



JOHN ERSKINE, EARL OF MAR

*from a portrait done at the Court of St. Germain's, in the possession of  
the Earl of Mar and Kellie*

# B R A E M A R

An Unconventional Guide Book  
and Literary Souvenir by  
THE HON. STUART ERSKINE

With a Chapter by the  
Rev. JOHN G. MICHIE

EDINBURGH  
ANDREW ELLIOT

1898

**TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
THE EARL OF MAR AND KELLIE  
THIS LITTLE BOOK  
IS INSCRIBED BY  
HIS KINSMAN AND SERVANT  
THE AUTHOR**

## INTRODUCTION

WITHIN the last sixty years or so there has been no scarcity of books for the direction and instruction of the stranger journeying through the valley of the Dee, but they have been mostly intended for the passing stranger or tourist, not for the resident visitor, who has selected to spend the summer months in one particular locality. It was about that period, namely, eighty years ago, or somewhat earlier, that the first of these books appeared. It is rather an ambitious production ; and is thus advertised by its author : 'The Caledonian Itinerary, a Tour on the Banks of the Dee ; a Poem, with Historical Notes from the best Authority. By Alexander Laing, Aberdeen. Aberdeen, 1819. Printed for the Author.' It is in verse, and follows the stream from its source to its mouth. The author talks about zephyrs, maids, nymphs, fountains, and turtle-doves, much in the following manner :—

'O ! come, Calliope ! haste, fair maid, and bring  
Balsamic drops from the Parnassian spring !  
Haste ! strike the lyre, and touch the vocal shell,  
Thy notes more charming than sweet Philomel !  
The lyre will aid me, and inspire my song,  
And raise my mind above the vulgar throng !'

This is not a very interesting account of the district ; and besides, the work is very rare, and out of print. This was followed in 1831 by an excellent Guide to Deeside, ostensibly by Mr. James Brown, coach-driver between Aboyne and Braemar, but really by a far more experienced author, which a reviewer thus characterises : 'The object of Mr. Brown is to instruct. He is learned in milestones, stage-coaches, cars, post-offices, and inns. He writes in the true, unaffected style of the *Gazette*, and announces Lochnagar and a milestone with the same flourish. He has an eye to the *utile* only.' Laing's chief fault, like Byron's, is digression ; he enlarges, and enlarges, and wanders away, till he becomes tedious. Brown's little book speedily ran through several editions, the second being perhaps the best ; but the later editors have, either from want of knowledge or skill, not succeeded in maintaining its original high reputation. Besides, it embraces too large an area, and is not quite up to date, its principal deficiency being within the Braemar district. The same may be said of a number of others that have of late years followed in the same track—useful indeed to the tourist or mountaineer, but lacking in interest to the summer visitor.

Exception must be made with respect to two works. The one, *Deeside*, by the late Professor M'Gillivray—a work of great interest and value, but printed for Queen Victoria, and therefore not accessible to the general public. The other, *Braemar and Balmoral*, 1875, by Rev. James M. Crombie,

F.L.S., etc., contains, like the other, much interesting scientific, especially botanical, information, and has the advantage of being limited to the Braemar area. It is defective, however, in local history, and regarding matters that now attract the greater number of summer visitors. This little work is also scarce.

In these circumstances, it has occurred to the author of the present work that he might, by this attempt, be able to supply the deficiencies of former writers, and thus contribute to the interest and enjoyment of many who, like himself, having gathered all that there is to be learned from the orthodox Guide-books, think that there is still abundant room left for a Literary Souvenir.

**BRAEMAR, 1907.**

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## CHAPTER I

### BRAEMAR OF OLD

THE shire of Aberdeen was originally divided into two districts, of which Mar, the larger, was one, and Buchan the other. Mar is said to have been 'sixty miles long, though inhabited but about forty-five miles upwards; and in the lower parts, where it is bounded with the two rivers (Dee and Don), eight in the upper parts, almost sixteen broad. And though the circumference cannot be perfectly ascertained, yet it seems to be about one hundred and thirty miles. 'Tis long and narrow, especially towards the lower end, where it is wedged in by the two rivers to a point. The one end of it (about Aberdeen) is well peopled and full of trade; but the other, about Braemarr, is scarce yet discovered, being lost, as it were, in an high desert.'<sup>1</sup>

A yet earlier mention<sup>2</sup> of the old province of Mar states that 'under Buchquhane (Buchan) lyis Marr; ane plentuous region in store of bestiall, LX miles in lenth and bried, fra the almane seis to Badyenoch.'

Mar is said to have been so named from 'Martach,

<sup>1</sup> *A View of the Diocese of Aberdeen*, by David Wedderburne; New Spalding Club.

<sup>2</sup> That by Hector Boece, published in Mr. Hume Brown's *Scotland before 1700*.



one of Fergus the First's captains, to whom that Prince gave it for a possession.'

'Its arms are, sapphire a bend between six cross crosslets pitched topaz; still born as feudal arms by the possessor, being the family arms of the Mars, first earls of Mar. There are to this day<sup>1</sup> some people in this country of the surname of Mar, but of no account.'

'It is reckoned the chief district in all Aberdeenshire, both as it is the largest, as it contains the seat both of the ecclesiastic and civil judge, and as the people in it are reckoned the most ingenious, excelling both in arts and arms. Hence it is said by one of our poets (John Barclay)—

'Marria sic amata Musia.'

'Mar by all the Muses loved.'

And again in a common shrine—

'The conie bowmen of Mar.'

And on these accounts it is that even the whole shire is sometimes called the shire of Mar.'<sup>2</sup>

'Mar properly so called,' continues the same author, 'is all that part of the country which falls under no other peculiar distinction; and it contains parishes which may be reduced to these three classes: these on Dee, these on Don, and these in the middle parts of this proper Mar.'

'Parishes on Dee (and in Mar properly so called) as one goes up the river from east to west are these: New Aberdeen, on the north side of Dee, half of north Ban-

<sup>1</sup> This account was written in the seventeenth century.

<sup>2</sup> *A View of the Diocese of Aberdeen.*

chory (for the church and other half are in the Merns<sup>1</sup> on the south side of Dee); Peter Culter, Dalmaok, Kincardin; Aboyne; Glentaner, on the south side of Dee, opposite to Aboyne, to which it is united; Tullich and Glengarden united; Glenmuick, on the south side of Dee, opposite to Glengarden, to which it is united; Crathie and Kindrocht united.'

'Parishes on Don (in Mar properly so called), as one goes up the river from east to west, are these: on the south side of Don, Old Aberdeen; Newhills, but the church doth not stand (as the rest) on the bank of the river; Dyce, Kinenar; Kintore; Kennay, Moniemusk, Cluny; (here Alford bottom, spreading out itself on both sides of Don, interrupts Mar) Cushnie; Towie, Strathdon, but the parish runs out on both sides of Don. On the north side of Don, Forbes opposite to Cushnie; Kildrummy opposite to Towie; Glenbucket interrupts Strathdon on this side, having a part of it above and a part of it beneath it.'

'Parishes between the two rivers, in the middle of Mar, properly so called, are these: Skene, Kinnevnice, Echt, Midmar; Leochel, Lumfannan.'

The combined parish of Crathie and Braemar is one of the biggest in Aberdeenshire.

'Braemar that is, the Height of Mar,' says David Wedderburne, 'is indeed what it is called, and may be divided into two parts: the lower part called Kindrocht, or the parish of Braemar;<sup>2</sup> and the upper part, which

<sup>1</sup> A county south of Mar.

<sup>2</sup> It must be remembered that Crathie was not united to Braemar when Wedderburne wrote his description of the county.

is desert and called the Forest of Mar, or of Braemar, abounding with red-deer, and reaching up for about fifteen miles above that part of Braemar which is inhabited.'

In the *Description of Aberdeenshire*, written by Sir Samuel Forbes of Foveran, it is stated that Braemar was anciently styled the parish of St. Andrews, but that 'after Malcum Cann Mor threw a bridge across the Cluny, it was called Ceann-drochit,' which signifies Bridgend.

Very little mention is made in early history and in books of travel of Braemar and its capital, Castletown. This, no doubt, is due in great measure to the fact that few travellers cared to penetrate so far inland. In the scanty literature of early Aberdeenshire, Braemar is usually alluded to as being a district inhabited by 'wild Scots,' and quite 'impassable' to the ordinary traveller. And it was not really until the end of the last century that, in consequence of the measures taken by the Government to open up the Highlands of Scotland, they became a 'civilised' region.

One of the earliest visitors to Braemar who has recorded his impressions of it, and of the manners and customs of its inhabitants, is Taylor the Water Poet, who about the year 1618 made what he styles a 'Pennyless Pilgrimage' to Scotland, and set down his impressions thereof with a considerable degree of eloquence, minuteness, and skill.

Strange as it may seem, the scene described on that occasion has, through ignorance or carelessness, frequently been referred to as the great gathering and hunt of 1715. In point of fact, Taylor visited Braemar more than a hundred years before the rising of 1715 was set on foot,

and when there was no political or other extraordinary object in view. The Earl of Mar of the time was not the eleventh Earl of the Erskine line by right who raised the standard of Prince James, as has been frequently stated, but a more successful man, JOHN, fifth Earl of the same family—the same who was reared and educated with James VI., and afterwards became his bosom friend and chief counsellor on Scots affairs, to whom his Majesty in his need once addressed the following familiar epistle:—

‘DEAR JOCK,—As I’m going to gie an audience this morning to the French ambassador, I desire you to be sae gude as to send me a pair of your best silken hose, with the goud clocks at them.—Your affectionate cousin,  
‘JAMES R.’

JOHN TAYLOR, better known as the ‘Water Poet,’ the writer of the following account of his visit to Braemar, was a singular character. As he was probably the first intelligent Cockney who came to the Highlands with the view of recording what he saw there, I give a brief account of his life and of his journey to Scotland. He was born in Gloucester, on the 24th of August 1580, of humble parentage. His father, however, was able to keep him at school long enough for him to indulge in the weakness of poetic composition. An amusing anecdote regarding him is worth repeating. ‘His schoolmaster was in need of a cow. He went to the market to purchase one. Taking advantage of the pedagogue’s short sight, some of the neighbours, knowing the errand upon which he was bound, resolved to play him a trick. The poor

dominie's acquaintance with the farmyard was of the most primitive order ; and working upon this double defect, a bull was sold to him instead of a cow. As the editor (the poet, Robert Southey) of the present volume remarks, the amusing scene which ensued may be readily imagined. The schoolmaster contentedly drove his purchase home, and, ignorant of the trick played upon him, and naturally anxious to test the quality of the milk, he requested the maid to get him some.'

