yair honest stipend and sustentation, shall have by and attour the said glebe and manse y<sup>e</sup> yearly rent underwritten," viz., the minister of Pittenweem, £80 (£6, 13s. 4d. sterling.)

*Letters of Provision* by King James VI., of a stipend to the minister of Pittenweem, dated 30th June 1589, proceeding on the narrative that "y<sup>e</sup> kirk of Pettinweme is latelie erected in ane parochie kirk, and sua ratifiet by our last Parliament, and that cur lovite, Mr Nicoll Dalgleische,\* at y<sup>e</sup> earnest sute of y<sup>e</sup> parochiners of y<sup>e</sup> said kirk, maid to y<sup>e</sup> General Assembly, is appointit to be minister at y<sup>e</sup> said kirk," and therefore providing to the "said Nicoll and his successors ane yearly stipend furth of the funds of the priory of Pittenweem, and auld assumption of the third thereof of £44, 4s. 2d. Scots, 1 chalder wheat, 1 chalder 6 bolls bear, 9 bolls 2 firlots 3 p<sup>ks</sup>

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\* Mr Nicol Dalgliesh was a leading man in the church. He was Moderator of the General Assembly while minister of Pittenweem, and his name occurs very frequently in the ecclesiastical records of his time. The following quotation refers to an event in his history prior to his translation to Pittenweem:—"Nicol Dalgliesh, a distinguished scholar, who had been many years regent in St Leonard's College, St Andrews, and was now (1584) minister of St Cuthbert's church, was capitally tried for praying for his distressed brethren (those ministers who had been obliged to save themselves by flight from the consequences of their having denounced the 'black acts.')

The jury acquitted him, but he was instantly re-indicted upon a new charge of holding communication with rebels, merely because he had read a letter which one of the ministers of Edinburgh (a fugitive) had sent to his wife. Unconscious of crime, he was persuaded to throw himself on the King's mercy. Sentence of death was, notwithstanding, passed, and though it was not executed, yet, by a refinement of cruelty, the scaffold was erected, and kept standing for several weeks before the window of his prison."—*Aikman's History*, iii., 84. James Melville wind up his account of this affair in these words:—"That worthy brother, and now ancient father in the kirk (Mr Dalgliesh) was verie evil handlit, and stude wonderfull constant."—*Diary*, p. 219. He was minister of Pittenweem for twenty years, and occupied as his manse the house which still stands at the north side of the Town Hall.

meal, 1 ch. 13 bolls 2 firlots oats, 9 bolls pease and beans, and 8 chalders salt."\*

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GIFT OF BUILDINGS FOR A CHURCH.

*Charter* by William Scott of Abbotshall, in favour of the bailies and council, of part of the abbey, dated 20th November 1588.—“Till all persons that sall hear and see this present charter: I, William Scott, of Abbotshall, and heritable feuar of all and sundrie the houses, great and small, high and laigh, under and above, with the green, dovecot, yards, and others of the abbey place of Pettinweme, situate within the abbey walls and convent of the same, greeting in God everlasting: Forasmeikle as I, understanding and respecting the godly zeal, carefulness, and gude intentioun of my weill belovit nyctbowris, the bailies, counsal, and haill communitie of the burgh of Pettinweme, anent the erecting and placing of their parish kirk, within the said town of Pettinweme, as in the midst and maist commodious pairt and place of the said haill parochie, togiddir with the residence of thair godly minister, to be also within the same town of Pettinweme; and seeing it hes plesitt our sovereign lord the King's Majesty, with the advice of his three estates in Parliament, to grant and give unto them licence, power, and special commission to that effect; and also the General Assembly of Christ's kirk within this realm has grantit unto the said town and parish ane particular minister, always astricting thame to enlarge their kirk, and to make the same of sufficient qualitie for the resaitt of thair haill parochinaris; to provide ane sufficient manse and glebe for their minister; and ane comely and decent burial for their dead; † and hes appointit them to do the same within a certain short space; and seeing the house quhilk they have ellis coft ordourit and plenished to yair great cost and expense, and quhilk presentlie serves them for ane kirk can nocht commodiously and conveniently be enlargit, maid proper and apt to the effect foresaid as need were, having rather y<sup>e</sup> form of ane privat house, than of ane kirk; and considering it to be over chargeable to them of sua guid and godly intent, baith sufficiently to enlarge that house and kirk in respect of the difficulty of the wark, and yairwith to provide ane sufficient manse, espe-

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\* This was subsequently converted into a money payment of £300 (£25 sterling.)

† The western part of the present churchyard (except the southwest corner, where a house stood), was used as a burial place long prior to the date of this deed. The eastern part is said to have been originally the flower garden of the monastery.

cially within so short a time as is prescrivit to them for that effect; and considering how the said town of Pettinweme, being of sua gude and godlie intentioun as said is, hes maist need of ane house to be their kirk, mair kirk like and mair commodious than is their said present house; as also considering with myself how this so necessary maist godlie work might be furtherit and advanced to God's glorie, the comoditie, comfort, ease, and welfare of said town of Pettinweme and hail parochinaris of y<sup>e</sup> same, seeing sua great ane care of His Majesty and Parliament, of y<sup>e</sup> General Assembly of y<sup>e</sup> kirk, and of diverse honest and godlie persons to have sic ane part of God's work furtherit in yir parts; and of y<sup>e</sup> maist godlie and ernst instance of y<sup>e</sup> said town and parochin to that effect, yea, and pressing and endeavouring themselves far above their power for the advancement thereof; and I, nocht willing to cease nor leave off for my part, bot willing and of mynd alsweill to pleasor and encourage the said bailies, counsall, and hail communitie of Pettinweme, and parochinaris thereof, as by myself to do some worthy thing, and of loveable account for y<sup>e</sup> furtherance and advancement of sa notable and godlie ane wark; and weighing with myself, and considering how that the great house of the auld abbey of Pettinweme, perteing to me, consisting in chanon's or monk's frater, dortor, chapter chalmer, and vestries, all under and above, and all upon ane ground, and under ane level and roof, and now in ane pairt become or like to become ruinous in the roof, sclaitts, tymmers, and walls yairof, for want of batment and reparation, and culd nor can be applyit to nane so gude ane use, and might maist conveniently and sufficiently serve for that maist godlie use, and is and will be of sufficient quantity, able to contein all the parochinaris, and maist commodiously placed and situate in the midst of the same hail parochin, within ane mile or less to the furthest part thereof; and therefore and in consideration of y<sup>e</sup> premises, and to declair my affection, zeal, gudewill, and cairfulness to y<sup>e</sup> advancement of this godlie wark, and for the same love, gudewill, and affection quhilk I have and bear in heart towards the said town of Pettinweme, comunweill and flourishing thereof, and of the hail parochinaris of the same, and to give them some comfort and relief of their great burding ellis sustenit and to be sustenit be them in performing their gude and godlie wark, and to give them courage and gude occasion to continue thereintill to the perfyting of the same, and for sundrie other gude and reasonable causes and considerations moving me hereunto, to have given, granted, set

and in feu farm, let, heritable, and for ever to the present bailies, counsal, burgesses, and hail inhabitants and community of the said burgh of Pettinweme, and their successors : All and hail the said great house of the auld abbey place of Pettinweme, commonlie callit y<sup>e</sup> dortour, with the chapter chalmer thairwith contigue at the north end of the same, consisting as said is in the chanon's or monk's frater, dortor, chapter chalmer, and vestries thereof, all baith under and above, with free ish and entry to the same, upon the west side of the said great house, lying in the said abbey place of Pettinweme, and upon the west side of the inner close of the said abbey place, between the same inner close upon the east, the new gallery at the west end of the prior's hall upon the south ; the common gait and house now pertaining to James Stevenson, and close of the house some time pertaining to Umqle John Auchinleck and Isobel Wood respective on the west, and y<sup>e</sup> west garding of y<sup>e</sup> said abbey place upon the north parts,\* with full power and special privilege to steik, close up, and big firmly with stane and lime, the doors and present entrances as well to the said great house as chapter chalmer quhilk are upon the east

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\* From this and other papers a tolerably accurate idea can be obtained of the buildings of the ancient priory. The house now possessed by the incumbent of the Episcopal Chapel was the prior's hall ; on the vacant space between it and the Cove Wynd stood the gallery ; the present Town Hall occupies the site of the monk's frater or dining hall ; the south part of the house adjoining on the north, long possessed by Mrs Hutchison, contained their sleeping apartments, and was called their dortor or dormitory ; while in the north part of it the prior held his chapter, or convent council, and vestries. A small chapel or confessional stood in the Marygate, opposite the Lady Wynd, and was removed only a few years ago. The old ruin to the south of the Episcopal Chapel was the gateway and porter's lodge. A church in connection with the monastery seems to have stood on or near to the site of the present parish church. This appears from a feu charter granted in 1549 by the prior and monks, of the piece of ground which now forms the south-west part of the church yard, therein described as follows :—" All and whole that piece of land, containing 30 feet in length, and as many in breadth, lying near our church of Pettinweme, on the south side of the same, between the King's common way which separates the limits of our monastery from our said town on the west ; the south wall of our churchyard (whereon the wall of the house after mentioned may be erected) on the north ; the manor house of our said monastery (a space for steps intervening) on the east ; and the offices of our said monastery and the remainder of our said ground on the south . . . with power to build thereon a house for carrying on the trade of a carrier." Besides, in an Act of Parliament (1611) the kirk in Pittenweem is referred to as "being one of the kirks of the priory of Pittenweem," and the

side of the same, and to open their entrance thereto upon the west side, and to reform and repair the same as they best can, for to serve them for ane honest, comely, and decent kirk, and other necessary common office houses, for the honor, welfare, and decoration of their said town, and to that effect to mak steeples, bell houses, and all others in the same; and to strike out storm windows and all other lights needful therein."\*

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#### DECREE FOR STIPEND.

*Decree Dalglish* against the Commendator for stipend, dated 1590.—One of the defences was that the revenues of the priory had been so dissipated amongst pensioners by previous commendators, that there was not a sufficiency left to meet the stipend.

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#### THE NATIONAL COVENANT.

*The National Covenant*, consisting of the Confession of Faith (the King's confession), and the General Band, signed by the inhabitants of Pittenweem, the 1st of June 1590; to which is appended the Act of Secret Council against Jesuits, seminarie priests, and other adversaries of the true religion. It has the following signatures:—Mr Nicoll Dalglesche, minister of Pettinweme; William Symson, bailzie; Martyne Dischington, bailzie; Thomas Kingzow, bailzie; Stevin Martyne, bailzie; Nicol Strang, of y<sup>e</sup> counsel; Jhone Barclay, of counsel; Johne Wod, of y<sup>e</sup> counsel; William Steinson, of counsel; James Stewart; George Smyth, of counsel; Thomas Pullo, of counsel; Thomas Cuik, of counsel; Thomas Steinsone, of counsel; Andro Strang, of counsel; Alex. Horsburgh, of counsel; James Smyth; James Irvine; James Drum-

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congregation is described as very "populous." These statements go to disprove the idea commonly entertained, that the present church was originally the kitchen of the priory, a conjecture founded on the circumstance that when it was repaired, towards the end of the last century, a pair of jambs (well worn with knives sharpening) and a chimney were discovered in the east end of it. Whatever may have been the cause of these being there, it is not likely that the monks would have placed their kitchen so far from their refectory as the church is from the town hall.

\* This gift to the magistrates of the building which occupied the site of the Town Hall, and of the house at the north end of it, was subsequently ratified by the commendator of the priory, as well as by His Majesty King James VI., and by Parliament. In place, however, of a church being built there, as was intended, the south building was converted into a grammar school for upbringing the youth of the burgh, a tolbooth, prison, weigh-house, and custom-house; and the north one into a manse for the minister.

mond ; Andro Stinsone ; Johne Corsall, common clerk in Pettinweme ; William Adamson, of y<sup>e</sup> counsell ; David Sandelands, with my hand ; Tho. Dickson ; And. Strang ; Robert Strang ; Thomas Wauch ; Alex. Forrest ; Wm. Matheson ; James Cuik ; Henrie Hay ; Thomas Cantt, of y<sup>e</sup> counsell ; Alex. Boytar, of counsell ; Thomas Nicolson, of counsell ; And. Housband ; George Adamson, of counsell ; Thos. Ramsay, of counsell ; Alex. Strang ; Robert Wandirson ; James Baines, with my hand ; George Paterson, with my hand ; Mr William Brown ; Mitchell Balfour ; Thomas Horsburgh ; Thomas Paterson ; David Robertson ; David Dawsone ; Robert Kingzow ; Alex. Cuik ; George Wauch ; And Cuik ; And. Nicoll ; James Harvie ; Andro Mathieson ; Simon Russell ; Tho. Richeson ; Andro Brown ; David Smart ; Rob. Cuik ; Ro. Beverage ; Walter Rynd ; Alex. Strang ; Mr Thomas Beneston ; Thomas Wauch ; Thomas Jack ; Nicoll Wauch ; David Brown ; David Lyes ; Henry Crage ; Thos. Rollie ; John Watson ; Jo. Wandson ; Jo. Strange ; Jo. Fuirde ; Tho. Horsburgh ; Ja. Wauch ; Wm. Foullar ; Henry Gibsone ; Tho. Rost ; Da. Barclay ; Simon Gray.\*

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#### A ROYAL LETTER.

*Letter* King James VI., to the Bailies of Pittenweem, 1592 :—

“Traist friends,—We greet you weill. We have directed our commission to you concerning the apprehending of Francis, some time Erle Bothwell, with his complices and associats quhilk ye sall receive fra the bearer hereof, together with sic uther directions as in our name he will deliver to you, quhame y<sup>e</sup> sall credit as our self. We doubt not ye will be cairful in this matter, seeing the dilligent execution of your commission may baith put Us and every ane of you to ane quyetnes heirefter, as in lyk manner if thes conspirators receive any oversight or favorable dealling of o<sup>r</sup> euill affected subjects, upon whatsoever pretence or perswation may be used be thame, ye may be assured the hazard will not onlie concerne me, but everie ane of you, quhais weill mon necessarilie consist in the quyetnes and peaceable estait of o<sup>r</sup> realme, besyd the hazard of religioun, intendit be y<sup>e</sup> said conspirators. But hoping ye will discharge your selfs dewtifully

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\* Of these signatures half had been written by the parties themselves ; the other half by the minister. . The Covenant was again signed in Pittenweem in 1638, by 246 individuals.



in the premises, we commit you to the Eternell. At  
 Burly, the day of 1592.

(Signed) James R."

The following is the commission referred to in the foregoing letter :—

*“ Rex.*

“ Provosts, bailies, and inhabitants of Carrell, Anstruther, and Pittinweme, and remanent burghs of the coast syd of o<sup>r</sup> sheriffdome of Fyf,—We greet you weill. Being certainlie informit that Francis, sum tyme Erle Bothwell, with certane his complices and associats, since thair last treasonable conspiracie intendit against our personne at our palace of Falkland, hes reteirit thame selfis in a litill bark, remaining continewallie upon the coast syd within the Forth, or at least near by, quhairby they may have the mair certaine intelligence of o<sup>r</sup> dyet and quyetnes of o<sup>r</sup> house, and sa to be neir and readdie at all occasions to prattique sume new treason and divillish conspiracie against o<sup>r</sup> personne, to the subversion of the estait of this realme and securitie of religion professit thairin, except they be preventit be the cairful diligence of our subjectis affectionat to the weill of us, our realme, and thair awn quyetnes continewallie trublit be the said treasonable conspirators, be the searching and apprehending of thame. Quhairfor we have thought gud to command you all in general with a mutuall concurrence, and everie ane of you in particular for your awin pairts, as ye will be answerable in conscience to God, and in naturall dewtie to us, and as ye tender your awin liberties and religion, that ye with all diligence possible outredd sufficient number of schippes and men, weill furnished with munition and armes, to invade, apprehend, and inbring the foresaid conspirators, or sa many as may be apprehendit by thame, quhairanent we give you our full power as gif we were present ourselfis ; and in case in the persuit of thame ye sall commit any slauchter or bluidshaid, aither by sword, fire, or otherways of any of the said conspirators, or any thair assistants and fortifiers, the samin sall be imput to you as maist acceptable service done to us, promising be our princelie word, that for doing the premisses ye nor nane of you sall evir hereafter be callit, persewit, or accusit, nor sustain any danger or skaith in your persons, guids, or geir, nather be us nor any our judges or magistrates within o<sup>r</sup> realme, quhome

we discharge of their offices in that pairt.\* Subscrivit  
with or hand, at Burley, the                    day of                    1592.

(Signed)                    James R."

#### THE RAID OF THE ISLES.

*Receipt*, dated 13th October 1596, for £90 (£7, 10s. sterling), and that in five pound pieces of gold, for "y<sup>e</sup> license and remaining at hame fra the raid of the Isles."

#### AN IRREGULAR ELECTION.

*Extract Decree* Sir Wm. Stewart, commendator of Pittenweem, against certain inhabitants:—"At Dalkeith, the 19th day of October, the zeir of God 1598: Anent y<sup>e</sup> actioun and cause persewit befor the King's Majestic and Lords of Secret Counsall, be Schir Williame Steuart of Houstoun, knicht, commendator of Pittenweyme, against Nicolas Strang, and others, burgesses and inhabitants of Pittenweyme, for thair convening of thame selffis with a nommer of thair seditious factioun, upon Michaelmas day, being the ordinar day of the electioun of the magistrates of the said burgh, in the kirk, at the hour of morning prayer, and there resolving upon a pretendit form of electioun of thair awin; and for fordering and holding up of thair handes to maintene utheris in thair seditious enterprize; and for cuming with this resolution in tumultuous manner to the Tolbuith, quhair the bailies and a nommer of the principal and maist honest inhabitants of the said burgh were convenit for thair lauchful and ordinar electioun, and thair opponing of thame selffis to the said electioun, refusing to acknowledge the said Commendator's power, libertie, and interest therein, and pressing to have had their pretendit unlawful election authorised and allowed; and for thair convening upon the morne thairefter with a nommer of thair complices in the Tolbuith, and thair without the fencing of ane court, and without the presence of y<sup>e</sup> auld bailies, proceeding to ane unlauchful forme of electioun of magistrates of their awin, like as at mair length contained in the principal letters." Both parties having compeared personally, "the King's Majestic, with advice

\* Bothwell having fled to England after his unsuccessful raid upon the King at Falkland, the burghers of the coast towns had not the opportunity of "invading, apprehending, and inbringing" him.

of the said Lords, finds and declares that the said defenders hes done wrang be thair unformall and extraordinar form of proceeding to the said pretendit electioun, without the said Commendator's license ; and thairfore declares the said pretendit electioun to be unlawful," and ordered a new election to take place.

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LETTER FROM THE BAILIES OF CRAIL.

*Letter*, the Bailies of Crail to the Bailies of Pittenweem, 18th March 1600.—“ Right honorabillis and weil belovit neighbours, after our maist hairtlic comendationes, plei<sup>s</sup> wit, we are informit be George Ked, our town burgess, that he, having ane crear partening to him lyand at y<sup>e</sup> full sea during this winter season, and that now, he being mindful to transport the samyne, wes stayit at your wisdom's directions, until he suld pay certain dutie therefor ; quhilk is contrair to y<sup>e</sup> band of friendship quhilk hes been observit amongis your wisdoms and us, thir mony zeirs bygane past memorie of man, seeing all ships, barks, and crears of every ane of said burgesses are as free to utheris as their awn ; wherefore howping y<sup>t</sup> auld band of friendship sall as it hes been heretofore induir amongst us, and thair sall be no cause of break thereof upon your parts, we not lipping therefor at your hands, seeing we are maist willing the samyn be inviolabillie observit, and trusting that the said George sall have libertie to transport his said crear freely, we referring all to your wisdoms' gud discretions, quits you and your proceedings to God's protection. At Crail, this xviii. day of March 1600, be

Your maist loving and affectionat neibors, the bailies of Crail under subscriband.

William Bowsy, baillize.

William Fermo<sup>r</sup>, baillize.”

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TREES FROM CRAIL FOR THE PIER.

*Discharge* by the Magistrates of Crail for 96 marks (£5, 4s. sterling), in full payment of 24 trees, sold to the bailies of Pittenweem, to be bestowed on the last berth of their bulwark, dated 1st May 1600.

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MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL—ELECTION OF A TOWN CLERK.

2d Feb. 1629. \*—“ The quilk day the baillies and coun-

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\* This is the first minute of council extant.

sell of the said burgh being convenit for counsell, and understanding the literature and qualifications of James Airth, and gud service done be him to thame in the common affairs of this burgh, and that he is apt and able to exerce the office of clerkship within the said burgh, have created and admitted, and creatis and admittis the said James common clerk of the said burgh, conjunctly and severally with Andro Stevensone during his lyfetime, and also after his deceis during the said James his lyfetime." \*

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#### A MINUTE BOOK TO BE KEPT.

6th Oct. 1629.—“The quilk day the bailies and Council being convened upon advising the weill of this burgh, and understanding that throw ane corrupt use the actis, statutes, and obligements of this burgh have never been keipit nor registrat by the clerk: For remeid thereof it is ordained that” in all time coming the said acts be “registrat in this buik.”

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#### DEBTS DUE BY THE TOWN.

6th Oct. 1629.—“The following are the debts due by the town at this date:—To James Stevensone, £100; James Airth, 500 merks; Thomas Alexander (borrowed for reparation of the pier),                   ; Wm. Fairful, 300 merks; Thomas Richardson, £10; Wm. Fairful, £100 (borrowed to pay Andro Cuik.)” †

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#### ADMISSION OF BURGESSES.

20th August 1630.—Certain honorary burgesses admitted, “who maid faith as use is, and gave y<sup>o</sup> succar, and spyces, and wyne.”

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#### THE TOWN'S ACT—PARLIAMENTARY EXPENSES.

5th June 1633.—700 merks (£39, 10s. sterling), bor-

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\* It does not appear what Mr Airth's salary was to be, but a receipt has been preserved which was granted by one of his predecessors, Mr John Corsall, for £10 (16s 8d sterling) as “ane years salary.” Mr Corsall's name appears as clerk in 1573-1606, and intervening years. His successor was Mr David Strang, who appears to have been the immediate predecessor of Mr Andrew Stevenson.

† The sum of these debts (excluding that left blank in the minute book) is £743, 6s. 8d. (£61, 18s. 10d. sterling.) In various papers it is stated that a great amount of debt had been contracted in lawsuits for the settlement of a stipend to the minister.

rowed *inter alia* for defraying the expenses of "y<sup>e</sup> commissioner this next ensuing Parliament, and perfitting of the ratification of the said burgh,\* and erection of y<sup>e</sup> kirk in ane frie paroch kirk in the same Parliament."†

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#### HERRING MEASURES.

31st July 1633.—"It is statut and ordained that publication be maid by tuck of drum discharging all buyers and sellers of herrings to sell or buy with any mett, until y<sup>e</sup> samyn be markitt with the town's ironn mark."

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#### MILTON MILL.

6th April 1634.—The Milton Mill purchased from Sir Wm. Anstruther.

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#### A TOBACCO LICENSE.

*Tobacco License*, dated 31st July 1634.—"Be it kend unto all men by these presents, us, Sir James Lesley, knight, and Thomas Dalmahoy, his Majesty's commissioners, . . . having approved testimonies of the honest and laudable conversation of Jhone Mackfarlane, burgess in Pittenweem, and so conceiving him to be very fit for that purpose, do give, grant, and commit to him our full, free, and absolute power and licence by himself, his servants, and sub-tenants, severallie to sell and utter

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\* An Act of Parliament was passed this year confirming the whole charters previously granted to the town, and containing the following clause:—"And now, His Majesty and estates fore-said, considering that the said burgh of Pittenweem bears burdens with the burrows royal of His Majesty's kingdom of Scotland, and that it is most fit and expedient that the same be also erected in ane burgh royall, in respect the same is very populous and has ane good and safe harbour already built upon the charges and expenses of the inhabitants of said burgh," therefore His Majesty and estates erect, constitute, create, and ordain "the said burgh of Pittenweem, comprehending the haille houses, tenements, lands, and commonties lyand betwixt the burgh of Anstruther-Wester on the east; the lands of St Monance and Abercrombie on the west; and the lands of Balcaskie and Grangemuir on the north (exceptand always the commonties be-east the march stones, pertaining to Anstruther-Wester and Mynetown), in ane free and haille burgh royal, to be called now and in all time coming hereafter the burgh of Pittenweem."

† It has been already shown that Pittenweem was erected into a separate parish by Act of Parliament in 1588, but as the Commandators refused to pay the stipend, two other acts were passed, one in 1611 and the other in 1633, ratifying the erection.

tobacco, by small and retaile, within the burgh of Pittenweem, at any lawfull time and fit and seasonable houre, from 15th Sept. 1634 to 15th Sept. 1635.”

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MINUTE OF COUNCIL—ELECTION DAY.

13th July 1635.—“The election day shall be the second Tuesday of September, and the council shall consist of four bailies, a treasurer, and 14 councillors, the auld bailies and treasurer continuing *ex officio* councillors.”

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CHANGE OF MANSE.

*Decree* by the Commissioners of Teinds in favour of Mr John Melvill, minister of Pittenweem, \* dated 24th

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\* Mr Nicol Dalgleish, the first minister of Pittenweem after its erection into a separate parish, died in 1608, and was succeeded by Mr William Wedderburne, who served the cure till 1611, when Mr John Durie was appointed. Mr Durie ceased to be minister in 1614, and there appears to have been a vacancy till 1617, when Ephraim Melvill—eldest son of James Melvill, minister of Anstruther, and author of the “Diary”—was translated from Newburn. He died in 1629, and was succeeded by John Melvill, who is supposed to have been his brother. The presentation by Charles I. in favour of John Melvill to the Church of Pittenweem, also the Act of his institution (by delivery to him of the kirk Bible, bell strings, and keys of the doors of the kirk), have been preserved. The following notices of this minister appear in the records of the Presbytery of St Andrews:—“1645.—June 11. Mr Johne Melvill being present, acknowledges his omission of the prayer of the Consecration at the Table to be against Christ’s institution, and the practice of our kirk, and that he failed against the order of our kirk in not reading the words of the institution before the distributing of the elements. For the present, it is appointed that those quho were formerlie appointed to heare him preach, sall heare him twyse befor Mr David Guthrie his admission” (to the church of West Anstruther.) “1646.—May 21. The Presbyterie, being informed that Mr Johne Melvill intends to celebrate the sacrament of the Lord’s supper the nixt Lord’s day, doe appoint him to cease therein, till they commun with him anent the escapes he committed the last occasion he had of that kynd.” “1646.—July 15. The doctrine John vi., v. 62, 63, 64, 65, delyvered by Mr Johne Melvill, being examined, he was censured for impertinent citation of Scripture five or six several times to prove points; for using impertinent epithets; and for indistinct speaking in prayer.” In a note, the editor of the Presbytery Records says—“Mr Johne was considered by his parishioners unedifying in his doctrine, ‘his memorie and judgment being now of a long tyme jumbled through his own default,’ that there was ‘too much wyne drunken in his house,’ altho they had never ‘sene him drunke, in respect he is an able man, &c.” He died in 1649.

July 1635.—By this, among other things, the magistrates were decerned to renounce, in favour of Lord Fentoun (Earl of Kellie), their right to that part of the great house of the abbey called the chapter chalmer, which sometime was their minister's manse; and in compensation therefor, Lord Fentoun was decerned to renounce his right to the schoolhouse and Tolbooth, and also to ratify the minister's manse then building,\* to which the several parties agreed. †

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MINUTES OF COUNCIL—FEES OF ADMISSION OF BURGESSES.

27th July 1635.—Admission of burgesses regulated.

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\* The manse here referred to as being in course of erection in 1635, is the house on the north side of the High Street, now belonging to Mr Henderson. Mr John Melvill would appear to have been its first occupant.

† This decree, which appears to have been pronounced in accordance with the terms of a compromise mutually arranged by the parties to the action, put an end to a litigation which had been carried on, with occasional intervals, for nearly half a century between the Lords of Pittenweem on the one hand, and the magistrates and ministers on the other. The Lords of the temporality disputed the validity of the erection of Pittenweem into a separate parish, and maintained that, having provided a manse, glebe, and stipend for the minister of the kirk at West Anstruther, they were not bound to make provision also for the minister of the newly-built kirk in Pittenweem. The magistrates and ministers, on the other hand, founded upon the several Acts of Parliament erecting the parish, and securing a maintenance for the minister. After the town had incurred a great amount of expense, they agreed, in order to prevent further litigation, to abandon the house at the north end of the Town Hall to Lord Fentoun, although their right to it had been confirmed by the King and Parliament, and it had been at their expense "repaired, edified, and biggit up," and used as a manse by the minister for a number of years. The town also (besides building a new manse) agreed to set aside a part of the commonty at the march between West Anstruther and Pittenweem as a glebe; and to contribute a liberal portion of an augmented stipend which it was arranged Mr Melvill should receive. On the other hand, Lord Fentoun agreed also to pay a considerable part of the stipend, and to confirm the town's right to the building which now forms the Town Hall, as well as to the manse which was then in course of erection. It is interesting to note that the independence of Pittenweem as a burgh was not secured without a battle with the town of Crail in the Court of Session of at least 17 years' duration; and that its independence as a parish was the result of a series of struggles on the same arena with the Lords of Erection, which extended over a period of nearly 50 years.

The eldest son of a burgesse to be admitted "for y<sup>e</sup> wyne and spyces to y<sup>e</sup> bailies, and ane piece of gold of sik worth he sall pleis to give to the Theasurer." A burgesse's second son to pay 20 merks (£1, 2s. sterling.) The husband of an only daughter (when there were no sons) to be in the same case as an only son. The husbands of other daughters to be in the same case as second sons. The son of an unfreeman not married as above to pay £40 (£3, 6s. 8d. sterling.) The Clerk's dues for the burgesse ticket, two merks (2s. 2½d.)

#### WINTERING OF DRAVE BOATS.

27th July 1635.—"Item, it is ordainit that all dreave boats zoillis and westhelles going to the dreave be removit yeirlie furth of east and west havens before the tenth of November, to y<sup>e</sup> bred haven,\* or till grein,† or pane haven,‡ to winter there."

#### BALLAST FOR BOATS.

27th July 1635.—"Item, it is ordainit that all dreavers win their ballast af y<sup>e</sup> craggis within y<sup>e</sup> east and west havens."

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\* The broad haven was in the vicinity of the common vennel, formerly known as the "well strand."

† Probably what is now called the "Kilgreen."

‡ The pan haven must have been in the neighbourhood of the salt pans, of which there are many remains at the west braes. These pans appear to have been numerous and important. There are many charters in the "Register Book" of the Priory containing grants by the prior and convent in some cases of half a pan, in others of one or two. From the Records of the Convention of Burghs it appears that in the 16th century the salt was exported by boats and ships, among other places to Aberdeen; and in the St Andrews Presbytery Records (1643) it is stated to the credit of the owners of these works, that "the pannes in Pettinweme doe rest all the Sabbath." Sibbald, referring to the general trade of the coast when he wrote (about the end of the 17th century), says, "The common people along the coast of Fife get their bread both by sea and land, and according to the seasons of the year, are either seamen or landmen; they make nets, and in smaller boats fish all the year over for cod and ling and other white fish; and have larger boats for taking herring and macharel in time of the drave. Many of them go long voyages, and export and import merchandise; the coal and salt and herring fishing furnish matter of trade."—*History of Fife*, p. 299. In 1584, the magistrates took a protest against the validity of any infestment taken or to be taken by Dame Margaret Balfour of Burley in the coals, coalheughs, and salt pans of Pittenweem, whereof they were then or had been formerly in possession.



## THE COUNCIL DAY.

27th July 1635.—“Item, it is statut that Monday only shall be the ordinar counseil day, at ten hours.”

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 OPPOSITION TO PRELACY—COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED.

14th Oct. 1637.—“The qlk day the bailies and counsall being convenit for treating upon certain thair comone affairs, and apprehending the great sturre and disquyeting of the kingdome alreaddie, and lickly to increas, throw the inbringing in the kirk of this realme the buik called the buik of comone prayer, with the canones of the kirk;\* and being informit that the burrowes of the kingdome are to convene in the beginning of November next, for treatting upon sundrie thair comone affairs, concernyng the estait of burrowes, both in kirk and common weill: In the quilk conventioun possibill thair may be some purpose agitat be y<sup>e</sup> burrowes concernyng y<sup>e</sup> restraining of the buik of comone prayer, canones of y<sup>e</sup> kirk, and hie commission for the better maintainyng of the puritie of y<sup>e</sup> true religion, publicly professit within this kingdom, and giving satisfaction to His Majestie, our dread souveraine, whereby his heines may regne and rewell ower his subjectis, and his subjectis leive under him in all godliness, peace, and quyetness, quhilk the Lord grant: Therefore they have electit and nominatit James Richartson, Walter Airthe, twa of the bailies, William Watson, James Airthe, twa of the

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\* “The English liturgy, undesired as it was, would not have excited such a sensation as that which Laud now (1637) attempted to force on the people of Scotland. For our especial benefit, it pleased his Grace of Canterbury to draw up a new service book of his own, much more nearly resembling the popish breviary; and in various points, particularly in the communion service, borrowing the very words of the mass-book. To prepare the way for the introduction of this *Anglo-popish* service, as it was called, a book of canons was sent down, for the regulation of the clergy; next came orders for every minister to procure two copies of Laud’s liturgy, for the use of his Church, on pain of deprivation—even before the book had been seen by any of them; and lastly, when the minds of the whole nation had been wrought up to a state of alarm by reports of a design to re-introduce the popish worship, down came the long expected service book, with orders from the King and Council, that it should be read in all the churches.”—*M’Crie’s Sketches*, i., 202. It was on the occasion of the first reading of this book in St Giles’ Church, in the month of July of this year, that Jenny Geddes immortalized herself.

counsell, to attend meitt and convene with the remanent burrowes for that end."

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OPPOSITION TO PRELACY—COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

29th Dec. 1637.—“The quhilk day the commissioners appointed by last minute reported that, since the date of their commission they, or ane or other of them, had attendit all meetings in that business, and had subscrivit the supplication gevin in to the Lords of His Majestie's Secret Counsell, humbly desyreing the Lords to remonstrat to His Majestie the evils imminent upon this nation throw the introducing of the said buik and judicatorie of the hie commission; and intreatting that order might be taken with the prelats as the only introducers, urgers, and maintainers thereof, against the laudabill lawes of the kingdome; and that they had given advice to propone declinator against the said prelats, as parties in the said matter; and therefoir could not sit as judges until the business be decydit, and propone new grievances, and to do all that may conduce to the weill of that purpose; and that the Lords of Secret Counsell, be yair act at Dalkieth the                    day of December instant, had declared that they wuld remonstrat the same to His Majestie, and not middill forder therein until they have His Majestie's resolution thereanent, but prejudice of ye declinator to be heard in tyme and place convenient: which report was approved, and the commission prorogated.”

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TOWN CLERK SUPERANNUATED.

12th Marth 1638.—Andro Stevenson, conjunct common clerk of the burgh, in respect of his old age, and of the great pains taken by his coadjutor, James Airth, without any benefit to himself (the said Andro retaining all the fees), at the earnest desire of the council demits office, in consideration of the bailies and council agreeing to pay him £52 yearly (£4, 6s. 8d.) during his lifetime; and also to pay for his house maill £10 yearly (16s. 8d. sterling); “and sik like that the counsell and the kirk session\* shall furnish him yearly ane clok and stand of Yorkshire Inglis claith during his lyfetym.”

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APPOINTMENT OF A COMMON HERD.

20th March 1638.—“The quhilk day Thomas Craigie is appoyntit to be comone herd for keeping of the guds

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\* Mr Stevenson was session clerk as well as town clerk.

this ensewing year, and assigns for his panes the ordinar fees due therefor, quhilk are 6s. 8d. (about 6½d. sterling) for ilk horse, and 6s. 8d. for ilk cow, with twa lippies meal also for milk cows, wha is become actit to enter to the bestial on the 27th of this instant, and continue until the cornes be in the zaird ; and that he sall cut the haille seggs in the myre ance ower ; and herd or resave no guds, neither of his own nor na utheris, bot sik as the bailies sall allow for payment of ordinar grass mail, and that he sall not, be himself, his wyff, or utheris, in night or day tym gather nor destroy the neibors' peis, beanes, or uther grain, under the pain of banishment."\*

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#### BURGH COURT—CASE OF ASSAULT.

6th April 1638.—“John Mortoun in Stentoun fined £40 (£3, 6s. 8d. sterling) for hurting and wounding John Forbes in Elie with a sword.”

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#### ASSAULT AND SLANDER.

