

# THE SCOTTISH SOLDIERS OF FORTUNE.

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## CHAPTER I.

### THE SCOTS IN RUSSIA.

Carmichael of Howgate—Dalziel of Binns—Generals Drummond and Bruce, the Founder of the Russian Artillery and Engineers—Col. Whiteford—Geijer's Report.

AMONG the earliest Scottish adventurers in Russia was John Carmichael, son of the Laird of Howgate, and grandson of James Carmichael of Hyndford and that Ilk, who took service under the Czar Ivan Basilowitz, a prince who did much to promote the civilisation of his subjects, by inviting artisans from Lübeck and elsewhere, and who first formed a standing army—the *Strelitz*, or Body Guard of Archers—at the head of which he conquered Kazan in 1552, and two years subsequently Astrakan.

John Carmichael, at the head of 5,000 men, greatly distinguished himself at the siege of Pleskov, in the district of Kiev, then invested by Stephen, King of Poland, when its garrison was said to consist of 70,000 foot and 7,000 horse (which seems barely probable); and of this city,

then the only walled one in Muscovy (*Atlas Geo.*, 1711), John Carmichael was made Governor.

Feodor, the successor of Ivan, in 1595 gave up to Sweden the province of Esthonia, where at some early period the Douglasses must have acquired lands, as there is a place there still named the Douglasberg; but the last heiress of that line (says Murray, in his letters from the Baltic, 1841), the Countess of Douglas, was married to Count Ingelstrom. According to *Relations of the most Famous Kingdoms*, published in 1630, the number of Scotch and Dutch in the Czar's service is given at only 150 "all in one band."

General Baron Manstein, in his *Memoirs of Russia* (1773), tells us that during the war with Poland the Czar Alexis Michailowitz, grandson of Feodor, who succeeded to the throne in 1645, formed his regiments of infantry on the European plan, and gave the command of them to foreign officers. "The Regiment of Boutinsky had subsisted ever since 1642; one Dalziel commanded it," he records; "this regiment was composed of fifty-two companies, each of a hundred men. There are also to be seen ancient lists of the regiment of the First Moskowsky of the year 1648: a General Drummond was the commander."

The name of the former is pretty familiar to the Scots as that of the terrible old "Persecutor," Sir Thomas Dalziel of the Binns, whose spirit is yet averred to haunt the fields where he slew the children of the Covenant, who was supposed to be shot-proof, and whose spectre, with a voluminous white "vow-beard," still haunts the house in which he was born and the tomb in which he was laid at Binns, in 1685.

After serving as Colonel in the Scottish contingent of eight battalions sent in 1641 to protect our Ulster colonists, being Governor of Carrickfergus, and fighting at Benburb and leading a brigade at Worcester, he was committed to the Tower of London ; but escaped to reach Russia, where a letter from Charles II, then at Cologne, at once procured him rank in the Russian service when in his 53rd year ; but some obscurity involves his movements in that country, as the wars in which he was engaged but little interested the rest of Europe.

The other officer, Lieutenant-General Drummond, was afterwards Governor of Smolensko, a city even then of great strength ; and was the same officer who brought into Scotland the use of the thumb-screw as an instrument of torture.

Finding them skilful and brave, Alexis invited other Scots to join his army ; and ere long, says General Manstein, three thousand of them arrived in Russia "after the defeat and imprisonment of Charles I. These were very well received ; they had a place assigned them contiguous to the town of Moscow, where they built good houses and formed that part of this great city which is distinguished to this day by the name of *Inostranaya Sloboda*, or the habitation of strangers."

One of these adventurers was very probably Christopher Galloway, the Scottish horologer, who constructed the great clock in the ancient tower of the *Spaski* at Moscow, stated to have been done about this time.

Among these was certainly James Bruce, who became a General, attained the highest honours, and whose successor

was afterwards the plenipotentiary of the Czar at the Treaty of Neistadt. Two of this name won distinction on the Continent. In the German memoirs of Henry James Bruce (whom we shall ere long meet in the Prussian service) he begins thus:—

“James Bruce and John Bruce, cousins, and descendants of the family of Airth, in the county of Stirling, a branch of the family of Clackmannan), formed a resolution, during the troubles by Oliver Cromwell, to leave their native country and push their fortunes abroad; and as there were some ships in the port of Leith ready to sail for the Baltic, they agreed to go to that part of the world; but as there happened to be two of these ships’ masters of the same name, by an odd mistake the cousins embarked in different vessels—one bound to Prussia, the other to Russia—by which accident they never again saw each other. John Bruce, my grandfather, landed at Königsberg, went to Berlin, and entered the service of the Elector of Brandenburg.”

His brother James, in the Russian service, was the first officer to render the artillery of that country efficient, and this was perfected by his grandson, under Peter, by whom the latter was made Master-General of the Ordnance. “Artillery was known in Russia,” says Baron Manstein, “so long ago as the reign of Ivan Basilowitz II; but the pieces were of enormous size, and quite unserviceable.”

Under the Master-General Bruce it was soon made equal to any artillery in Europe, and by 1714 it numbered 13,000 pieces. Bruce had foundries at Moscow, St. Petersburg, Woronitz, Catharinenburg, and other places,

and to each regiment of horse and foot two 3-lb. field-pieces were attached. Bruce invited his kinsman, Henry James (whose memoirs we have quoted), to join him in Russia, which he did about 1710 with the rank of Captain of Engineers and Artillery. Manstein also records that the elder Bruce "took care to form a body of engineers. He instituted schools at Moscow and St. Petersburg, where youth were taught practical geometry, engineering, and gunnery." And this at a time when the Muscovites despised all science, looked upon a mathematician as a sorcerer, and nearly slew a Dutch surgeon for having a skeleton in his study. (*Earl of Carlisle, etc.*)

The Scots had much to do in developing discipline among the half-barbarous hordes of the Russian army. The *Atlas Geographus*, an old topographical work published at the Savoy in London in 1711, says that the Russians, in endeavouring to bring their soldiers under better discipline, "make use of a great many Scots and German officers, who instruct them in all the warlike exercises that are practised by other European nations."

For a long period, says Manstein, Russia had no other troops than the *Strelitzes*, ill-disciplined, ill-clothed, and armed with whatever came to hand; few had firearms, but many had a battle-axe called a *berdash*; the rest had only wooden clubs.

In the early part of the eighteenth century their infantry were armed with a musket, sword, and hatchet, the latter slung behind. Their cavalry wore steel caps and corselets, and were armed with bows, sabres, spears, mauls, and round targets; and during the epoch of Dalziel, Drummond,

Bruce, and the Gordons the army had a monster battle-drum, braced on the backs of four horses abreast, with four drummers at each end to beat it.

The scene of their first active service was against the Poles, with whom Alexis Michailowitz had gone to war in 1653, and from whom he captured Smolensko, the government of which was given to General Drummond, and dreadful devastations followed in Livonia at the storming of Dorpt, Kokenhousen, and many other places.

Dalziel, now raised to the rank of full General, commanded against the Tartars and the Turkish armies of Mohammed IV (1654-5), and in these contests, waged at the head of barbarous hordes against hordes equally barbarous, the wanderer must have acquired much of that unyielding sternness, if not ferocity, which characterised his future proceedings in his own country. In these campaigns quarter was never asked nor given; prisoners were shot, beheaded, impaled, or put to death by slow fires, and by every species of torture that Muscovite brutality or the most refined cruelty the Oriental mind could suggest; and in this terrible arena of foreign service was schooled the future Colonel of the Scots Greys and commander of the Scottish troops—the scourge of the Covenanters.

After eleven years of this wild work, Sir Thomas Dalziel and General Drummond were invited home by Charles II, whose restoration was accomplished. The first-named officer requested from the Czar a certificate of his faithful service in Russia. It was given under the great seal of the Empire, and a part of it states:

“That he formerly came hither to serve our Great

Czarish Majesty: whilst with us, he stood against our enemies and fought valiantly. The military men under his command he regulated and disciplined, and himself led them to battle, and he did and performed everything faithfully as a noble commander."

From Russia he was accompanied by his comrade, General William Drummond of Cromlix, who had also fought at Worcester, and who in 1686 was created Lord Drummond and Viscount Strathallan, and was ultimately Lord of the Treasury, and on the death of Dalziel became Commander-in-Chief of the Scottish army. He died in 1688. There can be little doubt that these two officers, who, Burnett says, were "not without difficulty sent back by the Czar," returned to Scotland with hearts boiling with rancour against the party which had sold the king and driven themselves into long exile.

After the defeat of Montrose at the battle of Philiphaugh there came into the service of Russia Colonel Walter Whiteford—son of Walter Whiteford, Bishop of Brechin in 1634, and previously Rector of Moffat, but who was deposed by the General Assembly of 1638—an officer who figured in a very dark and terrible episode.