On leaving school Taylor was apprenticed to a Thames waterman, or ferryman, then a very lucrative occupation. He soon became a victim to the press-gang, and in the service of Queen Elizabeth was present at the taking of Cadiz, and altogether made sixteen different voyages in her Majesty's vessels. Peace having been restored, some thousands of men were discharged from the navy, amongst them being Taylor, who returned to his old employment of the ferry. Soon after these events he attracted the attention of the great Earl of Mar, who had gone to London with his Sovereign in 1603, and who invited him to come to Scotland. One of the best known of his writings is what he calls *The Moneyless Perambulations of John Taylor, alias the King's Majesty's Water Poet*. A reviewer thus describes it :—

It tells 'how he travelled on foot from London to Edinburgh, in Scotland, not carrying any money to or from, neither begging, borrowing, nor asking meat, drink, or lodging. With his description of his entertainment in all places of his journey, and a true report of the unmatchable hunting on the Braes of Mar and Badenoch in Scotland, with some other observations, some serious and

worthy of memory, and some merry and not worthful to be remembered. Lastly, that which is rare in a traveller, all is true.' This narrative, like many others of the writings of the poet, is a mixture of prose and verse. The diction is quaint, but elegant. There is an evidence of culture which no one would have expected when the circumstances of the man are kept in view. His descriptions of men and places are minute, faithful, and are everywhere instinct with a full sense of the humorous. His philosophical acceptance of whatever obstacles came in his way, and his cheerful endeavours to overcome them, are not the least striking elements in the composition of this strange character. There is much in the book worthy of quotation, but we must content ourselves with an extract from his account of his visit to the Highlands of Scotland.

'Thus with extreme travell, ascending and descending, mounting and alighting, I came at night to the place where I would be, in the Brae of Marr, which is a large country, all composed of such mountaines that Shooter's hill, Gad's hill, Highgate hill, Hampsted hill, Bridlip hill, or Malvernes hill are but mole-hills in comparison, or like a hive, or a gizard under a capon's wing, in respect to the altitude of their tops or perpendicularitie of their bottomes. There I saw Mount Benawe (Benavon in Braemar) with a fur'd mist upon his snowie head instead of a night cap :  
\* for you must understand that the oldest man alive never saw but the snow was on the top of divers of those hills, both in summer as well as in winter. There did I find the truly noble and right honourable Lords John Erskin Earle of Marr, James Stuart Earle of Murray, George

Gordon Earl of Engye,<sup>1</sup> sonne and heir to the Marquis of Huntly, James Erskin Earle of Bughan<sup>2</sup> (Buchan), and John Lord Erskin, sonne and heire to the Earle of Marr, and their counteses, with my much honoured, and my best assured and approved friend, Sir William Murray, knight, of Abercarny, and hundred of other knights, esquires, and their followers; all and every man in generall in one habit, as if Lycurgus had beene there, and made lawes of equality. For once in the yeere, which is the whole moneth of August, and sometimes part of September, many of the nobility and gentry of the kingdome (for their pleasure) do come into these high-land countreis to hunt, when they doe conforme themselves to the habite of the Highland-men, who for the most part speake nothing but Irish; and in former times were those people which were called the Red-shankes.<sup>3</sup> Their habite is shooes with but one soul apiece; stockings (which they call short hose) made of a warm stufte of divers colours which they called Tartane: as for breeches, many of them, nor their forefathers, never wore any, but a jerkin of the same stufte that their hose is of, their garters being bands or wreathes of hay or straw, with a plead about their shoulders, which is a mantle of

<sup>1</sup> Engye: *i.e.* Enzie in Banffshire. Earl of Enzie is, since 1836, a second title of the Marquis of Huntly.—Note by Hume Brown in his *Early Travellers to Scotland*.

<sup>2</sup> 'Buchan gave antient title of dignity to the numerous Earles of Buchan; thereafter to the Stewarts of the Royal Family; and then to the Douglasses; and since the time of King James the Sixth, to the Areskines; whose collateral heir-male, the Lord Cardross, succeeding to the bare and naked title, is attonsing for the errours of his kindred by a more decent, a wiser and more thrifty conduct of life.'—*Description of Aberdeenshire*, by Sir Samuel Forbes of Foveran.

<sup>3</sup> Redshanks was a name applied to the Scottish Highlanders and early Irish, from their legs being bare to the knees.

divers colours, much finer and lighter stuffe than their hose, with blue flat caps on their heads, a handkerchiefe knit with two knots about their necke ; and thus they are attyred. Now, their weapons are long bowes and forked arrowes, swords and targets, harquebusses, muskets, durks, and Loquabor-axes. With these armes I found many of them armed for the hunting. As for their attire, any man of what degree soever that comes amongst them, must not disdaine to wear it : for if they doe, then they will disdaine to hunt, or willingly to bring in their dogges : but if men are kind unto them, and be in their habit, then are they conquered with kindnesse, and the sport will be plentifull. This was the reason that I found so many noblemen and gentlemen in those shapes. But to proceed to the hunting.

‘My good Lord of Marr, haveing put me into that shape, I rode with him from his house, where I saw the ruines of an old castle, called the castle of Kindroghit. It was built by King Malcolm Canmore (for a hunting house), who raigned in Scotland when Edward the Confessor, Harold, and Norman William raigned in England : I speak of it, because it was the last house I saw in those parts ; for I was the space of twelve days after, before I saw either house, corne-field, or habitation of any creature, but deere, wilde horses, wolves, and such like creatures, which made me doubt that I should never have seene a house againe.

‘Thus the first day wee traueled eight miles, where there were small cottages built on purpose to lodge in, which they call Lonquhards. I thank my good Lord Erskin, hee commanded that I should alwayes bee lodged in his lodging,



the kitchen being alwayes on the side of a banke, many kettles and pots boyling, and many spits turning and winding, with great variety of cheere : as Venison bakit, soden, rost and stuide Beefe, Mutton, Goates, Kid, Hares, fresh Salmon, Pidgeons, Hens, Capons, Chickens, Partridge, Moorecoots, Heathcocks, Caperkellies, and Termagants, good Ale, Sacke, White and Claret, Tent (or Allegant), with most potent Aquavitæ.

‘All these and more than these we had continually, in superfluos aboundance, caught by Faulconers, Fowlers, Fishers, and brought by his Tenants and Purveyers to victuall our camp, which consisteth of fourteen or fifteene hundred men and horses ; the manner of the hunting is this : Five or sixe hundred men doe rise early in the morning, and they soon disperse themselves divers wayes, and suen, eight or tenne miles compasse, they do bring or chase in the Deere in many heards (two, three or foure hundred in a heard), to such or such a place as the Noblemen shall appoint them ; then when day is come, the Lords and Gentlemen of their companies, doe ride or goe to the said places, sometimes wading up to the middles through bournes and rivers : and then they being come to the place doe lye doune on the ground, till those foresaid scouts which are called the Tinckhell, doe bring downe the Deere : But as the Prouerbe sayes of a bad cooke, so these Tinckhell men doe like their own fingers ; for besides their bowes and arrowes which they carry with them, wee can heare now and then a Harquebusse or a Musket goe off, which they doe seldome discharge in vain : Then after we had stayed there three houres or thereabouts, we might perceive the Deere appeare on the hills round about vs (their

heads making a shew like a wood), which being followed close by the Tinkhell are chased downe into the valley where we lay; then all the valley on each side being way-laid with a hundred couple of strong Irish grey-hounds, they are let loose as occasion serves upon the hearde of Deere, that with Dogges, gunnes, arrowes, Durks, and Daggers, in the space of tuo hours, five score fat Deere were slain, which after are disposed of some one way, and some another, twenty and thirty miles, and more than enough for us to make merry withall at our Rendez-vous. I liked the sport so well, that I made these two sonnets following :

“ Why should I waste Inuention to endite  
 Ouidian fictions, or Olympian games?  
 My Misty Muse enlightened with more light  
 To a more noble pitch her ayme she frames.  
 I must relate to my great master James<sup>1</sup>  
 The Calydonian annuall peacfull warre;  
 How noble minds doe eternize their fames  
 By martiall meeting in the Brae of Marr:  
 How thousand gallant spirits came neere and farre,  
 With swords and Targets Arrowes Bowes and guns  
 That all the troope to men of iudgement are  
 The god of warres great never conquered sonnes.  
 The sport is manly, yet none bleed but beasts,  
 And last the victor on the vanquisht feasts.

“ If sport like this can on the Mountaines be,  
 Where Phoebus flames can never melt the snow,  
 Then let who list delight in vales below,  
 Skie-kissing mountaines pleasure are for me:  
 What brauer object can man's eye-sight see,  
 Then noble, worshipfull, and worthy wights,  
 As if they were prepared for sundry fights  
 Yet all in sweet society agree?

<sup>1</sup> King James VI.

Through heather, mosse, 'mongst frogs, bogs, and fogs,  
 'Mongst craggy cliffes and thunder battered hills  
 Harts, Hinges, Bucks Roes are chas'd by Men and dogs  
 Where tuo houres hunting fourscore fat Deere kills.  
 Lowland, your sports are low as is your seate  
 The High-land Games and Minds are high and great."

'Being come to our lodgings, there was such Baking, Boyling, Roasting and Stewing, as if cooke Ruffian had beene there to haue scalded the Deuile in his feathers : and after supper a fire of Firr-wood as high as an indifferent May-pole ; for I assure you that the Earl of Marr will giue any man that is his friend, for thankes, as many Firre-trees (that are as good as any shippe's mastes in England), as are worth (if they were in any place neere the Thames, or any other portable riuer) the best Earldome in England or Scotland either : For I dare assume hee hath as many growing there as would serve for masts (from this time to the end of the world) for all the Shippes, Carackes, Hoyes, Galleyes, Boates Drumeers, Barkes, and water-crafts, that are now, or can be in the world, these fourty yeeres.

'This sounds like a lye to an unbelieuer ; but I and many thousands doe knowe that I speake within the compasse of truth ; for indeede, the more is the pittie, they do grow faire from any passage of water ; and withall in such rockie mountains, that no way to conuey them is possible to bee passable, either with Boate, Horse, or Cart.'

The Earl of Mar's 'house,' to which Taylor refers in the foregoing narrative of his exploits in Braemar, must not be confounded with the Castle which John Erskine, Earl of Mar, built here in 1628, and the greatest part of which is now standing. In a 'Memorial concerning a cross-road from Inverloch by Ruthven of Badenoch, and through

Braemar to Aberdeen,' published by the Spalding Club,<sup>1</sup> it is stated by the Memorialist that, 'in the year 1628, the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the reign of King Charles 1<sup>st</sup>, John Erskine, Earl of Mar, built a new strong Castle (with iron gates and barr'd windows) within a furlong of the ruins of Kindrochit.' This Castle he designed for a hunting-seat for his family. During the troubles, however, in Scotland in and after the reign of Charles I., the 'new castle' was garrisoned by 'General Monk in the year 1651, about two years before Cromwell's usurpation.' The Earls of Mar were staunch supporters of the royal cause, but their own efforts, joined to those of the clansmen of Braemar, do not appear to have been sufficient to dislodge the enemy's garrison, which 'continued in the castle for nine compleat years, until the Restoration.'