11th April 1638.—Bessie Wandersone is ordained to pay 40s. (3s. 4d. sterling) to the Fiscal for “straiking of Alison Blak, so soon as God sends home her husband ; and Alison Blak is actit to pay £20 (£1, 13s. 4d. sterling) so oft as she sall be found to slander Bessie Wandersone.”

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#### MINUTES OF COUNCIL—THE TOWN'S ARMOUR.

18th July 1638.—James Airth appointed to go to Cupar to attend a meeting of noblemen, gentlemen, and burghesses, and give an inventory of our armour.

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#### ASSESSMENT FOR REPAIR OF THE PIER, &c.

27th August 1638.—“The quhilk day the bailies and counsall, and with tham ane grytt pairt of y<sup>e</sup> communitie, being convenit in y<sup>e</sup> Tolbuith for treatting upon

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\* “The inhabitants of the town had right to a cow's grass on the common, which was very extensive, comprising the Green Loan, the Malt Dubs, all the Mires, part of Greendykes farm, part of the Coalfarm, and part of Waterless farm. A town herd was employed, who blew his horn every morning for the assembling of the cows, which he took out to grass, and brought home at night. The herd had some curious privileges. He got one bannock and a halfpenny every Saturday night from each of the persons whose cow was under his charge, and a buttered bannock extra” on certain occasions.—*Glance at the Historical Traditions of Pittenweem. By an Old Inhabitant, p. 4.*

certain y<sup>e</sup> comone affaires, and speciallie anent the settling of sum solid and constant course how money may maist convenientlie be had for upholding of yair pier and uther comone warks of y<sup>e</sup> burgh: They have concludit and ordainit that there sall be an impositioun e imposit and exactit of everie pund of free moneyes sall be win and acqyrit be schipping, and upon every tune and last of guidis importit and exportit furth and to this burgh, and upon everie boll of free victual pertenyng to y<sup>e</sup> inhabitants, and upon every boll of victual treadit or handellit with be maltmen, baikers, grocers, merchant traders, and upon all guidis sall be here treadit in manner underwritten”<sup>\*</sup> (Follows the table. The tax upon the profits of shipping and seamen’s wages was 2d. per pound. Each drave boat yearly at making up accounts to pay with the King’s assessment 40s.) (3s. 4d.)

ELECTION OF AN ELDER TO THE GLASGOW  
ASSEMBLY.

24th Sept. 1638.—“The bailies and counsell being convenit, finding that by common consent it is thought expedient that ye commissioners of burghs to be sent to the General Assembly, to be holden at Glasgow the 21st of November next, in respect greater objectioun may be maid to the commissioners than hes been maid any time heretofoir, and must be authorised with the consent of the kirk session, as well as by election of the bailies and counsall: Therefore they have concludit to meet the morne with the kirk session, and to elect ye commissioner.”

25th Sept. 1638.—“The quhilk day we, the bailies, counsall, and kirk session, having diligentlie considered the manifest corruptions, innovations, and disorders, disturbing our peace, and tending to the overthrow of our religion and liberties of y<sup>e</sup> reformed kirk within this realm, quhilk hes come to pass speciallie throw want of the necessar remedy of General Assemblies, as weil ordinar as *pro re nata* injoynit by this kirk for many years, and ratified by Acts of Parliament; and now, seeing by the mercie of God, our sovereign lord the King’s Majestie hes appoyntit a frie General Assembly to be holden at y<sup>e</sup> citie of Glasgow the 21st day of November

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\* Liberty was granted by the Convention of Burghs in 1595 to impose an assessment for 3 years to be applied in repairing the harbour.

next to come: Therefore, be thir presents, nominates and elects James Airth, burghess of our burgh, our lawful commissioner, &c.”\*

#### PENALTY ON COMMISSIONERS.

26th Feb. 1639.—Any commissioner appointed on behalf of the town to attend a meeting at Edinburgh or any nearer place, and refusing to go to pay a penalty of £20 (£1, 13s. 4d. sterling); if the meeting be at a place more remote, the penalty to be £40 (£3, 6s. 8d. sterling.)

#### PUNISHMENT OF THOSE WHO REFUSED TO BE SOLDIERS.

18th March 1639.—“In respect of the common business of the kingdom, and settling of the kirk, finding it necessary, and being requyrit be y<sup>e</sup> rest of y<sup>e</sup> kingdome to send sundrie armitt men to y<sup>e</sup> north for suppressing the Marquis of Huntly and town of Aberdeen, † and haiffand sent for to convene sundries in y<sup>e</sup> Tolbuith to trey quho wuld goe yair willingly, or if not willingly, to injoyne

\* “This famous Assembly met at Glasgow on the day appointed (21st Nov. 1638). A more noble, grave, and competent body of men never perhaps convened to deliberate on the affairs of the Church. It consisted of 140 ministers, freely chosen by their different Presbyteries, with 98 ruling elders, of whom 17 were noblemen of the highest rank, 9 were knights, 25 were landed proprietors, and 47 were burghesses of great respectability, capable of representing their respective communities in Parliament. Some of the noblemen and gentlemen, hearing that an attempt would be made by the Marquis of Hamilton, the King’s commissioner, to overawe the Assembly by a large retinue of followers, came accompanied by their usual retainers in arms.” Mr Alexander Henderson was chosen moderator. “The first step taken by the Assembly was to nullify the six pretended assemblies which had been held since the accession of James to the English throne, including the assemblies from 1606 to 1618. They next proceeded to the censure of the prelates, fourteen in number, who were charged with a great variety of moral as well as ecclesiastical delinquencies. Of these, two archbishops and six bishops were excommunicated, four deposed, and two suspended.” “It is only necessary to add that this assembly condemned the service-book, the canons, and the high commission; that they renounced the five articles of Perth; and that, after declaring prelacy to have been abjured by the national covenant, and to be contrary to the principles of the church of Scotland, they, in the name of that church, and as a church of Christ, unanimously voted its removal, and restored presbyterian government to all its former integrity.”—*M’Crie’s Sketches of Church History.*

† “With the single exception of Aberdeen, which was under the influence of the Marquis of Huntly, and the Aberdeen doctors,

thane, compeirit William Drummond and Thomas Lyell, quho being enjoined refusit to go, therefoir are ordained to remain in prison untill they quho sall gang return, and to be entertained upon bread and water, and thereafter to find caution to remove furth of y<sup>e</sup> towne."

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#### SOLDIERS SENT TO THE NORTH.

19th March 1639.—“The quhilk day John Lavingston, James Callender, Thomas Saunton, and James Spens, gentlemen, George Weir, James Gray, son of Simon Gray, John Fermer, and Alex. Fluikar, musketeers, have willingly taken upon them to goe and are presently furnished with picks, musketts, powder, and schott, pistoletts and swords, to quhom y<sup>e</sup> Thesaurer hes presentlie given certain somes of money, and quhat they sall want they are to be furnisheit be James Callender and John Livingstone until they return, quho sall be repayit according to y<sup>e</sup> compte; and Thomas Lyall is ordained to goe with ane sumptar horse for careing of vivars in case of necessitie.”\*

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#### SUBMISSION OF A RECUSANT.

22d March 1639.—“The quhilk day compeirit William Drummond, being released twa days befoir furth of prisone for his refusall to goe to Aberdeen, and hes become actit and obligit to goe onye place as ane sohouldier quhen and quhair y<sup>e</sup> baillies and counsell sall direct him, and gif he refuse, he now as then, and then as now, renounces

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who, owing to their distance from the immediate scene of action and lack of intercourse with their brethren, remained attached to the cause of prelacy, the whole nation cordially joined in the cause of the covenant.”—*M'Crie's Sketches.*

\* “The year 1639 is remarkable in the history of Scotland for the commencement of hostilities between the King and his subjects.” “In the north, where Huntly had collected a considerable force, appearances were threatening. Against him, therefore, Montrose and Leslie were despatched. They appointed Turreff, a village in Aberdeenshire, north-west of Aberdeen, as the place of rendezvous for all the adherents of the covenant in that quarter, and soon found themselves at the head of a considerable body of men. Huntly, who was informed of the intended meeting, raised about 2500 horse, and advanced to disperse them, but they were too well posted to be attacked; and as Montrose could not act without Leslie, who happened at the time to be absent, they gazed at each other, and without exchanging either courtesy or blows, Huntly retired and next day returned south.” “Huntly afterward proceeded to the covenanters' camp, when a pacification for the north was agreed upon.”—*Aikman's History.*

and resigns his house in ye lone in favour of ye bailies and counsall for y<sup>e</sup> common use, and consenting he sall be removit out of the congregatioune."

#### THE TOWN TO BE FORTIFIED.

22d March 1639.—“The quhilk day the bailies and counsall have appoyntit that yair sall be twa forts or plettformes erected for bearing of ye schipis ordinance, for defence of ye danger likelie to ensue be sea, and that ye baillies and counsall attend the wark. It is thocht expedient that the hail grytt schott and lead within the town be called furth, and brought into ye Tolbuith, and payed for upon comone charge.”\*

#### CONSULTATION ANENT DEFENCE.

23d March 1639.—“The quhilk day the bailies and counsall being convenit, have appoyntit William Richardson and James Airth to meitt ye morne at Anstruther with ye rest of ye burrowes and gentill men in this pairt of Fife, for consulting anent ye mutual defence on this coast, and directing watches and fires, and they to report the 25th of this month.”

#### BEACON LIGHTS.

25th March 1639.—“William Richardson and James Airth declared that they mett with my Lord Balcarres, sundry gentillmen, and burrows at Anstruther yesterday; burghs had promisit mutual defence, and for notice that ye town of Crail sall erect ane light at the windmiln; Kilrenny at the castell of Caplie; Anstruther-Wester at ye Rennyhill; Pettinweme at the Tofthill; and ye paroche of Carnbie to erect ane on ye Law of Kellie; the paroche of Kilconq<sup>r</sup> on the Grange of Kinraig; and that my Lord Balcarres hes taken upon him to desire Largo paroche to erect ane light on Largo Law.”†

#### ERECTION OF FORTS, &c.

25th March 1639.—“The quhilk day the baillies and

\* “The towns along the coast of Fife were hastily surrounded by batteries, on which ship-cannon were mounted.”—*Aikman's History*.

† “That no shire might want advertisement, it was thought fit that beacons should be set up in all eminent places of the country, that so any danger that appeared at sea, might be made known by the beacons along the country; which beacons were a long and

counsall have appoyntit ane fort to be erectit at ye east end of ye pier, and ane other at John Strang's house; and that ye haill wear wallis be made muskitt proof fra ye Wattir Wynd to ye west end of ye wear wall; and have ordainit the haill warkmen to be stayed within the town, and that the women<sup>r</sup> and horses be reddie for careing of read and feall."

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#### NIGHT WATCH.

25th March 1639.—“The quhilk day thair is also ordainit ane nichtlie wache of any companie, and twelf soiers to be keepit and to begin the first of Apryll, and to be continuell until God send ane happie success to the business of y<sup>e</sup> kirk; and y<sup>e</sup> absent constabell to pay ten pounds (16s. 8d. sterling), and y<sup>e</sup> soier furtie shillings (3s. 4d. sterling.)

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#### COMMISSIONERS TO THE ESTATES.

9th April 1639.—“The quhilk day William Watson is ordainit to go Edinburgh to y<sup>e</sup> next meeting of y<sup>e</sup> nobillmen, barrones, ministers, and burrowes, anent y<sup>e</sup> kirk business, there with them to consult and advise anent all things concerning the weal of the kirk and kingdom.”

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#### SOLDIERS SENT TO THE SOUTH.

10th April 1639.—“The quhilk day, because information was sent to y<sup>e</sup> town to prepare the fourth part of y<sup>e</sup> men at home to be reddie to go to y<sup>e</sup> south upon the next advertisement, and that four be sent presently, but armor, quhilk is to be provided at Edinburgh for them, and the rest to be prepared at home: It is concluded that in all there sall be preparit twentie, whereof Andro Bowsie, Wm. Drummond, Wm. Thrist, and John Black, servitor to Wm. Fairfull, are four presently gone away but armour, and the other sixteen are to be provided in armour; and to the effect they may go both gude men

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strong tree set up with a long iron pole across the head of it, carrying on it an iron grate for holding a fire, and an iron brander fixed on a stalk in the middle of it, for holding a tar barrel.”—*Aikman's History.*

\* That the bailies of Pittenweem were not singular in requiring the gentler sex to assist on this occasion appears from what has been said of the manner in which the fortification of Leith was accomplished: “Noblemen, gentlemen, and others wrought at it, and none busier in bearing the rubbish, than ladies of honour.”—(*Guthrie's Memoirs, p. 54.*)



voluntars, it is concludit that twa of y<sup>e</sup> counsell sall go in that number, and that on whomsoever the lot sall fall."

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#### VOLUNTEERS TO THE ARMY.

10th April 1639.—“The same day Walter Airth and William Stevensone, twa of y<sup>e</sup> counsell, wuld not have lottis castine, but most willinglie for defence of our religion offered themselves to goe; and after their offer compeirit the personnes after rehersit, and in like manner offered thairselfes willinglie. They are, to say, Wm. Horsburgh and Andro Tod.”

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#### THE VOLUNTEERS RESILE.

29th April 1639.—“The quhilk day, in respect that the companie of Pettinweme that sould go to the bound rod are to be soiers under Captain James Lentrone, so that Walter Airth and Wm. Stevensone, being twa of our counsell, it cannot be thocht convenient that they suld go as soiers, and thirfoir it is thocht expedient that the hail men abill to carry armes suld be conventit in y<sup>e</sup> lone, on the second or third of May, and there tryett quho will goe willinglie; and if none offer willinglie that thir be drawn furth be y<sup>e</sup> baillies and counsell fourteen musquetteires, aucht pick men, and twa carriage men, and sent under the commandement of Captain Lentrone.”

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#### EQUIPMENT OF THE SOLDIERS.

5th May 1639.—“The quhilk day the soiers underwritten haiffand twa times since in the lone, in presence of the hail town, offerit themselves willing to goe to the bound rod under the conduct of Captain James Lentrone, have now compeared in the Tolbuith and resavit their armour and their provision, with eleven schillingis starling in thir purse for eleven dayes pay to everie one; besides, they ar to be provydit in meatt and drink yair-etter be y<sup>e</sup> general commissioners of the countie, and for their generous mynd ar maid burgesses, and their billis ar to be extendit some burgess and guild brother, and sum burgess only according to the discretione of y<sup>e</sup> baillies, to quhom it is committed. They are, to say, John Adamson, Wm. Quhytt, Geo. Quhytt, elder, Geo. Quhytt, yo<sup>r</sup>, Wm. Stevensone, Niniane Fairfull, David Christall, Thomas Hendersone, Andro Galloway, Jonas Ramsay, Alex. Sinclair, Jo. Scott, yo<sup>r</sup>, Jo. Scott, elder, Alex.

Flucker, Wm. Ballingall, David Wilson, Wm. Gibsone, Jo. Andersone, Geo. Weir, soiers; Tho. Lyell, elder, Tho. Lyell, yo<sup>r</sup>, carriage men. Go with them quho ar burgesses a<sup>r</sup> reddie—Tho. Duncan, soier, Tho. Swantoun, seriant, Ja. Spence, seriant.”

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COST OF ARMING.

7th May 1639.—“The quhilk day James Airth, haiffand be advice of y<sup>e</sup> baillies and counsall imployit the monies, both voluntarily offered and collected at the drave boats, for reparation of y<sup>e</sup> pier, upo<sup>n</sup> y<sup>e</sup> comone affaires in thae troubillsome tymes, and haiffand maid compt yairof, and of his dispursements for soiers, for puder, schott, and other furnishings: Thair is fund restand to him four hundredth pounds (£33, 6s. 8d. sterling); whairupon he hes resavit the towne's bond.”

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SOLDIERS SENT TO BURNTISLAND.

7th May 1639.—“The quhilk day, because the presbeterie of St Andrews are ordainit to send als many men to Brunteland for guarding the coast there from invasion of the navy as they have done to y<sup>e</sup> bound rood: It is concluded that the haill people be in armes the morne in the towne's lone, and divydit in fyve and twenties, viz., ane comander and 24 soiers, and to cast the dyce qlk companie goes first, and that the commander have ane cair to see his companie weill armit and be provisor for thame, and resave monie to buy their meat from James Airth, and thaim on whom the lot falls, to go the first eight dayes, and the next to relieve them; and so furth be turnes.”

8th May 1639.—“The quhilk day, in respect the lott is fallen on Frederick Cuik and his companie to go to y<sup>e</sup> west coast the first eight days, to George Smyth the next, Thomas Wanderson third, Alexander Bennet fourth, Walter Airth fifth, and Wm. Stevenson the sixth: James Airth is ordainit to furnish and provyde everie ane of these commanders with monie to entertain their companies, and this day to Frederick Cuik, who is presently to embark.”

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MONEY BORROWED.

10th May 1639.—“The quhilk day, in respect of the grytt chairges the town is drawn into, it is concludit that sua manie as will of free will advance and lend monie,

they shall have the towne's bond for it." (Follows a list of sums advanced by town's people, amounting in all to upwards of £1300 (£108, 6s. 8d. sterling), in sums from £100 (£3, 6s. 8d. sterling) downwards.)

#### ADDITIONAL SOLDIERS SENT TO THE BORDERS.

11<sup>th</sup> May 1639.—“There was sent away yesterday to the bound rod other ten men, viz., Patrick Gibson, Tho. Cuik, son to Wm. Cuik, Ar. Jamesone, Thomas Gray, son to Simon Gray, John Chrystie, John Sibbald, James Brown, Wm. Andersone, Alex. Quhytt, Donald Wilson.”

#### VICTUALS FOR THE SOLDIERS.

3d June 1639.—“Wm. Richardson and Frederick Cuik are ordainit to go to Anstruther, and to desyre Robert Alexander to prepare his own boatt to go to Dunbar with victuals, in respect that David Rollie's boat is not so fit to roll with now.”

“The same day the baxters are ordainit to have red-die, either of their own or of sik as are aboard of schippes, ane thousand weight of biskett, with the haill beer that is in the shipis to be sent over with the soiers in Wm. Richardson's boatt.”

#### ADDITIONAL FORTS TO BE ERECTED, &c.

3d June 1639.—“The same day James Richardson, &c., are ordainit to see the forts heightened, and to build new forts and houses in the Kill Heuche and Corsie Heuche.”

3d June 1639.—“The same day Wm. Watson and Alex. Bennet are ordainit to cause make carriadges to my Lord's two brass pieces.”

#### RETURN OF THE SOLDIERS.

25<sup>th</sup> June 1639.—“Jas. Richardson, &c., appointed to receive back the soiers' armour, and count and pay them what they want of their pay.”\*

26<sup>th</sup> June 1639.—“George Whytt having returned

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\* The army of the Covenanters, to which Pittenweem sent its small contingent, after vanquishing part of the English troops at Kelso, encamped at Duns Law in the beginning of June, under the command of General Leslie. The English army, with which was the King, lay within sight. Neither party being much

from the bound rod, is maid a burgess and guild brother for his valorous mind in going."

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COMMISSIONERS TO THE ASSEMBLY AND  
PARLIAMENT.

31st July 1639.—Commissions granted to the town clerk and certain counsellors to attend a General Assembly and a Parliament to be held in Edinburgh in the ensuing month.

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SUPERNUMERARY COUNCILLORS.

10th Sept. 1639.—“The magistrates and counsell, with great part of the communitie, understanding the great panes and trubill hes been this last year incumbent to magistrates, and how necessar the consent of many the best affectit hes been for governyng the peopill quyettlie, have concludit that there sall be assumit to the counsell and ordinar number yairof, the persons after mentioned, whereby, in respect of absence of many at sea, their advyse may be creavit whensomever it sall be thocht necessar be the baillies and counsell ordinar for the time.” (Follow the names of six burgesses.)

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THE TOWN CLERK'S PENSION.

16th Sept. 1639.—“The quhilk day Andro Stevensone, laitt clerk of this burgh, haiffand grantit to him in pension by the town the soume of fifty twa pounds; and finding the bailies and counsell for their easement in collecting ane accustomit dewtie of 20s. from the unfreemen of this burgh yearly in name of stallenge, willing to give the number of threescore persons thair stallenge to the said Andro, in payment of the said sum of £52: Therefore the said Andro accepts ane roll of three score persons presently deliverit to him, in satisfaction of his dewtie fra Michaelmas last till Michaelmas next 1640, and sall collect at maist ag<sup>t</sup> every ane of them 20s.; and for the better collecting thereof, the bailies and counsell ordains David Toddie to collect the same, and deliver the soumes to the said Andro; lyk as there sall be a roll

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inclined to fight, negotiations were opened for peace, which ended in a treaty being signed on the 18th June, and immediately afterwards the Scottish army was disbanded.

deliverit yearly to the said Andro, quhilk he sall accept in satisfaction of said pension."\*

#### THE TOWN'S INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

Sept. 1639.—The Treasurer gave in an account of the common good. Charge—grassmaills, £100; petty customs, £100. Summa, £200 (£16, 13s. 4d. sterling.) Discharge—minister's stipend, £133, 6s. 8d.; expended on pier, £66, 13s. 4d. Summa, £200 (£16, 13s. 4d. sterling.) Charge and discharge equal.

#### EXPENDITURE IN CONNECTION WITH THE WARS.

10th January 1640.—“The quhilk day the baillies and counsell being convenit, and lest occasion of new trouble and war should arise (which God forbid), in respect there has been great sommes of money depursit this last sommer, pairtly gotten in by former debts and collections, and pairtly advancit be the persons under and hereafter rehersit, conform to their conclusion and appointment on the 3d of May last, and to the effect ane guid compt may be keipit of these disbursements, both for the better information how to go on (in the like business, this being the first occasion, in their or their antecessor's dayes, from qlk the Lord defend this nation), and to the effect the free willingness in that cause may be known by y<sup>e</sup> posteritie, and also some course taken how they may be repayit their disbursements: Therefore they have appointed the compt to be sett down here, both of what is depursit, and of what is resavit.” Here is inserted a detailed account of the sums received and expended in connection with the war. The sums received consisted of—

Voluntary contribution in 1638 for the pier,	£212	5	0
Received at the boats at Lammas,	60	13	0
	£272	18	0
Deduct disbursed at the pier,	28	18	0
	£244	0	0
Sums advanced partly in loan by town's people, and partly in free gift,	892	9	0
Sum due to James Airth, treasurer,	440	11	0
	£1577	0	0
Total charge,	£1577	0	0
Amount disbursed by the town of Pittenweem in connection with the war,	£1577	0	0

\* The stallage was the duty paid by unfreemen for the privileges of stalls or stances in a market.

Besides £125 expended on those who went to Aberdeen.\* Full details are given of this expenditure. It consisted of the pay and provisions of the soldiers, work at forts, powder, shot, muskets, belts, bandeliers, picks, matches, coals, tobacco, pipes, fort carriages, nails, labour at the "east feal wark," drums, &c.

#### ARRIVAL OF THE KING'S SHIPS—COMMISSIONER TO THE ESTATES.

10th Feb. 1640.—Two of His Majestie's ships having arrived in Leith roads, with men and ammunition for the castle of Edinburgh, the council appoint Alex. Bennet their commissioner to attend a meeting of noblemen, barons, and burrowes, to be held at Edinburgh.

#### FORTS TO BE REPAIRED, &c.

9th April 1640.—Men are appointed to be ready to set out for the west and north to the wars; the forts at Pittenweem are to be repaired, and the guns made ready for action; also, watches at night are appointed.

#### PURCHASE OF HERRINGS IN THE TRAITH.

25th August 1640.—"The quhilk day, the bailies and counsell being convenit, finding the abuse of sundry persons going furth to buy herrings in boats at the Treath, and at the harbour mouths, have discharged, and discharges and inhibits all persons that they presume not to go furth of the harbour to buy herrings, under the pain of ten pounds ilk person, buyer or partner

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\* The sum of the expenditure in connection with the war up to this date was thus £141, 16s. 8d. sterling. In order to show the value of money about this time, the following notes of the prices of labour, provisions, &c., have been made, chiefly but not exclusively, from the Pittenweem burgh court book. They are here stated in sterling money—mason's wages and allowance, 1s. 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per day; labourers' do., 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.; domestic servants' yearly wages, 8s. 4d., with 8 ells bounty harn, 2 ells bounty linen, and 2 pairs shoes; oatmeal, 7s. 11d. per boll; 16 oz. good white bread, 1d.; a cow, £1, 8s. 4d.; a side of beef, 5s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; a carcase of mutton, 5s.; a fowl, 5d.; eggs, 2d. per doz.; butter, 5d. per pound; milk, 1d. per choppin; salt herrings, 13s. 4d. per barrel; sack, 1s. 8d. per pint; whisky, 16s. per gallon; ale, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per pint; a grey coat, 5s.; pair shoes, 1s. 6d.; bonnet, 2s.; lime, 5d. per boll; lint, 9s. 8d. per stone; a boat's mast, 6s. 8d.; candle, 4d. per pound; a pick, 4s. 6d.; musket and bandelier, 10s.; a drum, 11s. 8d.; an axe, 2s. 3d.; "a messenger to Cupar when the King's ships arrived," 1s. 1d.; a messenger to Edinburgh, 2s.

with the buyer *toties quoties*, unless they be direct be five of the bailies and counsell, there being always thereof three counsellors; quhilk bailies and counsell sall be astricted to give only warrand to buy fra strangers, and at their return to divide the hearingis amongst the inhabitants, in all equity and discretion."

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#### PURCHASE OF HERRINGS IN HARBOUR.

*Eo Die.*—The quhilk day also, the baillies and counsell understanding that some particular persons, misregarding the burdens of their neibors, presumed to buy the haille herrings to their own use: Therefore it is ordained that quasoever buyes herrings within the harbour sall be astricted to give to ony neibor desyres sic reasonabill pairt yairof as sall be corresponding to y<sup>e</sup> stent roll, y<sup>e</sup> burding payabill yairby, and the party refusand, to pay ten pounds *toties quoties* as unlaw, with forty shillings to the party refusit for repairing his loss, and further as the bailies sall find the matter in weight."

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#### EXPENSE OF THE WAR—STENT ON THE INHABITANTS.

*Eo Die.*—The council, on the narrative that the sums expended in connection with the troubles now amounted to £2400 (£200 sterling), and that they require an additional sum of £600 (£50 sterling); and finding that the voluntary offers made by some who offered of free will had been above their estate and trade, while others had been very sparing, therefore resolved to make a stent on all those able to bear burdens in these troublesome times, according to their ability (those of mean degree bearing the lesser burdens), so as to raise the necessary funds. The roll was to show how much of each £100 expended and to be expended, the several inhabitants would fall to pay. Appended to this minute, there is an additional account, charge and discharge, showing a charge composed chiefly of the balances of the loans promised by the inhabitants, amounting to £686, and a discharge of £812; also, a stent roll, containing the names of 77 inhabitants, who are assessed in sums varying from 3s. 4d. to £6, 13s. 4d. for each £100 Scots required.

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#### REPAIR OF THE PIER.

8th Oct. 1640.—“The baillies and counsell have ap-

## ANCIENT RECORDS OF THE

poynitit and appoynts William Richardson and Wm. Stevenson to attend the reparation of the pier, with power to them to appoint quarter masters for bringing furth the bearers ; and with power to the quarter masters, quair the bearer is not reddie to go furth before yame, to poind the horse ; and to detain the poind until the bearer come to the pier, and work or pay, vi. s. viij.d. (6½d. sterling) yairfor."

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### THE SEAMEN'S INCOME TAX.

8th Oct. 1640.—“The quhilk day Walter Airth is ordained to collect y<sup>e</sup> twa pennies of y<sup>e</sup> pund, and to deliver the same to Thomas Cuik in grytt, quho is ordainit to dispurse the same on the pier and other common work, as occasion sall require, at discretion of the baillies.”

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### THE GREAT TAX.

“As also ordainit James Airth to collect the grytt taxt, and to deliver the same in grytt to Wm. Watson, quho is ordainit to depurse the same in smalls, at discretioun of y<sup>e</sup> bailies, as occasion occurs.”

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### COUNCILLORS MUST SUBSCRIBE THE COVENANT.

11th Nov. 1640.—“The baillies and counsell hes statut and ordainit that none be admitted counsellors nor chosen to bear office in time coming, until first they swear and subscribe the National Covenant.”

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### BUILDING OF THE PIERHEAD, &c.

11th January 1641.—A committee appointed to bargain for bigging the pierhead and back thereof.

15th January 1641.—“The quhilk day the commissioners appoyntit to agree with the masones declare that they agreed with George Cowie and Alexander Gilbert to big the pier head and back the same up to the skellie at y<sup>e</sup> middis of y<sup>e</sup> aiken wark”\* (Here follows an account of the dimensions) “and to pay fourtie pounds (£3. 6s. 8d. sterling) for ilk rood thereof, in full satisfaction of all fees, drink, and other dues.”

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\* This expression, taken in conjunction with the fact that trees had been got from Craill for the last berth of the pier 40 years prior to this, might lead to the inference that the outer part of the pier had been formerly of wood.



## BURGH COURT—A DOCTOR'S ACCOUNT.

22d May 1639.—Wm. Barbar, chirurgion, sues Bessie Kingow for delivery of “certain drogges in a kist,” a broad sword, and a rapier, which she kept until he repaid her £9, 6s. 8d. (15s. 6½d. sterling) she had given him for attending her deceased son, but which she maintained she should receive back, as the doctor “had done no cure to him, but rather wrongit him.” The bailies ordained the effects to remain in Bessie’s custody in the meantime.

## DISOBEDIENCE TO A BAILIE.

23d July 1640.—David Williamson, for disobedience to one of the bailies, is ordained to remain in ward until “the night watch be closit.”

## LOSS AT SEA IN THE LATE WAR.

18th January 1641.—“Andrew Adamson is elected commissioner to go to Edinburgh to supply George Smith his place in the meeting of burrowes, in respect the said George is forced to go to Yarmouth to acquire his ship, which was taken by His Majestie’s ships.”

29th Jan. 1641.—George Smith is appointed to go to London, to present the inventory of the sea loss of this burgh.

## INVENTORY OF THE LOSS AT SEA.

5th Oct. 1640.—“The quhilk day, in presence of the bailies, compeirit the persones efter mentioned, and gave up inventarie of the ships and goods taken fra thame be His Majestie’s ships, and deteinit fra thame within the kingdom of England, in manner following, that is to say—

“*Johne Tod*, burgess of the said burgh, declairit that there wes taken fra him and James Gallespie in St Monance, his father-in-law, upone the 10th of May 1639, thair ship named the “James,” of the burden of 100 tons, with her ornaments and reiking, worth in sterling money, - - - - - £400 0 0

“Item, the said ship wes taken at the Ile of May, be ane of His Majestie’s ships cuming fra Norroway, and hir loading of timber carried to Brunteland road, where James, Marquess of Hamiltoun, bought the said loading, and pro-

mised therefor £135 sterling, whereof he then paid £35 sterling; and sin syne he gave to the said Johne Tod £10 sterling at Berwick, and so resting of the loading, - - - - 90 0 0

“Item, the said James, Marques of Hamiltoun, causit put the said ship full of seik soiers, and sent her to Yearmouth, where she yett lies, and promised ordinar fraught y<sup>r</sup>for, quhilk is accustomit for ane ship of the like quantity, of sterling money, - - - - 30 0 0

“Item, the said Johne Tod did attend the space of ane month at Edinburgh, upon hopes to have gottin payment of Johne, Erle of Traquair, His Majestie’s treasurer, wha, efter long attendance, directit him to goe to Lundone to y<sup>e</sup> said Marquess of Hamiltoun, and efter the said Johne went to Lundone, he attendit there the space of twa monethes daily, petitioning for his ship, price of his timber, and fraught, and spent upon the said attendance y<sup>e</sup> soume of 10 0 0

“Item, the loss of the trading sin syne, is worth - - - - 340 0 0

Summa in sterling money, - £870 0 0

“*George Smith*, burgess of Pettinweme, being now at sea, compeirand be Helene Wood, his spouse, quha declairit her husband had given in his inventarie to the Commissioners of Parliament alreddie, and producit y<sup>e</sup> copie yairof written by the said George own hand, whereof the tenor follows:—I, George Smith, master under God of the good ship called the “Gift of God,” being taken at Yearmouth road, be ane of His Majestie’s royal ships, provyded with 42 pieces of ordnance, were, by direction of Captain Henrie Straglin, carriet to the herberie of Grytt Yearmouth, where the said ship and goods, since the 24th of Aprill 1640, yitt lyes, do declare my said ship was of the burden of 100 tunnes, provyded with six piece of ordnance, three foulars and ten muskets, with seven barrels of powder therein, worth in sterling money - - - - £700 0 0

“Item, the companie’s abulzement and bed-claes, worth - - - - 24 0 0

“Item, taken furth of his kist ane littell monter, and twelff books, worth - - - - 10 0 0

“Item, 15 cwt. of fygs, at 4d. per pund,	22 10 0
“Item, 13 cwt. of tubacco, - - - -	75 0 0
“Item, 4 thousand weight of prunes, at 10s. per 100, - - - - -	20 0 0
“Item, 1000 liveris worth of sail canvas, coft at St Malo’s, worth in Inglis money, -	80 0 0

“Summa in Inglis money, £931 10 0

“Item, the loss of the ship her treading sin  
syne is £125.\*

“*James Binnying*, elder, declairit that he being put  
be stress of wether to Skarbrugh in England, in the be-  
ginnying of Appryll 1639, wes thair, be His Majestie’s  
auctie, deteinit the space of ane month, until he went to  
York, where he resavit licence from His Majestie, and  
was taken fra him, before he resavit the said licence, and  
his sails back againe, be sundrie personnes, of starling  
money, - - - - - £40 0 0

“Item, the said Jas. Binnying bring bound to  
Norroway in the month of May 1640 with his  
ship, named the “Grace of God,” of the bur-  
den of 70 tunnes, was taken at Inschecap be the  
said Captain Henrie Straglin, and his ship carriet  
to Berwick, where she yett lyes, and the said  
ship and reiking with her victuals was worth, 150 0 0

“Item, there was of goods in the said ship  
for her sailing, of malt, bear, peis, and meal, 40  
bolls at £5 Scots ilk boll, worth in sterling  
money, - - - - - 16 12 4

“Item, of bletchit harn, 400 ells at £25, 4s.  
Scots per 100, worth in sterling, - - - 8 8 0

“Item, 2590 baiks, - - - - - 5 0 0

“Item, ane barrel of prunes, weighand  
18 stane, worth - - - - - 3 0 0

“Item, ane rindaill of *aqua vitæ* of 4 gallons,  
worth - - - - - 3 4 0

“Item, ane web of linnying claith, worth 2 2 0

“Item, ane piece reid claith, worth - 1 0 0

“Item, ane piece black claith, worth - 1 0 0

“Item, six unces pesments and sail poynts,  
worth - - - - - 1 0 0

“Summa in sterling money, - £231 6 4

\* In a subsequent declaration, George Smith stated that his ship  
was detained at Yarmouth till the 4th of April 1641, and that the

“ Item, the loss of her treading sin syne, as  
ane wuld have been\* - - - - - 40 0 0

“ *Simone Anderson*, † compearand be Barbara Alexander, his spouse, in absence of himself, wha declairit that she was informed her husband haiffand arrivit at London from Spain in June last, he and his ship is deiteint, and his fraught keipit from him ; whilk ship is of

whole of her chains, iron work, &c., had been taken from her by the commanders of His Majesty's ships ; in respect of which, and the expense of bringing her home, he made an additional claim of £112, 11s.

\* In a subsequent declaration, James Binnyng stated that his ship had been altogether “lost and wrackit at Berwick.”