While he was at The Hague with Montrose there came thither a Dr. Dorislaus, a D.C.L., a native of Delft, but who had been a Professor in Gresham College, was Judge-Advocate to the Army of Essex, and as such had assisted at the trial of Charles I. While he was at dinner in an inn, Colonel Whiteford, with eleven English cavaliers, entered the room with their swords drawn, and telling all who were present "not to be alarmed," added sternly "that

their only object was the agent of the rebel Cromwell"; and crying, "Thus dies one of our king's judges," they stabbed Dorislaus to death. "The first thrust was given by Whiteford, who thereafter clave his skull by one blow of his broadsword."

From The Hague, Whiteford joined the Russian army, with which he served for several years, and with which he remained until the accession of James VII, when he returned to Edinburgh, where he was resident in 1691. (Dodd's *Hist.*, fol., Brussels; Echard, Tindal's *Rapin*, etc.) His father, the Bishop, was a daring prelate, who never ascended the pulpit without a brace of pistols under his cassock.

The Russia to which the Scots of those days went was a barbarous land indeed. In Geijer's history of the Swedes a state of Russia was drawn up for Gustavus Adolphus—"There are two causes of weakness in Russia," says Geijer; "one, corruption of the clergy, whence the education of the people was wretched, so that gluttony and bloodshed were not vices, but matters of boast; the other was the foreign (Scots and German) soldiery. For the Muscovites, though hating everything outlandish (or foreign), could effect nothing without foreign aid. All they accomplished was done by treachery and force of numbers. The indigenous soldier received no pay, therefore he robbed. . . . With respect to taxes there was no law, but the lieutenants extorted what they could, and took bribes for remissness. The condition of the lower class of the Russians was miserable from four causes—slavery; from the multiplicity of races; through the weight

of imposts ; the number of festival days, which are consumed in debauchery. Laws are unknown, and the peasants, who must labour five days of the week for their lords, have only the sixth and seventh to themselves.”



## CHAPTER II.

### THE SCOTS IN RUSSIA—(*Continued*).

The Gordons of Auchintoul and Auchleuchries—Marshal Ogilvie—Goron and Mazeppa, etc.—The Battle of Pultowa—Marshal Keith and his Scottish comrades.

THE arrival in Russia of the two Generals Gordon, of Marshal Ogilvie and others, tended still further to develop in the army the seeds of good discipline sown by their Scottish predecessors.

The principal of these, General Alexander Gordon of Auchintoul, wrote a life of the Czar Peter the Great, to which he prefixed a memoir of himself. It was published at Aberdeen in 1755, and (according to the *Nouvelle Biographie Générale*) in German at Leipzig ten years subsequently.

This officer was the son of Lewis Gordon of Auchintoul, Lord of Session in 1688 (whose predecessor was Lord Edmondston), by his wife Isobel Gray of Braik. He was born in 1669, and in 1688 entered, as a cadet, one of the ill-fated Scottish companies raised by desire of James VII to assist the French in the war in Catalonia.

In these companies were Major Buchan of Auchmacoy, Irvine of Cults, Colonel Wauchop of Niddry, Graham of Braco (afterwards a Capuchin friar), and many other Scottish gentlemen of good family.

In that service young Gordon carried a musket for two

severe campaigns, and eventually was made a captain by Louis XIV.

In 1693 he went to Russia to push his fortune, and there met—already high in position and rank—his clansman, General Patrick Gordon of Auchleuchries, in Aberdeenshire, the General-in-Chief of the whole Russian army, through whom he obtained his first commission therein as captain, we believe from the subsequent incident.

He had been invited to a festive gathering, where several young Russian nobles were present, and as these were rather prone to insult all strangers (but more especially Scots), “when in liquor,” he states, he soon heard disrespectful language applied to foreigners, and particularly to his own countrymen. Gordon’s blood took fire at once. The sword was not much used in Russian quarrels. With one blow of his clenched fist he levelled the most impertinent of these lords on the floor, and, in the general row that ensued, severely wounded five others. The affair reached the ears of Peter I, who sent for Captain Gordon, who went into his presence with vague fears of the knout or Siberia; but his bearing so won the favour of the prince that the latter said :

“Well, sir, your accusers have done you justice in admitting that you soundly beat *six* of them, so I will also do you justice.”

A few minutes after he put in Gordon’s hand his commission as Major—a rank speedily followed by that of Lieutenant-Colonel.

In 1696, when in his twenty-seventh year, he was despatched to *Azak*, or *Azoff*, as it is now named, a city on

the left bank of the Don, to relieve the first siege of that place by the Turks. He had under his orders 4,000 horse, 20,000 infantry, and a strong body of Cossacks and Calmacks. He fulfilled his instructions ; levelled the fortifications, and marched back to Moscow. (*Life of Peter I.*)

In 1697 he married the daughter of General Patrick Gordon, the widow of Colonel Strasburg, a German. The General, who was a cadet of the Haddo family (now Lords of Aberdeen), had first entered the Swedish service in his eighteenth year, and was taken prisoner at the great battle and capture of Warsaw in 1655, and at the peace entered the Russian service. On the 30th of November, 1699, he died in his 66th year, as his son-in-law records, "much regretted by the Czar and the whole nation. His Majesty visited him five times during his illness, was present at the moment he expired, and shut his eyes with his own hand ; he was buried in great state."

Marshal Baron Ogilvie now began to take a prominent part in military matters, and to him, says Baron Manstein, "the Russians are indebted for the first establishment of order and discipline in their army, especially in the infantry. As to the dragoons, it was General Ronne, a Courlander, who had charge of them.

Ogilvie's grandfather had been in the Austrian service, under the Emperor Ferdinand, by whom he was created, for his bravery, a Baron of the Empire. From his youth he had served on the Rhine and in Hungary against the Turks. He was in his sixtieth year when he entered the service of Peter the Great, and commanded at Narva ;

“but,” says Gordon, “he never could hit it off with Prince Mentschikoff, nor bear his insolence.”

On having 1,000 men added to his regiment, Alexander Gordon was sent to Tevere, 150 miles from Moscow, to have them disciplined, which he achieved personally and perfectly. He was then despatched—in the course of the war against Charles XII—on the expedition to Narva, which Ogilvie besieged on the 24th of May, 1700, and took by a remarkable ruse. Having taken prisoners a number of Swedes, he stripped them of their uniforms, which were dark blue faced with bright yellow. In these he clad 2,000 of his Russian troops, and drew the Swedes thereby into an ambush where the river of Narva is broad and deep, and has a fall of eighteen feet over a ledge of rocks. There he cut to pieces 1,200 horse and foot, after which the city fell into his hands, and many more were put *hors de combat*. Gordon was detached to Piahagie with orders to build and garrison a fort there.

Ogilvie next captured Ivanogorod, on the right bank of the Narva, 90 miles from St. Petersburg, and commanded the whole army in the Grodno, a province forming part of Lithuania; he sent a detachment to capture the King of Sweden's baggage at Haza, *en route* to Wilna, and did so, killing 100 of the convoy and taking 40 prisoners; but in November, 1700, near Narva, Charles XII, at the head of only 9,000 Swedes, obtained a victory over 39,000 Russians, led, as some wrongly state, by Peter in person.

Alexander Gordon was taken prisoner, but was exchanged for the Swedish Colonel, Einshild; after which he

was made Brigadier-General, and despatched upon all hazardous exploits.

In January, 1708, he forced the Pass of Zeipts without the loss of a man, and blocked up the strong castle there. He then attacked the Swedes near Kysmark, routed them, and on the 13th June "marched into Royal Prussia, there to take orders from King Augustus."

When Charles XII was about to cross the Disna, which issues from a lake in the district of Wilna, to form a junction with the troops of the Hetmann Mazeppa (whose name has been made so familiar to us by Byron), Peter the Great sent Brigadier Gordon with a battalion of Grenadiers, four columns of dragoons, and eight pieces of cannon to oppose the passage on the 21st October, 1708.

At six o'clock, in the gloom of the evening, the Swedes made an attempt to cross the river on floats or rafts constructed of freshly felled trees; but Gordon's guns opened upon them, flashing redly out of the gloom of the dark pine forest, and they were repulsed, their exultant shouts of triumph giving place to shrieks of drowning and despair. The firing lasted till eleven p.m., when the ammunition of the Russians became expended, and Gordon reluctantly had to retire, in obedience to an order from Marshal Schermatoff, with the loss of 800 killed and 900 wounded—a strange disproportion; but 2,000 Swedes were slain or drowned in the river. The passage of the latter was nevertheless effected, leaving Mazeppa free to pursue his march, "with a remnant of 6,000 Cossacks, being all that had escaped the swords of the Muscovites." Bad

ammunition had been purposely and scantily sent to Gordon by his private enemy, Prince Mentschikoff.

Gordon's next service was his expedition to oppose the Swedes under General Crassow, and the Poles and Lithuanians in the interest of King Stanislaus.