When the Revolution of 1688 extended itself to Scotland, General Mackay, an officer of some experience and repute in the Dutch service, was appointed to the command of the revolutionary forces in Scotland. After a good deal of hesitation and coquetting with the supporters of King James, Charles, tenth Earl of Mar, declared his adhesion to the new Dutch government, and was directed by General Mackay to 'guard the passes of his country' against the courageous Dundee. The Earl, however, died at Stirling<sup>2</sup> soon after he received this mandate, his dislike to which he would appear to have been at no pains to conceal; and, his son being a minor, the administration of

<sup>1</sup> *Historical Papers relating to Jacobite Period*, vol. ii.

<sup>2</sup> The Estates evidently distrusted the Earl, who was virtually a prisoner in his own castle of Stirling at the time of his death, for a particular and curious account of which the reader is referred to Wodrow's *Analecta*.

his affairs fell into the hands of persons who 'encouraged his people in opposition to the new government.'

Mackay, who was a seasoned and experienced soldier, soon recognised the importance of capturing Braemar Castle, the occupation of which by his troops would be, he perceived, invaluable, both as a check on the people of the district, who to a man were in favour of King James, and as a base for future military operations. 'As Braemar House,' says the General in his Autobiography, published by the Bannatyne Club, 'the seat of the family, was situated far back, and might be said to cover the shire of Aberdeen, the General deemed that also a fit situation for a garrison, and sent a detachment consisting of a hundred horse and dragoons and sixty foot, with a stock of provisions, to take possession of it. He gave the commanding officer written orders so to regulate his marches as to arrive at the House about midnight, leaving the foot to follow, and after posting twenty dragoons there, to proceed directly three miles farther on to Inverey House, in which a number of Dundee's officers were said to be hospitably entertained by Farquharson, laird of that place.

'This enterprise, so judiciously planned, was frustrated by disobedience of orders, followed by egregious blundering and mismanagement on the part of those entrusted with its execution. They arrived in good time at the point of destination, but, instead of proceeding, according to their instructions, directly to Inverey, they lingered at Braemar House to refresh their horses, and thus before reaching their ultimate point were surprised by daylight and missed their prey. Inverey and his guests having escaped in their shirts to a neighbouring wood, the assailants returned

to the House of Braemar, where they most unaccountably laid themselves down quietly to sleep about the doors, leaving their horses to graze in the fields. While they were thus indulging their repose, Inverey, not finding himself pursued, and knowing the localities, watched his opportunity, ascended some rocks behind the house, remarkable to reverberating sounds, and fired off a few musket shots, which, re-echoing from rock to rock, roused the men from their slumbers and frightened their horses. Retreating in confusion towards the foot, they speedily disappeared, and Inverey, that he might not be again annoyed by a hostile garrison in his neighbourhood, set fire to Braemar House and reduced it to ashes.'

The General, however, was mistaken. The Castle, though considerably damaged by fire, was not 'reduced to ashes.' In the Memorial to which allusion has been made above, it is stated that 'it was a little surprising to most men' that William, after the reduction of the Highlands, 'did omit to repair and garrison the said Castle of Braemar, the whole vaults, mason, and iron work being entire (as it is still at this day), and nothing (being required ?) but roof, joisting, and flooring, in a country that abounds with fir-wood and slate.'

Again, in the 'Highland Reports,' 1749-50, published by the Spalding Club, there is a Memorial by a writer, in the course of which he says: 'The Castle of Braemar is already built and provided with iron gates and cross-barred iron windows, and nothing to be done but roofing and repairing to make it as fit for any garrison or barrack as any in the Highlands of Scotland.' The Master of Forbes, writing to the Earl of Melville under date 27th

June 1690,<sup>1</sup> urges on that Minister the necessity of repairing Braemar Castle, which could then have been but a few months burnt. 'I humbly crave pardon,' says he, 'for presuming to press again a thing I have so often mentioned, the repairing the Castle of Braemar, which may be of good use and without charge to the public, by obliging the country thereabout who burnt, to repair, it, as also the Castle of Curgarf,<sup>2</sup> which is burnt of late. If orders be given I shall see it done.'

The Castle, however, was not then repaired, and it remained in an uninhabitable condition until 1748, when it was leased to the Government for a term of ninety years by the Laird of Invercauld, who had purchased it of the Erskine family in 1731, when, in consequence of the attainder passed on John, eleventh Earl of Mar of the Erskine line, the Aberdeenshire estate was obliged to be sold. The Government, adopting the advice of the Memorialist above mentioned, repaired the Castle and made it habitable. They built, moreover, the existing roof, and would appear to have slightly altered the design of some parts of the structure. 'The upper part shows clearly that it has been repaired in modern times, the tall angle turrets crowned with battlements being unknown features in Scotch architecture.'<sup>3</sup>

All fear of invasion by a foreign force being practically at an end, the Government was now free to turn its

<sup>1</sup> *Leven and Melville Papers*. Bannatyne Club.

<sup>2</sup> Corgarf Castle, situated in a wild and gloomy part of Strathdon. It was built by the Earls of Mar for a hunting-seat, burnt in 1581, rebuilt and burnt again *circa* 1688. It was apparently rebuilt a third time, but is now much decayed.

<sup>3</sup> *Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland*, vol. ii. p. 142.

attention to the suppression of smuggling in the Highlands ; and as Braemar was a prominent centre of the contraband trade, it may reasonably be surmised that the occupation of the Castle by a body of troops exercised a considerable restraining influence on the smuggling proclivities of the natives round about. Owing to one of the most tyrannical, as well as one of the most ridiculous, measures that ever disgraced the British Statute-book, it was now become a criminal offence for any Highlander to wear the national garb. The soldiers at the Castle had therefore a double duty to perform : to prevent the inhabitants from smuggling, and to prevent them from wearing the kilt. The following extracts from the Highland Reports 1749-50 may serve to show they were not invariably successful in enforcing the latter regulation, how much soever they may have been so in securing obedience to the first :—

‘ 5<sup>th</sup> Captain’s Command.

‘ Capt. Scott of Gen. Guises Reg<sup>mt</sup>

‘ under his command, 2 sub. { Lieut. Moody.  
  { Lieut. Irvine.

‘ Station, Braemar Barracks.

‘ REPORT.

‘ The several parties report that all is quiet, and that they have not seen one man in arms or in a Highland dress since they were posted.

‘ Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> (1749).

‘ I have apprehended a man for wearing the plaid contrary to Act of Parliament ; he had not only a Plaid on, but had under it carrying a party-coloured great-coat. I



immediately sent him in that dress over to Invercauld, who is a Justice of the Peace, and used to give orders for quartering of any parties that came here. Invercauld told the serg<sup>t</sup> that he did not now act as a justice of peace, nor had done for some time past; therefore desired him to go to some other justice. As I cannot hear of any one in the neighbourhood, I have sent the man to Aberdeen to be punished as the Law directs. The country people have good news, as they call it, amongst them; this fellow came past the Castle in his Plaid, with all the assurance imaginable.

*'Note.*—The ridiculous news amongst them is that the Pretender (Prince Charles Stewart) is landed in Long Island with 20 thousand men, which spirits them up greatly.'

This last touch of the zeal-smitten officer is interesting, as proving that Culloden and the severities to which it gave rise had not yet taken all spirit out of the people. It has often been asserted that the rank and file of the Scottish Highlanders had really little sympathy with Prince Charlie, and were heartily glad when his desperate undertaking was over; but the unconscious testimony of the commander of the Braemar garrison points, so far at least as this district is concerned, to an opposite conclusion. Would that it had fallen out as the clansmen wished, and not as this officer ridiculed them for not wishing! But let us return to the 'Report':—

*'3<sup>d</sup> Sept.*

'In my last report of the 4<sup>th</sup> instant, I mentioned to you that I had taken up a man for wearing the Plaid and had

sent him to Aberdeen. . . . The serg<sup>t</sup> who went with the prisoner is now returned, and informs me that he carried the prisoner before the Sherriff of the county, with his plaid on as first taken. The Sherriff said in the Prisoner's behalf that it was only a dyed blanket and not a plaid. The serg<sup>t</sup> asked the Sherriff if the people might wear their plaids if dy'd, the Sherriff told the serg<sup>t</sup> the intent of the Act of Parliament was not to oppress the poor and dismiss'd the prisoner. Notwithstanding the Sherriff's judgement, I shall take up all persons that I find wearing the dy'd blankets, as the Sherriff is pleased to call them.'

'Aug. 20.

'Since my last I have taken up and sent to Aberdeen another Highlander for wearing a Plaid of different colours which I think the Sherriff cannot call a Blanket, as he was pleased to call the other.'

'Sept<sup>r</sup> 16' (1749).

A report under this date states that 'the soldiers had a race after a Highlander who appeared in Highland dress, and completely armed; he fairly outran all the party, and as he was going into a wood we fired upon him but missed him; but I imagine I shall see him no more in that dress.'

'Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>

'The sergeant of the party at Dubrach has been missing ever since Thursday morning. I am much afraid that the poor man is murdered, as he was very active in his duty, and two days before he was in pursuit of 4 men which appeared in arms and in the Highland garb, which

I suppose to be thieves. I have sent another serg<sup>t</sup> in his room, and tuo men to reinforce that party, and have given the serg<sup>t</sup> orders to search all that country for the serg<sup>t</sup> missing; by the next oppportunity I shall acquaint you of the success.'

After the '15 the Castle became known as the 'Duke's Castle,' from the circumstance of Prince James having bestowed the title of Duke on the Earl of Mar, by which name it was known until it was purchased by the Farquharson family. It is now called simply 'Braemar Castle,' and has recently been converted into a shooting-lodge.

Kindrochit Castle, also mentioned by Taylor the Water Poet, and the ruins of which may still be traced on the right bank of the Cluny water, close to the bridge, was built in the reign of Malcolm Can Mor, probably as a hunting-lodge. Robert II. appears to have been a frequent occupier of this ancient stronghold, at which he signed several charters which are yet extant. On one occasion he came to the Castle with an immense concourse of followers, with whom he remained in the neighbourhood hunting and carousing for the space of several weeks. Kindrochit, like most Scottish strongholds, was more than once sacked and burnt by contending forces, the last occasion being about the end of the sixteenth century, when it was almost entirely destroyed.

Some account of the inhabitants of Braemar is given in Pennant's narrative of his travels through Scotland at the end of the last century. Pennant, who was, as his name implies, an Englishman, and wrote as one on Highland topics, seems to have been much shocked at some of the

manners and customs of the Highlanders. 'The Houses of the common people in these parts,' he says, 'are shocking to humanity, formed with loose stones and covered with clods, which they call divots, or with heath, broom, or branches of fir; they look at a distance like so many black mole-hills. The inhabitants live very poorly<sup>1</sup> on oatmeal, barley cakes, and potatoes; their drink, whisky sweetened with honey. The men are very thin, but strong; idle and lazy, except employed in the chace, or anything that looks like amusement; are content with their hard fare, and will not exert themselves further than to get what they deem necessities.'