† The name of Simon Anderson or Wanderson (as it is sometimes written) appears very frequently in the council records, and his signature is appended to the Covenant of 1638. It is probable that he is the person referred to in the following quotation :—“At this time (1650), Montrose had received from Charles II., in Holland, a commission to repair to the northern courts, and levy soldiers in his name. A frigate of fourteen guns, commanded by a Captain Hall, appears to have been employed in the same service ; and, when Montrose made the unsuccessful expedition to the Orkneys which issued in his capture, this vessel appears to have taken troops on board, and to have been destined to accompany him. There was, however, on board, one Simon Wanderson, a native of Pittenweem, who seems to have been somehow under the influence of one John Anstruther, and to have been pressed on board of the frigate. When the ship was on the coast of Norway, the captain and Sir Henry Grahame (probably a relative of Montrose), who appears to have had the management of the troops on board, landed, and Wanderson contrived to set sail during their absence ; and, by this stratagem, brought the frigate safe into Leith. It was with no small exultation, doubtless, that Argyle rose in his place in Parliament, on the 30th May 1650, to relate this incident, and announce that there had been found in the vessel, all Montrose's most secret papers. The Parliament gave 1000 merks to the foreigners on board the frigate, and to Simon Wanderson the vessel itself, with its cannon, ammunition, and cargo, on condition of his giving to them 500 merks more ; and ordained the provost of Edinburgh to cause inquiry to be made, of the ships last come from Norway, how it was that when Hall and Sir Henry Grahame had been imprisoned by the authorities there, no Scotsmen could be found who would take charge of them at their hands, so that the prisoners had been set at liberty.”—*Wood's History of the East Neuk of Fife*, p. 150. Of one John Anstruther, who is probably the same person as is named in the foregoing quotation, the following notice appears in the records of the Presbytery of St Andrews :—“1650. June 12. The Presbyterie having seriouslie considered the atrocitie of Jhone Anstruther, his sinneing, quho, being entrusted by diverse honest

the burding of ane hundredth tunnes, provydit with seven pieces of ordnance, three foulars, 12 muskets, with pudir and schott, and is estimat worth in starling money,

“Item, his fraught at £4 per tunne is - 400 0 0

“Item, she resavit informatioun that there was taken fra her husband 7 butts of sek, whilk he had laden for the accompt of himself and his owners, worth - 120 0 0

“Item, for her third and crew, 3 months, 75 0 0

“Summa in sterling money, £1595 0 0

“Quhilk personnes earnestlie intreattit the bailies to represent this their loss to the estaits of Parliament, whereby they might have redress thereof, and desyrit their compts to be actit and registrat in the burrow court books, therein to remain *ad futuram rei memoriam*.

“Therefter compeirit *Andro Adamson*, master of the gud ship called the “George,” quho declairit that he haiffand arrivit at London from Burdeous in the month of May 1639, was there deteinit at command of His Majestie for refusing to subscribe the Inglis oath, his ship, and company the space of three months, and was thereby put to the charge of £90”\*

8th Sept. 1642.—“Compeirit *Simone Anderson*, skipper, burgess of Pittenweem, maister under God of the good ship called the “Gift of God,” and with him *Andro Turpie* and *James Binnying*, marineris in the said ship, quho declairit that they haiffand arrivit at Lunde with their said ship from Burdeous, in the month of Apryll 1639, they and the said ship were stayit there by command of His Majestie the space of 3 months;

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men with ane shippe and merchant goods, went away under kirk censures, and did not offer satisfaction according to order; and being away, did joyne with excommunicate accursed Grahame, and turned pirate under him; called in diverse seafareing men on ther lawfull tradeing, and examined them, requyred unlawful oaths of some, hath taken several shippes, spoyled many honest men of ther goods, hath mocked God and his people latelie in professing publicke repentance for gross malignancie proven against him; doe therefore appoint him to be summarlie excommunicate the nixt Lord's day by the minister of Anstruther-Easter.”

\* In a subsequent declaration, it is stated that the “George” was detained four months in 1639, and three months in 1640-1.

and did depurse upon victuals for y<sup>e</sup> companie that remainit these three months, the soume of £12 0 0

“Item, for calfitting and trimming of the said ship, - - - - - 11 0 0

Summa, - - - - - £23 0 0

“As also they declairit that in the month of July 1640, they arrivit at Lundone, and were stayit till Apryll 1641, during the quhilk space, being aucht monethis, thair was depursit on victuals for y<sup>e</sup> skipper and four of y<sup>e</sup> companie remainit to attend y<sup>e</sup> said ship, - - - £20 0 0

“Item, when relieff was granted, he depursit upon ane month’s victuals, to transport the said ship home, - - - - - 7 0 0

“Item, for timbermen’s wages to calfitt and dress her, and for tar, - - - - - 20 0 0

“Item, for 5 cwt. small taikill was taken from her, - - - - - 7 10 0

“Item, for iron wark and chenzies was taken from her, - - - - - 5 0 0

“Item, to the Marchell of y<sup>e</sup> Admiraltie for delyverie of y<sup>e</sup> sails was keipit up be him, 2 0 0

“Summa, - - - - - £61 10 0

“Quhilk compt of the depursements they declairit upon their oaths to be ane just compt, and hes subscribed the same. (Sic sub<sup>r</sup>), Simon Andersone, Thomas Binnying, Andro Turpie : Lykas the said Simon earnestlie entreattit the baillies to seek redress of y<sup>e</sup> great loss sustenit be him throw his said ship and companie thair being keipit up from treading the several times above insert, whatsoever reparatioune thereof should be granted to the rest of the natione.”

23d Oct. 1644.—“Compeirit judiciallie *David Alison*, burgess of Anstruther-Easter, master of y<sup>e</sup> good ship named the “David,” of Anstruther, John Crafuird, and James Young, mariners, and twa of the acquippage of the said ship, and with them Wm. Stevenson, merchant, burgess of Pittenweem, and ane of the merchants of the said ship, the time underwritten, quho declairit upon their oaths, in presence of the baillies, that in the month of September last by past, they being sailing with their said ship to Quonisberg, to have brought home lint from thence, that the said Wm. Stevenson had sua many hearings and other guids and merchandize for buying of his

part of the said ship her lading, paying the tolls and customs thereof, extending to 13 lasts lint, worth y<sup>e</sup> soume of £5200 Scots (£433, 6s. 8d. sterling); and y<sup>e</sup> abulzement of his body, worth y<sup>e</sup> soume of £100 (£8, 6s. 8d. sterling) (By and attour y<sup>e</sup> hearings and uther provisione perteyning to James Robertstone in Anstruther, ane other of y<sup>e</sup> merchands of y<sup>e</sup> said ship, and to the said skipper and his said companie for lading of 21 lasts lint in y<sup>e</sup> said ship; and besyd the said ship, her ornaments and abulzements of y<sup>e</sup> haill company, given up before the bailies of Anstruther-Easter); and that the said ship, haill lading and provision therein, was taken from them by Captain Wm. Avies, Inglisman, as haiffand warrand of His Majestie to tak fra all Covenanters, and carriet away fra them, whereby the said Wm. Stevensone was damnified in y<sup>e</sup> soumes foresaid, and y<sup>e</sup> worth of y<sup>e</sup> said 13 lasts lint, and abulzement of his body, extending in all to the soume of £5300 Scots (£441, 13s. 4d. sterling.)”

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MINUTES OF COUNCIL—PROROGATION OF AN  
ELECTION.

15th Sept. 1641.—The annual election of councillors prorogated, because the clerk was attending Parliament, and some of the councillors were occupied “in attending their particular affairs in drave time.”

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EXPENSE OF ATTENDING PARLIAMENT.

10th Jan. 1642.—There is found to be due to Wm. Richardson £28 (£2, 6s. 8d. sterling), and to James Richardson £23, 16s. (£1, 19s. 8d. sterling) for attending the Parliament at Edinburgh.

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COMPULSORY WORK AT PIER.

28th Feb. 1642.—A list of horses to be made out, and their masters enjoined to send them to carry stones to the pier, under the penalty of 20s., *toties quoties*.

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ARRIVAL OF AN ENGLISH VESSEL.

29th Sept. 1642.—“It is to be remembered that on the 26th Sept. 1642, ane Inglisman, resident at Sandige, haveand arrivit with his hoy heir, enterit the number of fourscore bolls bark; and efter offer, it was coft by the town, and Wm. Richardson is appoyntit to divyde the same amongst the neibors, and to be comptable for what sall be gotten more than satisfies the Inglisman.”

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 THE SEA LOSS.

3d Feb. 1643.—Commissioners appointed to treat with the Convention of Burghs regarding “the great loss sustained by this town through the loss of their ships and guids during the late troubles.”\*

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 THE WORK AT THE PIER.

9th June 1643.—No man is to fee any of the workmen engaged at the pier, under the penalty of ten merks.

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 BALLAST.

9th June 1643.—No man to take any sand for ballast out of the harbour, but those who bring in ballast may take it away again.

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 BURGH COURT—DECREE FOR SCHOOL FEES.

9th Dec. 1642.—“Margt Young is decerned to pay Mr Walter Anderson, schoolmaster, 10 marks for bygone quarter payments restand to him for teaching her bairns.”

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 SEQUESTRATION OF A BUTT OF SACK.

1st July 1643.—A butt of sack lying in a cellar at Pittenweem, of the value of £200 Scots (£16, 13s. 4d. sterling), sequestrated by the bailies, and ordered to be placed in the cove, and to remain there until further order.

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 PUNISHMENT FOR REFUSAL TO JOIN THE ARMY.

13th Dec. 1643.—“John Ireland, tailor, being designed to goe furth as ane sojer, and haiffand refusit, is ordainit to remain in prisone until he find caution to underlie the censure of the Committee of Estates for his refusal, and general assembly for breach of his covenant; and pay 20 marks to the sojers wha at this time have willinglie undertaken to goe.”

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 INSULTS TO THE BAILIES.

21st Dec. 1643.—“Peter Oliphant fined £27 (£2, 5s. sterling), for injurious language to George Russell, ane

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\* A sum of £4000 sterling was voted by Parliament for refitting the ships taken by His Majesty's ships or detained in England, and it was remitted to the Convention of Burghs to apportion it amongst the claimants.



of the bailies, and for y<sup>e</sup> great wrong done to Thomas Richardson, elder, ane other of the bailies, in striking his hat off his head, when he was commanding him silence."

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#### WATCHING OF WITCHES.

31st July 1643.—“The quhilk day, for the better tryal of the witches presently apprehended, to the effect they may be the better watchit and preservit from information of their friends, it is ordainit that ane of the bailies or counsell sall ever be present at the taking off and putting on of the watches, three several times in the 24 hours, and sall injoyn the watches silence; and sall appoint the ablest man of the watch to command the watch until his return. The same day the bailies and clerk, or any twa of them, with concurrence of the minister, are ordainit to try and examine y<sup>e</sup> witches privately, and to keep their deposition secret, because heretofore, so soon as ever they did dilait any, presently the partie dilaittit got knowledge thereof, and thereby was presently obdurate, at least armit, for defence.”

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#### EXECUTION OF WITCHES.

8th August 1643.—“The quhilk day, Thomas Anderson is appoyntit commander of the guard for guarding of the Tolbuith and place of execution of the witches;\* and is ordainit to comand fourtie or fiftie of y<sup>e</sup> ablest young men in the toune, to be in armes for that effect.”

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#### BURGH COURT—EXPENSE OF EXECUTING WITCHES.

3d Nov. 1643.—“John Dawson has made payment of his grassmail, and of the soume of £40 (£3, 6s. 8d. sterling), expenses depursit upon executing his wyff, to y<sup>e</sup> Thesaurer.”

13th Dec. 1643.—“George Hedderwick being found guiltie of giving evil advice to Marg<sup>t</sup> Kingow, his mother-in-law, captivat for witchcraft, is convict in ane unlaw of 50 merks (£2, 15s. 6½d. sterling), and ordainit to mek payment thereof to the Treasurer, to be employed for defraying of hir chairges.”

18th Dec. 1643.—“Thomas Cook, son to Margaret Horsbrugh, is ordainit to pay three score of punds (£5

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\* The witches were burned on the Kilgreen at the east braes.

sterling) for expenses debursit on y<sup>e</sup> executing of his said mother for witchcraft.”

21st Dec. 1643.—“John Crombie is ordainit to pay fourscore pounds (£6, 13s. 4d. sterling) for expenses depursit upon Janet Anderson, his spouse.”

12th Jan. 1644.—“Archibald and Thomas Wanderson, and every ane of them, are decerned to pay y<sup>e</sup> soumes of ane hundredth marks (£5, 11s. 1d. sterling) for de-fraying of the chairges depursit upon their wives, execut for witchcraft.”

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#### APPREHENSION AND WATCHING OF WITCHES.

28th May 1644.—For apprehending and watching of witches, it is ordained that every 24 hours there shall be three several constables and two watchmen appointed.\*

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#### THE RIGHTS OF UNFREEMEN—STRONG WATERS.

1st Sept. 1643.—The Commissioner to the Convention reports the acts and ordinances passed thereat, amongst which were the following :—

That no burgess shall sell to an unfreeman more merchandize than a man can easily carry on his back ;

“And in like manner, that ilk burgh was appointed to use their diligence for intimating and executing the act made anent importing strong waters ; whilk act of

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\* “Witchcraft abounding so much at this time (1643)—no less than thirty persons having, in a few months, been burnt in Fife alone—the General Assembly named a Committee to examine into the nature and cure of that dreadful sin.”—*Stevenson’s History of the Church of Scotland*, p. 1084. The Records of the Presbytery of St Andrews also contain many allusions to trials and executions for witchcraft. The following are extracts therefrom :—

“1643—August. The Presbyterie have appointed Mr George Dewar, &c., to deale with the judges and bailleis of Anstruther, that they may delay the execution of some witches they have in hands, till the Presbyterie appoint some to speak with them.

“1643—August 16. Mr David Monro, &c., to goe to Anstruther-Wester, to sie the execution of some witches ther ; and that they goe to Anstruther-Easter and Craill to speak with some quho are apprehended for witches.

“1643—August 23. The Moderator, &c., are appointed to speak to those who are apprehended for witches in St Andros, and to attend the execution of two witches upon Friday nixt.

“1643—August 30. Mr Colein Adams, &c., appointed to goe to Anstruther-Wester to conferre with some who are apprehended for witches there.

“1643—Sept. 6. Mr Robert Blair, &c., appointed to meet at

Parliament, being oft times already intimat, was presently of new intimat through the hail town be tuck of drum, albeit there be nane that imports any here."

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CUSTOMS, &c., LET.

11th Nov. 1643.—The customs, anchorages, and teind of the small line fishes (handline fishes being received by the poor's box) let for a year for 410 marks (£34, 6s. 8d. sterling.)

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EXPENSE OF THE WAR.

9th Feb. 1644.—The town having been assessed in part of a sum of 230,000 marks imposed upon the burghs generally to meet the expenses of the late wars, it was resolved to borrow 2,200 marks (£122, 4s. 5d. sterling), to meet that, and the expenses which the town itself had incurred in connection with the war. The Sea Box lent 700 marks (£38, 2s. 9d. sterling.)

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PRICE OF ALE.

26th Feb. 1644.—"It was intimat by tuck of drum to

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Crail, and give their advice whether the presumptions and dilations against two in that town be sufficient for apprehending and trial.

"1643—Nov. 15. Mr Robt. Blair, &c., appointed to goe to Crail on Friday, and attend the execution of some witches; and give ther advice to the judges concerning the dilations against others, if they may be apprehendit and tried.

"1644—Jan. The Presbyterie intreated their brother, Mr Jas. Bruce, to remember the Erle of Lindsay to give a general commission for apprehending, trying, and judgeing of such as are, or sall be dilated for, witches within the stewartrie.

"*Eo Die*.—The Presbyterie did appoint Mr David Monro, &c., ministers, Lathallan, James Airth, &c., ruling elders, to meitt with the judges at Pettinweme, and give their advyce if, upon the dilations against Christian Dote in St Minnance, shee may be apprehended and tried.

"1644—Jan. 17. Those quho went to Pettinweme at the Presbyterie's direction to give ther advyce concerning the dilations against Christian Dote, declared they found the dilations sufficient to apprehend and try her.

"1644—Jan. 24. The Presbyterie does recommend it to the Laird of Randerston, being ane of the judges quhom the Erle of Lindsay hes depute, that he and some others with him will apprehend Christian Dote, dilated for a witch, that she may be put to tryall.

"1644—Feb. 7. The Presbyterie doe appoint the Moderator, &c., to meet at Silverdyke with a quorum of the judges, and consider of the dilations against Margaret Myrton, concerning char-

the brewsters that they must take 20d. in place of 16d. for every pint of ale."

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#### MUSTER IN ARMS.

26th Feb. 1644.—A general muster in arms appointed to take place in the Lone, on 3d proximo, of all fencible men.

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#### SOLDIERS SENT TO THE NORTH.

6th March 1644.—A number of persons received money and arms, and were sent to the expedition in the north, having first been made burgesses.

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#### ADMISSION OF BURGESSES.

6th March 1644.—There was paid, on the admission of a burgess (son of a former burgess), 20 marks, with a sufficient musket and bandeleir. This was the common entry money. Those who could not give the musket and bandelier, paid 10 marks in place of them.

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meing and consulting with witches, and give ther advyce quhat course to take with her. As also, to meitt at Pettinweme, and give ther advyce concerning the watching of Christian Dote, and her dyett of sleepe, bed, meate, and drink.

"1644—Feb. 21. The Presbyterie appoints Mr David Monro, &c., to be present at the confrontation of, Christiane Dote in St Minnace, and Margaret Balfour in St Andros, with Beatie Dote in Craill.

"1644—June 12. The Presbyterie appoint Mr Jas. Wood, &c., to attend the execution of some witches in Pitenweeme on Monday nixt.

"1644—Nov. 7. Compeired before the Presbyterie James Richiesone, bailie of Pettinweme, and James Airth, clerk thereof, requyreing the advyce of the Presbyterie anent ane Christian Roch, incarcerate there for a witch, upon thrie several dilations of thrie confessing witches, quho have all suffered; as also, a *fama clamosa* for the space of 20 yeirs; and since her incarceration, they have found, by the search of the hangman, two marks; whither or not they might enlarge her upon the earnest dealing of her husband, quho is useing all means for obtaining thereof. The Presbyterie, having taken the mater to their serious consideration, thocht the foresaid presumptions so pregnant, that they could not but advyse them, not to enlarge her till farther tryall.

"1645—Oct. 1. A supplication presented be Andro Strang in Pettinweme, desyreing that his wife, Christian Roch, incarcerate for a witch a long time since, and yet not put to tryell, may be enlarged. The answer is referred to next day.

"1645—Oct. 8. The Presbyterie, having seene and considered of the dilations against Christian Roch, doe think she should be put to a tryell."

THE IMPOVERISHED CONDITION OF THE BURGH THROUGH LOSSES BY SEA, AND AT THE BATTLE OF KILSYTH, AND FROM WANT OF A FISHING.

“The particular loss of the burgh of Pettinweme, susteint in the trubell, whereby the burgh is altogiddir impoverished :—

“Item, when the King’s schipis were here, there was taken at the Isle of May two schipis, ane pertainyng to Jhone Tod, and ane other to James Binnyng, elder, leadin with timber, and nothing ever seen thereof.

“Item, at the same time, other two were taken on the cost of England, ane pertenyng to George Smyth, and ane other to Andro Adamsone ; and nothing gottin back bot ye hollis yairof.

“Item, in annis 1639, 1640, the hail schippes, except y<sup>e</sup> foresaid four, lay and were wrackit at the full sea, and y<sup>e</sup> maisters and mariners put to bygrie.

“Item, in anno 1644, James Binnyng, yor, his ship wes taken at Skairsbrugh, and efter our airmie gatt Skairsbrugh, he resavit onlie the holle, not worth the home bringing.

“Item, in July 1644, the peopill of this town never haveing any merchand adventure befoir, did adventure ane schippis leadnyng of hearingis to y<sup>e</sup> eist countrey, qlk wes taken be Captaine Airis, warrandit be His Majesty, and carried to Lookstaid, and sold be the captane.

“Item, in Apryll 1645, the schip callit the ‘William,’ worth ten thousand marks (£555, 11s. 1d. sterling), chasit on shore be His Majestie’s schip, and cast away on the coast of England.

The following confession of a Crail witch has been preserved :—

“At the burgh of Crail, the penult day of October 1643 zeiris, in presence of us under subscrivand, Agnes Wallace being in vaird as ane witch, was demandit how long since sche enterit the devillis service. Sche answerit, that as she thoucht about thrie or four and fourtie yeiris ; for sche being, as sche supposit, wes witchit be Umqle Margaret Wood, her mother, sche wes sent to Wilmerstown be Jonnet Inglis, relict of Umql Thomas Cunningham and Umql Barbara Balfour, spous to Jhon Alexander, bailylie off Anstruther, to ane David Spens, and stayit yair ane space, and came hame weill. Sicklyke being enquiryt quhilk wes Lady Wilmerstown for ye time, sche answerit ane very guid honest woman, callit Agnes Durie. (Signed) Master Pa. Lyndsay, witnes ; George Meldrum, witnes ; James Moncrieff, witnes ; C. Dingwall.’

It has been computed that the number of persons put to death for the crime of witchcraft exceeded, in Scotland, 4000 ; in England, 30,000 ; and in Germany, 100,000.

“Item, y<sup>e</sup> maist lamentabill conditione is that there now be lying at the full sea, and sold throw the killing of maisters and mariners, the six schips following, viz. :—

“The schip callit the ‘Thomas,’ sold in Dundie for half her worth, throu Thomas Andersone, master thereof, and haill mariners being killit at Kilsyth ;\*

“The schip callit the ‘George,’ sold to ane skipper in Arbroath for third her worth, throu Thomas Brown, master, and haill mariners being killit at Kilsyth ;

“The schip callit y<sup>e</sup> ‘Gift of God,’ lying wrakit at full sea, throu John Atchesone, master, and haill mariners being killit at Kilsyth ;

“The schip callit y<sup>e</sup> ‘Bountie,’ lying wrakit at full sea, through Alex. Adamson, maister, and haill mariners being killit at Kilsyth ;

“The schip callit y<sup>e</sup> ‘James,’ lying wrakit at full sea, throu James Binnyng and haill mariners being killit at Kilsyth ;

\* The battle of Kilsyth was fought on 15th August 1645, between the royal army, under the Marquis of Montrose, and the Covenanters under General Baillie. “The composition of the two armies was extremely different, the former consisting of veteran Irish and Highlanders flushed with victory—the latter, of undisciplined raw lowlanders, who had only as much training as unfitted them for exerting their individual prowess in the battle, and not enough to enable them to act in a body. On the night before the engagement, Montrose encamped at Kilsyth, and Baillie (whose regiment had just been reinforced by three regiments from Fife), at the Holland Bush, two miles and a half from the enemy. General Baillie, who wished only to observe their motions, knowing well what kind of troops he commanded, was over-ruled by the committee, and the army ordered to approach nearer them. This was accomplished by a difficult march over corn fields and broken ground, but the position he took up was advantageous, and at no point could have been attacked by a front of more than twenty men. The lords, however, who were informed that Montrose was marching westward, afraid that he would carry his ravages into that part of the country which had still escaped his fury, or that he would again seek refuge in the mountains, were eager to engage. In vain did Baillie urge, that it would be ruinous to leave their strong position, and that the loss of the day would be the loss of the kingdom, while he, if defeated and driven to the hills, would suffer no comparative damage. Only one lord, Balcarras, agreed with him in opinion, and the army was ordered to remove to a hill on the right, whence they could descend upon the enemy with effect, or receive their attack upon the height, under every advantage. In proceeding to take up their new alignment, the different officers acted as independent commanders, remaining at, or quitting the stations to which they were directed, as they judged most convenient. The consequence

“The schip callit y<sup>e</sup> ‘Unicorne,’ lying wrakit at full sea, throu John Cars, maister thereof, and mariners being killit at Kilsyth ;

“And now the town is left destitut of men, quhilk were their onlie subsistance, and have no means to do their public affairs, or to give any kind of present supply (untill the Parliament take some charitable course) for helping the present indigencie of *fourty-nine widows and ane hundredth and threttie fatherless children* ;

“And as for the north fishing, thir seven zeirs bygane ther wes not ane fishing boat pertenyng to this burgh in Orkney nor in y<sup>e</sup> isles ; yea, the loss of our men at Kilsyth made the twa part of y<sup>e</sup> small drave boats, quhilk sould have gone to the drave, ly wrak at the full sea.

“As for common guid, this burgh never had any, except ane hundredth marks for petty customs, and other hundredth marks for the grassmaills of ane piece commonty, quhilk soumes are both assignit to the minister.”\*

was inevitable ; the enemy, under the sole direction of one leader, soon perceived their confusion, and before they had all arrived at the ground, attacked with impetuosity. The charge was successful. The horse were driven back among the foot, and the disorder became at once general and irremediable. The Highlanders and Irish, half naked, rushed upon the panic struck multitude with wild outcries, and during a pursuit of fourteen miles, followed the fugitives with unrelenting rage, covering the country with the carcasses of the unarmed crowd, who had thrown away their weapons, and sought safety in flight. No quarter was given, and the historian of Montrose w<sup>as</sup> exultingly relates, ‘That six thousand were put to the sword, and even the vanquished themselves allow five thousand to have fallen. The loss on the side of the conquerors was small, and the whole of the ammunition, baggage, and stores of the covenanters were the reward of the victory.’—*Aikman’s History*. The three Fifeshire regiments were almost entirely annihilated.

\* The battle of Kilsyth may be considered as a turning point in the history of Pittenweem. The loss of so many of its inhabitants in that disastrous engagement, following the destruction of its shipping, proved a fatal blow to the prosperity of the burgh. The town is said to have been “left destitute of men,” and the extracts which follow will be found to contain many allusions to the decay of trade and the poverty of the inhabitants. Between 1639 and 1645, we read of upwards of a dozen ships belonging to the burgh, all of considerable tonnage and value, and engaged in the foreign trade ; but by 1656 there were only two ! The following interesting historical account of the trade of the coast towns, which was written as a foot-note to the edition of “Sibbald’s History of Fife” published in 1803, explains and illustrates subsequent

## LOAN BY SEA BOX.

4th June 1644.—300 marks (£16, 13s. 4d. sterling) borrowed from the Sea Box for the war.

references to the condition of the burgh in the council records:—  
 “The town of Anstruther, along with the other burghs on the coast of Fife, exhibits many vestiges of former commercial prosperity. In all of them many large warehouses for trade, and magnificent dwellings of wealthy merchants, are now in a state of decay, or of ruin. The loss of their commerce is to be traced to various causes, especially to some events that have been very beneficial to the kingdom at large. The foreign trade of this country was chiefly carried on with France, whose wines and brandies were imported, partly for home consumption, and partly to be smuggled into England, often engaged in war with France, and always viewing that country with political and commercial jealousy. The accession of James VI. to the crown of England, weakened the peculiar ties which bound Scotland to France. His peaceful reign, and the connections which the succeeding princes of the Stuart family formed with the court of that country, opened the trade of France to the wealth and spirit of English merchants, and annihilated the profits which the contraband trade of the Scots, with French commodities, was wont to afford. The union of the kingdoms at last destroyed the intercourse of this country with France, at a time when the want of spirit and resources prevented the opening of any other channels of commerce.—In the political dissensions of the middle of the 17th century, the Whigs of Fife took a very active part, and, of course, had a very ample share in the subsequent calamities. The military spirit, and the love of independence, for which the county had long been distinguished, led many gallant bands of the men of Fife into these civic broils, where numbers of them perished, in supporting what they believed to be the cause of God and their country. But it was the fatal battle of Kilsyth which most deeply affected the burghs on the coast. Most of the principal traders and shipmasters, with their seamen, besides a multitude of the people of all classes, were engaged in that most disastrous enterprise. Three regiments from Fife perished almost to a man. The records of the kirk sessions bear testimony to the extent of the losses, by the number of widows and orphan families which were then admitted to their charities. And there are few old people who do not speak with traditional horror of the bloody field of Kilsyth, or who cannot enumerate some of their relations among the sufferers. The loss of the activity and wealth, and commercial and naval skill of its principal merchants and mariners, could not be repaired in a country that was immediately exposed to the oppressions of successful rebellion, and afterwards to the civil and ecclesiastical tyranny of the unprincipled courts of Charles II. and James VII. Nor did the revolution bring a remedy; for it was so quickly followed by a severe and continued famine (the black years of King William) that the remaining resources of the country were almost entirely exhausted.—The ruin of their foreign commerce, and these domestic calamities, were accompanied also with the loss of their coasting



## STENT ON THE INHABITANTS.

4th Sept. 1644. \*—A stent roll of £100 (£8, 6s. 8d. sterling) for defraying the charges of the war. 90 persons were assessed in sums varying from 3s. 4d. to £5, 13s. 4d. each.

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trade with England. The principal article of this trade was malt, which was here made free of duty. It was either smuggled by sea in great quantities, or landed near the Scottish border, and carried by land into the northern counties of England. The imposition of duties at the union ruined this branch of commerce, so lucrative both to the burghs and the inland country. Every town exhibits many ruins of malt steeps and barns; and the aged tell of many scores of them, in places where scarcely one is now occupied.—A considerable quantity of salt, made from sea water, was also exported to England. But when duties came at the union to be levied on this article, it could not maintain the competition with [the English mineral salt, considerable quantities of which are now brought into Scotland, although we are not allowed to import and manufacture the fossil material, a privilege not denied to the sister kingdom of Ireland. The ruins of salt-pans, scattered along the whole coast of Fife, testify the once flourishing state of this trade.—Taxes imposed at the union on many other articles, and the numerous restrictions with which the English contrived, in the narrow spirit of 'commercial monopoly, to fetter the trade of Scotland, were quickly and severely felt in this part of the united kingdom, and our languishing commerce hastened fast to utter ruin.—A pretty successful fishery, however, for a while retarded the progress of decay in the burghs. But this, too, gradually failed, partly from the disappearance of the herrings from their wonted haunts, and partly perhaps from the feeble exertions of a dispirited and impoverished people.—The political situation, too, of the little towns, exposing them to the intrigue and corruption of contested elections, combined with the other causes to promote their declension. From the union till the middle of the last century, almost their only commerce was a contraband importation of spirits and wines, and the exportation of some coals and grain. It was not till after the peace of 1763 that trade began to revive. The cutting of the great canal between the Forth and the Clyde, contributed largely to revive both the agriculture and commerce of the county, by opening an easy access to the market of Glasgow and the other towns on the west coast of the island, for the surplus grain, and for the productions of the manufacturer; and the discovery of new shoals of herrings has in part restored the ancient prosperity of the towns on the frith. Some of them, however, have yet derived little benefit from the revival of trade, and of spirit and energy among their neighbours.”

\* It will be observed that this and the two following minutes refer to transactions prior to the battle of Kilsyth. They should have appeared before the account of the town's losses in that engagement.

COUNCILLORS TO ATTEND THE ARMY TO ASSIST  
THE COMMANDERS.

4th Sept. 1644.—“The qlk day the baillies and counsell, considering that the hail fencible men now at Cupar are hard to be governed by the commanders: It is therefore ordained that always twa of y<sup>e</sup> counsell sall be with them, aucht days about, and to every two to relieve the other by turns.”

OFFICERS APPOINTED.

7th Oct. 1644.—The bailles and council having taken into consideration that, in the exigencies of these times, it is most necessary that there be always commanders ready for marching forth with the town's company, and that the present commanders cannot be ever at home for attending the service, have resolved to double the commanders, and have appointed (Here follow the names of 2 captains, 2 lieutenants, 2 ensigns, 4 sergeants, 2 corporals, 2 captains at arms, and a drummer.)

THE PLAGUE.

27th June 1645.—“The bailies and counsell ordain John Swyne to remain with his hail familie within his house, for trial if he be free of the pestilence, during the bailies' pleasure, under the pain of 500 merks, and that he suffer none to come in his house, under the pain of other 500 merks, unless he detain them as his own; and also ordain the common herd to receive his goods at the yeatt, and to deliver them back at the yeatt again.”

27th June 1645.—Each councillor to take his turn at the watch week about, and the wynds to be closed.

10th July 1645.—Thomas Swinton and family are ordained to remain in the house until it is tried that he is free of the pestilence. An order to be issued by the towns of Crail, Silverdykes, Anstruther, Pittenweem, and St Monance, that no boats go to Dunbar during the time of the pestilence.

OFFENCE AGAINST THE LAWS OF TRADE.

6th Nov. 1645.—“Jas. Sutherland, servant to David Wilkie, being accusit for selling of sek (sack) within the burgh without offering the same to the toune, he confessed that he sold the first butt of sek to Alison Black in Anstruther ignorantly, not knowing he should have offered the same to the toune; and for the rest he offered

the same to the toune at two hundred pounds for the butt, within three months time."

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PRICE OF BREAD, BEER, AND CANDLE.

6th Nov. 1645.—“The same day the baillies and counsell, with consent of y<sup>e</sup> landlords, ordains that sixteen ounces good white bread be sold for twelve pennies ; and that ale and beer be sold no dearer than twelve pennies ; and candle for 4s. the pound.”

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STENT ON THE INHABITANTS.

4th June 1646.—A stent of £92 made for support of two companies of an artillery regiment quartered in the town.

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REFERENCE WITH CRAIL.

11th June 1646.—It was agreed to refer the question between the town of Crail and this town, as to their contract, to the Convention of Burrowes.

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STENT ON THE INHABITANTS.

16th Oct. 1646.—A stent imposed for the pay of the two companies of my Lord Coupar's men, quartered in the town. Each man was to receive £6 (10s. sterling) monthly, and the number billeted being over 200, the total monthly stent amounted to £1393 (£116, 1s. 8d. sterling). 109 persons were stented in sums varying from £3 (5s. sterling) to £38 (£4 sterling) monthly.

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THE PLAGUE.

8th May 1647.—The bailies and council, considering how dangerous the times are now, and in respect of the plague raging in St Andrews, ordains no person to be received in this town without advice of 12 of the council.\*

28th June 1647.—“The bailies and counsell, considering how dangerously the plague is spreading through the land, and how all vagabonds are wandering through suspect and unsuspect places, without interruption, ordaines ane watch to be keepit at Wm. Adamsons's barn gavel ;

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\* “27th May 1647. The Presbyterie mett at Anstruther-Easter, and concluded the place of ther ordinar meeting to be ther so long as the plague continues in St Andros ; and resolved to meete bot once in fourteen dayes, because of the danger of frequent meeting.” —*St Andrews Presbytery Records.*

and the haill counsell, at least so many of them as are presently at home, and with them John Keith and Andro Benstone, sall everie ane attend, three days about, and see the watches sett, and when any stranger comes, sall go and see the validity of the testificats, with power to them according as they think fit, efter the sight of testificats, to lett receive or no receive."

20th July 1647.—Watches set to examine the passes of strangers at W. Adamson's, the pan brae, and the cross heuch.

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#### LOSS AT KILSYTH.

20th July 1647.—"The bailies and counsell ordained Jas. Richardson to go to Coupar and give in a compt to the county, of the haill armes lost by the burgh and inhabitants at Kilsyth, and to resave the several proportions of the armour that is to be distributed."

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#### STENT ON THE INHABITANTS.

11th Sept. 1647.—A stent of £885 (£73, 15s. sterling) imposed, whereof £800 applied to the monthly maintenance (of the soldiers), and 100 merks to be given to the minister, who craved help from the council, because his stipend this year was unable to sustain him, because of the cheapness of the victual;\* but it was declared that that was not to be taken as a precedent in time to come.

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#### ABSENTEES FROM THE COUNCIL TO BE FINED.

11th Sept. 1647.—"The bailies and counsell, considering how greatly this burgh is concerned in the public cares, and how slack some of them are in convening at the ordinary meetings, whereby oftentimes through the maist of y<sup>e</sup> business the burgh is likely to sustain prejudice, it is ordained that each bailie absent without cause shall pay 12s., and each counsellor 6s."

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#### A COUNCILLOR FINED FOR NON-ATTENDANCE.

20th Sept. 1647.—"The bailies and counsell being convenit, and haiffand taen notice quho were present and quho were absent, finding George Hedderwick to be absent, being lawfully cited, ordained him to pay 6s., conform to the act maid yairanent; and y<sup>e</sup> said George haiff-

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\* The Fife Fiars' prices for this year were, bear, 8s. 4d.; meal, 6s. 8d. per boll.

and compeirit, refusit to pay the same ; and yairfor was ordainit to double the same, and remain in ward until he mak payment.”

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THE COUNCIL'S PRAYER.

1st August 1648.—“It is concludit that there be insert here ane prayer to be said at ilk meitting of y<sup>e</sup> counsell be the clerk, in manner following :—O dreadful and soveraign Lord, terrible in judgment and rich in mercy, we acknowledge this not to be the least of thy mercies who continest with us this freedom and liberty to assemble together for deliberating on the most enduring means whereby our peace with thee and one with another in thee, in all justice and equity, may be maintained and advanced. O Lord, we entreat thee, therefore, that thou wouldst not withdraw thyself, because of our sins, from standing in the midst of us, and sitting with us, thou who declarest thyself to stand in the congregation of the mighty, and judge amongst the gods ! O Lord, whatever shall come before us, be not thou deficient by thy divine assistance to strengthen our faint hearts and feeble hands for contributing our mite of righteous judgment, and of free, amiable, and unanimous compliment, for advancing the work of thy glory to the good of our own salvation in all things, whether they concern the public weall of this land, whereof we are members, or the particular peace of this poor incorporation, whereof we are judges and councillors. Good Lord, since thou doth honour us with the name of gods, give us grace to walk worthly of our names, lest we perish like men. Many warnings are we daily receiving for straight and upright walking ; but, alas, for the hardness of our hearts. We entreat thee, therefore, O Lord, to make haste to help us and be with us at this present time, accompanying us with the spirit of wisdom, prudence, and peace ; secluding all divisions of heart and divisive motions, that in a brotherly concord all our deliberations may have successful conclusions, even for His sake, who, that he might sanctify us, did sanctify himself to be our high priest—He being harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners—whom, with the Father and Holy Spirit, we bless and magnify, now and for ever. Amen.”