The battle of Pultowa soon followed—

“ Dread Pultowa's day,  
When fortune left the royal Swede,  
Around a slaughtered army lay,  
No more to combat or to bleed.  
The power and glory of the war,  
Faithless as their vain votaries, men,  
Had passed to the triumphant Czar,  
And Moscow's walls were safe again !”

By that defeat, Charles, so long the terror of Europe, became a fugitive in Turkey, while the Czar restored Augustus to the throne of Poland, deposed Stanislaus, expelled the Swedes, and made himself master of Livonia, Ingria, and Carelia. (Voltaire, *History of Russia*.)

Old Marshal Ogilvie now took service under Augustus, and, dying “in harness,” in 1712, was solemnly interred at Dresden.

But, prior to that event, Gordon tells us that the Russians, 10,000 strong, came up with the Poles at Podkamian, in Black Prussia, defeated and pursued them to Limberg. He led the infantry on this occasion, and sent home to Scotland several Polish standards and other trophies.

Next we find him in Transylvania with a powerful Russian column, assisting Prince Ragotzky against the Austrians, from whom he tells us he captured several tons of Tokay, which he also sent to Scotland—we presume to

his old ancestral house of Auchintoul, in the parish of Aberchirder, where it still stands.

In 1711 he heard of his father's death, and returned home *viâ* Dantzic, Holland, and England, where he landed at Harwich. In the September of the same year he made additions to the house of Auchintoul, and purchased the barony of Laithers in the same country.

In 1715 (according to Smollett's *Hist.*) he joined the Earl of Mar at Sheriffmuir, where he led the Western clans in battle, and, escaping with him after the conflict, was offered the rank of Lieutenant-General in the Spanish army; but he declined, and, returning to Scotland, died in 1751, in the eighty-second year of his age, and was buried near Marnock Kirk, where "no memorial marks the spot." (*New Stat. Acct.*)

The portrait prefixed to his history shows him a long-faced yet handsome man, with a high wig, the ends of which curl down on his breast-plate and coat, which is worn open.

The most distinguished engineer officer in the army of the Czar Peter was Captain Bruce of Buzion, a native of Fifeshire, who had been trained in the Prussian service. He served under Peter till 1724, and was with him on his memorable Prussian expedition, and was at the battle of the Pruth. He died at his seat near Cupar (after having served in the campaign of 1745-6) in 1758. (*Scots Mag.*)

Peter the Great died on the 8th February, 1727, and was succeeded by Peter II, son of Prince Alexis, his grandson by his first wife.

It was in the year 1728 that James Francis Edward

Keith, the future Field-Marshal, and ill-fated hero of Hochkirchen, entered the Russian service. The younger son of William, ninth Earl Marischal, he was born in 1696 in the now ruined Castle of Inverugie, a once splendid edifice at St. Fergus in Aberdeenshire. Destined for the law, he preferred the profession of arms, and in the rising for King James in 1715 he was wounded at Sheriffmuir in his nineteenth year and had to fly to France, before which he had made great progress in the classics under the tutelage of the famous Bishop Keith. After joining in a futile attempt for the Stuarts in 1718, with other Scottish Cavaliers he entered the Spanish service, in which he remained till 1728, with a regiment of the Irish Brigade, commanded by the Duke of Ormond, in which he had been placed by the Duke of Leria, when, seeing advancement hopeless unless he turned Catholic, he came with a letter to the King, and in attendance upon Leria, the Ambassador to the Czarina, by whom he was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel of a newly raised corps of three battalions, called the Regiment of Ishmaëlow (from a palace near Moscow, says Manstein), and was invested at the same time with the Order of the Black Eagle. Of this regiment Count Lowenwalde was Colonel, and Gustavus Biron, Major. It was in augmentation of the Foot Guards; and the author of *Letters from Scandinavia* says that in Keith's battalion "the illustrious Romonzow served as a private soldier," to acquire a knowledge of his military duties. "The greatest part of the officers," adds Manstein, "were chosen among foreigners and the Livonian nobility. These regiments of Guards

were raised as checks upon the old ones, and to overawe the people from sedition or insurrection."

During all the twenty years of his service in Russia, James Keith was uniformly distinguished by his valour, good conduct, and humanity—the latter being one of the most striking features of his character.

Other Scotsmen came prominently forward about the same time—among them Admiral Thomas Gordon and the Count de Balmaine.

In 1738, when the Russian and Saxon armies invested Dantzic, in hope of securing the person of King Stanislaus, the town was strong, the garrison numerous, and, inspired by the presence of the French and Poles, made an obstinate defence; and on the arrival of the Russian fleet under Admiral Gordon the siege was pressed with greater fury. Under its fire the city submitted to Augustus III as King of Poland; Stanislaus fled to Prussia in the disguise of a peasant; an amnesty was proclaimed, and the French prisoners of war were taken away in Gordon's ships. (Smollet's *History*.)

In 1735 Colonel Ramsay was one of those officers who, with the Count de Bounival in the Turkish service, had been disciplining the Osmanli troops, thus causing much uneasiness in St. Petersburg. Catharine gave Ramsay and others such assurances of promotion in Russia that they joined her army, by the way of Holland, and Ramsay was commissioned as Major. "He took the name of Count de Balmaine," says Manstein, "and distinguished himself on many occasions, insomuch that he rose to the rank of Colonel, and was killed in the action of Wilmanstrand." This was in 1741.

A writer in the *Times*, in 1857, stated that "he was a son of Viscount Balmaine, whose adherence to the Stuarts compelled him to quit Scotland"; but gave no authority for this.

In 1735, when the Empress sent 10,000 men to the Rhine to succour the Emperor Charles VI, Keith commanded as Lieutenant-General under the Irish veteran Marshal Lacy. They crossed Bohemia and reached the great river in June, and Europe generally was astonished at the good order and discipline these Muscovites exhibited.

War was now resolved upon with the Turks, and in the army which began and accomplished the conquest of the Crimea were Generals Count Douglas, Leslie, Forman, Bruce, Stuart, Colonel Ramsay, Count de Balmaine, Johnston, and Lieutenant Innes (who distinguished himself at the capture of Otchakow), all Scotsmen—of whom in their places.

It was agreed that a Russian army, under Lacy, should march against the city of Azoff to punish the Tartars of the Crimea for their outrages, while another, under the Count de Munich, should penetrate to the Ukraine, and Seckendorf with the Austrians should enter Servia.

In those days the Crimean Khan, a powerful prince, paid tribute to the Sultan, and his territory, besides the noble monuments of the Genoese, contained many great cities.

Lacy came in sight of Azoff on the 15th May, 1736. Situated on an eminence, it is in a district of dangerous swamps, bleak and barren; but had a castle of great

strength. In the attack Lacy was nobly seconded by the column of Count Douglas, particularly on the 14th June, when a frightful encounter took place at the palisades, which the Tartars and Turks defended by bullets, arrows, darts, and stones for twelve consecutive days, after which the town was taken, and the Bashaw marched out with 3,400 men and 2,233 women, surrendering 167 pieces of cannon and 291 Christian slaves.

Lacy next forced the Lines of Perecop, till then deemed impregnable, and Count Balmaine stormed Kaffa, where the beautiful mosques and minarets were converted into magazines or torn down, and the stately fountains and aqueducts destroyed for the sake of their leaden pipes.

Bakhtchissari, within 22 miles of Sebastopol, next fell, and Ockzakow, where Innes led the stormers, and where 11,000 Russian regulars and 3,000 Cossacks were killed, and Keith was highly complimented for his valour by Count Munich (Manstein, p. 157), but received a dreadful wound in the thigh. It was by his valour chiefly that the place was captured, and then his humanity was grandly conspicuous, for while the furious Muscovites were sanguinary in their ferocity, he sought to check it. He rescued a child, six years of age, from the hands of one whose sabre was uplifted to cleave the helpless creature as she endeavoured to creep out from the rubbish and dead that had fallen over her. Her father, a Turkish Pasha of high position, had fallen in the siege, and she was now an orphan. Unable to protect her himself, Keith sent her to his brother, the loyal, yet attainted, Earl Marischal, who brought her up as a Christian, treated her as a daughter

of his own, "and, as she grew up," says Lord de Ros, "gave her charge of his household, where she did the honours of the table, and behaved herself with great propriety and discretion."



## CHAPTER III.

### THE SCOTS IN RUSSIA.—(*Continued.*)

Keith in the Ukraine—Leslie slain—Keith and Prince Cantemier—Made Governor of the Ukraine—Balmaine slain—Keith in Finland—Quells a mutiny at Wybourg.

BEFORE referring again to Keith we may state that during its stay in the Crimea the Russian army ravaged the whole country. During the winters of 1736 and 1737 the Tartars, thirsting for vengeance, burst into the Ukraine, despite all the precautions of Munich, giving towns to the flames, and carrying off above 1,000 Christian slaves.