'The women are more industrious, spin their own husbands' clothes, and get money by knitting stockings, the great trade of the country. The common women are in general most remarkably plain, and soon acquire an old look, and by being much exposed to the weather without hats, such a grin and contraction of muscles as heightens greatly their natural hardness of feature.'

The houses or bothies to which Pennant alludes must not be confounded with the sheallings, of which a short and graphic description is given in the *Memoirs of Sir Ewen Cameron of Lochiel*.<sup>2</sup> 'Having reached the country called Braemar,' he says, 'he (Lochiel of the '45) took up his quarters in certain small huts which are everywhere to be met with in the mountains, and are commonly known by the name of sheallings, which seems to be a corruption of the word shielding. They are built occasionally for the shelter of cow-herds and dairy-maids, who reside therein

<sup>1</sup> But not worse than other Highlanders at that time.

<sup>2</sup> Abbotsford Club.

during the summer season ; and as they are often obliged to remove from place to place for the conveniency of pasturage, so these huts are nothing but a few sticks, with the lower end fixed in the earth, and bound together at the tops with small ropes or woodies slightly covered over with turf.'

Life in Castletown and Braemar of old would appear to have run on the familiar Highland lines. That is to say, a continual round of feuds, combats, marriages, feats, cattle-liftings, wakes, and now and then, it is much to be feared, a murder or two, with countless reeves and raids, constituted the sum-total and extent of the people's diversions ; whilst these and other exhilarating exploits supplied never-ending pabulum to local bards and annalists.

In early days the Highlanders of Scotland were a veritable thorn in the side of the government. The race of Stewart was particularly zealous for their suppression, the Stewart kings of Scotland being responsible for a larger number of repressive measures in that direction than all the rest of the Scottish sovereigns put together. And yet the Highlanders remained true to the legitimate dynasty long after the Lowlanders had completely forsaken it ! The cause of the race that had systematically oppressed them most, the Scottish Highlanders supported in countless cases at the expense of their lives and their property, when all others had either forsaken it, or were become cool to it, and especially those who had been admitted to the greatest power and favour by it. This circumstance is a peculiar one in the history of the Scottish Highlands ; nay, more, it is probably unique in the histories of all civilised peoples, and as such it undoubtedly seems to

demand a larger and closer share of attention at the hands of philosophers and historians than it has hitherto received, if indeed it has received any, from those sources.

It cannot be denied, however, that the government was immensely troubled with some of the clans of Scotland in the old days ; and though few, I imagine, could feel disposed to argue that the provocation it received was sufficient justification for the bloody and tyrannical measures which it frequently employed against the inhabitants of the glens, often in defiance of every law of humanity, and sometimes irrespective of age, condition, and even sex, yet there can be no doubt but that the government was frequently sorely tried by the Highlanders, whose hatred and contempt of the law, as well as whose quarrelsomeness, rendered them obnoxious to the more law-abiding and docile inhabitants of the Lowlands. In common with most other clans, the Farquharsons would appear to have fallen from time to time under the displeasure of the Scottish government in consequence of their lawless proceedings, and to have provoked the severest reprisals. One of their many raids is thus alluded to in *Memorials of the Troubles in Scotland*, printed by the Spalding Club :—‘About this tyme (1640) Donald Farquharstone and some hieland men of Bray of Mar came down to the Mernis (Mearns) and plouderit the Erll Marschallis boundis of Strathauhim ; quhairat the Erll wes heichlie offendit.’ This Donald Farquharson was a great royalist. He plundered the houses of several rich Covenanting gentlemen, and he and his clansmen were in consequence mightily feared and detested by those who supported Whiggism.

Proclamations against 'broken Heilandmen' were of frequent occurrence. One bearing date 1634, issued by the Privy Council, Whitehall, sets forth that a number of these turbulent spirits came on one occasion to the house of one 'Johnne Mair at Braemurray (Braemar) and robed and spoyled the said Johnne of his goods, and gave M<sup>r</sup> James Cumming, being in the hous for the tyme, eleiven wounds with his awin durk.' The laird of Fren draucht and his tenants seem to have been at one time great sufferers from the visits of some of these bloodthirsty gentry, by whom they were made the victims of 'frequent slaughters, heirships and barbarous cruelties,' whereby not only was 'all the gentleman's lands laide waist, his haill goods and bestiall spoyled, slane and maigled; some of his servants killed and cruellie demagned, but also the haill tennants of his lands and domesticks of his hous have left his service, and himself, with the hazard of his life, hes been forced to steal away under nyght and have his refuge to his Majesteis Counsell.'

Burning, and slaying, and pillaging seem, indeed, to have been the mainstay of our ancestors, so far as employment and diversion were concerned. Thus we are told that Montrose, after burning and slaying 'throw his (Argyle's) haill countries,' and leaving 'no hous nor hold except impregnable strenthis,' goes to Braemar, where he is joined by the Farquharsons and Gordons, with which addition to his forces Montrose starts off on another burning and pillaging expedition.

The boot was not always on the same leg, however. Sometimes it adorned the enemy's, and then Braemar came in for what the French call a *mauvais quatre d'heure*.

When the Revolution of 1688 spread to Scotland, Charles, tenth Earl of Mar, was at first inclined to support it, though it must be confessed he gave his adhesion to it in a somewhat half-hearted fashion. He was engaged, however, by General Mackay 'to observe Dundee with three or four hundred highlanders about the braes or heighth of the province of Marr,' where he was very likely to pass; for about this time Mar began to change in favour of their Majesties' (William and Mary's) interest and service. But the Earl 'sickned immediately, whereof he also died shortly thereafter, . . . which was the occasion that the country of that name joyned under Colonel Murray in the rebellion,' Braemar then being to a man almost in favour of King James. Mackay, as we have already seen, determined to reduce this country to submission by establishing a garrison of his own soldiers in the Castle. The scheme miscarried, however, as we have already seen, and the Whigs were forced to fly; but immediately intelligence of this disaster was brought to him, Mackay 'marched up to the House of Braemarr, when, finding it burnt, and the vaults incapable to lodge any number of men conveniently, after the burning of Inverey's house, with all his lands, descended the river to Abergeldie, where he lodged 72 men of his detachment and then returned to Edinburgh.' Such is Mackay's own account of his revenge, printed apparently for the edification of the world; but his letters reveal the existence of a far more weighty and terrible one; for under date 15th Sept. 1690, 'the general'—as he delights to call himself in his Autobiography—writes to Hamilton to say that he has 'ordered Colonel Cunninghame to Braemar with



6 troop of horse and dragoons which he hath by him, and 600 of his best foot, to disarme and burn Invereyes country *and all Braemar*, which I had no time to effectuate when I went north.'

Occasionally, however, it happened that the clansmen were not willing to rise in support of the royal cause, or what is more probable, perhaps, some of their chiefs were not anxious to do so. Then it happened that where fair means had been tried and found of no avail, the reverse used to be employed in their stead, and generally with successful results. The oft-quoted letter of John Erskine, eleventh Earl of Mar, to his Bailie Jock Forbes at Kildrummie, is an instance in point; and there is another in the shape of a letter which is preserved among the family papers of the Farquharsons at Invercauld, from Lord Erskine to Robert Farquharson, in which he informs the laird of his intention to come north (the letter is dated 'Alloa, 17 April 1651'), for the purpose of levying 'all such of his father's friends and followers' as he believed were willing to rise for the King (Charles II.), and to 'force all others.' As a rule, however, the Braemar men required little forcing. Their superiors might, it is true, occasionally prefer their interest to patriotism, but as far as the clansmen of that district were concerned, when or wherever there was fighting to be done, the probability is that they were anxious to have a hand in it.

The three great political events in modern history which created the greatest stir in Braemar were undoubtedly the Revolution of 1688, and the Jacobite affairs of 1715 and 1745; for, though the district doubtless shared in the agitation felt by the rest of the country in consequence of

the various political phenomena that came from time to time to disturb it at periods antecedent to those events, yet it was too far removed out of the beaten track, and too remote and uncivilised in every way, to feel in like manner with it, and, like it, to raise to itself and posterity a literature, however crude and incomplete, on those subjects.

The religion of the mass of the people, that of the Church of Rome, would appear to have exercised no small amount of influence in settling the course of their political convictions. Thus we read in David Wedderburne's account of the Diocese of Aberdeen that the people 'were little fond' of the changes which happened in Church and State in the year 1688; and to the same cause must undoubtedly be assigned much of their affection for the Stuarts, and their extreme readiness to take the field in behalf of the exiled dynasty. Whilst the Revolution of 1688 was in progress, a Whig army entered Braemar and took possession of the old Castle of Mar; but so little were the political opinions of the invaders agreeable to those of the majority of the inhabitants, that they rose up in arms, attacked the castle, took it, and set fire to it, by which some part of it was destroyed.

The religious principles and sentiments of the majority of the people of Braemar have always been, and in point of fact still continue to be, those which are in conformity with the teaching of the Church of Rome; and they would appear to have retained their belief in the older Church, in spite of the fact that the influence of the Erskines and of the Farquharsons was, with few exceptions, cast into the opposite scale. In 1705, Bishop Nicolson, who had made a visitation of the Highlands and Islands in 1700, on

which occasion he confirmed no less than three thousand persons, went to Braemar for the first time, 'taking advantage of the absence of Lord Mar, who was far from friendly to the Catholics.' 'The faithful' in this district are said to have then 'numbered some five hundred'<sup>1</sup> souls, who were ministered to by a priest of the Society of Jesus.

Like most districts of the Highlands, Braemar has suffered severely from the clearances and the ruthless evicting policy pursued by many former lairds and land-owners. Some interesting statistics and particulars with regard to the depopulation of Upper Deeside by these means are given in the Rev. John Michie's *Deeside Tales*. I think I cannot do better than quote the author's own words. After some introductory remarks on the subject of the ethical aspect of clearancing—to coin a new word,—Mr. Michie observes that, 'without attempting to solve so knotty a point, the object of the writer of these pages is merely to exhibit the change that has taken place in respect to population, as well as in other respects, on Deeside since the middle of the last century. The districts embraced by these observations consist of the parishes of Aboyne, Glenmuick, Tullich, Glengairn, Crathie and Braemar, with the district of Cromar, comprising the parishes of Coull, Tarland, and Logie-Coldstone. The population of the whole, according to the census of 1871, amounts to 7782; and there is no very marked disparity between this number and what the same district contained in 1801, the first year in which we have reliable statistics. The difference, therefore, within the century, though noticeable, has been

<sup>1</sup> *History of the Catholic Church in Scotland.*

gradually effected, and is still going on in the same direction, viz. an increase in the towns and villages, and a decrease in rural districts.