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DOCK MAILL.

8th Sept. 1648.—“David Wilson in Anstruther, who has now bought the ship, whereof Wm. Fairful, burgess of

this town, was maister, being desirous to understand what dock maill would be exactit against him for the ship, for lying thir three years bygane at the full sea, but a master residing here, it is concludit that if it sall be found that ever Wm. Fairful paid any poor money or pier money to the Sea Box, the dock maill sall only be £7, 10s. ; if not, he sall pay £10 Scots."

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#### THE ENGAGEMENT.

24th Nov. 1648.—In terms of an act of the Committee of Estates, the four bailies (Richardson, Bennet, Russell, and Anderson), and Councillors Ritchie, T. Cuik, Adamson, Mathieson, Lessels, Stevenson, Keith, Russell, Hedderwick, and Ro. Smith, clerk,\* "compeared, and being solemnly sworn, deponed on their consciences that (blessed be God) they and all of them have continued faithful and constant in the good cause in hand ; and that they nor nane of them were anyways accessory to the late unlawful engagement, † or subscribed y<sup>e</sup> band, sworn or sub<sup>t</sup> any aith or declaration for prosecution of the engagement, nor have anyways been aiding or assisting to any who did join in armour with the Earls of Crawford, &c., neither have declared their judgments against the cause, and the said committee their proceedings in pursuance hereof. Wm. Stevenson and Walter Airth, two of the councillors, being sworn, declared that they, nor nane of them, did countenance or were accessory to the engagement, but confessed that, by persuasion of malignantly disposed persons, under silence of night, they subscribed the protestation or declaration anent the lawfulness of the unlawful engagement, and humbly craved pardon for the offence committed by them against the bailies and council, and promised, by God's assistance, to attempt what in them lies to amend their

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\* Mr Robert Smith, proprietor of Gibliston, was appointed town clerk in 1647, on the death of Mr James Airth. He married Marjory Airth, probably a daughter of his predecessor, and occupied a house on the site of that now possessed by Provost Tosh. In 1707, sixty years after his appointment, his son George was elected conjunct clerk with him.

† "The year 1648 was distinguished by the famous *engagement*, projected by the Duke of Hamilton, the professed object of which was to rescue Charles from the English army, now under the command of Cromwell, and which had obtained, by force, possession of the King's person. This ill-fated expedition was condemned by the Scottish Presbyterians because no provision was made, in the event of its success, that the King should secure the liberties of the nation, according to the terms of the Covenant."

fault, and behave themselves in time coming, faithfully and constantly in the cause in hand, and do their utmost endeavour to oppose the efforts of the malignants and their associates; and thereafter, of their own free will, for obedience of the said committee their order, they demitted their offices, and removed themselves until such time as they should be reponed, and farther order was taken thereanent, and in the meantime, submitted themselves to the said committee their determination. William Watson, (one of the counsellors, who had been commissioner to last session of Parliament), deponed that to the best of his knowledge he did not vote in Parliament for the said engagement, but if he did (whereof he is forgetful) he declared that at the time he did not really understand what the purpose meant, nor the matter of the question; always in obedience of the said committee their order, and until further trial was taken thereanent, he demitted office.\* Whereupon the bailies and counsell declare that (blessed be God) they are free of all corrupt members, and that they will elect none to be commissioners to the next Parliament but such as are free of the engagement.”†

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#### TAX FOR A LEVY OF HORSE.

12th March 1649.—The burgh was called to contribute £120 (£10 sterling) as their proportion of a levy in the county of 420 horse for Lord Elcho's regiment.

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#### LEASES TO STRANGERS.

29th April 1649.—The bailies and council have ordained intimation to be made by tuck of drum, concluding that no strangers be received, or houses let to them, by any inhabitants, until first they acquaint the magistrates there-

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\* Mr Watson was shortly afterwards restored to office, and elected a bailie. His tombstone is one of the oldest that is legible in the churchyard. It stands near the north gate, and bears that he died in 1657, at the age of 68.

† 1649. The Earl of Kelly made his repentance in his own seat for having hand in the late engagement against England, and was received by Mr George Hamilton, his own minister, at Pittenweem.—*Lamont's Diary*. “A great number of all ranks were at this time brought before the Presbytery for their accession by word or deed to the unlawful engagement, and received sentence according to their degrees of guilt. Those who were debarred from the communion, &c., were afterwards received into the bosom of the church, upon declaring their repentance in the presence of the congregation.”

of, under the penalty of £10, and such further punishment as the magistrates may think fit to inflict.

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CHOICE OF A MINISTER.

13th Sept. 1649.—The bailies and council, considering that now this burgh is destitute of a minister by the decease of Mr John Melville,\* and that Mr George Hamilton, minister at Newburn, being sent by the Presbytery to preach and exhort the people to put their eyes on an able man for embracing the charge of the ministry, and that the session has unanimously pitched upon the said Mr George, the bailies and council appoint Walter Airth, &c., to speak to my Lord and try his mind thereanent.

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ACT OF THE PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREWS FOR  
TRANSLATION OF MR HAMILTON TO  
PITTENWEEM.

5th Dec. 1649 —The Presbytery having heard the reasons of transportation, and Mr Hamilton's reasons against the same, finding the said George to be so well gifted and zealous for the Lord, would do more good to the kirk of God, being a minister at Pittenweem, where a nobleman's residence is, and being a royal burgh, and a congregation thrice as numerous as his present charge at Newburn, resolved to transport him to Pittenweem. †

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\* "1649—August. Mr Jhone Melvin, minister of Petten-Weyme in Fife, died at his owne house there."—*Lamont's Diary*.

† Mr George Hamilton, proprietor of Cairnes in St Andrews parish, and of a twelfth part of the town and lands of Kingsbarns, was minister of Pittenweem from 1650 till 1677, when he died at the age of 76. His tombstone stands in the south wall of the church. The following notices of him appear in "*Lamont's Diary*":—

"1649—Dec. 5. Mr George Hamiltoune, minister of Newburne, in the Presbetry of St Androus, was appointed by the said Presbetry to remove to Pettynweyme. At his transportation, the steipen of the said parish was augmented by the Earl of Kelly and the rest of the parishioners there. He removed thither with his whole familie the 6th of March 1650.

"1650—Feb. 28. Mr George Hamiltoun, minister of Newburne, was admitted be the Presbeterery of St Andrews to be minister of Pettenweyme. The day of his admission, Mr Hary Raymoure, minister of Carnbie, did preside. The ministers of the Presbetry that day did dyne in the Earl of Kelly his house. Upon the Sabbath following, he did take his leave of his old parishioners; and upon the 6th day of March following, he went thither with his whole familie.

"1652—July. Mr George Hamilton, minister of Pittenweem,



## LEGACY TO THE TOWN.

13th Sept. 1649.—“Compeared Robt. Smyth, the clerk, and produced ane bond by Alexander, Earl of Kellie, to the said bailies and counsell for the sum of 500 merks (£27, 15s. 6d. sterling), left in legacy to them by Umq James Airth, late clerk of this burgh, to be mortified, and the annual rent thereof employed by the said bailies and council upon any good object or common use they should think fit; provided the said bailies and counsell shall relieve the heirs of the said James of ony glebe duty should be imposed on his lands; upon which provision and condition they very willingly accept of the said bond.”

## APPOINTMENT OF AN EDINBURGH AGENT.

3d Oct. 1649.—“The bailies and counsell appoint the clerk to wreat to Alex. Leslie, nottar in Edinburgh, desiring him to agent the town’s business at Edinburgh, and promise him for his pains, two dry stone of keilling yearly.”\*

## BOND FOR GOOD BEHAVIOUR.

3d Oct. 1649.—“Same day Thomas Whyte, mariner, is become acted, if ever he misbehave himself to any of the magistrates or counsellors, in thought, word, or deed, in time coming, he shall pay twenty pounds to the Trea-

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was challenged by the English soldiers for praying for the King, and some other things.

“1653—May 24. The said Mr George Hamiltoune was badly used at Pettinweyme (on a Tuesday) by some of Fairfax regiment of foot, so that he was forced to brake off his sermon, because he refused to answer them in publick, att which time there was a great uproare in the church there; and after they came foorth, they affixed a peaper upon the crosse and everie eminent place in the towne, tending to defame the said Mr George, calling him a ridiculous parson, not regarding what he said, and that they wold hold him so till he made good his promise, which was to dispute with them.

“1653—Sept. 12. Mr George Hamilton, Mr Colin Edem, &c., ministers of the Presbytery of St Andruis, were carried by some of the English forces of Colonel Berrie’s regiment of horse to Edinburgh prisoners, because the day before, being Sabbath, they had prayed for the King. They returned the 20th of September, upon condition either to return to Edinburgh within a fournight, and to give assurance to the judges that they would not pray any more for the King, or else to expect sequestration.”

\* Two stones of dried fish.

surer, *toties quoties*, and abide the counsell's censure besides."

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#### PRIVILEGES TO THE MINISTER.

5th March 1650.—Power given to the minister, upon his petition, "to collect and transport muck and war for gudding his glebe as fully as ony burgess;" but with reference to an additional request made by him, the "counsell declare that they were noways liable in furnishing pasturage for his guds in the commonties, yet they were content that Mr George Hamilton, now minister at Pittenweem, during his service in the ministry thereat, should be free to pasture ane horse and twa kyne allenalie, in any part of the commonty."

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#### THE COURT DAY.

7th April 1650.—The bailies and council have ordained that in all time coming Thursday weekly shall be the court day.

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#### SET OF TOWN'S LANDS.

29th April 1650.—"The Braes and Claypottts by west the pannes of Pittenweem let for 20 merks yearly (22s. 6d. sterling.)

27th May 1650.—"After three several roupings of the grass mails, the Myres, Common Loan, haill braes and meadows pertaining to the town, werè let for £113, 6s. 8d. Scots (£9, 6s. 8d. sterling)."

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#### A SHIP PLUNDERED.

14th May 1650.—"Compeared judicially Andro Tod, skipper, burgess of Pittenweem, master of the good ship named the 'Gabriel' thereof, and with him Thomas Brown, Wm. Horsburgh, Alexander Paterson, and George Dishingtoun, mariners company and acquippage of the said ship, quho declairit on their aiths, in presence of the bailies, that upon the 10th of May instant, they being sailing with the said ship fra y<sup>e</sup> burgh of Montrose to Norroway, to have brocht hame timber and dails fra thence, the said ship was taen and apprehendit be ane Irishe frigate, the captane whereof was ane Irishman, and y<sup>e</sup> haill stuilling and provision and other furnishing that was input in the same ship at Montrose, was taken furth of the same be the said captane and his accomplices, except 3 bolls malt and 3 bolls bear; and thereafter, the said

captane and his accomplices threattinit y<sup>e</sup> said Andro Tod for y<sup>e</sup> monie that was in y<sup>e</sup> said ship, quhilk being denyit be thè said Andro, they torterit him vehementlie, until he was forcit to yield to their desire, provided he should get composition; and after he had cryit three or four times for composition, the captane promisit to compound, and give back the stulling and haill remanent provision; nevertheless, the captane haiffand taken seven score rix dollars furth of y<sup>e</sup> said ship, he still reteinit the provision, and carriet all away in the said frigate."

#### BOND FOR GOOD BEHAVIOUR.

6th July 1650.—"George Anderson is become actit that if he sall misbehave himselff, in any time coming, to the magistrates of the burgh, or disobey yair orders, he sall pay ane hundredth pundis *toties quoties*."

#### MILITARY PREPARATIONS.

23d July 1650.—"The bailies and counsell ordained intimation to be maid, by tuck of drum, commanding y<sup>e</sup> haill fencible men to be in readiness to receive armes when they sall be desireit, and requiring all the horse and barrows of the town to come y<sup>e</sup> morne, for bearing of stone and fail to the forts, for bigging and repairing the same."

23d July 1650.—"Alex. Bennet and George Russell ar ordainit to meet at Anstruther to-morrow with the rest of the burrowes, for consulting and thinking on ane way how the coast sall be keipit fra y<sup>e</sup> invasion of y<sup>e</sup> enemie; and that they try for powder and ball to be in reddiness."

#### THE MONTHLY STENT ROLL ALTERED.

7th August 1650.—Many persons in the stent roll, for the monthly maintenance, having become unable to pay, the roll is ordered to be altered; and persons sent to buy meal for the army, conform to the ordinance of the Committee of Estates.

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\* "1650—July 22. The English armie invadit this kingdome under the conduct of L.G. Cromwell; he did defeate the Scots forces at Dunbar, as is spoken hereafter; after the overthrowe, he possessed himselfe of the citie of Edinbroughe, and of the towne of Leith. 1650—July. Ane armie was levied in this kingdome under the conduct of General Lesley, to withstand the foresaide English armie. The 3d of September 1650, in the morning, being Tuesday, this armie was defeate near to Dunbar in Louthian, by the aforesaide English armie."—*Lamont's Diary*.

## TAX FOR THE KING.

15th August 1650.—“The bailies and counsell having received notice fra Sir Wm. Lockhart, one of the receivers of His Majestie’s revenues, for payment of £355 (£29, 11s. 8d. sterling), being this burgh’s share of 80,000 merks, imposit on the burghs for His Majestie’s use, it is concludit that an answer be written Sir William, promising payment after the drave is done.”

## CONFESSION OF A FAULT.

10th Sept. 1650.—“George Whyte acknowledged his fault for giving Wm. Ritchie, ane old bailie, ane lie, and creavit pardon for y<sup>e</sup> same, and became actit never to misbehave himselff in ony time coming, either to magistrate or counsellor, under pain of £100.”

## DEFENCE OF BURNTISLAND.

8th Oct. 1650.—“The bailies and counsell having received ane letter from the Committee of the Shire, desiring the hail fencible men of this burgh to be at Burntisland Thursday next, weill airmit, and shewing that this burgh is to provide two dragoons, as its proportion of 300 on the Shire, and four pounds for ilk £12 on the hundredth pund of the burrowes stent, they have delayit ony answer till they consult with the burrowes that are to meet at Anstruther to morrow.”\*

## STENT ON THE INHABITANTS.

22d Oct. 1650.—The bailies and counsell find that there must be £1200 collected, for the tax imposed for the King’s use, the monthly maintenance, and quartering of the broken regiments.

## RECEPTION OF CHARLES II. AT PITTENWEEM.

14th Feb. 1651.—“The baillies and counsell being convenit, and having receavit informatioun that His Majesty is to be in progres with his court along this coast to-morrow, and to stay at Anstruther that night,† have

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\* “1650—October. They began to fortifie Bruntelland.”—*Lamont’s Diary*.

† 1651—Feb. 4. After that His Majestie was crowned Jan. 1, 1651 (as is before spoken), he came to Falklande Jan. 22, 1651. After he had stayed there some days, he returned to St Jhonstone. About the beginning of Feb. he went to Stirling; the 12th of

thought it expedient, according to yair bounden dewtie, with all reverence and due respect, and with all y<sup>e</sup> solemnitie they can, to waitt upon His Majestie as he comes thorrow this hes saïd Majestie's burgh, and inveit His Majestie to eatt and drink as he passes; and for that effect have ordainit that the morne efternoone the towne's cullors be put up on y<sup>e</sup> bartizan of y<sup>e</sup> steeple, and that at thrie o'clock, the belles begin to ring, and ring on still until His Majestie come hither and be past to Anstruther; and sicklyke that the minister \* be spoken to, to be with the baillies and counsell, who are to be in yair best apparell, and with ane guard of twentie four of y<sup>e</sup> ablest men, with parizans, and other twenty four with musquetis, all in yair best apparell—Wm. Sutherland, commanding as captane of the guard—and to waitt on His Majestie, and receive His Highness at y<sup>e</sup> west port; † bringing His Majestie and his court throw the towne until they come to Robt. Smythe's yeatt, ‡ whair ane table is to be coverit with one of my lord's best carpetts; § and that George Hedderwick have in reddiness of fine flour some great bunes and other wheat bread of y<sup>e</sup> best order, baiken with sugar, cannell, ¶ and other spyces fitting; and that James Ritchardson and Walter Airth have cair to have reddie eight or ten gallons of good strong aill, with canary, seck,

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Feb. he came to Bruntelland; the 13th to the place of the Wemyss, and lodged there all night; the 14th he came along the coast by Levven, Largo, Ellie, and lodged at the Laird of Enster's house all night; the 15th and 16th, being Saturday and Sunday, he stayed with the Erle of Crawford at Struthers; the 17th he went to St Johnstone; the 21st he went to Dundie. In June he went to Stirling; and after that he moved along with our armie, and afterwards went into England with the said armie, which was routed at Worcester Sept. 3, 1651, where he escaped and went to Paris."—*Ibid.*

\* Mr George Hamilton.

† The west port, consisting of an archway and gate, stood at the north end of the south Loan.

Robert Smyth was town clerk. His house, whereat His Majesty was entertained, stood where Provost Tosh's house now is.

§ The use made on this occasion of "my lord (Kellie's) best carpet" would seem to have been quite in accordance with ancient custom; for, in the description given in *Quentin Durward* of the splendid apartments in the royal castle of Plessis, assigned to the astrologer, Galeotti Martivalle, we read that "a large oaken table, in the midst of the chamber, was covered with a rich Turkey carpet, the spoils of the tent of a Pacha, after the great battle of Jaiza."

¶ Cinnamon.

Rainsche wyne, tent, whytt and claret wynes, that His Majestie and his court may eatt and drink ; and that in the meantyme, while His Majestie is here, the guard doe diligentlie attend about the court, and so soon as His Majestie is to goe away, that a signe be maid to Andro Tod, who is appoyntit to attend the cullors on the steeple head, to the effect he may give signes to those that attend the canones, of His Majestie's departure, and then the hail threttie six canones to be all schott at once. It is thought best fitting that the minister, and thereafter James Ritchardson, the oldest baillie, when His Majestie comes to the table, schew the great joy and sense this burgh hes of His Majestie's condescension to visit the burgh, with other expressions of loyaltie ; which was actit."\*

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#### LEVY OF SOLDIERS.

21st Feb. 1651.—“The bailies and counsell, considering that beside the aucht men already put forth to the Earl of Crawford's regiment, for defence of King and country against these vyle insurgents in England, who have invaded this kingdom, it is expedient, according to the ordinance of the Committee, that there be ten more presently in reddiness, have therefore pitched upon ten able men, and condescendit they be with all speed maid reddie, and put in good equipage, and warned to attend y<sup>e</sup> captain's call. Qlk wes acted.”

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#### STENT ON THE INHABITANTS.

3d March 1651.—“The bailies and counsell have concludit, that for payment of y<sup>e</sup> remainder of the money due and imposit for His Majestie's use, and for buying six score ells of grey cloth for clothing the soldiers now at Striveling, and for defraying of y<sup>e</sup> last monthly maintenance for His Majestie's coronatione, and half month for the royal family, there be presently stentit and col-

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\* The magistrates of Cupar had also the honour of entertaining Charles II. The following notice of his reception at that place is given by Lamont:—“The 6th of July 1650, leaving St Androus, he (Charles) came to Cowper, where he gatt some desert to his foure houres ; the place where he satte down to eate was the Tolbooth. The towne had appointed Mr Andro Anderson, scholemaster ther for the tyme, to give him a musicke songe or two whille he was att tabell. Mr David Douglysse had a speech to him att his entry to the towne. After this he went to Falklande all night.”

lectit be the Treasurer five months maintenance. Qlk wes acted."

19th March 1651.—“The bailies and counsell concludit that with all speed four months maintenance be collectit for payment of this burgh’s part of the arrears due, and appointed to be payit to Gnall Major Massie.”

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#### MONEY REQUIRED BY THE KING.

5th May 1651.—“The bailies and counsell having received notice from His Majestie desiring this burgh to provide for His Highness’s entertainment in the forts, twa hundredth pounds sterling, and withal desiring one to be sent from this burgh to Striveling and Haddington, they have concluded to send James Ritchardson to Stryveling, who is ordered to signify to His Majestie’s receiver there, that (notwithstanding of y<sup>e</sup> present grievous burdings lying on this burgh), whatever course other burghs take in reference to the provision of y<sup>e</sup> money, we will tak the lyk.”

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#### COMMISSIONER TO PARLIAMENT.

19th May 1651.—Jas. Richardson is appinted commissioner to the Parliament at Stirling.

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#### CAPTURE OF AN ENGLISH SHIP.

15th July 1651.—“Compeirit before the counsell George Russell and Wm. Stevenson, who having declared that they had bought the great salt and iron that is now importit at this harbour in the prize lately taken be His Majestie’s commission, at £4, 6s. 8d. (7s. 2d. sterling) for ilk ton of salt, and 34s. (2s. 10d. sterling) ilk stone of iron, made offer of the same commodities to the counsell, that y<sup>e</sup> same may be a town’s bargain. Whereupon the bailies and counsell ordained and ordains every burgess to have a share of the said commodities at the rate above written, according as they bear burding; and for that effect, appoint John Cook to proportion every burgess’ part according to y<sup>e</sup> stent roll, and order them to receive their proportion, and collect the money, and ordains intimation to be maid hereof to the inhabitants by tuck of drum.”\*

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\* In all probability the vessel here mentioned is the same as that referred to in the following quotation as having been captured by Canston: —“The ports on the east coast of Fife seem to have

## CROMWELL'S TROOPS AT INVERKEITHING—SOLDIERS SENT TO BURNTISLAND.

24th July 1651.—In consequence of this country having been invaded by England and English forces landed at Inverkeithing, twelve able men, well armed and with four days' provisions, are sent to the garrison at Burntisland.\*

## MONTHLY PROVISION FOR CROMWELL'S ARMY.

18th Sept. 1651.—“The qlk day in presence of the bailies and counsell, comperit Walter Airth (who had been elected the day before be the bailies, with assent of the council to go to the Governor of Perth, and try what can be done for an easement of y<sup>e</sup> heavy burdens now imposit by y<sup>e</sup> Engliches on this burgh), and declared

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been active in the hostilities which immediately followed between Scotland and the English under Cromwell; for we learn that, in 1651, the laird of Waughton, captain of the Bass, took an English ship of 265 tons burden, with a crew of thirteen men and two boys, on her way to Leith, with a cargo of 10,000 pairs of shoes, 6000 pairs of boots, 5000 saddles, 10 tuns of London beer, and a month's biscuit for all Cromwell's troops. The supply was considered most seasonable, and the commissary-general was immediately sent down to Anstruther, whither the vessel had been towed, to take possession of the goods. In the same year, one Canston, who had letters of marque, took a smaller vessel, laden with provisions, on the coast of England, and sent her into Pitteenweem; and, a few days after, a Scots frigate, commanded by one Murray, captured a vessel laden in like manner, and brought her into Elie.”—*Wood's History of the East Neuk of Fife*, p. 151.

\* “1651—July 17, being Thursday, a partie of the English armie invaded the Shyre of Fyfe. They landed at Enderkethen, and did intrenche themselves ther. The 28th of July, being Sunday, they fell upon a party of our armie that came from Stirling betwixt Dunfermling and Enderkethen, at which place several of that party were killed, severall taken, and the rest fled. At this tyme, Sir Jhone Browne was taken prisoner, younge Bacomie wounded, and Randerstone, younger, wounded; both were taken prisoners.”—*Lamont's Diary*. “On the 20th (29th?) of July 1651, the town of Burntisland surrendered to the English, and, the same day, a party of them came along the coast, carried off cannon and muskets from Wemyss castle, visited also Durie, Lundy, Strathairly, and Kin-craig; and ended by taking John Small's ship out of the harbour at Elie, and making a prize of her. Shortly afterwards, they spoiled Anstruther, and made some two hundred of the towns-people prisoners, in revenge for their having gathered some of their neighbours, and made some resistance. The session records contain notices of this invasion, in which the stand in the church for the sandglass was carried off, and the Bible thrown into the sea.”—*Wood's History of the East Neuk of Fife*, p. 153.



after he had used all the meanes with the Governor he could, both be supplication and be means of acquaintance, the Governor did declare that this burgh's proportion, which is weekly, 3 firlots malt, 3 bolls 2 firlots meal, 1 firlot salt, and ane leg beyff, could not be altered at this tyme, and that with all speed the first monthly provision be sent to Perth on Monday first, under pain of quartering for the double. Qlk was acted."

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#### SUPPLICATION FOR RELIEF OF THE ASSESSMENT.

19th Sept. 1651.—The bailies and council have elected George Russell to go to Dundee on Monday next, and supplicate General Monck for easement of our assessment, "because of our present low condition."

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#### ASSESSMENT ON THE BURGHS—SUPPLICATION FOR RELIEF.

29th Sept. 1651.—"There was producit before the council ane letter direct be Mr James Hay\* to the burrowes, whereby he desired the burrowes of the Presbytery of St Andrews and Cupar, and with them the parish of Carnbee, consisting of £12,539 rent, at 23s. 9d. in the hundredth, to furnish weekly twa companies at Perth, which will take twa month's and last month's maintenance weekly, beginning on the 21st of Sept. inst.; which being read and considered, Alex. Bennet was ordained to go to Perth, and do his best for easement with the Governor, and if he could not prevail, to satisfy byganes, for saving the burgh from y<sup>e</sup> hazard of free quarters of a company likelie to be inflicted on us."

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#### APPORTIONMENT OF THE ASSESSMENT.

29th Sept. 1651.—A commissioner appointed to attend a meeting at Cupar, for apportioning among the burghs the assessment imposed by the English.

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#### STENT ON THE INHABITANTS.

13th Oct. 1651.—"The bailies and counsell have stentit the sum of £130 (£10, 16s. 8d. sterling), a month, to defray the monthly assessment imposit on this burgh for y<sup>e</sup> garrison of Perth," £18 of which to be paid by non-

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\* Mr James Hay, once Laird of Forret, had been chosen by the Presbytery of St Andrews to treat with the English for a modification of the assessments.

resident owners of houses, at the rate of 3s. per month for each £6 of house and yard rent ; and the balance of £112 to be assessed upon the inhabitants and landlords within the burgh, "since all trade and commerce abroad, because of y<sup>e</sup> iniquity of y<sup>e</sup> tymes, is gone."\*

15th Oct. 1651.—Wm. Watson, on his return from Cupar, reports that a party is to be sent to-morrow for the maintenance for the first 14 days of Oct. ; and therefore the meal is directed to be sent away to-morrow "timelie for preventing thereof."

30th Oct. 1651.—"The bailies and counsell find it necessary and have appoyntit that forthwith there be five month's maintenance collected according to the stent roll, beside the month last appointed to have been collected, for defraying extraordinar charges of assessment and quartering, and those to whom the town is owing great soumes are to have retention of the six months maintenance fra y<sup>e</sup> first end of their just debts."

#### A TROOP OF HORSE QUARTERED.

22d Nov. 1651.—A committee appointed to settle quarters for the troop of horse quartered here.

#### THE ASSESSMENT FOR COAL AND CANDLE.

22d Dec. 1651.—"Walter Airth is appointed to go to Cupar to morrow for seeking relief for coal and candle af Crail and Anstruther."†

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\* "The burdens of the civil war fell very heavily upon the county, both parties levying the funds with which it was carried on from the heritors. Many families in Fife never recovered from the losses which they sustained at this time. In 1651, a monthly cess began to be levied by the English, of the amount of which an accurate account from month to month, till 1660, is given by Lamont, and the average for these ten years appears to have been £26 per annum on every £100 of rental, or more than one-fourth of the income of the proprietors. Sir James Balfour computes the whole assessment for the county of Fife and Kinross, for a period of one year and twenty-one days, at 2,395,857 merks Scots, or £133,104. After the restoration, this cess was still continued to meet state necessities, though the amount was not so heavy. Also, the estates of those who had taken up arms in defence of their king were sequestrated."—*Wood's History of the East Neuk*, p. 157.

† A special assessment was made by Cromwell upon the county for coal and candle, and the bailies appear to have considered that too large a proportion of it had been imposed upon Pittenweem.

## SUPPLICATION FOR RELIEF OF THE ASSESSMENT.

15th Jan. 1652.—A commissioner elected to go to Edinburgh on Monday next, to represent the low condition of this burgh, and supplicate the commissioners come from England, for ease of our public burdens.

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 A COMMISSIONER APPOINTED TO MEET THE ENGLISH COMMISSIONERS.

9th Feb. 1652.—This burgh being required to send a commissioner to meet with the commissioners from the Parliament of England at Dalkeith, on the 23d inst., for settling a peace with England, the Clerk is instructed to attend a meeting of the burghs at Cupar, to consider and decide what power and instructions shall be given to the commissioner.

20th Feb. 1651.—Simon Anderson is appointed commissioner from this burgh to meet the English commissioners at Dalkeith, and to treat with them in all matters tending to “the glory of God and weillfare of this subdued nation.”\*

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 REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER.

30th March 1652.—“The bailies and counsell being convenit, and having heard Simon Anderson, the commissioner to treat with the Englishes, his report, and finding that he had gone beyond y<sup>e</sup> instructions in complying with the Englishes and subscribeing to them, they were dissatisfied with his proceedings, and disowned the same ; † and also finding that he had done nothing as

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\* “1652—Jan. 20. The commissioners appointed by the Parliament of England for settling affairs in Scotland came to this kingdom, viz. 8 in all. They satte at Dalkeith in Louthian. They caused commissioners from every shyre and burghes come in and agrie with them for their several shyres and burghs. The conditions they propound to the Scots commissioners were mainlie two ; 1. That this kingdome sould be ane united commonwealth with England, without king or House of Lords ; 2. That they sould live peaceable at their owne dewellings. The malignants were among the first that accepted of thire conditions.”—*Lamont's Diary*.

† The commissioners for the county, like the commissioner for Pittenweem, assented to the conditions proposed by the English, and subscribed the articles, but their conduct, in place of being “disowned,” was approved by the committee of the shire, who appear to have been less zealous for the independence of the nation and for monarchical government than the Town Council of this

to the easement of this burgh of y<sup>e</sup> heavy burdens thereon imposit be these Englishes, they have unanimously elected Thomas Swintoun<sup>2\*</sup> to go to Edinburgh to-morrow, and supplicate General Major Deanes for exemption of the heavy burdens imposit on this burgh, and ordains the clerk to draw up ane supplication, with our grievances, for representing the sadness of our condition to the full."

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#### ARRIVAL OF AN ENGLISH SHIP.

12th March 1652.—“The bailies and counsell being convenit, compeared ane Englische skipper, lately arrived at this port with ane bark full of beans and whytt peis, and made offer to the town of 200 bolls beans and whytt peis at £11 (18s. 4d. sterling) the boll, and the price being thocht too hie, they ordained intimation to be made thro the tcune thereof to the inhabitants, that quho minds to buy at that reat may do it.”

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#### STENT ON THE INHABITANTS.

15th April 1652.—“The bailies and counsell, finding ane absolute necessitie to pay bygane assessments to the full, they have appointed (by and attour the four month's already imposit, which the towne's creditors are to retain in their hands for paying their just debts), that three month's assessment for February, March, and April 1652, be presently collected fra the inhabitants.”

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#### UNION WITH ENGLAND WAIVED.

10th June 1652.—“The quhilk day, being convenit in counsell, and having considered ane letter directed to this burgh be the Provost of Edinburgh, desiring us to send ane commissioner to Edinburgh against the 13th of

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burgh. Lamont significantly says, “After they (the county commissioners) meade their report at Cupar, they were approven by the comittie of the shyre, such as it was, Ferny being preses (verie fewe meeting that day) and gate many thanks for their pains, and desired to continoue ther attendance with the English.’”

\* Thomas Swinton, one of the councillors of Pittenweem, was collector of Cromwell's cess for the county of Fife. An account of the sums received by him monthly has been preserved by Lamont, who also records that his only daughter Jean married David Anderson, afterwards town clerk of Cupar, and that the marriage feast stood at his house in Pittenweem. They were probably the progenitors of David Anderson, clerk of Pittenweem.

August 1652, for meeting with the general meeting of gentry and burrowes on the 20th of that month, for treating anent the union proposed be y<sup>o</sup>. Parliament of England with this kingdom, the counsell think fit to waive it at this time. Qlk wes actit."

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#### UNFREEMEN'S RIGHT TO PASTURAGE.

10th June 1562.—“The bailies and counsell, considering that there are many unfreemen that labours but very little land, yet keeps a great many bestial on the towne's commontie: For remeid thereof, it is ordained that those unfreemen that labour under half a plough of land sall pay £5 for ilk beast pasturing.”

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#### SUPPLICATION FOR RELIEF OF ASSESSMENT.

1st July 1652.—“The bailies and counsell having procured ane letter of recommendation from Captain Crook to Colonel Bryane, who is nominated Sheriff of this Shire, showing our sad condition to the full, they have appointed Wm. Watson to go to Perth, Monday next, with this letter, and supplicat the Colonel to befriend this burgh, for easement of the heavy burdens thereon.”

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#### STENT ON THE INHABITANTS.

21st March 1653.—The stent roll altered, and £123 (£10, 5s. sterling) to be raised monthly, for payment of the assessment imposed on the town.

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#### LIGHT BREAD.

13th May 1653.—“The bailies and counsell, considering that there are sundry women living within this burgh who go abroad and bring in wheat bread lighter than the weight allowed be the statutes of this burgh, have statute and ordained that all such bread shall be sighted by one of the bailies, who is to cause weigh the same, and finding the same light, the same is ordained to be confiscat and given to the poor.”

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#### “THE USURPER'S” CESS.

2d August 1653.—Two months' cess to be collected with all speed, for payment of the “assessment imposed by the usurpers.”

8th August 1653.—“The bailies and counsell, considering of the great burdens this burgh is lying under, and that trade and commerce is altogether decayed through

the iniquity of the times, whereby the inhabitants are incapacitat to defray these burdens by way of stent, have therefore ordained that there shall be imposed a tax of 13s. 4d. on every boll of malt brewn within the burgh."

26th Sept. 1653.—The stent roll is altered and reduced to £7 sterling monthly, in respect the usurpers have taken off £3 sterling of the assessment formerly imposed.

26th Sept. 1653.—The collector having refused to receive the restricted assessment in respect as he asserted, the abatement of £3 per month had been recalled by the Commander-in-Chief, the bailies and council elected "Walter Airth forthwith to repair to Dalkeith to the Commander-in-Chief, with ane supplication, craving the continuance of the said abatement, in regard of the great decay of trade within this burgh."

8th Oct. 1653.—"Walter Airth, on his return from Dalkeith, declared that all he had gotten effectuatt from the Commander-in-Chief was 20s. sterling of abatement per month for July, Aug., Sept., and Oct.; wherefore the bailies and counsell ordained 40s. sterling to be added to the last stent."

10th Oct. 1653.—"Robert Smyth, the clerk, is ordained to go to Cupar to-morrow, and deal with the collector and Engliche officers there, to get a recommendation from them to the Commander-in-Chief of the condition of this burgh, for easement of the heavy burdens thereof; and Walter Airth, bailie, to repair to Dalkeith, Monday next, for supplicating the Commander-in-Chief for easement of the heavy burdens of this burgh."

6th Nov. 1653.—"The bailies and counsell being convenit for hearing Walter Airth his report, the said Walter declared that he had gotten down £4 sterling monthly of the £10 of assessment."

#### THE BURGH FINED.

12th July 1654.—"The qlk day Walter Airth, bailie, did represent to the counsell that at a meeting keepest at Faulkland be ane committee of the English officers anent those of this Shire who had gone to the hills in arms owning the King's interest, the said officers had fined several burghs and parishes, and particularly had fined this burgh in ten pounds sterling, for alleged conniving and countenancing of five men gone forth of this burgh to join with those now in arms for the King; that like-

wise that the burgh was ordained to pay £17, 10s. sterling monthly until these men should return, which money was ordered to be paid against the 20th inst. Whereupon the bailies and counsell appointed ane petition to be drawn and given in to the Commander-in-Chief, for exonerating this burgh of the said sums, and ordained Thomas Swentoun to speak with the Laird of Swentoun thereanent."

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#### PROHIBITION OF AN ELECTION.

11th Sept. 1654.—“The bailies and counsell being conuenit, and having maid ane leitt, resolving to proceed to the election of magistrates for the year ensuing, compeared ane messenger-at-arms, and produced ane order from the Protector and his Council, discharging any election of magistrates and council until further order, whereupon the election was prorogated till election day next year.”

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#### ALTERATION OF THE STENT ROLL.

3d December 1654.—The stent roll altered, and the sum of £15, 4s. stg. to be collected monthly.

7th Dec. 1654.—“The bailies and counsell, considering that there are some poor ones stentit in the lete roll, they have scored them out, and cast 3s. per month upon themselves.”