The defence of the Ukraine was assigned to General Keith, with the column of troops that had served with him on the Rhine. It had recrossed Bohemia and Poland, and in September, 1736, was in winter quarters in Kiow.

In the February of the next year, on the 24th, some thousand Tartars crossed the Dnieper on the ice, near the small town of Kilberdna, where a brigade of Keith's, under Major-General Leslie, was posted. Finding that the Tartars had passed his outposts, he gathered 200 bayonets to attack them. The Tartars, supposing this was the advanced guard of a large body, fell back, but on learning their mistake they returned; a conflict ensued, and Leslie, with nearly his whole detachment, perished. No prisoners were taken but his son, Captain Leslie, who

served as his aide-de-camp, and twenty men. Penetrating further now, the Tartars gave all to fire and sword for forty-eight hours, till overtaken by a column of 2,000 cavalry sent by Keith, who cut down 300 and retook all their booty.

On the 25th of July, 1737, in the engagement near Karasu-Bazaar, in a valley 36 miles from Kaffa—now the great mart of the Crimea for fruit and wine—Lieutenant-General Count Douglas, who led the advanced guard, consisting of 6,000 dragoons and infantry, had orders to seize the town, while Marshal Lacy followed with the main body. Douglas was repulsed by 15,000 Turks, who held an entrenched camp above the town; but, on being reinforced by only two regiments of cavalry, he returned to the attack again and captured it, *sabre à la main*, after an hour's conflict, and won a vast amount of plunder.

In the army which opened the campaign of April, 1738, against the Turks, the Quartermaster General, Fermor, a Scotsman, led the vanguard, consisting of seven regiments of infantry, one of hussars, and 2,000 Cossacks, which he marched in hollow square to examine the position of the enemy in the neighbourhood of the Dniester, where the Osmanli troops were defeated; and now everywhere the rapid successes of the Russian arms roused the Court of Vienna, which was bound by treaty to assist the Porte. But the Russians still pressed on towards the shores of the Black Sea, and prophecies were as usual propagated that the period fatal to the Crescent had arrived. (*Mém. de Brandenburg.*)

In 1738 Major William M'Kenzie of Conansby entered

the Russian army as Colonel under the Empress Anne, but returned to the British service on the war breaking out with Spain, and died in 1770.

In the year 1739 occurred what was termed "the affair of Prince Cantemier," in which Keith was concerned.

The Count de Munich having formed a regiment of Wallachians when the new campaign opened, gave command of it to Prince Cantemier, a near relation of one of the same name, who had joined Peter I in 1711. The Prince, *en route* to Russia, passed by the way of Brody, a town of Galicia, the residence of Count Potosky, Crown-General of Poland, and consequently averse to Russian interests. He threw the Prince into a loathsome vault, and offered to deliver him up to the Porte—tidings of which the Prince contrived to send to Kiow, where Keith commanded. The latter instantly sent an officer to demand the release of the Prince; but Potosky denied all knowledge of the matter.

Keith threatened to enforce his demands with the sword, on which he was set at liberty and escorted to the frontier of the Ukraine: and soon after took vengeance upon his enemy, whose possessions he ravaged with fire and sword at the head of his Wallachian regiment. "He committed the most horrid cruelties," says Manstein, "and could he have got hold of Count Potosky, there is no doubt but that he would have made him undergo the same punishment to which the Count had meant to expose him."

The general progress of these wars lies apart from our narrative, and before the end of 1709, by the pacific disposition of their Christian allies, the Turks, so re-

cently devoted to destruction, obtained an advantageous peace.

The following year saw General Keith made Governor of the Ukraine—that vast region which lies south-east of Russian Poland. “He had just returned from France,” says Manstein, “where he had been for the cure of his wounds. He had orders to repair to Glogan as Governor, where he did not reside one year; but in that time he despatched more business than his predecessors had done in *ten*. The Ukraine received great benefit from the mildness of his government and the order which he established in the administration of affairs. He began to introduce, even among the Cossacks, a sort of discipline, which till then had been unknown; but he had not time to complete that work, for, the war coming on with Sweden, he was recalled. When he quitted Glogan the whole country regretted him.”

In April, 1741, there died at Cronstadt, Thomas Gordon, Admiral of all Russia. (*Scots Magazine*, 1741.)

In 1741, when the preparations for war began, the Grand Duchess Anne removed Lacy and Keith to St. Petersburg, and it was in Finland they were to act offensively, as soon as the field was taken.

The second column, to be commanded by the Prince of Hesse-Homburg, was to remain in Ingria. Others were to be formed in Livonia and Esthonia, to cover the coasts under Count Lowendal, as the Russian fleet had been in a different condition since Gordon sailed from Dantzic.

Under General Keith the first camp was formed on the 22nd July, 1741, four miles from St. Petersburg. It consisted

of five regiments of infantry, three of dragoons, and several independent companies of grenadiers, all of which were reviewed four days after by Marshal Lacy. During this ceremony the sound of cannon was heard in St. Petersburg, announcing the birth of a princess, who was named Catherine. Keith, accompanied by the Count de Balmaine, now began his march, and on the 24th August declared the war against Sweden was then inaugurated, as it was the birthday of the Emperor. At the head of each great battalion he made a harangue, exhorting the soldiers to do their duty and uphold the glory of the Russian arms.

Sweden was at that time rent by political schism. One party, called the *Hats*, was ever for war, but remained at peace when Russia was pressed by other Powers; and now, when the latter was at peace and Sweden had but few troops in Finland, that power was ready and ripe for war, and scorned the pacific advice of what was named the *Nightcap* party.

The day after war was declared, Keith again marched through Wybourg and encamped near the bridge of Abo. All the troops had fifteen days' rations, and, on a junction being formed with the column of General Uxkul, three regiments were left to hold Abo, an important town in Finland, and the advance began again, Lacy commanding the whole, towards Wilmanstrand, a fortified village on the south bank of Lake Saima, where Major-General Wrangel was in position at the head of 4,000 Swedes, while 4,000 more, under General Buddenbrog, were six miles distant.

The march lay through thick woods, deep marshes, and rocky defiles, when a false alarm was given one night that

nearly proved disastrous. The Russians fired on each other in the dark, and many officers and men were killed. "The Generals, Lacy and Keith, ran a great risk of being slain in this false alarm," says Baron Manstein. "They had small tents pitched for them between the lines which several balls had quite gone through, and about 200 of the dragoon horses, taking fright at the fire, broke loose from the picquets and ran through the highroad to Wilmanstrand."

Buddenbrog's column, on hearing the firing, pushed on to the latter place, believing it was attacked, and by 4 a.m. on the 2nd September the Russians were in front of the position, which was defended by palisades, earthworks, and fascines.

When the conflict began on the 3rd, the Swedish artillery did much execution among the attacking Russian grenadiers, on which Keith ordered two fresh battalions, those of Ingermaland and Astrakan, under General Manheim, to support them, and, on receiving a volley from them at sixty paces, the Swedes gave way. The position was carried by 5 p.m., the Swedes routed, and their own guns turned on them and Wilmanstrand.

Nearly the whole of the Swedes were taken prisoners, with all their cannon and colours. The Russian losses were 529 killed and 1,837 wounded. Among the former there fell, gallantly leading their columns, Colonels Lockman and the Count de Balmaine.

The descendants of the latter are still in Russia. When Napoleon was at St. Helena in 1817, the then Count de Balmaine was there as a Russian commissioner—the

descendant of the captor of Kaffa. (*See O'Meara's Napoleon in Exile, 2 vols.*)

The command of Wilmanstrand was assigned to General Fermor (or Farmer), with two regiments of infantry, till the place was razed to the ground, and its inhabitants were marched into Russia.

The army now returned into Russian Finland, and Lacy returned to St. Petersburg, leaving Keith in full command, and he carried on the close of the campaign by skirmishes, in which his troops were always victorious, till the 8th November, when he went into winter quarters.

Intelligence, however, was soon sent to him that the Swedes were about to invade Russian Finland, and after repairing to St. Petersburg for special orders and to attend a Council of War, he left it on the 4th December to have his troops in readiness, and on the night of the 5th the great revolution took place which placed on the throne the Princess Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Peter the Great.

In the execution of the plot which brought that startling event to pass, Manstein states that the first step of the conspirators was to seize the officer commanding the grenadiers in the imperial barracks, adding that "his name was Grews, a Scotsman, after which they took an oath of fidelity to the Princess." The name given is perhaps "Grieve," misspelt.

In 1742, when hostilities began again with Sweden, in the army assembled at Wybourg in the end of May, consisting of 36,000 men of all arms (including 10,000 in the galleys), two brigades were led by Scotsmen—Count Bruce and Major-General Brown. A dangerous mutiny

broke out in the Guards, and a cry was set up that they would massacre all foreign officers and be led by none but Russians.