‘The great Highland clearances began about twenty years prior to 1801, and continued for ten or twelve years to be practised in the northern counties with great rigour. The depopulation of Upper Deeside was effected with less severity, because the course adopted was a gradual dispossession extending over a much longer period of years, but it began quite as early.

‘At what date the population of Deeside reached its maximum is not quite clear, but it is certain that the pressure of surplus numbers was felt before the ’45. As, however, up to that time the strength of a chief consisted in the number of broadswords he could bring into action, no effort was made to reduce the occupants of his lands, but rather the reverse, to increase their numbers irrespective of the capability of the district to maintain them. This state of things could not long continue; want of employment gendered habits of idleness, at the back of which stood poverty and famine. To provide against this was the duty of the chief, and more frequently than anything else drove him to desperate courses, cattle-lifting, raids, and other spulzieing expeditions. Long before the ’45 the law had become too strong for the chiefs to provide for their followers in this reckless manner with impunity, but they winked at it when practised by their dependants, and even made money out of it by pretending to restrain them in consideration of receiving *blackmail*.’

For a time it seemed probable that the attempt of 1745 would absorb the surplus population of the glens, ‘yet,

strange to say,' continues Mr. Michie, 'there was much more backwardness manifested in rallying round the standard of the Prince himself, than thirty years before had been displayed in bringing forward the clans under the Earl of Mar. In the space of two months Mar assembled a force of 10,000 men,<sup>1</sup> all Highlanders. During a campaign of sixteen months' duration, Charles Edward was never at the head of an army of more than 7000, and of these a good many were Lowlanders. The reason was, that during these thirty years several Highland proprietors had directed their attention to and endeavoured to engage their followers in peaceful avocations, and were finding that though a slow, it was a sure way of turning the tide of their fortunes, and were therefore unwilling to sacrifice the hope that had dawned on them, for so hazardous a speculation as the Prince held out to them. But in the districts—and Deeside was one of them—that went pretty heartily into the rebellion, we may infer from the number of men contributed what the amount of the population was at the time. When, therefore, the fact is known that notwithstanding that the influence of the chief was on the government side,<sup>2</sup> and that the parishes of Tarland, Coull,

<sup>1</sup> Though as many as 15,000 men are said to have been at one time under arms in the Jacobite interest in 1715, it is probable that 12,000 to 13,000 was the greatest number so employed. Clerk of Penicuik, in his interesting *Memoirs* printed for the Scottish History Society, says that Mar 'had so much address as to bring to the town of Perth, the centre of all the enterprise, at least 10,000 men, some have carried the number to 12,000, which I am inclined to believe, provided the 1600 men be included that passed the Frith of Forth near the Island of May.'

<sup>2</sup> I should prefer to hear it described as 'neutral,' with all due deference to Mr. Michie. I believe that the chief retained his Jacobite principles and sympathies to the last, though in 1715 and 1745 he thought it scarce his interest to make a conspicuous parade of them.

and Aboyne contributed very few, no less than 1000 men went from Upper Deeside to join the Prince at Culloden, it becomes evident that our glens were then teeming with a warlike population.'

The days of clearancing and ruthless eviction are now happily over, but none the less the tendency is for the Highlanders to forsake the glens and villages and to crowd into the great towns, where employment, besides being very often of a very unhealthy nature, is by no means easy to get. It is much to be hoped, therefore, that the increased and increasing amount of attention that is being brought to bear on this subject, together with the useful and far-seeing efforts that are being made in some quarters to fix the rural population on the soil, as the expression is, will be crowned with success, and that the days will come again when the glens and villages of the Highlands will be peopled as of old, though with an infinitely more industrious and thriving population than that which inhabited them in the troublous times of our ancestors.

I feel much tempted to add at this conjuncture one or two observations on the subject of the Highland dress and the Gaelic language, both which, for some mysterious reason unknown to me, seem to be going out of vogue, at least among the clansmen. With regard to the former, exists there a Highlander so degenerate as to prefer it to the Lowland garb? At all events, if there does, I do not mean to insult the rest of the Highland community by drawing attention to one poor individual's eccentricity. To the rest of his fellow-countrymen, however, I would address this simple question, in all courtesy and seriousness, Why do they not wear the

dress of their ancestors on all ordinary occasions? I much fear this bashfulness and diffidence in the matter of costume is due to the spread of certain preposterous Saxon ideas, which, so soon as they are sucked in, stultify a man and render him absolutely incapable of thinking and of judging for himself.

A short while ago it was the rule, and not the exception, for the Braemar Highlanders to wear the kilt whilst engaged in the fields, or following any other domestic occupation. At present, however, so far is this from being the rule, it is not even the miserable exception; the clansmen of Braemar do not wear the kilt, save, in rapidly decreasing numbers, on a few festive occasions. And this they do, I imagine, not because they are so degenerate as to despise the dress of their ancestors, but because they have not strength and courage of mind sufficient to enable them to resist the encroachments of Lowland manners and customs. It is, perhaps, too much to expect that these few lines will have any effect in remedying this unfortunate state of affairs; those who watch the trend of public opinion know, alas! how persistent and shameless a vermin it often is; but if they should have the effect of calling serious attention to this matter, and of arresting even for a time the spread of certain foolish ideas, the writer would then feel that he has not penned them in vain.

With regard to the latter, it is much to be deplored that the Gaelic language is not more generally spoken in Braemar than it is held at the present day. Besides being a very beautiful, it is a very classic language, and visitors to the district would do well to try to acquire some knowledge of it in their spare moments, instead of

reading ridiculous novels and speaking disrespectfully of the weather. The difficulties of the language have been vastly exaggerated by those who will not be at the pains to acquire it, or who labour under a constitutional disinclination and natural incapacity to speak any tongue save their own.

Every encouragement, moreover, ought to be offered to the natives to speak their own language, which they can do, if they choose, with remarkable fluency, elegance, and precision, instead of the English, which, unless I am much mistaken, they use on all public occasions, from a fear lest, by neglecting it, they should be deemed out of the mode. And it is much to be hoped that the recent astonishing and encouraging revival of interest in the Gaelic language, customs, and institutions, which is so gratifying a feature of modern life in our great cities, will, in course of time, and through the agency of an enlightened Press, spread to the Highlands, there to arouse in the breasts of the inhabitants of the glens a new interest and a new zeal for the language and customs of their forefathers.

I shall conclude this chapter with saying a few words concerning two families which have long been connected with Braemar. The first of these is the Farquharsons, a numerous and powerful offshoot of the Clan Chattan; the second the Erskines, who, though not a clan in the ordinary acceptation of the word, are of Celtic origin, and closely united by marriage and interest to some of the principal chiefs and chieftains in the Highlands.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The attainted Earl of Mar, however, speaks, in a MS. which I have edited for the Scottish History Society, of the Erskine family as a clan. The Erskine tartan, moreover, is undoubtedly one of the oldest in Scot-



At what particular date the Farquharsons came to Braemar it is impossible to say, but they must have settled in the district at a very early period. They were, as I have said, a branch of the Clan Chattan, the original of which is still a moot point with historians. In 1464 Alexander Mackintosh was chief of the Clan Chattan; and one of his younger sons, named Farquhar, from Rothiemurchus, one of the three districts—the other two being Lochaber and Badenoch—in which the original possessions of the old Clan Chattan were situated, settled in the Braes of Mar. He left a son, Donald Farquhar, who entered the service of Duncan Stewart, the laird of Invercauld, and subsequently married the laird's daughter. On the death of Stewart, his son-in-law succeeded to a portion of the lands of Invercauld. This Donald Farquhar had a son called Findla, or Findla Mor, by whom he was succeeded; and the Earldom of Mar being at that time in the hands of the Crown, Findla's zeal and activity in behalf of the government of the day were rewarded, as the custom then was, with several grants of land. Findla Mor was twice married, and had a large family. He carried the standard, in accordance with the hereditary right of the Farquharsons, at the battle of Pinkie (1547), where he fell fighting valiantly. Findla Mor was the ancestor of the Farquharsons of Invercauld, Castletown, Inverey, Finzean, Balmoral, Monaltrie, and Whitehouse.<sup>1</sup>

After Findla came Robert Farquharson, who died in the latter part of the sixteenth century. He was succeeded

land; the simplicity of its setts, apart altogether from documentary evidence, being sufficient to establish that fact.

<sup>1</sup> *History of the Valley of the Dee*, by John Mackintosh, LL.D.

by his son John, who was succeeded by his son Robert Farquharson. Robert married a daughter of Erskine of Pittodrie, and had issue. He acquired the barony of Wardes, in the parish of Kennethmont, but afterwards sold it. His daughter, Marjory, married George Leith of Overhall. Robert died in the reign of Charles II., and was succeeded by his son, Alexander Farquharson. He married a daughter of Mackintosh, chief of the Clan Chattan, and had issue. But their eldest son, William, having died unmarried, he was succeeded by his brother, John Farquharson.<sup>1</sup> This laird was in possession of Invercauld, when the Earl of Mar raised the standard of Prince James in 1715.

John Farquharson of Invercauld lived to a great age, and, dying in 1750, was succeeded by his son James, who was a man of much force and energy of character, and who, by zealously applying himself to the improvement of his estates, greatly enhanced the value and amenities of his property. James married the widow of Lord Sinclair, who was a daughter of Lord George Murray, Lieutenant-General of Prince Charles's army. All his children predeceased him, except one daughter, who married Captain James Ross, second son of Sir John L. Ross of Balnagowan.

James Farquharson died in 1806, and Captain Ross then assumed the name of Farquharson. His son, James R. Farquharson, succeeded to the estates of Invercauld. He died in 1862 and was succeeded by his son, Colonel James R. Farquharson, who was succeeded by his son, Lieutenant Alexander H. Farquharson, the present popular proprietor of Invercauld.

<sup>1</sup> *History of the Valley of the Dee.*

It is curious that the Farquharsons, who, as we have seen, were a branch of the Clan Chattan, and therefore Mackintoshes, were not known by their present name until comparatively recent times. Even so late as 1620 they were styled Mackintoshes. Nor do they seem to have made much figure in the public records until a comparatively late period, a circumstance which is accounted for by the Marquis of Huntly, in his preface to the Records of Aboyne, printed for the Spalding Club, by the fact that the Earls of Mar, whose vassals the Farquharsons or Mackintoshes were, were 'chary of granting parchment titles' to their Highland followers. By a charter, however, dated 28th September 1632, the lands of Kindrochit were granted to Donald Farquharson of Camusnakist. These lands are described as extending to 'four oxengates.' In the above-mentioned charter the Earl reserves the right of 'hunting of roe and deer,' and stipulates for payment of a feu-duty of twelve merks six shillings and eightpence 'at the principal dwelling-house in Braemar, called the Castle of Kindrochit.' By this and other charters it was incumbent on the vassals to give personal attendance on the superior with eight followers from each davoch of land, 'with their dogs and hounds at all his huntings within the bounds of Mar.' The vassals were also to attend 'all his hostings upon their own charges, and attend his bailie at all general musters and weapon schawings within the Sherriffdom of Aberdeen.'