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#### MODE OF COLLECTING THE CESS.

19th Feb. 1655.—“In respect that two of the bailies had gone to sea, and those left at home would have too much to do, and thus the collection of the tax on all may be neglected, eight of the counsel are appointed to uplift the tax, two of them going round in turns every Saturday night for that purpose.”

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#### BOND FOR GOOD BEHAVIOUR.

22d Feb. 1655.—“The bailies and counsell being conuened, compeared before them John Keith, and acknowledged his fault in calumniating and abusing the bailies, and declared his great grief for the same. The bailies and counsell have upon hopes he will cary more discreetly for the future, reponed him to his burgesse' privileges, and he has become judicially acted never to speak or do anything to offend the magistrates for the future, under a penalty of £50.”

## LET OF THE TOWN'S BRAES.

29th March 1655.—The east braes from the west end of the Forth to the march of Anstruther let for 20 marks (22s. 2d. sterling) yearly, the tenant being taken bound not to labour or delve any part of them, except what has been in use to be delved.

21st April 1655.—The bailies and counsell let the west braes extending from Sandiland's Braes to the yards be west Thomas Dempster's yard head, and all be west Cowan's house, with liberty to delve or till the braes be west the turn of the brae at Barclay's barn, upon this condition, that the inhabitants and strange drawers shall have liberty to dry their nets in drave time on the braes as formerly at £18 Scots (£1, 10s. sterling) of yearly rent.

## THE MAGISTRATES' JUDICIAL POWERS.

14th March 1656.\*—By order of the English Council of State, the town's charter was produced to Major Davidson at Cupar, for the purpose of shewing whether this burgh had the power of justices of peace within themselves, and he declared himself satisfied that they had.

## REPAIR OF THE PIER.

14th March 1656.—It is concluded that to-morrow the pier be fallen to for reparation thereof,† and a brander made for holding up what is already up. A committee of council appointed to superintend the work, each member taking a day by turns; and the officer ordained to warn a quarter of the town every day, and every man or woman warned and not coming to the work, to pay four shillings Scots for each day's absence; and the absents to be poinded

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\* There was no meeting of Council between 9th June 1655 and 11th March 1656, probably in consequence of Cromwell having forbidden public meetings.

† We learn from a subsequent minute that the harbour had been quite demolished in 1655 by a great storm, of which Lamont gives the following account:—"1655. Dec. 10, being Moneday, all that day, for the most part it did snow, but at night ther fell extraordinary much snow, and all that night ther blew a great wynde, which occasioned great losse and damage both by sea and land. As for the sea, it did flow far above its (ordinar) limits and banks, and many small barkes and other vessels perished, even laying in harbrees, as in Enster, Dysert 20, Craill 30. Also piers were doung downe in several places, as in St Androus, Enster, Craill, &c.



therefor, every day, at the sight of the overseer of the work.

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#### INDIGNITIES TO THE COUNCIL.

11th April 1656.—William Steinson was summoned before the Council of State at Edinburgh for several indignities done by him to the magistrates and council.

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#### DISPUTE WITH CRAIL.

14th Oct. 1656.—Commissioners appointed to treat with commissioners of the burgh of Crail anent the privilege of this burgh to be free of customs and anchorages at Fifeness and Auld Haiks, for which this burgh pays £4 yearly.

23d Oct. 1656.—In respect the burgh of Crail will not allow this burgh to enjoy their privileges peaceably, one of the bailies is sent to Edinburgh to employ an advocate to defend this burgh against Crail's declarator.

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#### PIPERS AT WEDDINGS.

15th Dec. 1655.—“Upon ane petition presented before the counsel be the minister and elders of the kirk-session, desiring their authority to be interposed to ane act of the kirk-session anent pipers playing at weddings, the bailies and counsell have ordained that no piper be suffered to play at weddings within this burgh under a penalty of £4, to be paid by the bridegroom, and 40s. by the piper; and that there shall not be at a penny wedding above ten persons on each side, conform to act of the General Assembly, under a penalty of £4 to be paid by the bridegroom.\*

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#### PETITION FOR AID IN REPAIRING HARBOUR.

15th Dec. 1656.—A deputation sent to the Presbytery of St Andrews to “supplicat a voluntary contribution for repairing our decayed harbour.”†

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\* “1656—Nov. 12.—The quhilk day compeared John Mure, quho was rebuked for being the author of much disorder by his pypeing, and warned that if he sall be found afterward making disorder in any congregation within these bounds, recourse will be had to the civil magistrate for taking order with him.”—*Records of St Andrews Presbytery*.

† “1656—Dec. 17.—The quhilk day the Presbyterie received a petition from the burgh of Pittenweeme, desiring help by a contribution, for the repairing of their harbor; desiring also a commendation of their sadde condition to other adjacent cities,

18th Dec. 1656.—The Presbytery having referred the petition anent the pier to the Synod, commissioners are sent to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Stirling, Perth, Dundee, and Haddington, to supplicate assistance for repairing our pier, ruined by the storm.

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SUPPLICATION FOR RELIEF OF ASSESSMENT.

6th Feb. 1657.—A commissioner appointed to supplicate the Council of State for exemption of our bygane cess, and to receive the contributions from Edinburgh and Leith, and to supplicate Linlithgow for their contribution.

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THE KING'S HOME-COMING.

26th March 1657.—A cess collected for the King's home-coming.

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REDUCTION OF MONTHLY CESS.

21st May 1657.—The stent roll altered, and the monthly stent reduced to £70 (£5, 16s. 8d. sterling.)

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INCREASE OF MONTHLY CESS.

1st Sept. 1657.—The stent roll increased to £100 (£8, 6s. 8d. sterling) monthly, and an additional stent to be collected to meet an extraordinary tax of £16, 13s. sterling, imposed on this burgh by the English Parliament.

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EXPENSE OF LAWSUIT WITH CRAIL.

31st Oct. 1657.—A grant of £114 Scots (£9, 10s. sterling) made by the General Convention of Burghs to assist in defraying the expenses of the action against the town of Crail.

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CONTRIBUTION FROM STIRLING FOR THE PIER.

31st Oct. 1657.—£40 Scots (£3, 6s. 8d. sterling) contributed by the town of Stirling for our pier.

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EXTRAORDINARY ASSESSMENT.

16th Jan. 1658.—In respect certain creditors of the town were pressing for payment of the sums borrowed from them during the late troubles, and as there was no other imaginable way of meeting these claims, it was

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burghes, presbyteries, and synods. The Presbyterie referred the supplication to the synod."—*Records of St Andrews Presbytery.*

resolved to raise the sum required, by assessment upon the inhabitants, and a stent roll was made out accordingly, which is engrossed in the sederunt book. The sums so assessed amounted to £2388, 10s. Scots (about £200 sterling), borne by 105 persons in sums ranging from 8s. 6d. sterling to £14, 3s. 4d. sterling. The assessment was to be paid immediately, and that over and above the ordinary monthly assessment.

#### LAWSUIT WITH CRAIL.

1st Feb. 1658.—Commissioners appointed to go to Edinburgh to consult our advocates as to the intention of the town of Crail to adduce Balcomie and Randerston servants as witnesses against the town, and to insist that none but witnesses above all exception be taken.

#### GROUND FOR A MARKET-PLACE.

11th May 1659.—David Tod has bound himself to dispose his two fore houses to the town for making a large mercat place, when the magistrates think fit to do so, at the price of £100 Scots.

#### REFUSAL OF THE BAILIES TO ACCEPT OFFICE.

13th Sept. 1659.—At the annual election of bailies and councillors, Walter Airth, Alexander Bennet, John Cook, and George Bartlett, were elected bailies for the ensuing year, who being all present, refused to accept their offices, in respect of the heavy burdens imposed on the burgh, and the great decay of trade therein.\*

The same day, the foresaid four bailies took instruments upon the new election, and removed themselves.

#### THE RESTORATION—THE BAILIES ACCEPT OFFICE.

25th Feb. 1661.—The bailies and council being convened now after 19 months and four days surcease, in which

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\* "1657—This year after Lammas there were few or none hearing gotten either in Fyffe or at Dunbar in Louthian, so that the like of this drave was not for many years past, viz., for badnesse."  
 "1658, as also 1657—Thir two yeares ther was few or no hearing gotten in Fyfe side, and not many in Dunbar, so that divers persons beganne to feare ther sould be no drave hereafter, which was a great prejudice to the poor fishermen, as also to the whole places nireabout (for the like had not beine, as some thinke, for the space of a hundred years before.) 1662 and 1663, ther was no harring gotten in like manner."—*Lamont's Diary.*

time the magistrates were forced to remove, \* the estates of Parliament now sitting, after His Majesty's happy restoration, have commanded the last elected magistrates to return and to accept their offices, which they did.

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APPLICATION BY LORD KELLIE FOR THE TOLBOOTH.

21st Sept. 1661.—The bailies and council, in answer to the Earl of Kellie's desire that the Tolbooth shall be given in to his lordship's house, consent thereto, providing he can build a sufficient Tolbooth in some convenient place of the town.

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BURGH COURT —THE SMALL-LINE BOATS.

26th Sept. 1661.—“Compeirit Alex. Wandersone and David Unstone, masters of the small lyne boats, and actit and hereby acts themselves for the future to hold their four small lyne boats going to sea at the ordinary seasons with sufficient equippage, and that none of them shall lie a land ; and what benefit shall be made thereby shall be equally divydit between them, according to their boat's venture, which shall be equal.”

7th Feb. 1663.—“Alex. Wanderson and David Unstoun compeirit before the bailies, and having settled all bygone deficiencies betwixt them, they enacted and acts themselves to hold their boats going to sea at all convenient occasions ; and for that effect Alex. Wanderstone shall have free of all question to serve in his boat, Robert Davidstone, John Hew, Rot. Patoune, David and Thomas Scheilles, as lyne men ; Alex. Finlay, Mitchell Fergusone, John Wastwood, and Archibald Davidstone, as foremen ; and sicklyke that the said David Unstoun shall have also, free of all question, to serve in his boat, besyde himself, Alex. Band, Wm. Morgane, and David Patoun as lynemen, Robert Morgane, David Ross as foremen ; which persons above named are ordainit to serve in the said respective boats for the space of five years efter the date hereof ; and if the said Alexander Wanderstone and David Unstoun shall happen, during the space fore-said, to hire or conduce any of their neibors' foremen or

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\* There are no minutes of council between the dates of this and the preceding minute. It appears, however, that in the interval, and notwithstanding the poverty of the town, a sum of money had been raised and remitted to King Charles in Holland.

lynemen, above named, they hereby act and oblige themselves to pay to the treasurer of this burgh, for the common use, £20 Scots so oft as they contravene; and it is statut and ordainit that no inhabitant within the burgh shall hire the persons above named to the fishing trade during the space foresaid, under the penalties above written."

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MONTHLY CESS.

5th Oct. 1661.—A monthly cess of £159, 16s. (£13, 6s. 4d. sterling) imposed under Act of Parliament, to make up ane stock to the Lords of Session, payment of missive dues, &c.

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STRANGER TAILORS.

10th May 1662.—Upon a petition by the tailors of the burgh, the bailies and council ordain that no inhabitants within this burgh shall employ any stranger tailors to work within their houses, or cause them work their work in the place they live, and bring the same hither, in any time coming, under the penalties therein set forth.

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EXEMPTION OF THE BURGH OF PITTENWEEM FROM SENDING A MEMBER TO SERVE IN PARLIAMENT.

"Whereas the burgh of Pittenweem (notwithstanding of their inability to keep ane commissioner to serve in this present Parliament, in respect of their low condition, long since made appear to us), have out of yair affection and willingness to do His Majesty service, and in obedience to our commands, sent ane commissioner hither to attend the Parliament; and now, we knowing their inability to keep him ony space in this place, we have exempted and hereby exempts the said burgh from all meeting in this present Parliament, and from all fines or penalties that has been or that may be inflicted on them for their absence, providing they send their commissioner to attend the Parliament when called for be us, upon any exigencie. Given under our hand at Holyrood house the 10th day of June 1662.

(Signed) "Middleton."

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REPAIR OF THE CHURCH.

21st June 1662.—In respect the money already collected for the town's third part of the expense of repairing the east end of the kirk will not do, it is concluded

that there shall be ane voluntar contribution from the inhabitants for completing the work, and two of the bailies, with the assistance of the minister, are directed to solicit subscriptions.

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#### A TARDY COUNCILLOR.

25th Dec. 1662.—“John Cook, counsellor, being tardy in coming into the counsell, was fined in 4s. Scots, and ordained to pay the same presently to the treasurer.”

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#### REFUSAL OF A BAILIE-ELECT TO ACCEPT.

25th Dec. 1662.—“Andrew Swyne, lately elected bailie, refused to accept his office of magistrate, being lawfully elected thereto, was removed furth of the counsel, and ordained to be presently proceeded against before the Privy Council, and punished according to his demerit.”

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#### ACT AGAINST NUISANCES.

25th Dec. 1662.—“It is ordained that no person lay any muck or wair on their neighbours' land, or near the abbey wall, without leave, under pain of losing their fulzie, beside a fine of 40s.”

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#### INSOLENT BEHAVIOUR TO A BAILIE.

25th Dec. 1662.—Thomas Wood, for his misbehaviour and insolent carriage to Geo. Bartlett, present bailie, is fined £20, and to remain in ward until he pays it, without defalcation.

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#### OFFENCES AGAINST MAGISTRATES.

25th Dec. 1662.—“The same day, it is ordained that if at any time hereafter any inhabitant within this burgh, of whatsoever degree or quality, shall misbehave themselves, abuse, or speak irreverently and to the prejudice of any of the magistrates, he shall be fined in £100 Scots, and remain in ward until he pay the same.”

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#### MOLESTATIONS.

25th Dec. 1662.—“The same day, the bailies and counsell, considering that in molestations where there is only dry blows, the party who gives the first cuff hath only heretofore been fined in 40s., equal with the party who receives the cuff, it is now ordained that, in all time coming, the party who gives the first cuff, be fined £4 Scots.”

## BURGH COURT—PUNISHMENT OF A SCOLDING WIFE.

5th March 1663.—“David Scheild became actit to refrain and forbear the company of Eupham Young, . . . . .” under the penalty therein specified; “and likeways Christian Duncan, spouse of the said David Scheild, actis herself for the future to forbear scolding and calumniating her husband, or the said Eupham Young . . . with certification if she do the contrair, she shall be publiclie jouggit, scourgit, and otherwayes punishit, as the bailies shall see cause.”

## CASE OF SLANDER.

20th April 1663.—“Alex. Measone and spouse, and David Logane and spouse, being found guilty of mutually slandering each one their neibors; and being sensible of the fault efter imprisonment, in respect of their povertie are rebukit, and become actit for peaceable and christian deportment for the future, under the pain of banishment. Qlk was actit.”

## CASTING OF LUG.

23d April 1663.—“Margaret Watson, spouse of Robert Morgan, becomes actit that she will not again cast lug in the harbour.”

## APPOINTMENT OF A SCHOOLMASTER.

13th April 1663.—The bailies and council approve an agreement made by the bailies and minister with Robert Hamilton, schoolmaster, by which he is obliged to teach the youth of this burgh, and to officiate as precentor and session-clerk, for £100 Scots (£8, 6s. 8d. sterling) yearly, whereof £10 to be paid furth of the Sea Box, and the remainder furth of the penalties of the kirk session and that box, with £7 (11s. 8d. sterling) for house rent yearly.

## THE WEEKLY MARKET.

22d July 1664.—“The bailies and counsell being convened, Robert Smyth, clerk, produced in favour of the counsell, an Act of Parliament dated 1663, which he had procured, by which the King’s Majestie and Estates of Parliament of this kingdom, have altered and changed the two weekly mercats of old pertaining to this burgh, and ordained ane mercat to be holden weekly within the same, in all time coming, upon Tuesday or

Wednesday, and after consideration which of these days will be fittest, they have unanimously condescended upon Wednesday to be the weekly mercat day in time coming; and ordains the shambles for the flesh and meal mercat to be erected upon the ground betwixt the High Street and Thomas Benstone's house, viz., that the wall be drawn south and north; the place for slaying and selling of fleshes shall be on the east side; and the place for selling of meal on the west side; and that chapmen, merchants, cordinars, and others for selling of commodities shall stand east and west along the well brae; and ordains the weekly mercat to be intimat through the town, and public market called Magdalen's day, by tuck of drum betwixt 11 and 12 o'clock, inviting all merchants, shopmen, meal makers, fleshers, shoemakers, and other persons who have any commodities to vend or sell, and all gentlemen, good neighbours, and others who have anything to buy, to repair to the said weekly mercat on Wednesday, and for encouragement to certify all persons concerned that they shall be free of all customs and other impositions that are ordinarily exacted in other burghs upon mercat days, for the space of ane full year after the date hereof."\*

19th Sept. 1664.—Intimation of weekly market to be made, "and those who go other where are to be certified that they will be taken notice of."

#### GRANGEMUIR BRIDGE.

19th Sept. 1664.—"To-morrow there sall be 3 carts

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\* "There were three annual fairs held in the market place. The goods were laid out from the head of the Water Wynd to the foot of Loan Street, and sometimes much farther. The first was held on Lady-day, 26th March, principally for lint seed, which was chiefly brought from Holland; there were also great quantities of strong shoes for farm servants. At that time all the farm servants had lint sown as a perquisite, the same as they now have potatoes planted. The second fair was held on Lammas day, 1st August, which was called the Wool Fair; the principal part of it came from Dunbar. This was also the gooseberry market, and a pleasure fair for lads and lasses. The third fair was held at Martinmas, for cows and fat cattle. All the thrifty wives in these days had their mart killed, and when the family was small, two would join and buy a cow between them. At this market also, there were great quantities of strong shoes, which came principally from Crail and Anstruther. At that time the farm servants and boys always made bargain that besides their wages they should get one pair of strong shoes every half-year."—*Historical Traditions of Pittenweem. By an Old Inhabitant.*



and 4 sleds yoked for calling of stones to the two ends of the new bridge to be built, and so furth daily till the work be ended, and thereafter the timber work to be fallen to."

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#### PERMISSION TO ERECT A TOMBSTONE.

19th Sept. 1664.—Upon a petition given in by David Allan for liberty to put "on ane buriall stone upon Isobell Allan his daughter her corps, liberty is granted to him, he paying in presently to the kirk box for the use of the poor 20 marks, upon this condition, that the said David Allan, at his death, remember the town or poor be ane legacy, which he faithfully promised to do."

19th Sept. 1664.—"The same day, it is statut and ordained that in all time coming none presume or take upon hand to lay ane burial stone in the burial place without express licence sought and obtained from the magistrates and counsell, for which liberty they shall pay ten rix dollars, to be disposed upon as the bailies and counsell for the time shall think meet, with this declaration, that persons of eminency within this burgh who have been sted able members, and the heritors of houses and lands, are to be considered, as the bailies and counsell for the time shall see cause."

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#### PAYMENT OF EXCISE DUTIES.

10th July 1665.—In respect of a peremptory letter received from the collector of excise for arrears due by the town, it is concluded for the present necessity that the 300 marks left by the late George Smith, bailie, to have been mortified, and the annual rent thereof employed for the minister, schoolmaster, or poor, be taken up for payment of the said excise, and that so soon as the inhabitants are in a condition for stenting, at least within three years, the said 300 merks shall be stented and collected and employed in accordance with the will of the mortifier; and in the meantime the annual rent thereof to be paid to the schoolmaster as ane part of his stipend.

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#### THE PLAGUE.

25th August 1665.—In respect of the plague, proclamation is made through the town, discharging any inhabitant to receive any stranger within their houses until first they acquaint the magistrates, that they may know

from whence they came, and if they have passes, under penalty of £20.

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CUSTOMS, &c., LET.

29th Sept. 1665.—Customs, anchorages, and syse boll stand rooms of the market let for the year by roup for 80 marks (£4, 8s. 10d. sterling.)

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MISDEMEANOUR TO A BAILIE.

3d March 1666.—John Dasone, for his misdemeanour to Bailie Dempster, is ordained to be warded, and to remain in ward till the next council day, and to be removed from the house possessed by him under the town's tolerance.

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ACT AGAINST NUISANCES.

30th March 1666.—“It is statut and ordained that hereafter none keep midding steads on the high calsey, nor any other place where peoplē resorts; specially Andrew Roche ordained to remove his midding and cart from the kirk gavell.”

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LETTING OF HOUSES TO STRANGERS.

19th May 1666.—It is ordained that no inhabitant within this burgh shall presume to let any of their houses to strangers, until first they get the magistrates' liberty, under the penalty of £10 Scots.

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COLLECTION FOR HARBOUR OF INVERKEITHING.

29th Sept. 1666.—It is recommended to the minister to make a collection at the kirk door for repairing the harbour of Inverkeithing.

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MISDEMEANOUR TO A COUNCILLOR.

18th March 1667.—Wm. Patrick, cordiner, for his misdemeanour and insolent speeches to Thomas Swinton, was ordained, in face of the bailies, council, and whole craftsmen convened, to creave the said Thomas Swinton's pardon, and was fined £3 Scots, to be paid to the craft's box.\*

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\* The crafts' or trades' box was instituted in 1644 (the year before Kilsyth), and incorporated by act of council. Its first members were 5 hammermen, 5 bakers, 13 timbermen and squaremen, 8 cordiners, 5 tailors, and 7 brabaners.

## PRICES OF ALE AND BREAD.

19th Nov. 1667.—It is enacted that no inhabitant presume to sell ale or beer dearer than 16d. the pint; and the baxters to sell 14 ounces good white bread for 12d.

19th March 1667.—Liberty granted to David Allan to brew and vend 2s. (2d. sterling) ale till 29th Sept. next, he paying the town £14 (23s. 4d. sterling) therefor.

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 AN UNCERTIFICATED STRANGER ORDERED TO LEAVE THE TOWN.

23d June 1668.—“Robert Johnston being cited for having lately come with his wife and familie to the pans, within the liberties of this burgh, without any testimonial from the place he came from, and coming without acquainting the magistrates, contrair to the statutes of this burgh, acts himself to remove with his wife and familie furth of the liberties of this burgh at Martinmas next, under the pain of banishment; which was acted.”

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 CONTRIBUTION FOR THE TOWN OF KILMARNOCK.

16th June 1668.—It is recommended to the minister to make a collection at the kirk door for the poor distressed inhabitants of the town of Kilmarnock, who have had 120 families put to utter ruin by a dreadful fire.\*

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 THE WEEKLY MARKET.

16th June 1668.—“It is appointed for the good and flourishing of the weikly mercat of this burgh, that Frederick Kay, with ane officer, at the east port, and James Crombie, with ane other officer, at the cross heugh, attend on Friday next, for trying what inhabitants go to Anstruther market on Friday to buy meal and fleshes, and report to the magistrates, that course may be taken with them.”

16th June 1668.—It is ordained that the two bailies take a dealing with Wm. Foggo, elder and younger, Peter Donaldson, and Thomas Moffat, fleshers, for keep-

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\* “1669—Oct. 6. A supplication for aid from the town of Kilmarnock was presented to the Synod, bearing ‘that quheras upon the 22d May 1668, the whole towne was burnt unto ashes by a violent fire that accidentally broke out, and about 120 families were cast out of all habitation, and brought to poverty and beggery,’ which supplication was granted.”—*Records of St Andrews Presbytery.*

ing our weekly market, and for their encouragement the bailies and council have ordained them to be made burgesses gratis.

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#### ACT ANENT SERVANTS.

30th June 1669.—“It is statut and ordained that when any person within this burgh shall receive ane servant in their families, the master of the family shall at the first entry to their service after the term, signify their names, and the place of their late residence to ane elder in the quarter where they serve, and within 20 days after, they cause these servants produce in the kirk session ane sufficient testimonial of their deportment, under a penalty of 40s., to be applied to pious uses.”

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#### APPLICATION FOR AID FROM DUNDEE.

18th April 1670.—An application by the town of Dundee for a collection to assist in repairing their harbour refused in regard of the refusal of the town of Dundee to grant any supply for repairing this harbour, which was demolished by the great storm in 1655.\*

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#### SALE OF FISH TO STRANGERS.

28th June 1671.—Three small line men fined in 30s. (2s. 6d. sterling) each for breaking the act against selling fishes to strangers before the inhabitants were served.

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#### REPAIR OF STREETS, &c.

28th June 1671.—The road to the bridge, and some parts of the streets to be mended, and every householder or two to join together, and put furth a barrow, scull and two servants to carry stones and red from the Cove Wind to the Tolbuith stairfoot; every inhabitant who fails to do so to pay 4s. (4d. sterling), and every owner of a horse, 8s. (8d. sterling.)

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#### COMMEMORATION OF THE RESTORATION.

29th May 1672.—The town's colours to be displayed, and bonfires lit, in commemoration of the Restoration.

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\* “1670—April 13. The act of Parliament in favors of the burgh of Dundie for a voluntar contribution to them, for reparatioun of their harbour, and great loss of ships, through the storme in October 1668 (being read), the Archbishop and Synod resolve to take this to their consideration, and to appoint a time for that collection.”—*Records of St Andrews Presbytery.*

## MISBEHAVIOUR TO A BAILIE.

29th Nov. 1672.—Alex. Tod, officer, for misbehaviour to Bailie Greig, craved pardon upon his knees of the bailies and council, and acted himself, if he again misbehaved, he should forfeit his office, and pay £20.

## REPAIR OF THE HIGHWAY.

24th June 1673.—The road from Greendykes to the high cross, \* within the liberties of the burgh of Pittenweem, to be helped and made at least 14 feet broad, and “marchstones, chingle, men, women, horses, barrows, and other materials for the work” to be provided by the inhabitants.

## NUISANCES.

24th June 1673.—No dunghill to lie within the town after 15th July next.

## THE COUNCIL TO CONSIST OF AN EQUAL NUMBER OF SEAMEN AND LANDSMEN.

1st Sept. 1674.—It is ordained that at elections the leet shall consist of 12, whereof 6 shall be seamen, and 6 landsmen who usually stay at home, and that 2 of the bailies be seamen, and 2 landsmen. †

## MAINTENANCE OF THE HARBOUR.

1st Sept. 1674.—It is ordained that in all time coming one half of the customs and anchorages be applied to the repair of the harbour, and to no other use.

## VAGABOND BEGGARS.

13th Feb. 1675.—Marian Brown craved pardon for receiving into her house and entertaining idle vagabond beggars.

## TAX ON DRAVE BOATS.

2d July 1675.—Statut that every drave boat belonging

\* The high cross stood near the highest part of the road between Pittenweem and Anstruther, in the vicinity of the path leading to the Billowness.

† There had been no meeting of council during the whole of the previous year, probably in consequence of the majority being at sea.

to inhabitants pay 40s. Scots (3s. 4d. sterling) immediately after the drave, for helping to uphold the pier.

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#### LIGHT WEIGHTS.

23d July 1675.—Several persons fined for having light weights at the market, in particular a merchant from Elie, and one from St Monance.

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#### THE TREASURER SUSPENDED AND FINED.

5th Sept. 1676.—The council, before proceeding to the annual election, taking into consideration the high contempt and contumacy of Alex. Flooker, treasurer, in disobeying the orders of the bailies and council, they have suspended him from being a councillor until he compear, acknowledge, and crave pardon for his fault; and in the meantime, they have fined him in £10, and ordain him to remain in ward until he pay the same.

9th Sept. 1676.—Alex. Flooker having compeared, acknowledged his fault, and craved pardon, was reponed, and ordered to charge himself in his accounts as treasurer with his fine of £10.

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#### DISOBEDIENCE TO THE COUNCIL.

9th Sept. 1676.—“It is statut and ordained that if any counsellor or burgess shall hereafter disobey the magistrates and counsellors their commands, he shall be deprived of his burgessship, and pay a penalty of £50.”

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#### SEXTON'S DUES.

28th Oct. 1676.—“It is ordained that in all time hereafter the peddels shall only exact for the burial of the poorer sort, bell, grave making and all, 20s. Scots (1s. 8d. sterling), and no more; and for those that are able to pay more 2 marks (2s. 2½d. sterling), and no more.”

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#### THE TOWN'S ARMORIAL BEARINGS.

28th Oct. 1676.—“The same day, there was produced in face of the council the blazoning of this burgh's arms, under the seal and subscription of Sir Charles Areskine of Cambo, baronet, Lyon King of Armes, dated 2d August 1673, bearing that this burgh, as one of the royal burghs of this kingdom, gives for ensigns armorial, azure, in the sea a galley with her oars in action argent, and

therein standing the figure of St Adrian, \* with long garments close girt, and a mitre on his head proper, holding in his sinister hand a crozier or, on the stem, a flag developed argent, charged with the royal arms of Scotland,

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\* St Adrian is said to have been one of a band of missionaries who came from Hungary and took up their abode in Fifeshire in the 9th century. He is supposed to have lived for some time in the cave at Caiplic, and to have founded a monastery on the Island of May. By some historians, his name is placed first in the list of the Bishops of St Andrews, but others deny that he either wore the mitre or had any connection with St Andrews. In the year 872, the Danes landed on the Island of May, and put St Adrian and his companions to death, after which they attacked Fife. "A stone coffin, half of which is in the churchyard of West Anstruther, and the other half on the island, is said to have contained his ashes." A chapel on the May, which bore his name, was much resorted to after his death and canonization by pious pilgrims. In the reign of James IV., a charter of some lands was granted to Andrew Wood of 'Largo, "for that service, that he being skilful in pyloting, should be ready upon the King's call, to pilot and convoy the King and Queen, in a visit to St Adrian's Chapel." His festival day was the 4th of March. A religious establishment existed in Pittenweem (if monkish legends can be credited) at least two centuries before the time of St Adrian. It was presided over by St Fillan, a Culdee Abbot of some note, who died in 649. Sibbald states that in the great Register of the Priory of St Andrews, amongst other royal grants of lands in Fifeshire to the Culdees, mention is made of a gift by Edgar, the son of Malcolm, who reigned from 1097 to 1107, of *Petwemokun*; and that King Malcolm and Queen Margaret gave to them the villa, Balcristine. There can be no doubt that *Balcristine* was the ancient name of *Balchristie*; and it does not seem unreasonable to suppose that *Petwemokun* (which should perhaps be written *Petwemokum*, and may be considered as the Latin form of a word *Petwemok*), may have been the original name of Pittenweem. Like most other words, the name of the town was written in various ways in former times, but the vowel of the first syllable used always to be *e*, and in a very old charter there is no *n* in the second syllable—the name being written *Petyweme*. The corruption of *Petwemok* into *Petyweme*, in the course of ages, is as easily accounted for, as most of the changes that have taken place in the forms of words. The meaning of the name has been supposed to be "the small or petty cave"—the celtic word *uamh* (pronounced *weem*) meaning "a cave;" and if *ok* (the terminal of *Petwemok*) was used as a diminutive in ancient, as it is in modern times, the difference in the signification of the two words would be only in degree—the one standing for a very small, the other for a small cave. Sibbald says that all the possessions in Fife which he had enumerated as belonging to the Culdees were, by David I., transferred to the Priory of St Andrews, and accordingly, in the earliest records of Pittenweem, its priory is spoken of as a dependency of St Andrews. It has been said by some that the priory of Pittenweem was originally founded in honour of the

with this motto *Deo Duce*, which is ordained to be put in the charter chest."\*

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#### MISBEHAVIOUR TO THE MINISTER.

28th Dec. 1677. — "Compeared Andrew Bayne, burges, who was cited before the bailies and counsell for his unchristian and uncivil carriage to the minister,† and is ordained to consign his burges bill in the treasurer's hands until the counsell shall determine what shall be done with it, as also to pay a fine of £20, for payment of which Alex. Greig is become cautioner.

28th Dec. 1677.—"It is statut and ordained that no person within this burgh shall misbehave or miscarry to the minister, but with due respect, under a penalty of £30."

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#### INVENTORY OF ARMS.

12th June 1679.—All the inhabitants who have arms are ordained to bring them to the Tolbooth, to be seen and inventoried, under a penalty of £20, and to be esteemed enemies to the King.

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#### NO PERSON FIT TO BE COMMISSIONER TO THE CONVENTION.

12th June 1679.—In respect there are few of the council at home at this time fit to be elected commissioner to

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virgin Mary. One of the streets which led to it is still called *Marygate*.

\* The delineations of these arms on the walls of the Town Hall were executed by Walter March, a house painter in Pittenweem, in the year 1825.

† The minister referred to was Mr Andrew Bruce, a native of St Andrews, who was ordained minister of Carnbee in 1664, and translated to Pittenweem 19th July 1677, on the death of Mr Hamilton. He was one of the Episcopal clergymen who suffered deprivation at the Revolution. It is not unlikely that his prelatical principles may have had something to do with Mr Bayne's "unchristian and uncivil carriage" to him; as well as with the singular leniency of the magistrates' sentence. It had been enacted that irreverence to a *bailie* was to be visited with a penalty of £100, and that the delinquent should remain in ward until he made payment; but a similar offence against the *minister* was considered sufficiently atoned for by a penalty of one-fifth of that sum, with an indefinite length of time for payment!



the Convention of Burghs, a letter is to be written making excuse for the town.\*

29th April 1680.—The bailies and council, considering that there are none of the council presently at home fit for attending the General Convention of the Burrows, who are to meet to-morrow at Edinburgh, have resolved to send one of the officers with a letter of excuse to the agent.

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#### IRREVERENCE TO A BAILIE.

18th May 1680.—“The which day, David Elder being imprisoned and convened for his irreverent behaviour and speeches to George Russell, bailie, confessed his fault, and judicially craved God and the bailie pardone upon his knees, and acted himself never to do the like in time coming, under the payne of £100 Scots; lyk as Bailie Watson fined the said David Elder in £20 Scots, and ordained him to remain in ward until he should pay the same.”

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#### PETITION FOR EASE OF BURDENS.

1st Sept. 1681.—A petition to be sent to Parliament for an ease of the heavy burdens imposed on this burgh, now when all our able neighbours are fled and removed.

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#### SABBATH BREAKING.

14th Oct. 1684.—“Upon ane representation made to the magistrates be the minister and elders of the kirk session of this burgh, that several of the inhabitants thereof, labourers of land, do in manifest breach of the Lord's day collect, gather, and transport wair and sea wrack from the sea to the shore upon the Sabbath morning or late at night, to the great dishonour of God and prejudice of their neighbours; for remeid whereof for the future, the bailies, with consent of the counsell, have ordained that no person presume to collect and transport

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\* In former days, the Convention was very aristocratic in its composition. John Douglas, Provost of Haddington, who happened to be a shoemaker, having appeared as commissioner for his burgh in the year 1574, the Convention found and declared “that na craftisman hes evir had, nolder aucht or suld haif, voit or commission amangs them: Quhairfoir, they decernit the said Johne Dowglas, cordiner, to remove himself fra their society.” In a subsequent minute, he was referred to as “the sowter repudiat.”

wrack after Saturday night at ten o'clock, and before sunrise on Monday morning, under pain of £4."

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#### THE TOWN'S ARMOUR—A WATCH APPOINTED.

11th June 1685.—The bailie produced a letter from the Privy Council Committee appointed for safety of this shire, for securing the whole arms within this burgh in the public magazine, they unanimously ordained search to be made for the arms which are thereafter to be secured. It is also ordained that this night there be a guard kept by 12 of the inhabitants, whereof one to command as captain, and so forth nightly during these troubles.

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#### MISBEHAVIOUR TO MAGISTRATES.

31st Aug. 1685.—Wm. Brown being found guilty of vilepending and abusing the magistrates, did acknowledge his fault, and upon his knees crave pardons, and for his misdemeanours is fined £4, and to remain in ward till paid.

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#### STATE OF THE HARBOUR.

4th June 1687.—The harbour being again in a ruinous state, the inhabitants to be called out to repair it.\*

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#### A TROOP QUARTERED.

4th June 1687.—Stent imposed to assist quartering of a troop.

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#### PROROGATION OF ELECTION.

29th Sept. 1687.—The Privy Council prohibit any change in the magistracy, and election prorogued accordingly.

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\* As showing how much the sea has encroached upon this coast since the time referred to in the text, the following extract is given from the Record of Cognitions, of the boundaries of a piece of land now almost entirely swept away, which lay adjacent to the *Sandy Craig*, then called *Caiplic Craig*:—"The equal half of a piece of land at the braes of Pittenweem, lying on the west part of the salt pans of Pittenweem, bounded by Caiplic Craig on the east, the full sea on the south, the well called St Monance Well on the west, and the common way along the brae-head on the north." A decree in the Burgh Court Books for the price of golf balls would seem to indicate that there had been a sufficient stretch of links for the practice of that game.