Finding that no officer would venture near them, Keith, without a moment's hesitation, drew his sword and flung himself among the mutineers, and, seizing a leader with his left hand, ordered a priest to confess him, that he might shoot him on the spot at the time, commanding his aide-de-camp and some officers to seize or cut down others. On this, the mob of soldiery dispersed and rushed to their tents. "Keith," we are told, "ordered a call of the rolls at the head of the camp, that the absent should be taken into custody and information issued against all who were present at the meeting. As neither the Horse Guards nor the country regiments were concerned in this rising, they had taken arms to repel the insolence of the two regiments of Foot Guards, if they could not be otherwise appeased. If it had not been for the spirited resolution of General Keith this revolt would have spread far, as no Russian officer would have undertaken to oppose the rage of the soldiery."

The complaints of the latter were not without justice, and their hatred of foreigners rose from the fact that all the best posts were given to Scots, Germans, and other strangers; but now the knout, mutilation, and Siberia were the doom of all that were brought before the court-martial of General Romanzow.

After the final reduction of Finland, General Keith was appointed Governor, and held Abo, the capital, with a strong force, while twenty-one galleys and two prahms guarded the coast.

In the war that broke out in 1743, in connection with the Duke of Holstein's succession to the crown of Sweden, Major-General Stuart had a brigade under Lacy on board the sea squadron. It consisted of three regiments of infantry and three companies of grenadiers, and Stuart's vessels carried a red ensign.

The Swedes continued to burn all the timber which Keith had amassed on the Isle of Aland to build war-galleys, and, after many operations, Marshal Lacy effected a junction with the former, after he had beaten the Swedish galleys in a sea-fight in July.

Keith, in his new *rôle* of a naval commander, had left Hangow on the 18th of May, his galleys towed by prahms, as the wind was light, and on the 22nd came in sight of the Swedish squadron in Yungfern Sound, but could not give orders for engaging till the 29th, owing to the contrary winds that set in. Then the Swedes bore away, and Keith's galleys took up the station they had quitted.

Several minor engagements between Keith's galleys and those of the Swedes and the land batteries of the latter took place till the 1st of June, when the Swedes, whom he had always worsted, bore away and vanished in the night.

Peace followed in 1743, and Keith resumed his command at Abo, and to bring off the Russian troops under Stuart, Lapouchin, and others.



## CHAPTER IV.

### THE SCOTS IN RUSSIA.—(*Continued.*)

Keith at Stockholm—His Embassies—Joins the Prussian Army—The Gottorp Globe—General Fermor—Greig, “the Father of the Russian Navy”—Admiral Mackenzie, and Sebastopol.

A QUARREL having ensued with the Dalecarlians, and when Keith, on duty at Stockholm, had one of his aide-de-camps insulted (as a Danish officer) because he wore a scarlet uniform, Keith received orders to repair to Sweden, at the head of 11,000 men, to support the interests of the Prince of Holstein and act as ambassador.

“He suffered much in his passage with the troops under his orders from the cold and storms he had to undergo before he reached the coast of Sweden,” says his comrade Manstein; “and the Russian galleys, which never used to keep the sea later than the beginning of September, were obliged to remain on it till the latter end of November.” Any other man than Keith would hardly have been able to execute this expedition. He had not only to struggle with the violence of the storms and the piercing cold, but with the officers of the marine, who were often representing the impossibility of proceeding in so severe a season. But Keith, who had served a long time in Spain, where he had seen the galleys keep the sea in all weathers, and who,

besides, knew better than any of the officers that served in the squadron how much could be done with this part of the fleet in any climate with a good will, continued to be single in his opinion for proceeding.

He remained with his column in Sweden until 1744, when, matters being amicably adjusted, he returned with the fleet and troops to Revel on the 13th of August.

Keith served the Russian Crown in many important embassies, and a pretty well-known anecdote in connection with one of his last, on the termination of a war between the Russians and the Turks, is recorded in the *Memoirs and Papers of Sir Andrew Mitchell*.

The commissioners to treat of a peace were General Keith and the Turkish Grand Vizier. These two personages, he relates, met, with the interpreters of the Russ and Turkish between them. When all was concluded, they arose to separate. The General made his bow, hat in hand, and the turbanned Vizier his salaam; but the latter, when the ceremonies were over, turned suddenly, and coming up to Keith, took him warmly by the hand, and with a broad Scottish accent, declared that "it made him unco happy, noo that they were sae far frae hame, to meet wi' a countryman in his exalted station."

Keith stared with astonishment, and, in answer to his exclamation of surprise, the Grand Vizier gave this explanation:

"My faither was the bellman o' Kirkcaldy, in Fife, and I remember to have seen you and your brother the Earl occasionally passing."

But, with all the honours he had won in Russia, Keith

began to deem service then only a species of splendid slavery, and, leaving the Muscovite court in 1747, he entered the army of Frederick the Great of Prussia, where we shall meet him again.

Such was the career of one of the many brilliant soldiers of whose services loyalty to their native kings and the mal-influence of England deprived their mother country.

In 1748 we read of a Scottish artisan named Scott being more peacefully employed in repairing the famous globe of Gottorp after it was burnt in that year. He made the skeleton of another, on which he was seven years at work. It was deemed the largest globe in the world, and had been first made for the Duke of Holstein in 1664. The Castle of Gottorp, though in Denmark, belonged to Duke Carl-Peter, Emperor of Russia in 1762, and when bestowed on Russia, the enormous globe was conveyed on sledges to St. Petersburg through the woods of Esthonia and Finland, where trees were felled to facilitate its passage. (*Stœhlin's Monuments of Peter the Great.*)

During the war in Silesia, in 1758, the Russian army was commanded by General Fermor, who was wounded at the battle of Zorndorf, fought with the Prussians, and sent to General Dohna a trumpeter asking a three days' armistice to bury the dead and take care of the wounded, "presenting to his Prussian Majesty," says Smollett, "the humble request of General Brown, who was much weakened with loss of blood, that he might have a passport to a place where he could find such accommodation as his situation required."

In answer to this Count Dohna gave General Fermor to

understand that, as the King of Prussia remained master of the field, he would bury the dead and protect the wounded; but granted the request of General Brown. "Fermor was of Scottish extraction," adds Smollett, "but General Brown was actually a native of North Britain." (*Hist. Eng.*, vol. vi.)

In the preceding June General Fermor had been created a prince of the Holy Roman Empire.

In the *Caledonian Mercury* of the same year, under date of Versailles, 5th March, we read that "the Sieur M'Kenzie-Douglas, to whom we owe the restoration of a good understanding between our court and that of Russia, has obtained a warrant for 60,000 livres and a pension of 4,000 more."

And, as the Scots were not behind in the arts of peace in Russia, we find in 1764 that when the Empress Catherine II invited several foreigners of skill and talent to prepare plans for the improvement of St. Petersburg, those received most favourably by her were presented by "Mr. Gilchrist, a Scotsman, in consequence of which a valuable present has been ordered him by the Empress; and several wharves, docks, storehouses, and public streets approved of in his plans are to be carried out under the aforesaid gentleman's direction." (*Edinburgh Advert.*, vol. ii.)

In the same year we find that John Ochterlony (a name familiar in recent Russian annals), a native of Montrose, was an eminent merchant at Rigi.

In 1764, Sir Samuel Greig, who was Governor of Cronstadt, Admiral of all the Russias, and became known as the father and founder of the Russian navy, entered the

service of the Empress Catherine II with many other Scotsmen, among whom was one from the same native place, Iverkeithing, the famous old Commodore Roxburgh. In Russia he bore the name of Samuel Carlovitch Greig, as his father Charles Greig was skipper of a small ship, the *Thistle*, of Inverkeithing, trading with St. Petersburg. (*Edinburgh Courant*, 1761.)

In that ancient Fifeshire seaport Samuel Greig was born in 1735, and was educated by the parish dominie, who was alive in 1794. Entering the British navy, he was a lieutenant in the fleet of Hawke, when blockading Brest in 1759; and, subaltern though his rank, he distinguished himself in the great battle off Cape Quiberon, and in that war, during which we took or destroyed 64 sail of French ships, including 27 of the line.

He next served at the capture of several of the West India Islands, but the provincial prejudices of the English rendered the time unfavourable for Scotsmen or Irishmen rising in the British service. Thus, when, during Lord Bute's administration, the court of St. Petersburg requested that a few of our naval officers, who were distinguished for ability, might be sent to improve the Russian fleet, Greig, with several others, gladly volunteered, and had his rank as lieutenant confirmed, his only stipulation being that he might return as such to the British service when he chose; and we are told that he rapidly raised the Russian naval service to a degree of respectability it had never attained before.

In the same year he joined, Captain Douglas was appointed commodore of the Russian fleet and senior rear-

admiral; and in 1768 we note the death at Cronstadt, in his 23rd year only, of Captain William Gordon of Cowbairdie, Aberdeenshire, commodore of a ship in the Russian navy.