The above brief sketch of the Farquharsons of Invercauld does not, of course, include the history of the other branches of this once warlike and formidable clan, which are settled in Aberdeenshire. A reference, however, to

the map of Scotland distinguishing the districts or countries inhabited by the Highland clans, published with Browne's *History of the Highlands*, will show at a glance the extent of the Farquharsons' possessions in Aberdeenshire. Neither is it possible, within the compass of a small volume such as this, to descend to greater detail regarding the many warlike exploits in which the clan has taken part from the earliest times. Suffice it to say that loyalty to chieftain and country, courage, daring, and indifference to hardships and fatigue, have ever characterised the clan Farquharson, and that they possess as honourable and noble a record as any of the septs of the Highlands.

The Earldom of Mar, which is the principal dignity of the district so named, is said by one competent authority to have its original 'lost in the mists of antiquity,' and by another as learned to be probably the oldest title in Europe. According to one account, 'it (*i.e.* the country or district of Mar) was made a captainship in the person of Martach (above three hundred years before our Saviour), to whom King Fergus I. gave it.' Then, according to the same authority, the Earldom was created, 'first in the Mars; Murdo Mar (possibly descended of the aforesaid Martach) being made Earl of Mar by King Malcolm III., from which Earl Murdo to Earl Thomas, who dyed childless under King David II., inclusively, are reckoned nine Earls.' The Earldom then passed into the powerful and ancient family of Douglass, 'William, first Earl of Douglass, having married Isabel Mar, the sister of Earl Thomas. He (*i.e.* William, first Earl of Douglass) was succeeded in both Earldoms by his son James, who was succeeded by

his sister Isabel.' Here ended the line of the Douglasses, Earls of Mar. The Earldom then passed into the Royal House of Stewart, 'Alexander Stewart, natural son to Alexander Buchan, having married the said Isabel Douglas. But he, dying childless A.D. MCCCXXXVI, the Erskines claimed it as descended of the first Earls. But, A.D. MCCCCLX., King James II. gave it to his third son, John; who dying unmarried, King James III. gave it to one Robert Cochran, and after that to his own son John. Queen Mary gave it to James Stuart, her natural brother, afterwards Earl of Murray.' On the death of the Earl of Murray, 'Queen Mary, . . . after a full examination of their claim,' gave it to 'John, Lord Erskine, to whose family it has since belonged.'<sup>1</sup> But perhaps the best, because the most brief, succinct, and clear account of the Earldom of Mar, from the earliest authentic times down to the restoration of the Earldom to John, Lord Erskine, in the reign of Mary, Queen of Scotland, is that written by Sir Thomas Hope, the celebrated lawyer, and printed by the Spalding Club. The following is an extract of it:—

'Gratney, Earle of Mar, begat upon the sister of King Robert Bruce, a son called Donald, and a daughter called Helen. Donald had a son called Thomas who was thereafter Earle of Mar, and deceased without children, and a daughter called Margaret, who was married to William Earle of Douglas, and with him begat only one daughter called Isabell Douglas who being barren dyed (tho' being twice married, as shall be shoven afterwards) without issue and so in her ends the race of Donald Earle of Mar, and thereby the title and right of the Earle of Mar returns to the heirs of Helen Mar, who was sister to

<sup>1</sup> Wedderburne's *Account of Aberdeenshire*, printed by the Spalding Club.

Donald. This Helen Mar was married to Sir John Menteith, who begat on her a daughter, called Christian Menteith, who was married to Sir Edward Keith, brother to the Marshall, of which marriage was procreat only one daughter, called Janet Keith, who was married to Sir Thomas Erskine and with him procreat Robert Lord Erskine who was afterwards styled Robert Earle of Mar, being in his own time served retoured and seased in the said Earledome, as heir to the umquhill dame Isabell Douglas. . . .

‘Albeit the House of Erskine had the undoubted right to the said Earldome of Mar, yet they were debarred from the possession thereof for many ages, by the iniquity of the time, in maner after deduced.

‘For the said Isabell Douglas, heretrix of Mar, had to her first husband, Malcome Drummond of Concrage, who dyed without succession. Thereafter she was ravished by Alexander Stewart, bastard son to Alexander Earle of Buchan, who was third lawful son to King Robert the second; and the time of her ravishing he moved her to give him infeftment of the said Earledome. But neither with him had she any children.

‘The said dame Isabell Douglas deceased without heirs of her body, before the said Alexander her spouse, about the space of twenty-tuo years; and during his lifetime, the Lord Erskine could have no access to the Earldome of Mar, because of his life rent or conjunct fee right by virtue of his infeftment.

‘After the decease of the said Alexander her husband, which was in anno 1436, King James the First then reigning, intruded himself in possession of the Earledome of Mar upon this pretext, that the said Alexander,

deceasing bastard, by the priviledge of the crown, the said Earledome pertained to the king and that the Lord Erskine could have no right thereto as heir to umquhill dame Isabell Dowglas, because she had resigned her right in favours of the said Alexander. King James the First haveing possessed of the said Earledome deceast the next year 1437; and because the Lord Erskine urged instantly his right and succession, therefor there was an act of parliament carried in the first year of King James the Second, ordaining that the King should continue in the possession of the haile lands bruiked by his father until his perfect age of 21, and so the Lord Erskine was debarred all the while from the said Earledome. . . .

‘Since his time, the Earledome of Mar has been possessed by the kings, and their second and third sons and by their favourits, to whom they pleased to dispone the same, and thereby the Lords Erskine debarred from their right, which umquhil Queen Mary, in the year 1565, after her perfect age, considering the undoubted rights and titles which the house of Erskine had to the said Earledome of Mar, did, by her Majesteis infetment, under the great seall give and dispone the said Earledome of Mar, to umquhill John Earle of Mar, Lord Erskine, father to John now Earle of Mar, which infetment is ratified in Parliament in the year 1567.’

After the Rising of 1715 the Earldom was attainted and the then possessor of it deprived of his estates. The attainder was not taken off till the year 1824, when the Earldom was restored in the person of John Francis Erskine, the grandson of the Earl who headed the Rising in favour of James VIII.

## CHAPTER II

### BRAEMAR: TOPOGRAPHICAL AND ANTIQUARIAN

[BY THE REV. JOHN G. MICHIE]

ALTHOUGH Braemar, now so valued as a health resort, was not unknown to early Scottish chroniclers, it is only within the present century, and mainly within the last fifty years, that it has attained its deservedly high reputation and attractiveness. It may therefore be of some interest to inquire into its condition in former ages. Some historians tell us that it was known to the Romans, not under the name of Braemar, for that is of Gaelic derivation, but under that of *Tamea*, the derivation of which is unknown. If the Emperor Severus did rest here for a day or two in his retreat from the land of Moray, neither he nor any historian of his time has left us any account of the natives. We are therefore at liberty to give the reins to the imagination, and draw any picture of the aborigines and their surroundings we please, provided we make both savage enough.

The first glimpse we get of Braemar in authentic history is from an ecclesiastical point of view. The monks of St. Andrews were great missionaries, and in the eighth and ninth centuries had established several stations in the



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remote Highlands. For some reason Braemar had specially attracted their attention, and they built a church there, the first building of stone and lime in the northern Highlands, and thence designated the White Kirk. Where it stood we have no certain information. But it must have been an object of much wonder as well as reverence to the wild natives. We can easily imagine them staring at the busy monks as they quarried and burnt their lime, laid the foundations, and proceeded to build. To them, who had never seen an edifice larger or of more durable structure than their own mud dwellings, erected in the course of an afternoon, it must have seemed as strange as the Tower of Babel to the dwellers on the plain of Shinar. We are quite entitled to assume that it helped greatly to impress their minds with sentiments of reverence, and to promote the cause of Christianity among them. A beautiful picture of primitive missionary work rises before the imagination, nobly and vividly exemplified in our own day by an even greater advocate of the cause amid the dusky hordes of Livingstonia.

Some centuries passed, as we may suppose, before Braemar was honoured with another *White House*. But the time came. Side by side with the progress of Christianity march also civilisation and art. There is good ground for believing the tradition that the great King Malcolm Ceanmor, who we know was fond of hunting, selected Braemar, being then, as it is still, the noblest forest in Scotland, as the scene of his summer operations. He had won his greatest victory, vanquished and slain his greatest enemy, in its vicinity. Little wonder then that he was fond of Mar, and that he built a great hunting-seat or

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palace there. Let the visitor then take his or her stand on that green knoll on the right bank of the Cluny where it engages with the rugged rocks that oppose its last bold rush for the Dee; and let him or her, or both, and especially her, throw their thoughts back some 830 years. There was no green knoll there then; but a strong and lofty tower, fit dwelling for any sovereign of the time, reared its embattled crest over the broad valley. Though its glory is gone, the vaulted foundations under their feet bespeak its former greatness, and even yet excite the marvel of the visitor. Let them, I say, cast their thoughts back over these many centuries, and imagine the whole population in a bustle, like bees around a swarming hive, making ready for some great event, some distinguished arrival. When this scene is sufficiently contemplated, let the eye of fancy be next directed to the far-off kingdom of Fife. There, near by the rising towers of the newly founded Abbey of Dunfermline, in the court of a royal fortress, you may behold a scene of equal bustle and stir, but not for the arrival, but the departure of the *Ard Righ* of the land. Horsemen and footmen, dame and knight, king and queen, were there. Follow the long train as it winds its way round the Ochils to the fair city of St. Johnstone, now better known as Perth, up the broad vale of the Tay, past the old ecclesiastical metropolis of ancient Alban, now called Dunkeld, through Strathardle and Kirkmichael to the hospital of Glenshee. From that over the Cairnwell and down Glen Cluny. The march on a grand scale resembles Fergus MacIvor with his tail on, as described by Sir Walter Scott. The scene is changed. In a private apartment of the stronghold or palace of Kin-

drochit, or it may be on the green sward by the banks of the Cluny, are seated two royal personages. The one, tall of stature and somewhat rugged of countenance, rests his large head on the palm of his right hand in the attitude of an interested listener; the other squatted by his side, with her left arm leaning on his knee, and her right hand holding a book from which she has been reading. The tall form is King Malcolm Ceanmor, and the beautiful figure at his side is his saintly queen, Margaret. The book is a volume of the Scriptures, which she is explaining to him in her native English, he not being able to read it, nor very fully to understand any language but his mother tongue—the ancient Gaelic. Such is the picture commonly given us of the home-life of this royal pair, whose reign inaugurates a new and better era in the history of Scotland. We reserve a description of the manner of the King's hunting at a still later period, observing only that the Braemar deer-hunts changed but little till quite a modern date.