## REPAIR OF THE PIER.

30th May 1688.—Thomas Coventry, mason, undertakes to build that part of the pier which is most ruinous, and to take down 6 score feet thereof to the ground, and build it up again 22 feet high, which was to be filled up within above 5 feet, and flagged in the inside, for £1400 (£116, 13s. 4d. sterling), the town driving the stones and furnishing materials.

## HORSES AND PIPERS TO THE ARMY.

3d Sept. 1689.—The bailies and council ordain the 3 baggage horses ordained to be put forth by this burgh, with the two pipers to wait on them, forthwith to go to Perth, and receive orders there for going with meal and other provisions for the army; and Wm. Borthwick to go along with them and deliver them, and ordains the baggage men, for maintenance of themselves and their horses, to get £15.

## DISOBEDIENCE TO THE MAGISTRATES.

4th March 1690.—Wm. Adamson, being cited for disobedience to the magistrates, and not compearing, being lawfully warned, is deprived of his burgessship, and of his being a councillor, and ordained to give up his bill to the bailies; and to be incarcerated till he be sensible of his fault, and pay the debt he rests to the town and to Marian Adamson, and till he pay £10 for his contumacy.

## NUISANCES.

4th March 1690.—“It is statut and ordained that no inhabitant lay down muck in any part within the town after to-morrow; and that the muck presently lying upon the streets be transported presently, and that none presume to suffer muck to lie above 48 hours, under pain of forfeiture of the muck and a fine of 40s.”

## BAGGAGE HORSES FOR THE ARMY.

11th June 1690.—“The magistrates declared they had received ane proclamation upon the late Act of Parliament, by which this burgh is appointed to put forth 2 baggage horses and ane man to go to Perth to-morrow, and from thence to attend the armie, it is therefore resolved that in regard Wm. Adamson is owing the town ane sum above the value of his horse, the said horse shall be taken,

and ane other bought from John Tait, and that either John Hillocks or John Taylor go as baggage-man with them."

#### MISBEHAVIOUR TO A BAILIE.

30th Oct. 1690.—James Dasone compearing before the council, acknowledged his misbehaviour and offence given to Bailie Flooker, and upon his knees craved pardon, and acted himself never to commit the like offence under the pain of banishment.

#### STATE OF THE BURGH IN 1691.\*

*Common Good.*—"The common good of the burgh of Pittenweem is as followeth, viz. :

"The customes sett for - - - - £11 6 8

"The grass maills and rents of the comon mures and braes will hardily be the best year 16 13 4

"*Nota.*—The milns of Pittenweem, belonging to the Lord Anstruther, are fewed to the towne for payment of four chalders malt and bear yearly, and ther is only ane other chalder rimneth yearly payable to the town, which will not, *comunibus annis*, uphold the walls, roofis, doors, windowes, and lyeing gear of the two-milns and kills, and soe no advantage, but rather a loss, to the toune.

"The town's debt dew on bond bearing annual rent is as followeth, viz."—(Here follow the names of the creditors, and a statement of the sums due, amounting in all to £166, 13s. 4d. sterling.)

"The annual rent of this 2000 lib is yeirly £10 0 0

"To the minister of money yeirly, - - 16 13 4

"To the schoollmaster, - - - - 8 6 8

"Item, sett apairt for upholding the harbour, 6 0 0

"Item, for the Tolbooth and bridge, - - 2 6 8

"Item, the town's ecquies and missive dewes, *comunibus annis*, will be at least - - - 3 6 8

"The officer's and drumer's wadges, - - 2 10 0

"The upholding of the kirk, *comunibus annis*, 1 13 0

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\* This account of the condition of the burgh is taken from a paper dated 17th Sept. 1691, signed by two of the bailies and the clerk, and entitled "Answers from the burgh of Pittenweem to the queries that may be proposed by the Commissioners appointed by the General Convention of Royal Burrowes." In the original, the sums are stated in Scots, but here in sterling money.

“The other incidental charges will be, *comuni-*  
*bus annis,* - - - - - 16 13 4

“Soe ther will be at least yearly, besyde the comon good, to be paid furth £39, 16s. 8d. sterling. This is stented upon the inhabitants yearly, and collected with the cesses.”

*Mortifications.*—“Ther are thrie mortificationes of aikers about the town—one belonging to the sea poor box, one to the crafts’ box, and one to the kirk session box—the rent of which is above fyve chalders bear. This, with the collectiones, is bestowed totallie upon the poor of the burgh, besides what the inhabitants giveth weekly, soe the town hes no ease thereby of ther public burdens.”

*Foreign and Inland Trade.*—“As to the forraigne and inland trade, ther is non in this place, the inhabitants being served in wyne and oyr commodities from Edr and other places; and as to the vent of wyne, ther is only now one taverne in towne these years bygone; there were two or three; these for fyve years backward could not vent yearly two tunns of wyne, and now hardly half a tunn. As to the consumption of malt, ther will hardly be betwixt thretie or fourtie (bolls of) malt made use of in the moneth.”

*Ships and Boats.*—“As to ships, ther are only two ships, whereof William Bell and Thomas Whyt are masters, the one 70 tunns, and value 700 lib., the other 90 or 100, value 250 lib. sterling, all except one sixteen pairt of everie one belonging to the masters, pertaining to, and imployed by, the merchants of Edr. Ther is also ane little catch, whereof James Cook is master, belonging to James Cook, present bailie, about 55 tunn, value 100 lib., imployed for the most pairt be merchants in other places. The names of these ships are Sophia, Mary, and George. There are no barks, boats, or ferrie boats belonging to this place, only the number of six small lyne boats, who slayes whyt fish in the summer and winter, and go to dreave at Lambas when ther is any tack of herrings, the owners whereof these severall years past are great losers, and have no benefit, and the poor fishers in winter live on charitie.”

*Shipowners.*—“There are none within this burgh that are owners of any ships or oyr veshells belonging to other burghs or townes except James Cook, baillie, who hath ane sixteen pairt of Thomas Cook, skipper, in the burgh of barronie of Elie.”

*Burgh Cess.*—“As to the payment of the cess imposed upon this burgh, it is payed by stent on the inhabitants and houses of the towne, and no pairt of it on the comon good, as may appear be the answer to the first article.”

*Minister's Stipend, &c.*—“As to the tenths, the minister, precentar, and schoolmaster, and all other publict servants' stipends and salaries, are paid after exhausting of the comon good by taxation on the people, and the greatest pairt of the ministers' stipends out of the teynd of ye pairsch. *Nota.*—The answer to the first article clears this.”

*Public Works.*—“The wholl publict works are maintaint out of ye small comon good, and be stent upon the inhabitants; and the harbourie, being the greatest concerne in the town, both for the safety of ships and boats, and for defending of the houses on the shoar from the violence of storms, is now in a most lamentable conditione, needing great reparatione, and the burgh not able to doe it.”

*Houses.*—“As to the houses in the towne, they are in so bade a conditione, that the great third pairt are either ruinous, or these that are in repair (which are the best houses in the towne) are standing void w<sup>h</sup>out any inhabitant; and these that are inhabited, the best of them will not extend to 16 lib. Scots of maill yierly, and there are no strangers living within the burgh.”

*Markets.*—“As to the fairs and publict marcats, ther is only one fair, on 22d Jully yearly. The greatest commoditie sold therein is wooll, and the custome of all will not be 20 lib. Scots, which is a pairt of the 136 lib. custome. There is no weekly marcat here, but the inhabitants are served out of Anstruther-Easter y<sup>r</sup> weekly marcat.”

*Elie and St Monance.*—“As to the burghs of barronie and regality within the precincts of this burgh, there are none except Elie, which have a good harbour, some shipping, and trade. The houses are pretie good, and the towne indifferent populous. There is also St Monance, who have only fish boats, and the inhabitants (who are populous and have good houses) have ther livelyhood by ther fishing and labouring of land.”

#### LIBEL AGAINST THE MINISTER.

12th Jan. 1691.—A libel given in against Mr Andrew Bruce, minister. \*

\* Mr Bruce was one of the Episcopal clergy who were deposed at

## REMOVAL OF THE MINISTER FROM THE MANSE, &amp;c.

30th June 1691.—Wm. Watson and Robert Smith are appointed to speak with Mr Andrew Bruce, late minister, now deposed, to remove with fairness from the minister's manse.

1st Sept. 1691.—A call having been given to Mr John Adie, preacher, to be minister at the kirk of this burgh \* and Mr Bruce, who was recently deposed, having continued to preach in contempt of authority, steps are to be taken for having him removed from the manse, and ordained to give up the communion cups and kirk session registers.

13th May 1692.—Decree granted for ejecting the Rev. Andrew Bruce from the manse, "the grund whereof was bought by the bailies and council for the time of this burgh, and bigged by them, and on their expenses, for the use of the minister."

## SETTLEMENT OF A MINISTER—UPROAR IN THE CHURCH.

2d June 1692.—Wm. Watson, Alex. Stewart, Simon Russell, late bailies of the burgh, and several of the burgesses, were indicted before the burgh court for convocating and assembling with other burgesses and inhabitants in a most seditious manner with rungs and staves in their hands upon 5th May last, of purpose to oppose public authority and the said magistrates in the admission of Mr Patrick Coupar, now minister of the said burgh, and the Presbyterie being then convened within the said burgh for his admission, and the second bell rung about 9 o'clock in the forenoon, and sending several of their number to the kirk, where they entering threw down the table set before the pulpit for the magistrates, minister, council, and elders their accommodation, raising a great tumult, and commanding all persons in the kirk who would not assist them in their wicked enterprises to remove, and thereafter closed the kirk doors, and when the said magistrates had sought the assistance of the other persons libelled in suppressing the said tumult; they were so far from assisting they stirred up others to assist

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the time of the Revolution for refusing to pray for William and Mary.

\* Mr Adie, though called, does not appear to have been settled in this parish.

them against the said magistrates; and when these within the kirk were in a legal and sober manner required to open the doors, they, in a very insolent and vilepending manner, with opprobrious and disdainful answers, altogether refused to open to the magistrates; whereupon William Bell, one of the magistrates, and one or two others, entered at a window of the kirk, which was broken open of purpose, and in a peaceable manner went about opening the doors, whereupon some of the accused, opposing the said bailie, most inhumanly and desperately put violent hand on him, and struck him on the head and face. After a proof, they were found guilty, and fined in various sums from 200 to 600 marks (£11 to £33 sterling.)

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#### BREACH OF A NATIONAL FAST.

2d June 1692.—Several persons fined because, having shaken off all fear of God, and in despite of all authority, they, on a national fast day, employed their time in carrying “cariadges and burdings in carts, masking and playing wort, and in other servile employments, and in playing in the common lone of this burgh with bullets and boulls, to the dishonour of God, contempt of the magistrates authority and laws, and evil example to others.” The fines ranged from 5 to 10 marks (5s. 6d. to 22s. sterling.)

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#### THE POOR.

13th Sept. 1692.—In terms of a proclamation by the Privy Council, arrangements are made by the town council and kirk session jointly for ordering the affairs of the poor of this burgh and restraining foreign beggars.

20th Jan. 1693.—A stent imposed on the town for relief of the poor.\*

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#### PROPOSED COUNCIL ROOM.

31st Aug. 1693.—It is recommended to the bailies to visit the Tolbooth, and think on a convenient way for

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\* A sum of 500 marks (£27, 15s. 6d.) was this year mortgaged by Henry Wood, resider in Cellardyke, to the Town Council and Kirk Session, for relief of the poor of the burgh of Pittenweem, because “it had pleased the Lord to deal bountifully and liberally with him, and he was desirous to honour the Lord with his substance by communicating a part thereof” in that manner. He also left various sums to the poor of Kilrenny, Anstruther-Easter, Anstruther-Wester, and Montrose.



making ane partition for a counsell house within, and place for the court to sit without.

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#### LEVY OF SOLDIERS.

20th March 1694.—The same day, for expense of the soldiers to be put furth by this burgh to the new levy, being three in number, they have condescended upon a list of 132 fencible men, and ordains every one to pay 12s. to the Treasurer.

The same day, it being represented by the bailies to the council that they have received a letter from the Sheriff-Depute requiring two men, wherein this burgh is deficient in the new levy, having put forth one of the three before, they have resolved to send these two soiers to make up our part of the levy, with a guard by sea to Borrowstonness, and to transport them by land to Glasgow; and ordains Wm. Brown, treasurer, and six burgeses, as a guard to go with them thither, and recommends the treasurer to get a receipt from the commanding officer.

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#### BURGH COURT—MURDER OF THE MINISTER'S COW.

6th Dec. 1694.—“Henry Salter having most inhumanly and cruelly, without any just cause, struck Mr Patrick Couper, minister of the burgh, his cow, within the Abbey Barn, with ane flail, which occasioned her death shortly after, was decerned to pay £20 Scots (£1, 13s. 4d. sterling) as the value thereof, and in respect of his inhumane and base carriage to a dumb beast, is ordained to remain in ward until he pay the said soume.”

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#### THE WINTER DRAVE.

6th Feb. 1695.—“Compeared the following slayers and inbringers of herrings and fishes into the ports and creeks of this harbour this winter drave, viz. :—Alex. Measone, who confessed he had slain and imported 10,000 herrings, sold by him at £5 (8s. 4d. sterling) per 1000; John Hew, 10,000, at the same price; William Unstoune, 10,000; Arch. Davidson, 9000; Andrew Wood, 9000; David Ross, 6000; Thomas Miller, 8000; John Adamson, 6000; Robert Luke, 7000.”\*

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\* These quantities stated in barrels would be from 8 to 12 barrels to each boat, and the price 6s. 6d. per barrel.

## GRANGEMUIR BRIDGE.

27th April 1695.—An agreement made with Thomas Coventry, mason, to build a new stone bridge in place of the old wooden one, for 600 merks (£33, 6s. 8d. sterling), the town performing the driving, and the bailies are recommended to deal with Grangemuir for a part of the vacant stipend of Anstruther-Wester to defray a part of the expense of the work.

## SALE OF CORN GROWN ON COMMONTY.

31st Dec. 1695.—The corn grown on the commonty sold, the oat straw for 40s. Scots, the fall of the boll. and the oats for £7 per boll.

## REPAIR OF THE PIER.

17th March 1696.—The bailies and council, considering that the pier is in a most dangerous condition if not speedily repaired, have arranged with Thomas Coventry for the repair thereof.

## MALTMAKERS AND BREWERS FINED.

23d Oct. 1679.—7 maltmakers and 11 brewers in this burgh fined £10 each for contravening an Act of Parliament as to the measurement of malt.

## THE KING'S BIRTHDAY.

4th Nov. 1697.—This day being the King's birthday and the peace with France proclaimed, the bells are ordained to be rung at six o'clock at night till ten, and every householder to put forth lights in their houses.

## LAWSUIT WITH CRAIL DECIDED.

22d June 1698.—The privilege which this burgh had of being free of all customs and anchorages at Fifeness and Auld Haiks on payment to the town of Crail of £4 Scots, "was, after ane lang and contentious debate before the Lords of Session, wrongouslie taken from this burgh, by depositions of two witnesses from Crail, who unjustlie swore this burgh paid customs and anchorages."\*

## BREACH OF AN OLD FORBES MACKENZIE ACT.

2d June 1699.—Henry Warrender and others, being

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\* Proceedings in this case were instituted in 1656. It must thus have pended 42 years.

found guilty of excessive drinking in an ale house, upon the last day of May, till three o'clock in the morning, to the great offence and scandal of the Gospel, and contrary to an express Act of Parliament of King James VI., by which it is statute that "all persons convict of drunkenness and haunting of taverns or alehouses after ten o'clock at night, or at any time in the day, except persons on travel or for ordinary refreshment, shall for the first fault pay" &c., &c., "the said persons are every one of them fined in £3 Scots (5s. sterling), and ordained to remain in ward until they pay the same."

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#### SEA-WARE LET FOR BURNING.

29th Sept. 1701.—The bailies and council are willing to let the ware for burning to the same Englishman that had it last year.

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#### DESTRUCTION OF THE PIER.

4th Feb. 1702.—The bailies and council being convened, and taking into their serious consideration the sad disaster hath befallen the pier and harbour of this burgh, occasioned by the great storm happened this last night, by which the greatest and most important part of the pier is thrown down to the ground; and finding it absolutely necessary that the same be repaired, have resolved that our neighbour burghs of St Andrews, Crail, Anstruther-Easter, Anstruther-Wester, and Kilrenny, be written to for meeting here on 9th inst., to visit and report on the deplorable condition of our pier, that application may be made to the Privy Council and Royal Burrows for help to repair the same.

20th May 1702.—The bailies and council unanimously and seriously recommend the magistrates and councillors to whom the management of the reparations of the pier is committed to see to the down taking of the head of the pier, and to hasten the securing of the work with all diligence.

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#### APPOINTMENT OF CONSTABLES.

2d June 1702.—Constables are appointed (10 in number) to oversee and suppress the immoralities and abuses committed within this burgh, such as breach of the Sabbath, profane swearing, and other sins abounding in this place.

## REPAIR OF THE PIER.

21st Jan. 1703.—It is seriously recommended to the bailies to agree with quarriers for winning stones to the pier, and do everything for reparation thereof.

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## PAPER IN FAVOUR OF EPISCOPACY DISOWNED.

21st Jan. 1703.—“It being represented to the bailies and council that there was ane pamphlet or paper called ane address for the Episcopal clergy, tending to the subversion of the government of the kirk, subscribed by several of the inhabitants of this burgh, most part of them ignorantly, and which was represented as a town’s deed: The whole council, abhorring such practices (except Mr Robt. Warner, bailie, who declared he signed the same as his own private judgment), did unanimously disown the said paper.

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## HERRING MEASURES.

16th Sept. 1703.—“It is statute and ordained that there be a constant standard mett for herrings brought from Crail, and metts for the inhabitants made conform thereto, burnt and sealed with the town’s mark, and no other to be used.

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## ASSAULT—OFFENDER TO BE LASHED.

11th Dec. 1703.—Upon a complaint by Robt. Clelland, setting forth that while he was walking on foot in the fields, Robert Hog, who was on horseback, after many threatening words and cursing against him and several honest men’s children in the town, threw down the said Robert Clelland to the ground, and rode over him, threatening that if he were put in prison for this riot, he would burn Mr Robert Clelland’s house; and the said Robert Hog having confessed, the bailies discern and ordain that the said Hog be presently in their sight, and of the whole school boys convened for that end, lashed on the bare back with a sharp whip severely, which was accordingly done, and the said Hog to be banished the town.

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## RIOT AT A LIKEWAKE.

21st Dec. 1703.—Andrew Todie found guilty as a ring-leader in a great riot at the likewalk of a dead person.

## APPLICATION FOR A COMMISSION TO TRY WITCHES.

1st June 1704.—The foresaid day, the minister and some of the elders being present, William Bell, bailie, and Mr Robert Cook, councillor, were elected to go from this burgh to Edinburgh to-morrow, and deal with Sir Thomas Moncrieff of that ilk, as justiciar within the regality of St Andrews, to grant commission to some gentlemen and burgesses in this part of the country for sitting as justices, and taking trial of the persons incarcerated in the Tolbooth as suspect guilty of witchcraft.

1st June 1704.—The bailies and council being informed that the Presbytery is to meet here on 14th inst., it is resolved that the magistrates and council shall meet with the Presbytery and crave their advice anent the persons charged with witchcraft, that justice may be done on them with all diligence.

12th June 1704.—“The bailies and council, taking into their serious consideration that there are several persons incarcerated in the prison house guiltie of the abominable crime of witchcraft, upon strong and pregnant presumptions, whereof some have voluntarily confessed that they have devoted themselves to the service of Satan, and some soe hardened that they have not as yet confessed; and to the effect the said persons may be tried, and, being found guilty, may suffer punishment according to the laws of God and this nation: Therefore, commission is granted to Bailie Warner and Mr Robert Cleiland of Hillhouse, one of the council, to meet with the Commission of the General Assembly, and advise with the Privy Council as to the best mode of bringing them to trial.”

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PRIVY COUNCIL WARRANT FOR TRIAL OF  
PITTENWEEM WITCHES.\*

At Edinburgh, the 13th day of June 1704.

Sederunt—Lord Chancellor, Marquis of Annandale, P.C., Duke of Atholl, P.S., Earls Mar, Buchan, Eglintoun, Lauderdale, Loudoun, Northesk, Dunmore, and Roseberry, Lord President of Session, Lord Advocate, Lord Justice-Clerk, Lords Halcraig, An-

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\* From the Records of the Privy Council in General Register House, Edinburgh.

struther, Rankeillor, Collingtoun, Carnwath, Lord Provost of Edinburgh.

“Anent the petition given in and presented to the Lords of Her Majestie’s Privie Councill, by the Magistrates and Toun Councill of Pittenweem and minister and kirk session thereof, showing that where there being at present a great many malefices committed upon the person of Patrick Mortoun, son to Patrick Mortoun, smith in Pittenweem, by severall witches now in prison there, whereof the greatest part have already confest to them their guilt in tormenting the said Patrick, and of their compact with the devell, and renouneing their baptisme, they humbly crave liberty to give their Lordships the followeing representation of the matter of fact, to theeffect their Lordships may grant a commission to such as their Lordships think fitt to take tryall of the persons who have confessed and others against whom there are not only presumptions of guilt, but lykeways a clear probation ready to be adduced. The matter of fact in short is as followes :—In the beginning of March last, the said Patrick Mortoun, about sixteen years of age, and free of any known vice, being employed by his father to make some nails to a shype belonging to one of the merchants in Pittenweem, when he was working in his father’s smiddy, one Beatrix Laing, who is one of these who have confessed, desired him to make some nails for her, which he modestly refused, in regaird he had been already employed to make the nails for the shype, which were in heast, and could not abide any delay ; upon which answer, Beatrix did show a great deall of discontent, and went away threatening to be revenged, which did somewhat frighten him, because he knew she was under a bad fame, and reputed for a witch of a long time.\* The next day, when

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\* The name of Beatrix Laing appears in the Records of the Presbytery of St Andrews in the year 1695-6, nine years prior to the above date. The minister (Mr Couper) had reported to the Presbytery that a libel had been laid before his session against her for using a charm against a son of James Tod. The Presbytery finding “the matter weighty,” deferred consideration. Thereafter, Tod himself petitioned the Presbytery to proceed with the business, whereupon they had a meeting at Pittenweem, and made due enquiry ; but it was found that Tod, the pursuer, had failed in his proof, and that nothing further could be done. In the pamphlet after noticed, entitled *A Just Reproof, &c.*, she is described as “a woman of very bad fame, who had formerly been under process for using charms, and refusing to be reconciled to her neighbours, was debarred from the Lord’s table.”

he was passing the door of her house, he observed a timber vessell with some watter, and a fire coall in it, at the door, which made him apprehend that it was a charme laid for him, and the effects of her threatening : And immediately he was seized with such a weakness in his limbs that he could hardly stand or walk, and continued in a languishing condition till the first of May last. And though phisitians were employed for his recovery, yet no means could they use for his recovery had any effect, but still grew worse, haveing no appetite, and his bodie strangely emacerated. About the beginning of May, his case altered to the worse, by haveing such strange and unusuall fitts, as did astonish all onlookers. His belly at some tymes was distented to a great hight, at other times his breast and his back were so distended that the bones of his back and breast did ryse to a prodigious hight, and suddenly fell ; and in the meantime, his breathing was lyke to the blowing of a bellowes. Att other times, his body became rigide and inflexible, in so much that neither his arms and legs could be bowed or moved by any strength, tho' frequently tryed, and his senses benumbed, and yet his pulse in good order ; at some tymes, his head quite about, or to his shoulders, and no strength able to turn it back or repone it, and was many times in grievous agonies, and sometimes in (swoons) ; att other times, his tongue drawn back in his throat, especiallie when he was telling who were his tormentors ; and when either the magistrats or minister did bring in any of these women whom he had discovered to be his tormentors, before they came within the door, he cryed out his tormentors were present, and named them ; and though severalls present did cover his face, and caused several women touch him besides these he discovered to be his tormentors, by turns, yet when these did touch him upon whom he made no complaint, no effect followed, but upon the approach and touch of these who he complained of, his agonies increased, and cryed out his tormentors were present. The poor man hes been in this condition since the beginning of May last, and continues to be so, haveing very short intervalls, and his condition is much about the same with that of Bargarran's daughter in the west.\* There are

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\* The following account of the celebrated case of *Balgarran's daughter*, which happened in 1697, just seven years before the time referred to in the text, has been condensed from the more detailed narrative in *Chamber's Domestic Annals of Scotland*, III.,

seven imprisoned, viz., Beatrix Laing, Isobell Adam,

167. Its similarity to the Pittenweem case, and the fact that noblemen and gentlemen of the highest attainments took part in the trial, and concurred in the result, are sufficient to show that the Magistrates of Pittenweem, notwithstanding all that has been, and is still from time to time said against them, for the part they took against Beatrix Laing, Janet Cornfoot, and others, were not more deeply imbued with superstition than their contemporaries. Christian Shaw, a girl eleven years old, daughter of the proprietor of Balgarran, had offended her father's servant, who, in consequence, broke out upon her with great violence, swearing at her, and uttering dreadful imprecations. Five days after this, while the child was in bed asleep, she suddenly started up, called "Help! Help!" and sprang into the air, in a manner which astonished her parents. She then became stiff and insensible for a time, and on regaining consciousness, she complained of violent pains throughout her body. For eight days she had fits of extreme violence, under which she was often so bent and rigid, that she stood like a bow on her feet and neck at once, and continued without the power of speech, except at short intervals, during which she seemed perfectly well. A doctor and apothecary were brought to her from Paisley; but their bleedings and other applications had no perceptible effect. By and by her troubles assumed a different aspect. She seemed to be wrestling and fighting with an unseen enemy, and there were risings and fallings of the abdomen, and strange shakings of her whole body, that struck the beholders with consternation. She became as stiff as a corpse without sense or motion, her tongue would be drawn out of her mouth to a prodigious length, while her teeth set firmly upon it; at other times it was drawn far back into her mouth. She now began, in her fits, to denounce the servant and an old woman as the cause of her torments, alleging that they were present, cutting her side, when in reality they were absent. At this crisis, fully two months after the beginning of her ailments, her parents took her to Glasgow, to consult an eminent physician, named Brisbane, who attended her for several weeks, and whose declaration on oath of what he saw has been preserved. He describes the convulsion fits, alternating with intervals of seemingly perfect health. While under his care, a new fact presented itself. She spat or took from her mouth every now and then parcels of hair of different colours, which she declared her two tormentors were trying to force down her throat. Dr Brisbane deponed, "I observed her narrowly, and was confident she had no human correspondent to subminister the straw, wool, cinders, hay, feathers, and such like trash to her, all which, upon several occasions, I have seen her pull out of her mouth in considerable quantities." Before leaving Glasgow, she had begun to speak of other persons as being among her tormentors. On her return to Balgarran, the Presbytery sent relays of their members to be present in the house, and lend all possible spiritual help. One evening at this time, she was suddenly carried off with an unaccountable motion through the chamber and hall, down the long winding stair to the outer gate, laughing wildly, while her feet did not touch the ground, so far as anybody



Nicolas Lawson and Janet Corfitt, Thomas Brown,

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was able to discern. On the ensuing evening, she was carried off in the same manner, and borne to the top of the house. On a third occasion, she moved in the same unaccountable manner down to the cellar, when the minister, trying to bring her up again, felt as if some one were pulling her back out of his arms. On several occasions, she spoke of things which she had no visible means of knowing, but which were found to be true. She said that some one spoke over her head, and distinctly told her those things. The matter having been reported to the Privy Council, a commission of enquiry was issued under the presidency of Lord Blantyre, which appears to have sat at intervals for about two months. In their presence the alleged tormentors of the child were confronted with her, when it was seen that on any of these persons touching her, she fell into fits, but not when she was touched by any other person. It is stated that even when she was muffled up, she distinguished that it was one of her tormentors who touched her. Sometimes she complained that one of her tormentors in the likeness of a bee was pinching her leg, and on untying her stockings, the spectators discerned the lively marks of nails deeply imprinted. Some of the accused confessed they were in paction with the devil. That commission having reported, a new commission was issued, comprehending, we are told, several persons not only "of honour," but "of singular knowledge and experience." They sat at Paisley, and seven persons were arraigned before them, charged with the tormenting of Bargarran's daughter and several others, as well as with the murders of old and young persons by means of witchcraft. The prosecution was conducted by Sir James Stewart, Lord Advocate for the time, in person, and counsel were assigned for the defence of the panels. The witnesses were carefully examined, full time was allowed to every part of the process, which lasted twenty hours, and six hours more were spent by the jury in deliberating on their verdict. It is said that all things were carried on with tenderness and moderation, and gone about in a reasoning way, yet the result was, that the alleged facts were found to be fully proved, a verdict of guilty was returned, and five of the wretched panels were first hanged for a few minutes, and then burned on Paisley Green, a sixth having anticipated his doom by committing suicide. Dr Chambers winds up his narrative by remarking that if any value is to be placed on testimony, it is difficult to see how this case can be regarded as one in which there were no other elements than a wicked imposture on the part of the child, and insane delusions on that of the confessing witches; and he indicates an opinion that the child was under *mesmeric* influence, originated by the maledictions of the servant.

The witch cases in Pittenweem of 1704 formed the subject of two anonymous letters, written with a very strong bias against the minister and bailies, and published in 1705. The one is entitled, *An Answer of a Letter of a Gentleman in Fife to a Nobleman, containing a brief account of the barbarous and illegal treatment these poor women accused of witchcraft met with from the Bailies of Pittenweem and others*; and the other, *An Account of an horrid and barbarous murder, in a Letter from a Gentleman in*

Margaret Wallace, and Margaret Jack.\* The first four of these have confessed their being guilty of a compact with the divill, renouncing their baptisme, and tormenting the said Patrick Mortoun, upon ane examination by the petitioners, the magistrats and minister, in the Tolbooth of Pittenweem ; † and the other three are not only

*Fife to his Friend in Edinburgh.* The charges in these letters were replied to, also by an anonymous writer, in a pamphlet which appeared very shortly afterwards, entitled, *A Just Reproof to the false reports and unjust calumnies in the foregoing Letters.* One of the charges in the letters is that the minister had encouraged Patrick Morton's "melancholy fancy," by reading to him the book entitled the case of Bargarran's daughter, to which the author of *A Just Reproof* replies in the following "short, but candid, account of matter of fact. In the month of May last, the minister, with a preacher, and a great many other people, attending all night in the room where Patrick Morton lay, and he lying meanwhile in a swooning fit, which was then tried by exquisite pinching, the minister and probationer falling into some discourse about Bargarran's daughter, took out the book, and for their own satisfaction, read only two sentences and stopt. Several weeks after, when the minister was again attending in the night time, the lad being insensible, the minister, for his own diversion, read the preface, and some part of the process against the witches, but had no reason to think he heard anything, but the contrary. And it is to be observed, when the Committee of the Privy Council did accurately examine the boy in reference to this story, he still declared he never heard anything of Bargarran's daughter's case read."

\* "One Thomas Brown, the only man accused by Patrick Morton, and imprisoned by the minister and bailies, after a great deal of hunger and hardship, died in prison. . . . The bailies in a manner justified these two murders (Thomas Brown's and Janet Cornfoot's) by not allowing them Christian burial, but burying them like dogs, scarce covering them from the ravens."—*Letter of a Gentleman in Fife, &c.* "What he (the *Gentleman in Fife*) says about Thomas Brown is also false. He was accused by the lad (Morton), and delated by three confessing witches as being accessory to the attempt on M'Grigor. It is false he was starved, for his daughter brought him his diets punctually. He (the *Gentleman in Fife*) again tells us 'the bailies justified the murder, by denying Christian burial.' The bailies gave no order thereabout. As for Thomas Brown, his son-in-law, with some others, buried him. Our author by his next may prove that Janet Corphat, a woman that had so frequently and so solemnly confessed the renunciation of her baptism to the devil, deserved Christian burial."—*A Just Reproof, &c.*

† The writer of *A Just Reproof, &c.*, gives the following additional details of the bewitching of Morton, and the confession of Beatrix Laing. After referring to his fright on seeing the burning coal in the vessel of water at Laing's door, and the sickness which followed upon it, he proceeds:—"In this sickness, he languished

loaded by presumptions, but fyled by the confitents as not only guilty of witchcraft, but lyekeways of the malefices upon the said Patrick Mortoun. And seeing there is here in the discoveries already made as to four of the imprisoned, a plaine confession of their being guilty of witchcraft, and of the malefices above represented upon the said Patrick Mortoun; and *constat de corpore delicti*; and lyekeways the rest are loaded with presumptions and delated by the confitents as guilty with themselves of witchcraft, and tormenting the said Patrick; As also seeing it would be a great deall of expense to bring so many witnesses as will be necessary to prove the different and distinct points that falls under probation for convicting of the forenamed persons, and that the matter will be made more clear and evident by cognition and tryall upon the place than if the same were cognosced here before the Lords of Justiciarie; and therefore

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for a long time; physicians that saw him could not understand his distemper, yet tried various medicines, till at length his trouble increased, and he began to be seized with some unusual fits, which made them give over. He forbore all this while any accusation of the person whom he all along suspected for his trouble, at least he made no mention of it to the minister, who frequently visited him while under it. But his trouble still increasing, he at length began to drop some apprehensions of the cause of it. Upon which, Beatrix Laing was called, and by the magistrates, in the said Patrick Morton's father's house, examined in presence of a great multitude of people, and owned that she had placed that vessel with water, and the coal in it, there, but at that time would give no account of the reason of it. Being dismissed by the magistrates, she went home, and that same night, when she was challenged by Katherine Marshall, in her own house, before Nicolas Lawson, about the lad's trouble, she answered, that he might blame his own ill tongue for what had befallen him, and that it was an evil spirit that was troubling him; which was, in her face, maintained by the said persons next day, in presence of the magistrates. Then the boy began to complain of her tormenting him, and fell into grievous fits of trouble on her entering the house. Upon all which, she being imprisoned, after some time did acknowledge to the magistrates and minister, in presence of many witnesses, without threat or torture, that she was displeased with Patrick Morton for his refusing to make some nails; that she designed to be avenged upon him for it; and that she used the charm of the coal in the water against him; and that she renounced her baptism, entered into a compact with the devil some twelve years before; condescending upon time, place, and her inducements to engage in his service; and that she, with Nicolas Lawson, had made a wax picture to torment him, and put pins in it; which the said Nicolas confessed afterwards, and so justified the boy's account of the rise of his trouble."

craveing their Lordships, in consideration of the premises, to grant warrand and commission to such gentlemen and others that live in and about the place, as their Lordships shall think fitt, to take cognition and tryall in this matter, and to determine y<sup>r</sup>in by a Justiciary power from their Lordships, as hes been frequently done in such cases, as the said petition bears : The Lords of Her Majesty's Privie Councill, having considered the above petition given into them by the Magistrats and Town Councill of Pittenweem, and the minister and kirk session thereof, and the samen being read in their presence, the saids Lords doe hereby recommend to Sir James Steuart, Her Majestie's Advocat,\* to raise a proces at his instance, and prosecute the same to the finall end thereof, before the Lords Commissioners of Her Majestie's Justiciary, against the persons therein mentioned, as guilty of witchcraft ; and upon ane informer and information thereof to be given in to his Lordship for that effect ; and recommends to the Lords Commissioners of Her Majestie's Thesaurie to order such a soume as their Lordships shall think fitt to be payed for carrying on the said proces, and mentaining parties and witnesses dureing the dependance thereof."

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MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL—WITCHES TO BE TRIED  
AT EDINBURGH.

21st July 1704.—The commissioners appointed by last minute reported that they had spoken with the Queen's Advocate, who had told them that the Privy Council had resolved that the persons accused of witchcraft should be tried in Edinburgh, and had directed the Sheriff of Fife to take these persons off the magistrates' hands and transport them to Edinburgh.

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WITCHES BAILED OUT.

12th August 1704.—The bailies and council having received ane petition from the friends of the five women

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\* "The office of Lord Advocate, or public prosecutor, had now fallen into the hands of Sir James Stewart of Goodtrees, a person who shared in the highest convictions of the religious party at present in power, including reverence for the plain meaning of the text, 'Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live!' The consequence was that the reign of William III. became a new witch period in Scotland, and one involving many notable cases."—*Chambers' Domestic Annals, vi., 135.*

incarcerated as suspect guilty of witchcraft that they were willing to grant bail for them, their bail bonds were accepted, and given up to the Earl of Balcarres and Lord Anstruther, who were commissioned by the Privy Council, and the five women were dismissed.\*

PRIVY COUNCIL WARRANT FOR DISCHARGE OF ONE OF THE WITCHES.†

At Edinburgh, the 3d day of October 1704.

Sederunt—Lord Chancellor, &c., &c.