When war broke out between the Empress and the Sultan, the partial breaking up of the ice in the Baltic enabled a Russian fleet to put to sea for the Mediterranean. Of that fleet Greig was commodore, under Alexis, Count Orloff, and his zeal soon led to his promotion to the rank of flag-officer. In 1770, Mr. Gordon was Director-General of the Imperial dockyard at Rigi and Knight of St. Alexander Newsoki. In 1776 he was presented with 1,000 Livonian peasants and 30,000 roubles. On the 14th January, 1770, one squadron of the armament under the Admiral, John Elphinstone, consisting of a 70-gun ship, two of 60 guns each, and 70 others arrived at Spithead on its way to the Archipelago. This officer, a cadet of the Scottish house of Elphinstone, was then a captain of the British navy. He had a claim to the attained title of Balmerino, which was also advanced by his grandson, Captain Alexander Elphinstone, R.N., and noble of Livonia. (*Burke.*)

The other squadron, consisting of 22 sail of the line, had reached Minorca so early as the 4th January, and before the end of July the Russian fleet had twice defeated the Turkish—on one occasion Elphinstone encountering thrice his force, sinking eight ships; on the other, with nineteen, overcoming Giafar Bey with twenty-three.

A curious, gossipy anecdote is connected with this war. Dr. Lauchlan Taylor, minister of Larbert, who in those

days enjoyed the reputation of being a prophet, published in 1770 a book, in which he stated the strife then waging would end in the total destruction of Turkey; and the Empress, under whose notice the work was brought by some of the many Scots in her service, had the prophecy translated, freely circulated among her troops, and great bets were laid on the fulfilment of it.

In the great battle of the 6th July, Greig, Admiral Mackenzie, and other Scottish officers in the fleet rendered good and gallant service; and in the *Scots Magazine* for that year the carnage of the scene is well depicted by the pen of a Lieutenant Mackenzie, then serving on board Her Imperial Majesty's ship *Switostoff*. Orloff was not much of a sailor, so the mauling of the Turks fell chiefly to the share of Admiral Elphinstone and Commodore Greig, who compelled them to slip their cables and run under their batteries between Scio and the coast of Anadoli. Under the care of the two Scottish commanders two fire-ships were prepared to enter the harbour, covered by a part of the squadron; but leaders were required for this perilous service, and at once three officers, all Scotsmen—Commander Greig, Lieutenant Mackenzie, and Captain-Lieutenant Drysdale (sometimes called Dugdale)—volunteered. Though the latter was abandoned by his crew at the supreme crisis, the service was achieved. The fire-ships were exploded with dreadful effect, and the whole Turkish fleet, including twelve ships of the line, armed with 566 guns, was destroyed by Grieg, while 6,000 Turks were shot, burned, or drowned.

By his boats he towed out *La Barbarocine*, of 64 guns,

bombarded the town, and rescued 400 Christian slaves. For these services he was promoted to the rank of rear-admiral, with 2,160 roubles per annum, and his two brother officers were made captains. His ship was named the *Three Primates*.

The Sieur Rutherford, another Scottish adventurer, who was commissary of the Russian court, sold at Leghorn all the prizes which were taken by the fleet. (*Scots Mag.*)

From the volume quoted we learn that a dispute took place between Count Orloff, the nominal commander-in-chief, and Admiral Elphinstone, whom he ordered to go on a secret expedition, "which the latter thought proper to decline; in consequence of this a great altercation ensued between them. Count Orloff put him under arrest, and sent an express to inform the Empress of what he had done." She recalled him, and he left the Russian service in disgust, taking a farewell of Catherine, clad in his uniform as a captain of the British navy.

The fleet meanwhile was sweeping the shores of the Archipelago, under Greig, Mackenzie, Drysdale, Brodie, and others, led by Admiral Spiritoff. Sinope, Giurgevo, and other places on the Turkish coast were bombarded or taken; and in a conflict at the latter on 31st October, 1771, among the slain appears the name of David Gordon, a landed proprietor of Galloway and lieutenant of our 67th Foot, a volunteer on board the fleet.

Greig destroyed the magazines formed for the supply of Constantinople, bombarded Negroponte, swept the coast of Macedonia, beat down Cavallo in Roumelia, and destroyed all the stores at Salonica; and in a ten

hours' fight off Scio, 10th October, 1773, he routed or took a whole Turkish squadron, but had a narrow escape, as a ball struck one of the points from St. George's cross on his left breast. His sailors were repulsed, however, at Cyprus, and four sacks of their *scalps*, salted, were sent to the Sultan from Stanchio, the ancient Cos.

"In the preceding month Rear-Admiral Mackenzie commanded the Russian fleet in the Black Sea (*Edinburgh Advt.*, vol. xl.), and from him the place in the Crimea called Khouter Mackenzie takes its name, as it was a plantation of timber he formed to furnish the dockyards at Actiare, now Sebastopol, which he first fortified. The place then "consisted of *two* houses, a wooden barrack, a military storehouse," says Slade, in his *Travels in Turkey, etc.* "Our countrymen," he adds, "Admirals Mackenzie, Priestman, Mason, Mercer, and three Greigs have all hoisted their flags in the Black Sea." There were also Admiral Tait and four captains—Denniston, whose head was shot off; Marshall, drowned when leading his boarders; Miller and Aikin, who each lost a leg in action. It lies on the highroad from Simpheropol, and our troops passed through it on their march to Balaclava after the battle on the Alma.

From the scarce memoirs of a military adventurer of dubious character, a native of Dumbarton, named Major Semple Lisle, who once served in our 15th Foot—was wounded at Rhode Island—and joined the Russian service under Catherine, we may make two extracts with reference to 1784.

"At Moscow I met several cartloads of English mid-

shipmen, who, being thrown out of employment by the conclusion of the American war, had entered the Russian service. They were under the care of a sergeant and two marines, and were going to join Admiral Mackenzie on the Black Sea."

"From Karasu-bazaar I was sent on military duty to Actiare, where I met my old friend Admiral Mackenzie with his fleet. While I was at Actiare, Mackenzie and myself received the compliments of some of the Tartar chiefs of that country, together with the present each of a horse. Mine was richly caparisoned, but his was almost covered with silver. The saddle was of purple cloth, studded over with silver nails; from each side depended a stirrup of the same metal made in the fashion of the country, the size and shape of the sole of the foot."

In this year, 1784, another Captain Mackenzie joined the Russian service—the laird of Redcastle, in Forfarshire. He had been tried at the Old Bailey for illegally executing a convict at Black Town; and, after serving for some time in Russia, was killed in a duel near Constantinople. (Kay's *Portraits*.)

Other Scots of higher position came to Russia about this period. Among them John Robison, LL.D., the distinguished mechanical philosopher, a native of Stirlingshire (Nimmo's *Hist.*), recommended as a fit person to superintend the navy, in 1770 was appointed Inspector-General of the Marine Cadet Corps of Nobles at Cronstadt, with the rank of colonel, an office which he relinquished in 1773 on becoming Professor of Natural Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh; Dr. Rogerson, who was appointed

counsellor of state and court physician in 1776, with a pension of 4,000 roubles yearly, and returned in 1815 to his native district, where he purchased property to the value of £130,000; and Dr. Guthrie, a cadet, of the family of Halkerton, in Fifeshire (and nephew of William Guthrie, a well-known miscellaneous writer employed by Cave), who was appointed personal physician to the empress.

Dr. Rogerson's father was tenant of the half of Lochbroom, Dumfriesshire, and there he was born. The other half was rented by William Haliday, whose son Matthew was also one of her Imperial Majesty's physicians. (*Old Stat. Account Scot.*)



## CHAPTER V.

### THE SCOTS IN RUSSIA.—(*Continued.*)

The Greig family—The Scots colony in the Caucasus—The Baron M. Von Macleay and his writings.

To Major Semple Lisle, who was A.D.C. to Prince Potemkin, and who, when in Russia, was mixed up in a disreputable way with the famous Duchess of Kingston, was assigned at this time the training and command of a Corsican corps, 250 strong, with which he went to the Crimea in 1783; and in his memoirs he gives himself the credit of inaugurating useful changes in the Russian uniform, which he describes as being green, lined and faced with red; the coat long and reaching to the calf of the leg, with long boots and small hats, to which the soldiers added flannel ear-covers in cold weather. He suggested also the cropping of the hair, and the fixing of the bayonet only when about to charge.

In the winter of 1773 Admiral Greig returned to St. Petersburg, and made every exertion to fit out a more efficient squadron for the Dardanelles; and, sailing with it from Cronstadt, took with him his wife on board his ship, the *Issidorum*, of 74 guns. In the spring of 1774 the rendezvous of the squadrons of Greig and Spiritoff was at Port Naussa, in the channel between Paros and the rocky coast of Naxos; but now Catherine made peace with the

Turks, stipulating that the Crimea was to be ceded for ever to the rule of its own Khans or Sultans.