The old castle—it was not so very old then,—though unvisited, as far as we know, by any of the succeeding kings for the next two hundred years, had not fallen into decay. And all through the wars in the days of Wallace and Bruce, when so many of the coeval palaces and strongholds of the country were laid in dust and ashes, it remained unmolested; and when, in 1377, it again became the summer resort of the Scottish Court under Robert II., the first of the Stewart line, it was found sufficient for the accommodation of a numerous train. Though the King was of a mild and unwarlike disposition, the nobles, and especially the chiefs in the Highlands, were

never more turbulent and lawless. Every one of them when at Court was attended with a train of armed followers several hundreds strong.

Matters of State required the attendance of some ; and probably matters of pleasure (hunting, to wit) attracted more. We know for certain, that on the 26th August of the above year (1377) there were with the King at Kindrochit Castle in Braemar, besides the Archbishop of St. Andrews—bishops and archbishops were then often clad in armour, and led their followers into battle,—John, the heir-apparent to the throne ; Robert, Earl of Fife, afterwards the famous or infamous Duke of Albany, without whom no State business could be transacted ; William, Earl of Douglas, one of the greatest of his great name, who had a good right to be present, inasmuch as he had that very year succeeded, in right of his wife, to the honour and wide domains of the Earldom of Mar ; Sir James and Sir Alexander Lindsay, the leaders of that numerous and warlike race ; besides many others of less note. They were the witnesses to a charter granted to William, Earl Marischal, '*Apud Kindrocht xxvij die mensis Augusti anno regni nostri septimo.*' Other charters in other years were also granted at Kindrochit, in the presence of equally noble witnesses. We may fancy what a stir these assemblies would make in the wild glens of Braemar. There must have been thousands of retainers—all soldiers bred to arms. How the ferocious wild-boar and wolf, as well as the timid deer, would fare when these armed hunters invaded their lonely retreats, amid the corries of Ben Macdhui, and deep forest shades of Glen Lui, we shall anon describe in the words of an eye-witness.

Meanwhile let us turn our thoughts to the more peaceful subject of ecclesiastical affairs.

We could not point out to the reader the exact site of the White Kirk, hoary with age even in King Ceanmor's day ; but in his son's reign—that 'sore saint for the Crown,' David I.—a new church was built close to the castle : so that somewhere in the environs of the green knoll are to be found the foundations of the church of the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth centuries. No record remains of the original endowment, which belonged to the monks of St. Andrews, who undertook to supply the pastoral charge, which they continued to do till the year 1230. About that date Duncan, Earl of Mar, changed the cure, giving the benefice to the priory and canons of St. Mary of Monymusk—a Culdee establishment, adding to the patrimony an acre of land and pertinents in Auchindryne ; and it continued so annexed till the Reformation.

#### CHAPELS

Besides the church at Kindrochit, there were in Roman Catholic times six chapels or religious houses, to the sites of which a pleasant excursion might be made, calling up memories of days long passed away.

First, *Eclis-Cean-na-dallach*, or the church at the head or end of the haugh (flat ground by the river). This chapel, of which no vestige now remains, was situated on the plain a little to the east of the bridge over the Lui, and near the upper end of the beautiful plain on which the fine new mansion of his Grace the Duke of Fife is now being built. There being then no bridges in the district, except the one over the Cluny (described as a drawbridge),

which gave the name of Kindrochit to the whole parish, this chapel was intended for the convenience of the inhabitants of Glen Lui and neighbourhood. Written history does not go so far back as to tell us whether there was then a proprietor of Dalmore. If there was, he would have become a vassal of the Earl of Mar, and this would have been the family chapel for the accommodation of him and his tenants. The M'Kenzies came in later; but by this time, though they long adhered to the ancient religion, the chapel had ceased to exist; at least it is never mentioned in connection with the family. Dalmore was purchased by the Earl of Fife about 1770. The old laird's house soon after also disappeared, and Mar Lodge was built by his lordship, a little to the east, in its stead. It was a favourite hunting-seat of James, fourth Earl (born 1811, died 1857), and in his day saw much of hospitable and social life. This popular and patriotic nobleman was greatly attached to Braemar, holding that the Dee is the first of all Scottish rivers, and that the Deeside Highlands are the finest of all the Highlands; that the Deeside hills are the highest in Britain; that Ben Nevis is several feet lower than Ben Macdhui; and that Cairngorm, Ben-na-bourd, Ben Avon, and Braeriach out-top Ben Lomond, Ben Arthur, Schihallion, and Snowdon by the head and shoulders. In one of the earliest trigonometrical surveys Ben Macdhui was actually represented as being several yards higher than Ben Nevis, which so delighted his lordship that he seriously contemplated building a tomb for himself on its highest point. But before he had time to carry this whim into execution, a more accurate survey had found that the

Braemar giant was some twenty feet lower than his Lochaber rival, at which the Earl was so provoked that he determined to put the matter beyond doubt by erecting a tower fifty feet high on the summit of his favourite mountain, so that when he chose he could retire thither and become the highest man in Great Britain. It is to this fancy that Saunders Laing, the author of the poem on the Dee, refers when, apostrophising the great Ben, he says or sings :

‘And dost thou think some future day  
To entomb our Fife’s ennobled clay?’

In his later years this Earl became somewhat of a recluse, shutting himself up in Duff House, near Banff, Mar Lodge with the forest attached being leased for many years to the Duke of Leeds.

The Lodge, after about a century of existence, has now given place to a nobler mansion—one worthier of its royal mistress and her noble consort, and worthy also of one of the finest situations on the banks of the Dee.

‘Hail to thy waters ! softly flowing Dee !  
Hail to their shaded pure transparency !  
Hail to the royal oak and mountain pine,  
With whose reflected pride those waters shine,’ etc.

Second, *The Chappell of the Seven Maidens*. This sanctuary has not fallen into the same oblivion as that at Dalmore. It was in a more populous district, being situated at Invereye, and giving service to the laird and his numerous tenants there and in Gleneye ; and after ceasing to be used as a place of worship, the consecrated ground on which it stood was enclosed, and long continued to be the burying-ground of the family of Invereye.

There is a curious legend connected with perhaps the last interment that took place there, which we give in the quaint language of Mr. John Grant :—‘The relations of the laird would, of course, have him interred in the family burying-ground at Castleton, though he had on his deathbed expressly forbidden this, and ordered his body to be laid in Invereye beside Annie Ban. They accordingly conveyed his remains with the usual Highland ceremony to Castleton, and there interred them. But they might have spared themselves the trouble. Next morning Invereye, or rather his coffin and his body, was not below, but above ground. So, for a time, the contest went on—his relations interring every morning, and the laird’s remains rising every night. This might have continued till now, and hereafter for evermore ; but having been at the trouble of rising up through some six feet of gravel for a fortnight, it was child’s-play to the Colonel to pay a flying visit to the most obstinate of his relations. So, at dead of night, the furniture of their houses played up strange cantrips, jigs, and reels ; horrid noises rang through the corridors, and a ghastly face, with glaring eyes, hissed, till the cold breath chilled their faces, strange words and sighs over their beds. On the whole, they found him as hard a customer to deal with as he had been in life. So, not having been able to persuade him to lie quiet in the “mools” like a decent fellow when they wanted him, they e’en let the naughty man have his own way. Next morning, therefore, they were all in the churchyard without previous concert, where they found the body and coffin, as usual, lying on the grave. They understood each other perfectly. Each could see the Colonel had made the round of them all in the night.



Without more ado they formed in procession, and marched off the body. A serious difficulty lay in the exhalations from the now putrid remains of the laird. But, having got to the side of the Dee, the coffin was boatwise towed up the stream with a horse-hair tether to Invereye, and there finally interred beside Annie Ban. As some were untying the horse-hair tether to take it away, "Leave it, leave it," said his son and heir, "my father may wish to rise again." This John Farquharson, known in story as the 'Black Colonel,' was the Braemar hero of the rising under Viscount Dundee (1689). These Invereyes were all a wild race, and if anybody was out in a raid or rebellion they were sure to be. The father of the Black Colonel was out with Montrose, and was present at nearly all his battles in the north, attended with a large body of followers, doing good service at Inverlochy and Aldearn, supposed also to have fought at Alford. Though outlawed and living by plundering the Lowlands—caterans, in fact, and *blackmailers*,—they contrived during the civil wars (1639-1660) to acquire a considerable property, in which they were infested on the Restoration in the latter year. Even then they were very turbulent, and seldom at peace with their neighbours. As an example of the life they led we give the following. Going back to the year 1592, there arose a great commotion among the Highland clans. The Camerons and M'Intoshs of Lochaber and Badenoch rebelled against their feudal superior, the Earl of Huntly. They secretly organised a great raid on the Gordon clans, entered Braemar by Glenguischan, where they were joined by Invereye. Marching through Crathie, plundering as they went along, they fell upon the richer lands of the Gordons in Glen-

muick and Glen Tanar, committing the most dreadful ravages, slaying all who opposed them, especially those bearing the name of Gordon, and carrying away sheep, cattle, horses, and everything portable. 'These brave lands were utterly harried.' Invereye had a large share of the spoil. The Gordons retaliated, sparing none of the rebels, except those who chose to change their names into Grants or Gordons. In another raid later on (1665), on account of some dispute about rights of moss and fishings between the Invereyes and the Baron of Braickley, a highly esteemed and law-abiding proprietor in Glenmuick, this same John Farquharson when a young man armed his Highland kern and descended upon the Baron's lands, killed the Baron himself, and drove away a big spulzie. This raid is commemorated in a well-known ballad called the 'Baron of Braickley,' beginning :

'Inverey came down Deeside whistlin' and playin',  
 He was at brave Brackley's yetts ere it was dawin'.  
 He rappit fu' loudlie, and wi' a great roar,  
 Cried, "Come down now, Brackley, and open the door—  
 Are you sleepin', Barrone, or are ye waukin' ?  
 There's sharp swords at your yett will gar your blood spin !"

The raiders were tried before the High Court of Justice, but Invereye failed to appear in person, though he was defended by an able advocate. The trial is reported at considerable length in vol. iv. of Historical Manuscripts. He was out, as we have said, with Dundee, and was present at Killiecrankie. It is supposed he was also with General Buchan on the haughs of Cromdale the following year (1690). At all events, soon after this battle he made a narrow escape from capture in a skirmish in the Pass of

Ballater, and was only saved by the marvellous fleetness of his coal-black mare, a gift believed to have been received from his sable majesty. Failing to send in his submission to the Government, he was again formally outlawed, and a party of soldiers was sent to apprehend him. They were not successful. He lurked among the neighbouring mountains, and particularly in an inaccessible cleft of a rock through which the river Eye has forced a passage—hence called the Colonel's Bed,—where he was secretly supplied with food by his faithful clansmen till the search for him was given up as fruitless. The soldiers, however, burned to the ground his castle, some vestiges of which still remain near the site of the old chapel. The Colonel, as we have seen, wished to be buried here, but the legend quoted above tells the result of the disregard of his wishes.