“Her Majestie’s Advocat haveing represented to the Board that, in obedience to their Lordship’s former recommendation for persueing the witches in Pittenweem, he had called for and examined Issobell Adam, said to be the most notorious witch,‡ and the lad said to be tor-

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\* Only three years before this, an Act of Parliament had been passed by which magistrates and other judges were expressly debarred from admitting to bail any person accused of a capital offence. It was, therefore, at considerable personal risk that the magistrates exercised this act of clemency.

† From the Records of the Privy Council in General Register House, Edinburgh.

‡ Isobel Adam, a young woman, was accused not only of tormenting Patrick Morton, but also of having attempted, along with other witches, and the devil himself, to murder Alexander M’Gregor, a fisherman belonging to Pittenweem, in his own house in the night time. The following account of her confession is given by the author of *A Just Reproof, &c.*:—Isobel Adam “confessed her converse with the devil at Thomas Adamson’s house, on the 1st day of January 1704; she was confronted with M’Gregor, and he accused her of the above mentioned attempt on him, which she then refused; on which she was imprisoned, and the two following days, she did with tears, and more than ordinary concern, make a free and large confession. She said, Beatrix Laing aforesaid, a confessing witch, had been dealing with her to engage in her service, which she refused; and that some time thereafter, this Beatrix came for her, and desired her to go along to her house; when she came there, they sat down at the fire, and she saw a man in black cloaths, with a hat on his head, sitting at the table; and Beatrix said to her, since you will not engage with me, here is a gentleman that will fee you; whereupon he told her he knew she was discontented with her lot, and if she would serve him, he promised she should want for nothing; to which she yielded to serve him, and he came forward and kissed her, and she said, he was fearsome like, and his eyes sparkled like candles, on which she knew he was the devil. Again, she told, that being employed to spin in Thomas Adamson’s house in Pittenweem, while she was lying awake in her bed in the night

mented, and finding noe evidence from their examinations to be the ground of a proces, gave it as his oppinion that the Lords of Privie Council should allow him to sett the said Issobell Adam at liberty, and lett the proces fall : The Lords of Her Majestie's Privie Council have allowed and hereby allows Sir James Steuart, Her Majestie's Advocat, to cause liberat Issobell Adam, suspect of witchcraft, and to let the proces against her on that accompt fall, and desist from the prosecuting her for the same."\*

time, the devil appearing to her, where she did expressly renounce her baptism to the devil, by putting her hand on her head, and the other to her feet, the other maid lying in the bed with her being at the time asleep, as the maid declared before the session. About a fortnight after this, Beatrix Laing came to visit her, and asked her if she had met with the gentleman? She answered she had, and also engaged with him, on which Beatrix said, 'I have then got my work wrought,' and went away. And she confessed she came to that meeting at M'Gregor's with the devil and several witches, viz., Beatrix Laing, Nicolas Lawson, Janet Corphat, Thomas Brown, and several others she knew not, designing to murder M'Gregor; but since the man awakened and prayed to God for himself, they could not do it. She confessed also converse with the devil at other times. All which is in her two confessions, signed by the magistrates, and transmitted to Edinburgh."

\* Proceedings were also stayed against the other persons accused. Dr Chambers says:—"The central authorities were now little inclined to take up cases of sorcery; but it does not appear that on that account witches ceased to be either dreaded or punished. Country magistrates and clergy were always to be found who sympathised with the popular terrors on the subject, and were ready to exert themselves in bringing witches to justice."—*Domestic Annals*, iii., 298. But the facts that only two years before this, a woman was hanged at *Edinburgh* for witchcraft, and that two years after, two men were executed for the same crime under the care of the magistrates of Inverness in virtue of a warrant signed by the Lords of the Privy Council, shew that the belief in witchcraft was not confined, even at this late date, to "country magistrates and clergy." Witches continued to be tried and executed in various parts of Scotland for *twenty-three years* after the date noted in the text. It was not till the year 1736 that the Legislature saw fit to abolish the penal laws against witchcraft; and six years after they had done so, the Associate Synod, in their testimony against the errors of the times, bewailed the act of repeal as a national sin, and "contrary to the express laws of God." It appears to have been mainly owing to the enlightenment and shrewdness of the Earl of Rothes, Sheriff of the county and a Privy Councillor, who went to Pittenweem, accompanied by "certain gentlemen of good sense and reputation," and made a very full enquiry into the whole case, that the accused escaped a trial.

## PRIVY COUNCIL MINUTE—MURDER OF A PITTENWEEM WITCH.

At Edinburgh, the 15th day of February 1705.

Sederunt—Lord Chancellor, &c., &c.

“The Lords of her Majestie’s Privie Council doe heirby nominat and appoynt the Earls of Rothes and Hadingtoun, Lords Yester, Advocat, and Enstruther, to be a committie to inquyre into the murder committed upon a woman in Pittenweem as suspect of witchcraft : And recomends to the said committie to meet to morrow at twelve o’clock in the mid day, and call for Baillie ——, Pittenweem, and know at him why he suffered the said murder to be committed, and did not keep the public peace in the place : And appoints the solicitors to cite the rest of the Magistrates of the said burgh of Pittenweem to appear befor the said committie and answer to what shall be said to them therefor, for yair not keeping the peace of the place as said is : and ordains any three of the said committie a quorum, and to report :—

“*Report of the Committie appoynted to inquire after the Murder committed at Pittenweem.*—Att Edinburgh the fourteenth day of February 1705 years. Sederunt—The Earl of Rothes, the Lord Yester, the Lord Enstruther, and his Majestie’s Advocat. The Baillies compearing and having given in a subscribed information of the matter of fact, with a double of the precognition taken by them, anent the murder of Janet Cornfoot, they find that the said Janet was brought from the parish of Leuchars by two men to the town of Pittenweem upon the threttieth day of January last about 6 o’clock at night ; that the men brought her first to the minister, after she had stayed a little in a private house of the town, and, that the minister being for the time at Baillie ——’s house, she was brought before Baillie ——’s door, but not imediatly secured as she ought to have been : That when the officer, after a little time was found, and sent to secure her, the rable was up, and that they deforced the officer and made him flee : That the officer went to the other two Bailies and gott yair verball orders, but they concerned themselves no further : That when Baillie —— heard of the rable, he came out himself and dispersed them, and rescued the poor woman, but found her allmost halfe dead lying within the sea mark : That she being in that condition, Baillie —— did not order her to prisone, but ordained the officer and four men to take her to a private house :

That they carried her to Nicolas Lawson's, other houses being unwilling to receive her : That before Nicolas Lawson's door, she was again assaulted, cast down, and murdered : And that it appears the principal actors were Rob. Dalzell, a skipper's son, Walter Watsone in Burntisland, and ane Groundwaiter, an Orkney man, all three fled : But that it also appears that (Here are inserted the names of four of the inhabitants), four of the five that carried her there were all present, when the other persons murdered her, and that none of them came back to tell any of the Bailies : That the bailies have in prisone (Here follow the names of four persons) who were also present, when the poor woman was murdered, and that the murder happened about ellevine o'clock at night, the poor woman having satt down before the said Nicolas Lawson's door, and changed her head cloaths, but then was barbarously cast into a gutter, and a door laid upon her, and stones upon the door, whereby they putt out her lyfe : That ———, and ———, a school boy, were actors, but are fled, with two more, who are English men\* :—*Sic Subscritur* Rothes, P.C. :

“The Lords of her Majestie's Privie Councill having

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\* The author of *A Just Reproof*, &c., says :—“Janet Cornfoot was a person of very bad fame, who of a long time was reputed a witch, frequently used charms, and was wont commonly to threaten persons who disoblged her, and such consequences sometimes followed, as made her the terror of many, both of the town and country, which might be verified by particular instances if it were necessary. She was not at first delated by Patrick Morton, though afterwards he complained of her as one of his tormentors, but she with several others, being in company with the devil, . . . made an attempt to murder Alexander M'Gregor in bed ; which was prevented by his awakening and wrestling against them. This attempt was acknowledged by Isabel Adam ; as likewise the said Janet was accused by Nicolas Lawson, another person present at that attempt ; and Nicolas accused her of being at another meeting in the Loan of Pittenweem ; at both which meetings they confessed the devil was present, all which she herself afterwards freely confessed. The manner of this woman's confession was very remarkable,—after she had obstinately some while denied, and with a subtilty beyond what might have been expected from one of her education, shifted all questions put to her, she, with Isobel Adam, being brought to the house where the tormented lad lay, and he discovering her at her entry into the room, notwithstanding the utmost precaution was used to conceal it from him, and he falling into grievous fits of trouble, did cry out of her as one of his tormentors ; at which she was so stunned, that instantly she fell a trembling. The magis-



considered the within report of the committie, anent the murder committed at Pittenweem, and the samen being

trates and minister observing her in such a confusion, asked if she was willing to commune with them, in reference to the matters whereof she had been accused ; she, declaring herself willing, went with them to another place, and when desired to be ingenuous, she again fell a trembling, and said she would confess all, but was afraid the devil would tear her soul out of her body if she did, and said, if you will pray, and cause all good folk pray for me, I will confess, and she then desired the minister to pray ; and, after prayer, confessed she was bodily present at both the meetings aforesaid with the devil and the witches, and gave a circumstantial account of the renunciation of her baptism, naming time, place, and inducements which led her to it, and the shape the devil appeared to her in. She likewise told the reason of their attempt to murder M'Gregor was, that he did not hire a house which belonged to Beatrix Laing. This confession she renewed before the Presbytery, in presence of a great many country gentlemen, and other spectators ; as likewise in the face of a numerous congregation on the Lord's day." Such is the account given by the author of *A Just Reproof, &c.*, of the manner of Cornfoot's confession, but the *Gentleman in Fife* gives a different version. He says—"After Janet Cornfoot was committed prisoner to the Tolbooth, she was well guarded with a number of men, who, by pinching her and pricking her with pins, kept her from sleep many days and nights, threatening her with present death, unless she would confess herself guilty of witchcraft ; which at last she did. This report spreading abroad, made people curious to converse with her on the subject, who found themselves exceedingly disappointed. Three noblemen went to the Tolbooth to converse with her, to whom she said, that all that she had confessed, either of herself or her neighbours, were lies, and cried out "God forgive the minister," and said, that he had beat her one day with his staff when she was telling him the truth. They asked her how she came to say any thing that was not true ; she cried out 'Alas, alas, I behoved to say so, to please the minister and bailies ;' and, in the meantime, she begged for Christ's sake not to tell that she had said so, else she would be murdered." Afterwards an advocate and writer to the signet called upon her in prison, to whom she said "she had never renounced her baptism but to the minister." This being reported to the minister, "he threatened her very severely, and commanded the keeper to put her into some prison by herself under the steeple, lest (as he said) she should pervert those who had confessed. The keeper put her into a prison in which was a low window (the room above the common house), out of which it was obvious that any body could make an escape ; and accordingly she made her escape that night." The author of *A Just Reproof, &c.*, denies that Janet Cornfoot was badly used in prison, or that any kind of torture was used to induce a confession. He says—"It is owned, that when Beatrix Laing and Nicolas Lawson were first imprisoned, they were ill-used by some of the guard, without the knowledge of magistrate or minister, of which the women made complaint to the minister,

read in their presence, the said Lords doe heirby recommend to Sir James Steuart, Her Majestie's Advocat, to

whereof he presently acquainted the magistrates, who with the minister went to the prison, and threatened the guard if they offered the least disturbance to persons in custody; and the minister, on the Lord's day thereafter, took occasion in sermon to discover the wickedness of that practice as being against the light of nature, Scripture, and the just laws of the land. After this, we heard of no more disturbances they met with. Now, it was not till after this precaution used to prevent their trouble, that Janet Corphot was imprisoned; and from the time of her imprisonment, till the time that she confessed, which was some ten or twelve days, she was not in company with the rest, nor with the guard, save one or two days, but was above in a separate prison, and nothing to disturb her." On Janet Cornfoot's escape, which she accomplished by breaking through an old grating in the window of her prison, she went to Leuchars. The magistrates, being glad to get her off their hands, searched very little after her, but they considered themselves bound to offer a small reward to any one who would bring her back. She was discovered at Leuchars, and having been pounced on by the parish minister—a Mr Gordon—was sent under charge of two men to Pittenweem. What took place between her arrival there and her murder is told in various ways, but the narrative in the text is probably most correct. The greatest discrepancy is in the account of the poor creature's treatment by the mob at the harbour. The *Gentleman in Fife* tells what appears to be a highly coloured and not very natural story; but unfortunately for the reputation of our good town, his narrative has been most generally followed by subsequent writers, probably because it is the most sensational. He says—"The rabble gathered and stretched a rope betwixt a ship and the shore to a great height, to which they tied her fast; after which they swung her to and fro from one side to another, in the meantime throwing stones at her from all corners until they were weary; then they loosed her, and with a mighty swing threw her upon the hard sands, all about being ready in the meantime to receive her with stones and staves, with which they beat her most cruelly. They laid a heavy door upon her, with which they prest her so sore that she cried out to let her up for Christ's sake, and she would tell the truth. But when they did let her up, what she said could not satisfy them, and therefore they again laid on the door, and with a heavy weight of stones on it, prest her to death; and to be sure it was so, they called a man with a horse and a sledge, and made him drive over her corpse backwards and forwards several times. When they were sure she was killed outright, they dragged her miserable carcass to Nicolas Lawson's house, where they first found her. There was a motion made to treat Nicolas Lawson after the same manner immediately, but some of them being wearied with three hours' sport, as they called it, said it would be better to delay her for another day's divertisement, and so they all went off." A more intelligible and more credible account is given by Dr Mackay in his *Memoirs of Extraordinary Popular Delusions*, ii., 156. He says that on Cornfoot coming to the town the mob

raise a proces and lybell at his instance, before their Lordships, against the magistrats of Pittenweem, for their not keeping the peace of the place, and suffering such tumults and rables and other such outrages to be committed within their burgh, and not suppressing the samen : As also recommends to y<sup>e</sup> said Lord Advocat to raise a proces at his Lordship's instance, before the Lords Commissioners of Justiciary, against (Here follow the names of five persons), or any other persons who have had any hand in, and been accessory to, the murder committed upon Janet Cornfoot at Pittenweem : And that the Lord Advocat insist therein to the finall end and decision thereof : And appoynt the forenamed persons that are prisoners in the Tolbooth of Pittenweem, to

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“ seized on her *with the intention of swimming her*. They forced her away to the sea-shore, and tying a rope round her body, secured the end of it to the mast of a fishing boat lying alongside. In this manner, they ducked her several times. When she was half dead, a sailor in the boat cut away the rope and the mob dragged her through the sea to the beach,” where, being found quite insensible, she was pressed to death. While all the narratives agree in the main fact, that this poor woman fell a victim to the superstition of the age in which she lived, there is a very important difference between those now quoted. In the former, the mob is charged with wantonly contriving to inflict on her a great amount of torture, for their own sport and gratification ; while, in the latter, they are merely accused of putting her to the common witch-test of *swimming*, and thereafter subjecting her to the doom which they were supposed to deserve, who did not pass that ordeal. There is reason to hope that this is the correct version. The *Gentleman in Fife* writes in such fury against the ‘minister’ and magistrats that his statements cannot be received with implicit reliance. In several important particulars they are contradicted by the Report of the Committee of Privy Council. It does not seem possible that after such an amount of swinging, stoning, beating, dashing, and pressing, as he describes, any human being could have survived, far less have been able to stand and reason with her persecutors, as Cornfoot is represented to have done ; besides, it seems most unlikely that an infuriated mob, in the middle of a dark night in January, would have devised and executed such an elaborate scheme of vengeance. It is much easier to believe, that the crowd, satisfied in their own minds of the reality of Cornfoot’s compact with Satan, dreading the fearful consequences of her malice, and indignant at the Privy Council for refusing to prosecute, had determined to supply the alleged deficiency of proof in the manner stated by Dr Mackay ; and that having, as they supposed, obtained additional and convincing evidence, they took the law into their own hands, by putting her to death. Even if that were the case, they are justly chargeable with ignorance, superstition, and lawless violence, but not with wanton and deliberate cruelty to a human being for their own “ sport.”

be transported from thence to Edinburgh, and givis order and warrand to the keepers of the Tolbooth of Edinburgh to receive them prisoners, keep, hold, and detaine them therein till furdur orders."\*

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MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL—CORNFOOT'S MURDER

23d Feb. 1705.—It is resolved, that in order to the clearing of the town of the late murther of Janet Cornfoot, the magistrates go to Edinburgh on Monday next, and that Mr Robert Cook go along with them to consult the Queen's Advocat, or any other they shall think fitting, and that the grass mails and malt money be gotten in to defray the expense.

19th April 1705.—Bailie Borthwick gave in an account of what he had received of money anent the process before the Privy Council relating to Cornfoot's murther £180, 16s. 8d. (£15, 1s. 4d. sterling), and that he had expended conform to account, £194, 11s. (£16, 4s. 3d. sterling.)

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INSULT TO THE TOWN CLERK.

8th May 1705.—William Brown, tailzeour, † for some opprobrious words spoken by him against Robert Smyth (town clerk) is fined 500 merks (£27, 15s. 6d. sterling), and ordained to be taken to-morrow at 11 o'clock in the forenoon to the preikett, and there to stand with a paper on his breast, bearing "A false and scandalous reproacher," and to return to the Tolbooth till he pay the fine.

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■ PRIVY COUNCIL ACT FOR PROTECTING A WITCH. †

"Att the Palace of Holyruddhouse, the first day of May 1705.

"Sederunt—His Grace Her Majestie's High Commissioner, &c., &c.

"Anent the supplication given in and presented to his Grace, Her Majestie's High Commissioner, and the

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\* These persons were, during the absence of the magistrates in Edinburgh, liberated from gaol by order of Mr Couper, the minister, a functionary of whom it is alleged, "that he exercised far more of the civic authority than any of the bailies."

† William Brown, tailor, and sometime treasurer of the burgh, was the husband of Beatrix Laing.

‡ From Privy Council Records.

Lords of Her Majesty's Privie Councill, by Bettie Laing, spous to William Brown, tayleour, and late thesaurer of the toun of Pittenweem, humbly shewing, that the petitioner having mett with most cruell and unchristian treatment in the toun of Pittenweem, upon no other ground than bare assertion of one Peter Mortoun, a young man in the said toun, who being under a naturall disease which had some strange effects upon his body, pretended that ye petitioner and other persons he named were witches, and tormented him. Upon this very insufficient ground, the petitioner was thrown into the Tolbooth of Pittenweem by the minister and magistrats thereof; and because she would not confess that she was a witch and in compact with the devill, was tortured by keeping her awake without sleep for fyve days and nights together, and by continually pricking her with instruments in the shoulders, back, and thighs, that the blood gushed out in great abundance, so that her lyfe was a burden to her; \* and they urging her continuallie to confess, the petitioner expressed several things as they directed her, to be rid of the present torture; and because she afterwards avowed and publicly told that what she had said to them of her having seen the divell, &c., was lyes and untruths, they putt her in the stocks for several dayes, and then carried her to the thief's hole, and from that they transported her to a dark dungeon, wher she was allowed no maner of light, nor humane converse; and in this condition she lay for fyve months together; and at last, having found means to get out of the said dungeon, she wandered about in strange places in the extremity of hunger and cold, though, she thanked God, she had a competency at home, but dared not come near her own house, because of the fury and rage of the people; and the petitioner, being wil-

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\* The author of *A Just Reproof*, &c., maintains that Laing's confession was given "without threat or torture." He admits that when first imprisoned, she was "ill-used by some of the guard," but so soon as that came to the knowledge of the magistrates and minister, they put a stop to it. He further says she owned that the magistrates and minister had been careful to preserve her from ill-treatment; and asserts that they had never used "any threatening to extort a confession, or any other argument but what the Gospel requires to be made use of to bring impenitent sinners to a confession of their sins." The experiment of *pricking* with pins was so common that some had made a livelihood by practising it. It was supposed that every witch had "the devil's mark," which could only be discovered by observing her insensibility to pain when a pin was thrust into it.

ling to undergoe any legall tryall upon the said cryme, whereof she was accused, and for denying of which she had been so inhumanly treated, she confidently presumed his grace and their Lordships would grant her the comon benefite of protection to her person, till she were legally convict of crymes rendering her undeserving of it; and this she was necessitat to demand of their Lordships, for that she, haveing lately returned to her own house at Pittenweem, expecting to have lived safely and quietly with her husband, the rable there so menaced and threatened her to treat her as they had done Janet Corfut, a little before (notwithstanding of the notice their Lordships had taken of the said treatment), that she was forced under cloud of night to leave her own house, otherways she, nay nor her friends in the place, were in safety of their lives; therefor craving it might please their Lordships to take the premises under consideration, and to ordain the magistrats of the burgh of Pittenweem, and all other civil magistrats and judges within whose territories and jurisdiction she should be for the tyme, to protect and defend the persone of the petitioner from the insults, fury, and rage of all persons whatsoever, under such pains as their Lordships should think fitt to appoynt, she being still willing to undergoe what legall tryall could be brought against her, as the said petition bears:

“His Grace Her Majestie’s High Commissioner and the Lords of Her Majestie’s Privie Councill having considered the petition given in to them by Bettie Laing, and the samen being read in their presence, his Grace and the said Lords appoynts and ordains the magistrates of Pittenweem to maintain and defend the petitioner against any tumults and mobbs, insults, and violence that may fall upon or be attempted against her, as they will be anserable, until she be legally convict befor the judge ordinar of the cryme laid to her charge: And nominats and appoynts the Earles of Craufurd and Balcarres, and Lord Enstruther, to be a committie to inquire into and take tryall of the murder committed at Pittenweem upon the person of Janet Cornfoot, and the hail other steps and proceedings anent witches and witchcraft in that toun: And recommends to the said committie to meit at Pittenweem upon Wednesday, being the nynth day of May instant: And declairs any two a quorum, with power to the said committie to call for what persone or persons they shall think fitt to their assistance, and for their further information and tryall taking of the said

matter, with power to the said committie to choise their own clerk and report.”\*

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MINUTE OF TOWN COUNCIL—REFUSAL TO GRANT  
BOND FOR PROTECTION OF BEATRIX LAING.

11th May 1705.—The bailies represented that the Earl of Balcarres and Lord Anstruther, two of the Privy Council, being commissioned to meet here this day for taking further trial of the murther of Janet Cornfoot, who confessed herself to be guilty of witchcraft, and anent the way of the town’s procedure against Beatrix Laying and others accused for that crime, the said Lords required that the bailies and council should engage in a bond to protect the said Beatrix Laying against any rabble should assault her ; which they unanimously refused to do in respect she may be murdered in the night without their knowledge.

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PRIVY COUNCIL ORDER FOR ENQUIRING AS TO  
CORNFOOT’S MURDER RENEWED.

“ Att Holyruddhouse, the second day of October 1705 years.

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\* The rueful tale narrated in this petition has procured for Beatrix Laing a great deal more commiseration than she appears to have been worthy of. At a time when witchcraft was believed in by all classes, and when disbelief was counted equivalent to atheism, it was the obvious duty of those who were accused of practising the art to be very circumspect in their behaviour, and especially, to lay aside all malice, avoid threatenings, and cultivate the grace of meekness. In place of this, many of them, and in particular, Beatrix Laing and Janet Cornfoot, appear to have availed themselves of the terror in which they were held to play the tyrant, and extort submission to whatever they chose to demand. It has been said of Janet Cornfoot that “she was wont commonly to threaten persons who disobliged her, and such consequences sometimes followed as made her the terror of many, both of the town and country,” and Beatrix Laing seems to have followed the same course. It has never been denied that she attempted to frighten Morton, and that what she here describes as a “natural disease which had some strange effects upon his body,” appeared for the first time immediately after he had been the subject of her threatenings and incantations. It cannot well be doubted that the disease was the direct result of these ; not, certainly, through supernatural agency, but either by mesmeric influence, as Dr Chambers suggests, or, by the natural operation of excessive terror, long indulged, on a weak excitable constitution. By whatever means the charm wrought, if it occasioned Morton’s illness, as it seems to have done, Beatrix Laing was as deserving of suitable punishment as ever culprit was.

“Sederunt—His Grace Her Majestie’s High Commissioner, &c., &c.

“His Grace her Majestie’s high commissioner and Lords of her Majestie’s Privie Council doe hereby recommend to the Earles of Levine and Ballcarras and Lord Anstruther, or any two of them, to prepare and bring in to the councill first councill day of November next to come, a report anent the rable at Pittenweem about the witches there.”

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MINUTE OF TOWN COUNCIL—CORNFOOT’S MURDER.

14th Nov. 1705.—The bailies having granted a bond under a great penalty to appear before the Privy Council in regard to Cornfoot’s murther, when required, the Council agree to relieve them of that engagement.\*

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BURGH COURT — COMPENSATION TO A REPUTED WITCH FOR WRONGOUS IMPRISONMENT.

28th Oct. 1710.—“Be it known to all men by these presents, Me, William Bell, sometime bailie of Pittenweem: Forasmuch as I and the deceased Mr Robert Vernour, late bailie of the said burgh, did some years ago imprison and incarcerat Janet Horsebrugh, relict to the deceased Thomas White, also late bailie of the said burgh, upon the alledged crime of witchcraft, whereupon she commenced action and raised summons before the Lords of Council and Session, founded upon the first Act of the ninth session of King William’s Parliament, entituled ‘Act for preventing wrongous imprisonment,’ against me and the said Robert Vernour, concluding that we ought and should not only be declared incapable of our offices, and all other public trust, but likewise decerned and ordained each of us *in solidum* to make payment to her of the sums of money therein libelled, in the which action she obtained an Act and Letters of Diligence for adducing of witnesses, in order to prove her alledgeance, which action is depending before the Lords: And seeing I am convinced of the rashness, illegality, and unwarrantableness of our proceeding, having proceeded on idle stories, and the apprehensions and suspitions of Patrick Mortoun, smith in Pittenweem, who was then labouring

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\* These are the last notices of Cornfoot’s murder that appear in the Privy Council and Town Council Records. Neither the magistrates nor any of the parties implicated in the murder were put on trial.



under a melancholy distemper, and so might the more easily been imposed upon and prompted thereto by some of the said Janet's evil-willers; and which does now the better appear from the said Patrick his flying and absenting himself from justifying these stories, which he and others for him had brocht and propagate; and being likewise convinced and persuaded of the said Janet Horsebrugh's innocence of the crime of witchcraft; and seeing she hath given me a discharge of the foresaid process, haill minutes and interloquitors relating thereto, upon my making payment and giving her satisfaction for the damage she did incur by the said wrongous imprisonment and process following thereupon, at the sight of friends chosen by both parties: Therefore for her entire exoneration and that of her posterity, and the full satisfaction of all her friends, neighbours, and relations, I do hereby not only acknowledge my own rashness in having a hand in the foresaid wrongous imprisonment, but also do think myself obliged to make the following declaration to all the world, That I am now fully convinced and persuaded of the said Janet Horsebrugh her innocence of the said crime of witchcraft, and that she was most wrongously caluminate and injured in her good name, fame, and reputation by being so unjustly scandalized and imprisoned for the said alleged crime without any manner of proof or just ground; and so I beg God and her pardon for any accession I had in the same, and am content that this present declaration may be made public by her in what way and manner she pleases and thinks fit; and for that end I do consent and desire these presents may be registrat in the town's court books, &c."\*

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\* The following account of Janet Horsburgh is given by the author of *A Just Reproof*, &c. :—"This woman, whose cause is now warmly espoused by some, with no advantage to their reputation, and who is now insisting against the magistrates in a process for wrongous imprisonment, has been for many years a person of bad fame. Some eighteen years ago, she pursued a woman before the session, in Mr Bruce, the late episcopal incumbent's time, for calling her a witch, and succumbing in the probation. Mr Bruce urged her to be reconciled with the woman,—she obstinately refused, using most unchristian and revengeful expressions, which are to be seen in the Session Register. Since the Revolution, she desired admission to the sacrament of the Lord's supper, which was then denied her, because she still refused to be reconciled to that woman. Her scandalous carriage in refusing to cohabit with her husband to this day, who is a sober honest man, is generally known. This woman being accused by the boy as one of his tormentors, and delated by two confessing

## UNION OF SCOTLAND AND ENGLAND.

5th Nov. 1706.—A commission granted to George Smyth, the present commissioner to Parliament, to meet with the burrowes who are to meet anent the union of the two kingdoms, and to oppose anything may be prejudicial to God's glory and weelfare of this kirk and kingdom.

## BOND FOR GOOD BEHAVIOUR.

28th Dec. 1706.—Thomas Hoge compearing produced his burgess' bill, and craved pardon from the magistrates and clerk for the offence committed by him to them ; and acted himself never to discbey or reproach the magistrates, under the pain of 500 merks without defalcation.

## A BOAT'S HIRE.

21st March 1707.—The whole owners of drave boats within this burgh under subscribing have hereby enacted themselves that they shall not sett their boats to any man except they get one whole deal for the boat, and half a deal for the anchors, buoyropes, and swings, and that under the pain of twenty merks ; and ordains this to be intimat through the town by tuck of drum, (*sic subscribitur*) William Bell, David Fowler, Patrick Morton, James Ballardie, Jas. Young, F. H., And. Fowler, A. Meason, Wm. Watson, Jo. Monck.

## IRREVERENT LANGUAGE TO A BAILIE.

21st March 1707.—“Jean Abercromby, spouse to William M'Culloch, acknowledging her base and irreverent language to Wm. Bell, bailie, submitted her punishment to the bailies. The said Wm. M'Culloch and Jean Abercromby having lived within this burgh these several years bygone, and not being able to give any accompt of themselves how they behaved in the place of their last resi-

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witches, and other presumptions of her guilt, the magistrates one morning sent their officer to the magistrates of Anstruther, desiring them on these grounds to send Mrs White to them ; and she being brought to Pittenweem, the two women which delated her were confronted with her, in presence of the magistrates, a great many gentlemen and ministers, where they did accuse her to her face, and charged her particularly with being at a meeting in the Loan with the devil and the witches, and gave some binding tokens to convince her.” Mrs White does not appear to have confessed.

dence, although they have been often put to it, and promised to do it, and their carriage being very scandalous, the said William and his said spouse are ordained to remove furth of this burgh against Whitsunday next peremptory, with certification if they remove not willingly, they shall be put out of the town with disgrace; and Janet Wandersone and all others in the town expressly prohibit to sett any house to them. This to be intimat by Peter Innes, officer."

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#### A TROOP QUARTERED.

20th May 1707.—Captain Hope's troop quartered on the brewers, those who have no accommodation paying assistant quarters to those who have them.

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#### DUES FROM STRANGER-HERRING-CURERS.

27th August 1707.—A meeting of commissioners from Crail, Kilrenny, East and West Anstruther, and Pittenweem, to be held at Anstruther, for the purpose of treating anent what shall be exacted from strangers for the liberty of making herrings within the said burgh.

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#### ABSENTEES FROM THE COUNCIL FINED.

23d Sept. 1707.—"The bailies and council fynes William Lundy and David Dog in 40s. Scots (3s. 4d. sterling) each, in regard they were absent from the council, being previously warned, and ordains the officer to incarcerat them until they make payment thereof to the Thesaurer."

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#### THE TOWN'S SHARE IN THE STOCK OF THE "AFRICAN COMPANY."

2d Dec. 1707.—Power given to George Smyth to uplift the town's proportional third of the stock of the African Company.

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#### COUNCIL SECRETS.

28th Feb. 1710.—"The bailies and council being convened, and it being put to a question which of the bailies and council had disclosed what was spoken in council their last meeting, they all declared that none of them (except Mr Robt. Cook) did reveal anything to any person whatsoever spoken in said council, and that Bailie Flooker declared that he did not speak anything but

advised the minister in general to desist, for avoiding future hates."\*

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A WHALE CAPTURED.

28th Feb. 1711.—40s. sterling received by the town "out of the effects of a whale."

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A SCHOOLMASTER WANTED.

18th Sept. 1711.—It being represented that the children are quite neglected for want of a schoolmaster, a committee appointed to confer with the minister what way may be fallen upon for obtaining one.

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ERECTION OF THE CROSS.

2d Nov. 1711.—The bailies and council are desired to meet with George Scott, mason, and agree with him for building the Cross, conform to the scheme given in by him, and not to exceed £6 sterling for workmanship.

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THE TOWN CLOCK.

17th Sept. 1712.—The bailies and council ordain the town clock to be sent to Walter Lumsdaine in Cupar, that he may make her a pendulum, for which he declared to the bailies he would have no less than £5 sterling, which they promise to see paid him, after he has done his work sufficiently.

19th Jan. 1713.—The minister and session to be asked to contribute to the dressing of the town clock.

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THE MINISTER'S COW NOT TO GRAZE IN CHURCHYARD.

24th Sept. 1714.—The bailies and treasurer are desired to go to Mr Couper, minister, and desire that he may discharge his servants to put his cow in the churchyard, and in case he refuse it, they are empowered to agree with the minister for a piece of money yearly for the grass of the said yard.

A HIGH RIOT.

23d Feb. 1715.—It being represented in council by the bailies that William Bell, younger, one of the present bailies, did lybell Mr Robt. Cook, advocat, for calling him mad, light in the head, and that his pericranium was

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\* Mr Couper had a controversy with the Council at this time, about a foggage and some improvements he desired on the manse.

wrong, and the lybell being put to the probation of witnesses, Mr Robt. Cook not compearing, the bailies finds Mr Robert guilty of a high ryot, and the bailies and council gave their opinion that his burgess ticket should be torn, and he deprived from being a councillor, which was acted.

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#### EXCLUSION OF COWS FROM CHURCHYARD.

5th July 1715.—It is unanimously voted that no cow or horse shall have liberty to pasture in the churchyard, under the penalty of 10 merks, and poinding and securing the beasts.

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#### LEVY OF TROOPS.

14th Sept. 1715.—It is concluded to cause the drum go through the town requiring all the fencible men betwixt 60 and 16 to appear in the Loan of Pittenweem, where the bailies and council will be present, and the council are of opinion that any that will voluntarily go out for the town shall have their burgess freedom gratis; and any that have paid their composition, if they goe out, their money shall be restored to them; any that does not appear shall be fyned in £10 Scots.

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#### DISPUTE BETWEEN THE COUNCIL AND THE SESSION.

9th May 1716.—A charge of horning having been served upon the council at the instance of the minister and elders for payment of a bond of 500 merks and 30 years annual rent thereof; in respect there was a paction that the session was to quyte the town of the annual rent, in return for the town's share of the penalties incurred for fornication, a committee is appointed to speak to the minister on the subject.

14th May 1716.—It is reported that the session are content to accept of the principal sum of 500 merks without annual rent.

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#### TAX ON ALE FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE PIER, &c.

24th Oct. and 4th Dec. 1719.—In respect the town has not sufficient means for maintaining the harbour and other public works, it is resolved to send a petition to Parliament for an Act authorising the imposition of 2d. Scots on the pint of ale brewn and vended in the town, to be employed for repairing the harbour, causeys,

prison houses, and other public works, and payment of their debts.\*

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#### APPOINTMENT OF A TOWN CLERK.

6th Feb. 1721.—Geo. Smyth of Gibleston demits his office of town clerk in favor of David Anderson, writer, Pittenweem. Mr Anderson's salary was 50 merks Scots yearly (£2, 15s. 6d. sterling.)

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#### THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE TO SIT WITH THE JUSTICES OF PEACE.

20th April 1721.—The bailies and council, considering that when the Justices of Peace have occasion to meet and hold courts within this burgh, they do not so much as call or send for the oldest bailie or chief magistrate of the same to sit with them, although by law they ought so to do, if he be not a brewer: Therefore it is statute and enacted that if the said oldest bailie or principal magistrate for the time, and in all time coming (not a brewer) do not meet and sit with the said justices, whether they be called or not, such magistrate so refusing or neglecting to sit with them shall be censured by the bailies and council.

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#### HERRING MEASURES.

24th July 1722.—It is ordained that fresh herrings are to be sold by mett and not by tale, and a committee appointed to oversee and inspect the sufficiency of curing and packing herrings, and of the cask, and that all herrings made for export be marked by the said committee with the town's marking irons, for which the owner shall pay 6s. Scots per last.

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#### A BRIBE.

18th Sept. 1722.—Robt. Cleiland offered to procure to the town a discharge of the expenses debursed for obtaining the Act of Parliament for the impost of 2d. on the pint of ale, amounting to £127, 19s. 6d. sterling, with the interest due therefor, if James Melville was voted out of the council, and kept out of it. †

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\* This Act was obtained at a cost of £127, 19s. 6d. sterling. The right to levy the impost was sold by roup for a number of years and generally brought upwards of £50 sterling.

† This bribe was not accepted.