Greig returned to Russia with the fleet, and spent all the last years of his life in remodelling its discipline, training cadets, and earning for himself the endearing *sobriquet* of the "Father of the Russian Navy." For these and his other services he was made Governor of Cronstadt, Admiral of the whole Empire, with the orders of St. Andrew, St. George, and, in 1782, St. Anne of Holstein, with 7,000 roubles per annum. His great assistant was his countryman Gordon, Director-General of the Dockyards, who at that time was constructing two 100-gunships, three of 90, six of 70, and ten 40-gun frigates—all of a form and beauty hitherto unknown in Russia. The chief engineer and naval architect was then another Scotsman, Andrew Watson, who died in 1799.

The Empress dined with Greig on board his ship in July, 1786, accompanied by Counts Bruce and Galitzin; and when he hoisted the Imperial standard *nine hundred* guns thundered at once from the ramparts of Cronstadt.

He once more prepared a great fleet to sail for the Black Sea, against the Crimea, but its Khan—the last descendant of Gengiz—submitted, and his territories became an integral portion of Russia.

In 1788 Greig put to sea against the Swedes, after great discontent and threatened resignation had occurred among the Scottish officers of his fleet, owing to a false rumour that Paul Jones was to be taken into the Imperial service; and he fought his great battle with the fleet of the Duke of Sudermania and Count Wachdmeister on the 17th of

July in the Narrows of Kalkboder. He had thirty-three sail in all, while the enemy had fifteen of the line carrying from sixty to seventy guns, eight frigates armed with twenty-four pounders, and eight others. The Swedes were defeated; Greig's loss was 319 killed and 666 wounded. "I must say, on this occasion," contains his despatch to the Empress, "that I never saw a battle maintained with more spirit and courage on both sides." He signed it "Sam. Carlovitch Greig."

On Count Wachdmeister yielding up his sword, Greig returned it, saying :

"I will never be the man to deprive so brave and worthy an officer of his sword, I beseech you to receive it."

He next blockaded the Duke of Sudermania in Sveaborg; but his health became impaired now, and on the 15th of October, 1788, he expired on board the ship *Rotislaw*, which had lost 200 men in the late battle.

His funeral was conducted with a pomp and splendour never before seen in Russia; every officer attending it received a gold ring from the Empress, and his monument records, with truth, that "he was a man no less illustrious for courage and naval skill than for piety, benevolence, and every private virtue.

The estate in Livonia bestowed upon him by the Emperor of Germany is still in the possession of his descendants, whose names have often appeared in the public prints.

His son John died in China in 1793. Another son became Sir Alexis Greig, admiral of the Russian fleet, privy councillor, and Knight of all the Imperial Orders.

He studied at the High School of Edinburgh under the Rector Adam from 1783 to 1785, and then served as a volunteer on board H.M.S. *Culloden*, under Admiral Trowbridge.

When a captain, he and another Scotsman, Captain Brown, were involved in some trouble by the wreck of the Imperial frigate *Archangel*, commanded by the latter in 1797. In the following year, in the squadron off the Texel, he commanded the *Ratisvan*, 64 guns; and Captain Robert Crown, said to be a Scot, had the *Utislaw*, 74. (*Edinburgh Herald*.) In 1801 he was banished to Siberia for a time, in consequence of boldly remonstrating with the Emperor Paul for his severity to some British naval prisoners; but in 1828 he was in full command of the Russian fleet at the sieges of Varna and Anapa, whither he had sailed from Sebastopol with forty vessels—eight being of the line—acting in conjunction with the troops under Prince Mentschicoff for three months by sea and land. During these operations the Emperor was his guest on board the *Ville de Paris*, which had the Diplomatic Chancery and 1,300 persons under her flag. (Slade's *Travels*.) He founded the great astronomical observatory at Nicolaeff, where Captain Samuel Moffat, of the Imperial navy, died in 1821. In 1837 (according to Spencer's *Travels*), on being made a privy councillor, he was requested for state reasons to reside at St. Petersburg.

His son, Woronzow Greig, also educated at the High School of Edinburgh, was A.D.C. to Prince Mentschicoff during the Crimean war in 1854; and, when sent to our lines with a flag of truce, the purity of his English excited

surprise. He was killed by a mortal wound on the desperate field of Inkermann.

Two other members of the same family figured prominently in 1877, when Adjutant-General Greig was sent from St. Petersburg to the Danube in August, to investigate the alleged frauds in the commissariat department; and Admiral Greig, comptroller-general of the Russian Empire, arrived at Bucharest in October to inspect the accounts of the army contractors.

Since then he, or another of the same name, has commanded (1886) the first squadron of the fleet in the Black Sea.

Among the prominent Scots in the Russian army towards the end of the last century were Lieutenant-General Robert Fullarton, Knight of St. Catherine, who died at his house of Dudwick, near Edinburgh, in 1786; and Sir Alexander Hay, Bart., Knight of St. George, who died in 1792, as colonel at the head of his regiment. His family is now extinct.

In 1790, Sir James Wylie, a native of Kincardineshire, entered the Russian service as a physician, and eight years after was appointed surgeon-in-ordinary to the Emperor Paul and heir-apparent. In 1812 he was director of the medical department of the Minister of Marine, Inspector-General of the Board of Health for the Russian army, and privy councillor. He was knighted by George IV at Ascot Races in 1814—an honour conferred by the sword of the Hetman Count Platoff—and was made a Baronet of Great Britain in the same year, on his return to Russia, where he died in 1854, bequeathing a vast

fortune to the Czar, greatly to the astonishment of his Scottish relations. "Many years ago," says a local print of that year, "during the reign of the Emperor Alexander, a shrewd Scotswoman of the old school, without either rank or education to recommend her, left the shores of the Forth for those of the Baltic on a visit to her son. She was received by the Russian government with all the pomp accorded by one monarch to another. The cannon fired a salute, and the Emperor touched the hand of the old Scottish matron and bade her welcome to the coast of Russia. This good lady was the mother of Sir James Wylie; and while her heart would doubtless beat with gratitude for the gift of a son who was so much respected by the Emperor, such a welcome to his mother would strengthen the affection of Sir James for his master, and make him anxious to show his appreciation of such delicate kindness by every means in his power."

The Scots colony in the Caucasus, so prominently referred to in Mackenzie Wallace's recent work on Russia, is first mentioned in the *Scots Magazine* for November, 1807, thus:—"His Imperial Majesty has been pleased to grant a very remarkable charter to the colony of Scotsmen who have been settled for the last four years in the mountains of the Caucasus. The rights and privileges accorded to these Scotsmen, who form a detached settlement in a district so thinly populated, and bordering on the territories of so many uncivilised tribes of Mahometans and heathens, are intended to increase their activity in extending trade and manufactures, and to place them in respect to their immunities on the same footing with the Evangelical Society of Sarepta."

To this colony the Tartars, whose lands they occupied, were long hostile, and the Russian government, suspicious of these Scots, had previously, we are told, put opposition in their way. One way in which these Scots sought to extend Christianity was by the purchase of Tartar children, whom they educated, and at a certain age set free. One of them, named John Abercrombie, became of some note; and a Dr. Glen was author of three forgotten pamphlets on this colony. It was, no doubt, some of these people that Spencer referred to in his *Travels* in 1837, when he says that among the bravest of Circassian warriors were the Marrs, sons of Mr. Marr, a Scottish merchant of Redoubt-Kaleh, and subject of Prince Dabion of Mingrelia. After returning from Scotland, where he had sent them for education, "these young Scots may now (1837) be reckoned among the most daring hunters in the wilds of Mingrelia."

Mr. Wallace, in his work published in 1877, says that when travelling on the great plain that lies between the Sea of Azoff and the Caspian he was surprised to see on his map a place indicated as the *Schotlandskaya Koloneya*, or Scottish Colony; and in pursuing his inquiries about it at Stavropol he found a venerable man, "with fine regular features of the Circassian type, coal-black, sparkling eyes, and a long beard that would have done honour to a patriarch," who asked him in turn what he wanted to know about the colony.

"'Because I am myself a Scotsman,' said Wallace, 'and hoped to find fellow-countrymen here.' Let the reader imagine my astonishment when he answered, in genuine broad Scots:

“ ‘Oh, man, I am a Scotsman tae—my name, my name is John Abercrombie. Did ye ever hear tell o’ John Abercrombie, the famous Edinburgh doctor?’ ”

“ In the first years of the present century,” continues Mr. Wallace, who is a native of Paisley, “ a band of Scottish missionaries came to Russia, for the purpose of converting the Circassian tribes, and received from the Emperor Alexander I a large grant of land in this place, then on the frontier of the empire. Here they founded a mission and began the work, but soon discovered that the population were not idolaters but Mussulmans, and consequently impervious to Christianity. In this difficulty they fell on the idea of buying Circassian children from their parents and bringing them up as Christians. One of these children, purchased about the year 1806, was a little boy named Teona. As he had been purchased with money subscribed by Dr. Abercrombie, he had received in baptism that gentleman’s name, and considered himself the foster-son of his benefactor. Here was the explanation of the mystery. Teona, *alias* Mr. Abercrombie, was a man of more than average intelligence. Besides his native language, he spoke English, German, and Russian fluently ; and he assured me that he knew several other languages equally well. His life had been devoted to missionary work, especially to translating and printing the Scriptures. The Scottish mission was suppressed by the Emperor Nicholas in 1835, and all the missionaries except two returned home. The son of one of these two (Galloway) is the only genuine Scotsman remaining. Of the ‘Circassian Scotsmen’ there are several, most of whom have

married Germans. The other inhabitants are German colonists from the province of Saratof; and German is the language now spoken in the village of the Scottish colony."

The present eminent Russian explorer and *savant*, Baron and Dr. Miclucho Macleay, is of Scottish descent, and his scientific researches in New Guinea from 1870 to 1883 were published at St. Petersburg in 1886.

His father, Colonel Duncan Macleay, of the Russian army, died in 1828, at Colpina, near St. Petersburg, and, according to the *Edinburgh Weekly Journal* for that year, was the nearest heir to Lord Balmerino, who was attainted in 1746. (See also *Blackwood's Magazine*, 1828.)

Concerning Baron M. von Macleay, *Nature*, in 1874 (Macmillan and Co.) states: "Contrary to the advice of every one, this intrepid traveller and true devotee of science is determined again upon visiting the east coast of Papua. When his researches here are complete he intends to visit the islands of Polynesia and certain parts of the coast of Australia. This he calculates will take up five or six years. The Governor of the Dutch East Indies, like a true man of science, had given to Dr. Macleay for the last six months roomy and comfortable quarters in his palace at Buitonrog. It would be well if all in high position would imitate this kind of 'patronage.'"



## CHAPTER VI.

### THE SCOTS IN RUSSIA—(*Concluded*).

Sir Archibald Crichton—The Sultana of the Crimea—Generals Stuart, Ochterlony, Ramsay, Wilson, Read, Armstrong, Nicholas Baird.

ONE of the most distinguished Scotsmen who took service in Russia towards the end of the last century was Sir Archibald William Crichton, a native of Edinburgh, where he was born in 1763, and who became physician to the Emperor Alexander and to the Imperial Guard. Descended from the Crichtons of Woodhouse and Newington, his father was Patrick Crichton, long well known in Edinburgh as a coach-builder, and colonel of the 2nd Local Militia, though originally a captain in the 57th Regiment.

Archibald became a member of the Imperial Academy of St. Petersburg, and that of Natural History at Moscow. He was K.G.C. of the Orders of St. Anne and St. Vladimir, and of the Red Eagle of Prussia. He was a member of the Royal Institute of Paris, and author of various valuable works. He accompanied the Grand Duke Nicholas and Count Kutusof to Edinburgh in 1817, and was knighted, and became F.R.S., F.L.S., and F.G.S. He died in Russia in his 93rd year, on the 4th June, 1856.

In September, 1820, there was celebrated in Edinburgh

a marriage which made some noise at the time, that of "Alexander Ivanovitch, Sultan Katte Ghery Krim Ghery, to Anne, daughter of James Neilson, Esq., of Millbank," a secluded house near the Grange Loan.

A writer in *Notes and Queries* in 1855 states that this personage, the lawful Sultan of the Crimea, had fled from that province in consequence of his religion, and was educated in Edinburgh at the expense of the Emperor Alexander of Russia, with a view to his becoming a Christian, "and that his wife was hardly ever known by any other appellation than that of Sultana."

Spencer, in his *Travels*, in 1837, says the "Sultana, Miss Neilson, of Edinburgh, whose excellent conduct I found the theme of universal praise," had a husband who embraced the Russian interest, secured himself a handsome pension, and after residing several years in Scotland, preached Christianity to the Tartars, who despised a paradise without houris, and to that year had not made a single convert. His residence in Scotland must have been short, as Dr. Lyall visited him and his Sultana in the Crimea in 1822, and Clarke, in his *Travels*, mentions visiting him at Simpheropol. He was dead before 1855, when his mother was living near the field of Alma. He had a son in the Russian army, and a daughter who was maid-of-honour to the wife of the Grand Duke Constantine. In the obituaries for 1855 we find the following:—

"At Simpheropol in the Crimea, in June, H.H. the Sultana Anne Katte Ghery Krim Ghery, daughter of the late J. Neilson, Esq., of Millbank"; and at Simpheropol, in the same month, Alexandrina Baroness Gersdorf, her eldest

daughter; and at Ekatermoslav, the following week, her younger daughter, Margaret Anne, wife of Thomas Upton, an Englishman in the Russian service.

In the Crimea in those days, James Sinclair, a Scottish gardener, resided for thirteen years on the estate of Prince Woronzoff, laying out the gardens; and Hunt, a Scottish architect, prepared plans for the unfinished Imperial Palace at Great Orlanda.

Besides those of the Greigs, several Scottish names came prominently forward in the Russian service about the time of the Crimean war. Among these we may note the names of Generals Stuart, Ochterlony, Ramsay, Wilson, Read, the Armstrongs, and Nicholas Baird.

General Stuart, a very aged officer, shortly before his death was at Inverness in 1853, making the last of his periodical pilgrimages to the scenes of the "Forty-five," and, according to the *Courier*, "was connected with the Royal family of Stuart through Prince Charles' daughter, the Duchess of Albany. He was probably a relation of Baron Stuart, Russian agent-general at Bucharest in May, 1877.

General Ochterlony was a son of John Ochterlony, Esq., of Montrose, and of the line, we believe, of Guynde. His father settled in Russia about 80 years before the Crimean war. An Alexander Ochterlony, merchant, late of Narva, died in 1805 at Novo Mirgorod in the Ukraine.

The General's great-grandfather was Laird of Kintochat, and his great-grandmother was Miss Young of Auldbar.

He commanded a Russian brigade at the battle of

Oltenitza, in November, 1853, and fell, mortally wounded, on the field of Inkerman, according to Prince Mentshichoff's despatch.

In 1854, General Ramsay (probably of the Balmaine line) was appointed governor of Finland.

General Wilson, a Scottish engineer officer, who, on the 1st August, 1856, "completed his half century of military service under the double-headed eagle," stipulated that he should not be called upon to fight with British troops. When the fiftieth year of his service was concluded, he held his jubilee at Alexanderoffski, twelve miles from St. Petersburg, which became a scene of boisterous merry-making. The village ran with *vodka*, and was ablaze with fireworks. Next day the Emperor sent the veteran a splendid diamond cross, with the highest Order to which he was eligible.

He was in his 80th year when the war broke out, and he was still at the head of millwright and other engineering establishments at Colpina. By his mediation passports were given to all British citizens desirous of returning home.

General Read, who fought at the battle of Tchernaiia, was the son of a civil engineer, a native of Montrose, who settled in Russia early in life. The general rose to be Imperial lieutenant of the Caucasian provinces in absence of Prince Woronzow.

He was slain at the head of the Russian column, and on his body was found the orders signed by Prince Gortchakoff for fighting the battle. From them it would appear that a most determined attempt was to be made to

raise the siege of Sebastopol. Had he succeeded, Balaclava was to be attacked and the heights stormed, while a sortie was to have been made from the city.

The gallant Marshal Pelissier sent in some relics of the general, and ordered a search to be made for his body till found. On this, Prince Gortchakoff wrote him thus:—“Sebastopol, August 19th.—M. le Commandant-in-Chief, —I have the honour to receive your communication of 16th inst., as well as the portfolios, containing property and a letter of General Read. I acknowledge gladly all the worth of so noble an act, as well as the generous solicitude which has led your Excellency to order a search for the body of this gallant General. Accept the sincere expression of my feelings on this subject, and the assurance of my highest esteem.—MICHAEL GORTCHAKOFF.”

General Armstrong we only know to have been originally from Jedburgh, where his son, Colonel Armstrong, also of the Russian army, had possession in 1867 of what is known as Queen Mary's House, in that ancient Border burgh.

In 1854, Nicholas Baird, a Scotsman born, but naturalised Russian subject, was, and had been since 1820, a naval and mechanical engineer of the highest class at Cronstadt (*Journal de St. Pétersbourg*, May, 1854); and he was vigorously assailed in all the English newspapers as “a disgrace to his country.”

In the mobilisation of the Russian army in November, 1876, Prince Barclay de Towie (or Tolly) Weiman appeared as commander of the 7th Corps, representative of that “Sir Valter Barclay of Tollie, *miles*,” who

founded in 1210 the old castle bearing that inscription on the Banff Road near Turriff, and was progenitor of the great Russian Field-Marshal, Prince Barclay de Tolly, whose name is imperishable as one of the heroes that shook the power of Napoleon.