## RIDING OF THE MARCHES.

26th March 1623.—The bailies and council, considering that it frequently happens that encroachments are made by neighbouring heritors upon the rights and privileges of others, and more especially upon the privileges of a community, when care is not taken to ride or perambulate the marches for preventing such encroachments: The bailies and council hereby enact, that they, with some of the old burgesses of the town, do ride or perambulate the town's marches upon Monday next, the 1st of April; and that their successors, with some of the oldest burgesses, continue to do so upon the said 1st of April yearly, in all time coming.

## REPAIR OF STREETS.

2d May 1723.—The street at the west end of the town commonly called the "Duke Dub," to be filled up with rubbish from the harbour and causewayed. Other parts of the streets to be causewayed at same time.

## THE KING'S BIRTHDAY.

15th May 1723.—That the bailies and council do meet here to-morrow (being King's birthday) at 4 o'clock, and drink the King's health, and other loyal healths, and from that to the Cross, and thereafter to the council house to drink the said healths, and so successively every King or Queen's birthday.

## GIFT TO THE TOWN.

14th Nov. 1723.—Bailie Bell, for the love and favour he has to this burgh, complimented and gifted the town with the sum of £127, 19s. 6d. sterling, being the expense of the Act for the 2d. Scots on the pint of ale.

## THE MINISTER TO BE DEALT WITH.

13th May 1724.—"The minister having intimat from the pulpit last Lord's day that a collection is to be made at the kirk door next Sabbath towards building a house for the poor at Cupar, it was represented in council that a collection was made some time since by this burgh and paroch for the relief of one from the Turks, who is now come home, and the said collection never applied to that end: And therefore the bailies and council appoints the said committee named last council day to deal with Mr Couper to get the said collection back again, that the

same be transmitted to the collector of the Shire in place of the one appointed to be collected."

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THE BAILIES' LOFT.

29th July 1724.—The bailies and council agree that a loft be built for them and their successors, bailies, to sit in, in the most convenient place in the church, and so soon as that is done, they condescend to quyte the seat or pew they presently sit in to Mr Douglas.

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REPAIR OF THE PIER.

27th July 1724.—The bailies and council, considering that the pier now building cannot well be finished by Wm. Aitken and his men before the winter storms come on, which may prove of dangerous consequence, therefore enact that 12 of the inhabitants of this burgh, from this day, be advertised by the officer to go out each day by turns, and work at the pier as barrowmen, and that each person absent or refusing to come be fined 1s. sterling *toties quoties*, for which to be immediately pointed, and this to continue in force during the bailies' and council's pleasure.

29th July 1724.—The bailies and council agree that 100 bolls of oatmeal be bought, and £50 or £60 sterling of money borrowed, for enabling Wm. Aitken to finish the east head of the pier ere the winter storms approach, seeing he is now run out both of money and meal.

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LOAN FOR THE TOWN.

27th August 1724.—Bailie Melville, who had gone to Edinburgh to borrow £60 sterling for the town, reported that it could not be got either from a bank or private individual, "unless sponsable men in the town became personally liable for it."

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LIBERATION OF THE MINISTER'S COW.

24th Nov. 1724.—The bailies and council, considering that the minister's cow was lately seized in the churchyard for going therein contrary to an act of council made the 5th July 1715, and that the cow was kept in custody for not payment of the fine contained in said act, until summons was given Mr Couper to the court for payment thereof, upon which Messrs Nairne and Burn, ministers at Anstruther, came to the bailies, and offered themselves and actually became cautioners that Mr Couper's cow



should never be found in the churchyard again, provided the bailies remit the fine and deliver up the cow, it was resolved to accept the caution and deliver up the cow.

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#### LOAN FOR THE TOWN.

28th July 1725.—£3200 Scots (£266, 13s. 4d. sterling) borrowed from Mr Leslie, Edinburgh, to pay town's debts and carry on public works.

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#### REPAIR OF THE PIER.

14th Feb. 1726.—A petition was presented from William Aitken regarding the breach made in the new pier head, and which he is not able to mend on his own charge.

25th Feb. 1726.—The bailies and council find that William Aitken has got a great deal more money for work at the pier than he was entitled to, and that he has done the work very insufficiently ; in consequence of which he was ordered to be imprisoned.

11th March 1726.—Other masons employed to do the work at the pier, and William Aitken liberated from prison.

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#### GIFT TO THE TOWN.

8th Feb. 1729.—The bailies represented that Colonel Philip Anstruther of Airdrie, M.P., having lately made a visit to this burgh, complimented the same with the sum of £50, which lies in Bailie Fowler's hands.

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#### POVERTY OF THE TOWN.

17th July 1729.—A letter of excuse to be sent to the Convention for this year for not sending a commissioner, because of the straits the burgh is in.

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#### THE CHURCH BELLS.

25th Sept. 1736.—“The bailies and town council, considering that on the Lord's day it frequently happens that the third bell rings before 10 of the clock in the forenoon, yea, even rings when the hours are striking, to the hazard of breaking the bell : For preventing whereof for the future, nominates and appoints John and James Martin to acquaint the minister of this, and to deal with him not to order the beadle to ring the third or last bells until 10 strike in the forenoon and 2 in the afternoon, certifying him, if he do in the contrary, the bailies

and council will order the keys of the kirk gate or steeple to be kept, and not to be given the beadle till the said hours strike."

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#### ALE FROM ANSTRUTHER.

17th Sept. 1737.—An Act passed against bringing into this town for sale any ale from the brewery at Anstruther.

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#### THE TREASURER'S ACCOUNTS FROM 1736 TO 1739.

These accounts contain numerous entries of the following tenor:—"By charges at paying the seed oats with the bailies, 16s." "Spent in John Smart's looking over the minister's discharge, 7s. 6d." "Spent at giving Bailie Borthwick money to go to the burrows, 6s." "Spent with a bailie and some labourers at choosing a herd, 12s. 6d." "Spent with the bailies and council qualifying at Anstruther, £3, 6s. 6d." "Spent in Alex. Pollock's with a meeting of ballies, 8s." "Expenses in Robt. Greenhorn's the night before the bailies and council went to Edinburgh to qualify, £4, 13s." "Expenses in qualifying at Edinburgh for meat and drink, £25, 0s. 8d." "Boat's freight home, £15." These charges are stated in Scots money.

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#### THE WEATHER COCK.

5th April 1739.—"The weather cock being taken from the steeple, they find he is so much worn that he is not worth the putting up again, and therefore the bailies and council order the old cock to be sent over to Edinburgh, and a new one to be got and set up in his place with all conveniency."

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#### COLLECTION FOR ROYAL INFIRMARY.

8th Sept. 1730.—A collection to be made through the town for the Royal Infirmary at Edinburgh. The collection amounted to £32, 9s. 6d. Scots (£2, 14s. 1d. sterling.)

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#### APPOINTMENT OF A MINISTER.

14th Nov. 1740.—Mr David Beath was chosen minister, in place of the Rev. Patrick Couper, who died about this time.

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#### SABBATH BREAKING.

14th Nov. 1740.—Several fishers having granted bills for £10 Scots each as a fine for going off to some ship

on the Sabbath day, it was agreed to give them up their bills.

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THE LITTLE BELL.

18th May 1741.—The little bell in the steeple being rent, is ordered to be sent to Edinburgh to be recast.

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A SAW-MILL.

18th Sept. 1741.—Liberty given to John Shepherd to erect a saw miln at the north end of the pier.

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VOLUNTARY BANISHMENT.

11th Dec. 1742.—Andrew Oliphant, being convicted of theft, voluntarily consents to his own banishment furth of Scotland for 7 years to come, and finds security for £50 sterling in case of his return before that time.

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PROTEST AGAINST SMUGGLING.

8th Sept. 1744.—“When they consider the spirit of the nation that so justly prevails against the pernicious and destructive trade of smuggling brandy, tea, and other foreign commodities, it does afford a great deal of pleasure to them, as certainly it must to all who wish well to their country; and least their silence in not declaring against such an illicit trade should be construed as giving countenance to it: Therefore, they do hereby testify their abhorrence thereof, and though they be among the last of the burghs in making so laudable a resolution, yet they can say that in their practice they have preceded severals, for to their knowledge, there has not been any spirits sold neither in public houses nor shops within this burgh for these four months past, but only such as have been distilled from their own grain, the consumpt whereof they unanimously resolve to continue and recommend to others; and that they will discourage the using of French brandy so long especially as that nation continues in war with this; and that they will in their several capacities suppress the smuggling of brandy, tea, and other foreign goods of every shape; and appoints this their unanimous resolution to be intimat in the most public way, and that an extract hereof be transmitted by the clerk to Edinburgh, to be published in the newspapers.”\*

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\* The well known robbery which has connected Pittenweem with the celebrated *Porteous riot* in Edinburgh took place on 9th January 1736. There had been a sale of smuggled goods at Anstru-

## GIFT TOWARDS ERECTION OF THE DOCKYARD.

18th Sept. 1744.—£20 sterling given by the town of Edinburgh for erecting a dockyard.

ther, the proceeds of which were received by Mr James Stark, collector of customs, Kirkcaldy, who lodged for the night in the house in Pittenweem still standing at the west end of Marygate, then possessed by Mrs Fowler, a widow. He was there attacked by Wilson of Pathhead, Robertson of Edinburgh, and three other persons, all smugglers, some of whom, having been ruined by repeated seizures and fines, thought themselves entitled to make reprisals upon the Government. Robertson kept watch at the door with a drawn cutlass in his hand, while Wilson and two of the others entered the house by the east back window, to which they obtained access by means of a ladder. The collector, afraid for his life, managed to escape in his shirt down the ladder, and hid himself in a hay stack. The robbers took away his saddle bags, containing £200, and they also possessed themselves of some goods. The empty saddle-bags were afterwards found on the road to Anstruther. Sir Walter Scott says:—"The robbery was committed in a very audacious manner, for several persons were passing in the street at the time. But Robertson representing the noise they heard as a dispute or fray betwixt the collector and the people of the house, the worthy citizens of Pittenweem felt themselves noway called on to interfere on behalf of the obnoxious revenue officer; so satisfying themselves with this very superficial account of the matter, like the Levite in the parable, they passed on the opposite side of the way. An alarm was at length given, military were called in, the depredators were pursued, the booty recovered, and Wilson and Robertson tried and condemned to death, chiefly on the evidence of an accomplice." This and the subsequent procedure are related at full length in the *Heart of Midlothian*, and are matter of general history. Mr Wood, in his *History of the East Neuk*, says the tradition is rife in Anstruther that the ringleaders of the Porteous mob belonged to that place and to Pittenweem, but Sir Walter states that they belonged to Pathhead, which is more likely, since Wilson, whose death they sought to avenge, was a Pathhead man, and so far as is known, had no connection with Anstruther or Pittenweem. These events had a wonderful effect in arousing the attention of the public to the evils of smuggling. Resolutions against it were passed by many of the municipal corporations, and after taking due time to deliberate on so weighty a matter, the Pittenweem town council also raised their voice on the subject, in the manner above quoted. "Nevertheless, the evil continued to prevail for many years. In 1755, a vessel, called the "Isabel and Mary," John Duncan, master, put into the harbour of Pittenweem, and was seized by the collectors of customs on account of contraband cargo. Four tide-waiters were put on board; but a mob assembled in the night, shut them up in the cabin, and carried off the whole cargo in carts; after which they cut the cables, and allowed the vessel to drift on the rocks, where the poor tide-waiters would have been drowned had not some well-disposed persons gone to assist them. A reward of £50 was offered for the discovery of the

## IMPRISONMENT OF TWO MAGISTRATES.

12th June 1746.—Two of the bailies imprisoned for a town's debt.

## STATE OF THE TOWN'S AFFAIRS IN 1746.

*Annual Revenue.*

	Sterling.
Land rents, - - - - -	£13 4 6
Grass meal for the goods that goes in the meadow, - - - - -	16 13 4
Customs, &c., - - - - -	8 16 8
Feu duties, - - - - -	0 9 9
	£69 4 3

Debts resting to the town, £89 15 9

*Annual Expenditure.*

To the minister of stipend, - - - - -	£16 13 4
„ town clerk, - - - - -	2 15 6
„ schoolmaster, - - - - -	1 18 10
„ officer, including his cloathes once in 2 years, - - - - -	3 17 2
„ Anstruther-Wester schoolmaster, - - - - -	0 4 0
To Crail reddendo, - - - - -	0 6 8
To missive dues and œque, - - - - -	1 16 8
To feu-duty of Scot's land, - - - - -	4 7 6
To stipend out of ditto to minister of West Anstruther, - - - - -	2 1 8
To annual rent of debts due by the town, - - - - -	35 6 0
	£69 7 4

*Incidental charges that the burgh are or may be liable to pay yearly, viz. :—*

Election dinner, at a modest computation, - - - - -	£2 10 0
Solemnizing the King's birthday, at least - - - - -	0 16 8
Attending the burrows, post of letters, and other charges, - - - - -	3 0 0

perpetrators; and James Johnston, treasurer in East Anstruther, Archibald Johnston in Leuchars, and George Hall in Crail, merchants, and David Smith in Leuchars, brewer, were brought to trial on the charge. The jury, however, returned a verdict of not proven.”—*History of the East Neuk of Fife.*

Expenses in upholding the pier, one				
year with another, - - -	5	11	1	
	<hr/>			11 17 9
	<hr/>			£81 5 1

The debts due by the burgh to sundry persons  
amount to £952 0 0 sterling.

#### THE CARRIER'S SALARY.

12th Sept. 1749.—Andrew Thomson, town carrier, is to be allowed yearly one beast and a half's grass mail gratis for his services in carrying letters and money to Edinburgh.

#### SUPPLY OF FISH FOR THE INHABITANTS.

9th Dec. 1751.—“Complaint being made to the bailies by several of the inhabitants of their difficulty of getting fishes on every day of the week for the maintenance of their families, and at the same time an extravagant price demanded for them above what is paid by the fishmonger company in Edinburgh, to whom the fishes both great and small are set, except one boat: For preventing which complaints for the future, and to ease the inhabitants, the bailies and council statute and enact that any of the inhabitants of this burgh wanting fish for the use of their own families only, shall be served on any day of the week when taken, at the rate the company pays for the hundred of these small fishes, except the codlings, which any inhabitant too is to be served in at a moderate price, and that the inhabitants be served in the above manner and prices by the boats in turns, as well the boats' fishes that are set as those that are not set to the company, certifying such fishers as refuse to serve the inhabitants as aforesaid that they shall be fined in 40s. Scots *toties quoties*.”

#### STATE OF THE TOWN'S AFFAIRS—PROPOSAL TO SELL PART OF THE LANDS.

19th Sept. 1752.—“There was a state of the burgh affairs laid before the council, whereby it appears that the burgh is resting of principal sums the sum of £10,174, 6s. 8d. Scots money, besides £1456, 3s. 10d. of annual rent, in all £11,630, 10s. 6d. (£969, 4s. 2d. sterling), which, when compared with the yearly income of the town and certain yearly payments out of it, leaves very little for a sinking fund to clear off the debts; and it be-

ing thus impossible to extricate the burgh from debt without bringing some of the town's common lands to sale, neither are the bailies in the present situation safe to accept of their offices without applying to the Lords of Session for a sist to be free of personal diligence from the town's creditors : It is therefore resolved to apply for such a sist, and for authority to sell as much of the town's common lands as pay the said debt."

19th Sept. 1752.—It is agreed that the minister's stipend should be made a permanent charge upon the town's meadow lands, from which it has been used and wont to be paid.

27th June 1753.—It is resolved that a petition be presented to the Convention, representing the miserable state of the burgh, and craving their advice and concurrence for the sale of some of the town's lands for extinguishing their pressing debts.

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#### IMPRISONMENT OF ONE OF THE BAILIES.

18th Aug. 1753.—One of the bailies imprisoned at the instance of one of the burgh creditors for a debt due by the town.

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#### MONEY LENT THE TOWN.

20th Oct. 1753.—Bailie Thomas Martin reported that he had got a person to lend as much money as would meet the debts due by the town at 4 per cent.\*

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#### A TROUBLESOME COUNCILLOR SUSPENDED.

22d June 1756.—“John Morton having last council day objected and protested against the last year's treasurer's accounts as being too general and extravagant in the articles of election of the bailies' dinner, and King's birth night, the said accounts and vouchers were laid upon the council table, and after carefully revising the same, it was put to the vote, approve of the said accounts or not, and carried in the affirmative, approve, by the hail bailies and council present, except the said John Morton, who adhered to his protest. Bailie Martin moved that, as Mr Morton's protest was a plain reflection upon, and attacking his and his brother James' character in the management of the town's affairs, which the council agreed

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\* About this time £450 sterling was borrowed from Mr Thomas Horsburgh, shipmaster, and £400 sterling from Scott of Scotstarvit.

to it was, and therefore it was put to a vote, suspend Mr Morton or not from his office of councillor, for unjustly attacking them as above, it carried, suspend, by a majority of votes, and refused to insert his protest in the council book, as he required."

14th Sept. 1756.—Mr Morton's suspension withdrawn, "in hopes of his better behaviour in time coming."

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#### BREAD FROM ANSTRUTHER.

14th Sept. 1757.—Notice to be sent Wm. More, baker in Anstruther, that if he sends bread to be sold in Pittenweem except on a market day, the same will be confiscate.

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#### SOLEMNIZATION OF THE KING AND QUEEN'S CORONATION.

22d Sept. 1761.—"This being the day appointed by proclamation for the coronation of the King and Queen's Majesties, the bailies and council think it their duty to solemnize the said day in the best and most public way they can, by going in procession from the council house to the Cross, where they are to be attended by Captain Maricott, who is to have a part of his Light Cavalry presently quartered here, to fire their musquets at drinking the proper healths of the day, along with the most substantial inhabitants of the burgh and gentlemen in the county, and after drinking the said healths, they are to go from the Cross to the treasurer's, where they are to dine, and after dinner, to repeat the said healths, and conclude the night with all other demonstrations of joy and loyalty."

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#### THE POST-OFFICE.

23d May 1763.—The commissioner to the Convention is instructed to oppose removing the Post Office from this burgh, as the same would be very inconvenient for the inhabitants and to the neighbourhood too.

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#### LOSS OF A FISHING BOAT.

22d May 1765.—£15, 15s. sent to the bailies by Sir Henry Erskine and others for division amongst the distressed widows and children of the eight men who were lost in the fishing boat belonging to this burgh on 14th instant.



## AN ELECTION RIOT.

4th Nov. 1765.—A mob collected at the foot of the Tolbooth stair on the occasion of the annual election, stones thrown, and one of the councillors wounded.

## REDUCTION OF AN ELECTION.

16th Nov. 1765.—“A summons of reduction having been raised before the Court of Session against the bailies and council at the instance of Peter Ramsay and others to void their last election, and a petition and complaint having been presented to the said Court accusing the bailies and council of bribery and corruption in the matter of choosing a member to represent them in Parliament, and otherwise attacking their characters, it was resolved to defend the said actions at the burgh’s expense ; and as the council has reason to believe that these actions have been raised at the instigation of Sir John Anstruther it is resolved to prosecute him as adviser and instigator of these processes.”

9th Dec. 1765.—Ten guineas sent to the town’s agent in the meantime towards the expense of defending the actions, and in case more be needed, the agent is to be requested to advance it, or borrow it on the town’s credit.

## POVERTY OF THE TOWN.

9th Dec. 1765.—Of this date, the Convention of Burghs, in respect of the great decay of trade in the burghs of Pittenweem and Anstruther-Easter, and of consequence of the funds for supporting their public expenses, agreed to relieve each of these burghs of one-half of the cess payable by them.\*

## ELECTION OF A DELEGATE—IRREGULAR PROCEEDINGS.

25th Dec. 1765.—“The bailies and council appoint the 30th inst. for a meeting to choose a delegate to meet with the delegates of the other burghs of the district, and elect a member of Parliament in room of the late Sir Henry Erskine ; and in regard of the difficulties and disturbances which may arise at the election, the

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\* About this time a good many sales were made by the town council of ruinous houses and old walls within the town, “the proprietors of which were not known.”

bailies appoint Mr Alexander Wight, advocate, to be their assessor."

30th Dec. 1765.—“Peter Ramsay, in name of himself and others, protested that Mr George Cockburn, advocate, may be admitted into the meeting to give his advice and assistance to them. On a vote being taken for a delegate, 17 voted for Robert Alexander, merchant, Edinburgh, and 3 for James Durham of Largo.”

30th Dec. 1765.—“The council being still met, and David Anderson, the town clerk, having refused to sign a commission ready made out in favour of the said Robt. Alexander, as delegate for the burgh, and to affix thereto a stamp or impression of the seal of the burgh, which stamp or impression was then lying on the council table, alleging that he had already signed one blank in the name of the delegate, and affixed the seal thereto, which had been abstracted from him, together with the seal of the town, and that the same were, as he believed, in the custody of some of his family, the council, observing that the said blank commission and seal of the burgh, the undoubted property of the burgh, had been unduly abstracted and withheld by the said David Anderson and associates from them, did, and do appoint Bailie Thomas Martin, &c., to present a petition to the Court of Justiciary or Sheriff for a warrant to apprehend and bring before them the persons of the said David Anderson, and his son Mathew, and Anna Smith his spouse, and Jean Anderson or M'Intyre his daughter, in order to be examined and incarcerated, until they be tried for so great an offence, or liberated in due course of law; and the said David Anderson having refused to enter this order in the minutes, the council empowered Alex. Clapperton, writer in Edinburgh, to insert the same in the council books.”

30th Dec. 1765.—“Thereafter the said David Anderson having signed and sealed a commission in favor of Mr Alexander, the foregoing resolution was rescinded; but as the council have met with considerable difficulty this day through the carelessness of the clerk, they appoint the council books to remain in the hands of Bailie Thomas Martin.”

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#### THE TOWN CLERK DISMISSED.

16th Jan. 1766.—“The council being met, Bailie Martin represented that, considering the improper con-

duct of David Anderson, the town clerk, upon 31st ult., the day immediately subsequent to the election of the delegate, to carry the common seal of the burgh outwith the same, and to deliver it alongst with a blank commission for a delegate to Andrew Johnston of Renniehill, Lord Newark, or some other persons who had no earthly concern with either the one or the other; and considering that although the said David Anderson had caused the seal to be returned, yet he had absented himself from the burgh, and it was uncertain whether he would return, he, the said Bailie Martin, was of opinion that the said David Anderson was no longer worthy of the confidence of the burgh, and had been guilty of so high a malversation in office as to render it a just and proper measure to deprive him of office; which being considered, the whole members of council present (except Andrew Wilson and Peter Ramsay, who dissented and protested) agreed with the sentiments expressed by Bailie Martin, and deprived the said David Anderson of his office of town clerk, and appointed William Walker, town clerk of Inverkeithing, to be common clerk of this burgh in his room. Thereafter Mr Walker accepted office."

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EXPENSE OF THE ACTION FOR REDUCING THE  
ELECTION.

15th Oct. 1766.—Bailie Morrison laid before the council an account due Mr Borthwick, the town's Edinburgh agent, amounting to £477, 10s. 4d. sterling, being the expense laid out by him preceding this date in defending the magistrates and council against the actions of reduction, &c., at the instance of Peter Ramsay and others; and in respect the town has not ready money to pay these accounts, it is agreed to grant a bond for payment thereof.\*

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THE BURGH RESTORED—ELECTION OF A COUNCIL BY  
THE BURGESSES, &c.

15th Sept. 1767.†—"The magistrates and council elected upon the 21st of July last, in virtue of His Majesty's warrant and order for a poll, viz., Peter

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\* The council having been unsuccessful in defending their election both in the Court of Session and House of Lords, the burgh was disfranchised.

† There was no meeting of council from 26th March till 15th Sept. 1767.

Ramsay, Andrew Wilson, James Nairne, &c., met, when Bailie Ramsay produced His Majesty's royal approbation and confirmation of the election, together with the report of the Sheriffs of Fife, Perth, and Midlothian, by whom the proceedings were conducted."

The report by the Sheriffs bears that, having duly summoned the whole inhabitants, burgesses and heritors of Pittenweem, to attend within the council chamber of Pittenweem on 21st July last, they attended there, when John Hislop, merchant in Cupar, on behalf of certain burgesses and heritors, appeared and protested against the election for sundry reasons, and amongst others, "That Sir John Anstruther of Anstruther, in the view of getting elected a set of magistrates and councillors attached to his political interest, had fallen upon ways and methods to have many of the burgesses and heritors of this burgh, whose names are annexed to the protest to the number of 44, conveyed to his house at Elie, where they had been detained for several weeks, without its being possible for their fellow burgesses and heritors or other persons interested to have free access to them, or to hold any communication or conversation with them upon the subject of this election, which was contrary to the principles of the Constitution and the freedom of elections." Thereafter, in answer to said protest, Mr Ila Campbell, as counsel for David Brown, Peter Ramsay, and other burgesses and heritors to the number of 80, who had lodged claims to vote at this election, set forth in substance that the scheme for stopping procedure, which the protestors had kept a secret till this moment, was only the weak effort of a minority, who were sensible they had no chance of prevailing in the election, and, in answer to the foregoing reason of protest, they alleged, "That in point of fact, the respondents did all and each of them deny their being detained in Sir John Anstruther's house of Elie, or in any other house; and that, though some of them had paid visits to Sir John Anstruther, and slept nights at his house, they know no law against such friendly intercourse with their neighbour, as they were never detained there against their will, or hindered from passing or repassing between Sir John's house and Pittenweem about their lawful affairs, and from having intercourse with their friends and families as formerly. Besides, many of the respondents had other reasons for often sleeping in their neighbour's houses, rather than their own; for that,

were it competent, they are ready to prove that many illegal attempts were made to secure them by offers of large sums of money and other rewards, after they had come under engagement to vote in the way which they had this day to do at the election; and they must also mention that a few weeks ago a body of between 30 and 40 Highlanders from one of the forfeited estates in the county of Perth was hired by one of the candidates at this election, and made their appearance in the town of Pittenweem, with a piper playing before them, to the great terror of the inhabitants, and with a manifest view of overawing the election; that some of these still remain, and the others were not sent away until a suit was commenced for that effect, before the Sheriff of the county." To which it was replied by Mr Wight, advocate, for the protestors, that "with regard to what was alleged of one of the candidates having brought to the burgh a number of Highlanders to overawe the election, no such design could be imputed to him, for he contended that during the political contests in these and the other burghs in the district, some of the other party, with a view to intimidate his friends, had brought numbers of people from the country in the neighbourhood of Pittenweem to traverse the streets in the night time, and to insult those who were supposed to be in his interest; that, with a view to protect himself and his friends from insults, he had sent for 30 men from Strathern, during whose stay in the place no riot was ever committed, and by a precognition taken before some of the Justices of the Peace, it appeared that they had behaved in the most inoffensive manner." It appeared to the Sheriffs that these objections were frivolous and groundless, and they accordingly ordered the poll to be proceeded with. The council room being too small for the meeting, they repaired to the Parish Church, where 78 votes were given all for the same set of persons.

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#### THE TOWN CLERK REPONED.

19th March 1768.—“The magistrates and council, taking into consideration that the former magistrates and council, whose election was reduced and set aside by decret of the Court of Session, and the sentence affirmed by judgment of the House of Peers, had deposed David Anderson from his office of town clerk, altho' he had been appointed clerk for life, and that without any action or complaint being instituted against him for that pur-

pose ; and whereas it appears to be a matter of much doubt whether David Anderson could be deprived of his office in that manner : It is agreed that the said David Anderson should be appointed clerk of the burgh during the pleasure of the council, in room of Mr Wight, the clerk appointed by the former magistrates, who had never resided in the town.”

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#### EXPENSE OF THE REDUCTION OF THE ELECTION.

27th Nov. 1769.—It is resolved to raise an action to reduce and set aside the bond granted by the former magistrates and council for £477, 10s. 4d., as the expenses connected with the reduction of the election of 1765.

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#### RUINOUS HOUSES.

26th April 1770.—Three ruinous houses which have not been inhabited for a number of years, are to be sold by the magistrates.

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#### PITTENWEEM COAL.

10th Aug. 1771.—An agreement entered into between the town and Sir John Anstruther as to shipping of coal, &c.\*

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#### A NEW TOWN CLOCK.

30th Sept. 1773.—John Smith, clock and watch-

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\* At this time a company was started under the firm of the “Newark Coal Company,” to work the Pittenweem coal. Sir John Anstruther, who was a leading shareholder, entered into an agreement with the town to form the basin at the harbour, erect new quays, and rebuild a great part of the old pier, which had been beaten down by a storm, in consideration of certain privileges being granted for the shipment of coal and salt. Upwards of 300 men were employed at the mines, and considerable quantities of the mineral were exported to Holland and elsewhere. An impost of one farthing per ton, payable to the town, on the coal, salt, and other materials imported or exported by the company, was let for a year by roup at £8, 5s. sterling, which, without taking into account the tacksman’s profit, would indicate an import and export of about 8000 tons annually. This company seems to have given up working the coal in 1794. Although the Pittenweem coal had been wrought prior to the Reformation, there is no mention in the council records of its having been exported until the formation of this company. The right to the coal in certain lands within the burgh belonging to Anstruther of Balcaskie formed the subject of a lawsuit about the end of last century between him and Anstruther of Elie. Both the Court of Session and House of Lords decided in favour of Anstruther of Elie.

maker here, agrees to make a new town clock for £25, and to allow £5 for the old one ; which offer was accepted.

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ASSISTANT TO THE TOWN CLERK.

16th March 1776.—Patrick Plenderleath, writer in Elie, appointed helper and successor to David Anderson, town clerk, on condition he shall reside in the town.

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BUILDING OF THE RELIEF CHURCH.

8th Aug. 1777.—“The council being informed that there have been stones wrought for building a meeting house in this town without asking leave of the magistrates and council, they discharge any more stones to be wrought on the ground belonging to this town, and orders the officer to make intimation hereof to the oversman of the said meeting.”

9th Sept. 1777.—“There was laid before the council a petition from Sir Robert Anstruther, craving to be allowed to take stones from the town’s quarries for repairing or rebuilding a tenement which he says is his property : The bailies and council refuse the desire of said petition, in respect it does not appear to them that Sir Robert has any concern in the building or repairing of said house, or is at the expense thereof, or that said house is meant or intended for granaries or a dwelling-house, but that the same is evidently intended for a dissenting meeting house, the building of which the magistrates and council do not think it their duty or for the good of the burgh to encourage. At same time, the council express their readiness to allow Sir Robert Anstruther to take stones from the town’s quarry for building or repairing any other tenements within the burgh which are his property.”\*

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\* The occasion of the formation of a Relief congregation in Pittenweem was the settlement in the Parish Church of Mr, afterwards Dr Nairne, whose ministrations were unacceptable to a portion of the parishioners. Many difficulties were encountered by them in obtaining a place of worship. Most of the proprietors of lands in the neighbourhood being of opinion with the Town Council, that a dissenting church would not be “for the good of the Burgh,” refused a site. Ultimately, Sir Robert Anstruther of Balcaskie agreed to sell them his dog-kennel at the shore, which was pulled down, and a Church erected in its place. The tyrannical resolution of the Town Council to obstruct them in the exercise of the right which every other proprietor enjoyed of quarrying stones at the seashore for building purposes, was overcome by

## CATHOLIC EMANCIPATION.

8th Jan. 1779.—“There was laid before the council a representation and petition from the kirk session, burghesses, and inhabitants, expressing their fears from the late repeal of the penal statutes against papists in England, and dreading that a bill is to be brought into Parliament to grant the same liberties to Roman Catholics in Scotland, and craving the council to request their representative in Parliament to oppose the bill, which, being considered by the magistrates and council, they agree to comply with the prayer of the petition, and ordered a copy of their resolution to be transmitted for publication in the newspapers.”

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 NUISANCES.

29th Dec. 1781.—“The bailies and council enact that in time coming the dung upon the streets, which has become a great nuisance, shall be removed and carried off the streets once a fortnight by the proprietors thereof; otherwise the land labourers within the burgh are authorised to carry off the same without paying any price therefor.”

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 SCARCITY OF FOOD.

13th Feb. 1783.—150 bolls of oats purchased on the town's account, and the treasurer is instructed to receive and deliver out the oats, and sell the meal.

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 OPPOSITION TO REFORM.

5th April 1785.—“The majority of the bailies and council being satisfied with the present mode of electing the magistrates and council of this burgh, and their representative in Parliament, and being convinced that any alteration made thereon would be an infringement on the Constitution, and be attended with dangerous consequences, the majority resolve to write their represen-

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the discovery of a sufficient quantity of materials within the limits of their own purchase. Other obstacles of a still more aggravating kind were cast in the way. On several occasions, the walls built during the day were maliciously pulled down in the night, so that it became necessary to have relays of men to work both night and day; and after the building had been completed, and the congregation, which had hitherto met in the open air, were assembled within it for their first service, the windows were smashed by some miscreants outside. Similar outrages continued to be perpetrated for some time afterwards.



tative to oppose any plan of reform or alteration that may be proposed."

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#### ERECTION OF THE DOCKYARD.

4th Aug. 1786.—“There was laid before the Council a petition from John and David Laings, shipbuilders, craving liberty to build ships on the piece of vacant ground opposite to Mary and Elizabeth Brown’s house, and to extend a dockyard 50 feet down the harbour, and to put a dyke about the same; which petition being considered by the council, they, in order to encourage trade in the burgh, grant the desire thereof, provided always that said dockyard and building is in no ways to interrupt the highway or damage or injure the harbour.”

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#### TREASURER’S SALARY.

19th Sept. 1786.—It is resolved to give the treasurer a salary of £5 yearly, in place of any profits upon election dinners or drink.

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#### EXPENDITURE OF THE TOWN’S FUNDS.

19th April 1788.—“Bailie Hogg laid before the council a letter from Mr Anstruther, their member of Parliament, inclosing a paper wrote by the people called reformers, throwing out many groundless reflections against the council with regard to the expenditure of the town’s money, and which paper is intended to be produced in their application for a reform; and as Mr Anstruther in his letter desires the council to transmit him immediately a state of the town’s debts in 1765, a state of it now, what the revenue of the town is, how it is disposed of, and what charges are upon it, the council appoint the magistrates, &c., to meet on Monday for that purpose.”

*Excerpts from Answers for the Burgh of Pittenweem to the orders of the Honourable House of Commons.*

The following is an account of the gross revenue of the burgh for the year 1788:—

Money rent for land and feu-duty,	-	-	£107	6	9
„ „ for the milns,	-	-	5	14	0
„ „ for customs and shore dues,	-	-	8	0	0
„ „ for street dung,	-	-	1	11	0
Feu-duty of Battymuir, &c.,	-	-	1	6	8

Grain rent,	-	-	-	-	-	51	16	10½
Gross rent,	-	-	-	-	-	£175	15	3½
<i>Deductions.</i>								
Feu-duties, stipend, and salaries,	-	-	-	-	-	58	7	9
Net rent,	-	-	-	-	-	£117	7	6½

To the fifth order it was replied that no land had been sold since the union, except some ruinous houses. That in 1780 the town feued to Sir John Anstruther 13 acres 29 falls of townsmuir, at 15s. per acre, amounting to £9, 19s. 2d., the rent whereof previously was about £3, 15s. There had been besides some other small feus.

The magistrates, treasurer, and clerk humbly beg leave to represent to the honourable House of Commons that the finances of the burgh are now in a better state than they have been for a very long time past. Long ago, the town owed considerable sums, and for one of these in 1728 there was heritable security given to Mr David Aikenhead, and infestment taken on all the town's lands, for £227, 15s. 6d. sterling of principal, besides annual rents, and the creditors stood infest in the whole until about the year 1779 or 1780, when the principal sum and balance of interest were paid up, there having been betwixt 1772 and 1777 £149 of interest paid, besides several other sums.

Since the year 1786, the magistrates and council have laid out very considerable sums on the repairs of the church, manse, and schoolhouse, and in giving a large town house a new roof, and they have rebuilt the shambles, and have also laid out considerable sums on the town's milns; they have new paved the high street of a very considerable length, and have made a new street from the high street to the harbour, and paved the same where there was no passage for carriages before, the road to the harbour being on the east side of the abbey wall, a long way round, and all this is done without increasing the debt of the town; there remains still a good deal to do, all the lower streets want a pavement; the piers bulwarks and sea dyke require constant repairs.

#### THE SCHOLAR'S LOFT.

8th Sept. 1789.—The council agree to pay the Session £6 for the scholar's loft, which is to be pulled down, and the new one for the magistrates erected.

## THE CORN BILL.

12th Feb. 1791.—There was laid before the council a letter from the Provost of Glasgow, inclosing resolutions respecting the corn bill presently depending in Parliament, but with regard to which the council do not at present think it proper or necessary to give any answer, they not being sufficient judges of the subject.

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SCARCITY OF FOOD.

7th June 1793.—In consequence of the scarcity and dearth of meal, the council agree to join with the kirk session and sea box in purchasing a cargo to be brought to this burgh.

THE END.

1871

1872

1873

1874

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