Third. We pass over the third recorded chapel, as the name and nothing more remains, and the very locality is doubtful. It is called *St. Bride's at Crochanlie*.

Fourth, *At Tom-na-taul*—now generally called Tomintoul—a situation well up on the north side of the hill of Murrone, and now thought to be the highest cultivated land in Great Britain. It is not known to whom this chapel was dedicated, nor is there extant any legend or tradition connected with it. But the site is well worthy of being frequently visited on account of its accessibility and the magnificent views it commands.

Fifth, *At Balanard*. The site of this chapel was near Invercauld. The name Balanard is now lost to memory, but it is conjectured that it refers to a place near the gardens. Although there is no doubt that there was a

religious house at or near Invercauld, the only clue that remains to the identification of the precise spot is that contained in the old ecclesiastical notice, 'Chappell at Balanard, two miles below the church on Deeside.' Perhaps no more delightful or convenient situation could have been selected.

Sixth, '*Guastoch*, five miles below the church on Deeside.' This was in the Ballochbui, near the spot where the Queen's Danzic shiel now stands—a locality in the vicinity of the Garrawalt Falls, so attractive that the residents in Braemar need not be recommended to pay it frequent visits.

Besides these chapels there was also a hospital at Cairnwall, where there is a road over the Grampian Hills. This was anciently called the Shenspiddal, which means the old hospital. It seems to have been in existence in 1736, because in that year the geographer M'Farlane describes it as then in use for the convenience and safety of wayfarers through this lofty and dangerous pass. The foundations are still, or were lately, traceable. It was situated at the junction of two small streams, the one descending from the huge bulk of the Glassmeal, the other, along whose course the road lies, issuing from two strong springs at the summit of the Pass. In the olden time this hospital must have been a most useful and beneficial place of safety from the storms, which in the winter season are so frequent and sudden in these elevated regions. Its position in the good work to which it was devoted will remind the traveller of its congeners on the Fürca and St. Gothard in Switzerland.

The parish church was removed to where the present

churchyard is situated about the year 1620, about which time also the parishes were united. The writer of the Old Statistical Account (1795) thus describes it: 'The church of Braemar is a very neat decent church, with a most excellent churchyard-wall round it, built of stone and lime. It is supported almost at the sole expense of the Earl of Fife and Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld.'

#### MANORS

The proprietors' residences, which in the beginning of the eighteenth century were dignified by the above name, were six in number. The indefatigable geographer above referred to gives a short account of each, which he probably received from the minister of Crathie. Two of these—Dalmøre and Invereye—have already been noticed. The others (Invercauld excepted) may be thus described:

1. *Auchindrein*. Like most similar lairds' houses, 'it was a one-story building, with a loft overhead accessible by a trap stair, in which were stored weapons of war, ammunition, and all manner of hunting gear. The walls were of dry stone, and about 9 feet high; they were of great thickness and of large size. The gables above the height of the side walls were generally of turf, though the better sort had stone walls throughout. The roof, thatched with divots, was supported by huge couples built into the wall. The front view presented a doorway in the centre, with two small windows, one on each side, 10 or 12 feet from the door. In the end there was another small window towards the back, and one in the centre of the back wall. These windows were so small,

and the wall so thick, that they admitted but little light into the interior, which consisted of three apartments with some bed-closets.'

Such was the manor of the laird of Auchindryne at the end of the seventeenth century. When he succeeded to the Invereye estate on the death of the Black Colonel he built himself a better house—one that it was thought worth while burning after the '45. Both the family and their memory have now gone into the almost forgotten past. Where the old house stood, with its clustering huts for retainers, on the left bank of the Cluny, there is now a modern flourishing village, in which there is not a human habitation which does not supply more comfort, accommodation, and elegance than did the rude dwelling of William Meall of Auchindryne, or that of his son, James Farquharson of Invereye.

2. *Coldarach* (Coldrach), the seat of another laird of the Farquharson clan, was even more humble than the house of Auchindryne. Though the ruins were long visible, the property, never but a small one, had passed into other hands before 1696. The name still survives to mark the site on the left bank of the Cluny; and the locality has several picturesque features, the walk to which is one of the favourite afternoon or morning rambles of visitors to Braemar.

3. *Allanquhoich*. The Farquharson family who lived here were very unfortunate. At one time they possessed a considerable estate, scattered over a wide district in small patches here and there. Alexander, the last laird, was a 'sponsible' man, and much respected; but getting into lawsuits and pecuniary difficulties, he was obliged to sell

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out, to the no little regret of his neighbours. He was one of the last of the Farquharson cadets that left the district, James Farquharson of Balmoral and Charles of Monaltrie of the old race alone remaining behind them. He built a house, of some pretensions for its time, about the year 1760, the expense of which probably hastened his fall. This house, with some additions, was long the residence of Mr. Stewart, and after him of Mr. Cumming, local factors to the Earls of Fife. The romantic falls of the Quoich are in the immediate vicinity, and are too well known and appreciated to need any recommendation.

## INVERCAULD

Every competent judge will admit that the situation of Invercauld is perhaps the finest in broad Scotland; all such who have seen it have in their admiration declared that it is the *beau-ideal* of the residence of a Highland chief. It was probably the view from it that called forth from the poetic pen of Wilson the glorious song beginning

'Look, oh look from the bower—'tis the beautiful hour  
When the sunbeams are abroad ere they sink in the lea;  
Look, oh look from the bower—for an amethyst shower  
Of glory and grandeur is gemming the Dee!'

By whom the situation was chosen it would be vain to inquire, as we do not know when or by whom the first house was built upon it. Authentic history does not carry us further back than towards the end of the fifteenth century, and that of the Farquharson clan begins some years later. Their great progenitor, from whom all the branches trace their origin, was

## FINLA MOR

Finla, or Finlay, whose father was a Fercher or Ferquar—hence the name became Farquharson in English,—was born about the year 1500 A.D. His mother, according to the best authority, was a Gordon, the daughter of the laird of Cocklarachy, near Huntly, who was then baron bailie, or representative of the Earl of Huntly for the district of Braemar, and resided at Invercauld. The Earl was at that time Lord-Lieutenant of the North—‘Cock of the North’ he was called,—and as the estates and honours of the Earldom of Mar had been assumed by the Crown, he, as the King’s representative, was the administrator; and his bailie, as his representative, occupied the highest position in the district. We know that the bailie of that date was the said Gordon of Cocklarachy, a near kinsman of Huntly.

In due time Finlay Mor, through the influence of his mother’s friends, obtained the succession to the office of baron bailie. The House of Invercauld must have then been much the finest residence in Braemar, next to the royal castle of Kindrochit, which was hastening to decay. There is a tradition, supported by some facts, that when Finlay was a child, some four or five years of age, Invercauld received a visit from King James IV., when on one of his pilgrimages to the shrine of St. Duthac in Rosshire. Many stories are told of Finlay’s prodigious strength and stature; but he had a weapon at his command more to be dreaded than personal prowess: he had the power of Pot and Gallows in his hands; yet there is no reason to believe that he abused this dread authority.



He had the right and the honour to carry the royal banner when Huntly led the Scottish army at the field of Pinkie. He was slain in the battle, and the banner captured (1547). It was said that the grave in which he was buried could for years after be distinguished as the longest in the field.

It has sometimes been asked why, if the Farquharsons of Invercauld were the chiefs of the clan, they took so little part in the various Highland risings? In regard to most of these risings, the Invercaulds were opposed to them. Robert of Invercauld in the time of Montrose did not reside in Braemar, but at Wardhouse, his Lowland estate in the Garioch. He was besides a lover of books, of learning, of arts, and of peace—a man his family have just reason to be proud of. He it was who is said to have changed the old motto of the family from 'I force no friend, I fear no foe,' into the equivalent Latin, 'Fide et Fortitudine.'<sup>1</sup> William, who was laird during Dundee's insurrection, was favourable to the Government; and his brother John, who succeeded him, was like-minded, but was compelled to join the standard of the Earl of Mar, whose vassal he was, in 1715. He was taken prisoner at the battle of Preston, and sent to the Marshalsea; but after a time, on presenting a petition setting forth the feudal circumstances in which he was placed, his goodwill to the Government in the former rising, and his promise for ever to remain faithful to the Government for the future, he was set at liberty. The Earl of Mar occupied the House of Invercauld while resident in Braemar organ-

<sup>1</sup> Both mottoes are elegant, and peculiar in the alliterative use of the letter F, the first in the Clan name FARQUHARSON.

ising his insurrection. In the '45 the same John, then an old man, was quite opposed to the attempt made for the restoration of the Stuarts, as was also his son and heir, James, who was then an officer in the Black Watch, though son-in law to Lord George Murray, the commander of the Prince's army. Other members of the family were of a contrary opinion, notably Lady M'Intosh, the celebrated 'Colonel Ann.' It is to be observed also that no laird of Invercauld ever followed another Farquharson as his chief; and in the '15 John was placed in the position of chief by the Earl of Mar, the feudal superior of all the Deeside branches of the clan. Another point that seems conclusive of the chieftainship being in this family is the fact, that as far back as the reign of Charles II. the Privy Council issued a commission to Invercauld to suppress all cateran raids, and taking him bound for the whole Farquharson clan wherever dwelling.

It was during the passage of a division of the Prince's army through Braemar, on their way to Culloden, that John Farquharson concealed the box containing the family papers, in an almost inaccessible cleft of rock in Craig Cluny—hence called Invercauld's Charter-chest; and betook himself off for the time. And as much need he had; for in the month of February 1746 Donald Farquharson of Auchriachen, a captain in the Highland army, took in the House of Invercauld, quartering his wild Glenlivet men in it, and pillaging it of everything they could lay their hands on.

## CHAPTER III

### THE AFFAIR OF 1715

AS Braemar owes not a little of its interest to students, tourists, and others, to the fact that the Jacobite Rising of 1715 was in a manner hatched and contrived there, it is thought that some account of the nobleman who headed it, together with some particulars of his undertaking, will not be out of place in this little volume.

John Erskine, Earl of Mar, was born at Alloa in the month of February 1675. His mother was Lady Mary Maule, daughter to the Earl of Panmure. His father, Charles, the tenth Earl, died ere John was fourteen years of age, leaving him, as Sinclair expresses it, more debts than patrimony. The explanation of this circumstance is to be found in the prodigious sums of money expended by the Erskines in support of the Royal cause, 'unswerving loyalty to which,' says Lord Crawford in his book on the Earldom of Mar, 'the hereditary character of the Erskines throughout the great Rebellion, was punished by fines and sequestrations up to the date of the Resteration.' After that event, 'the debts contracted in the cause of Charles I. and Charles II. necessitated the sale of estate after estate, including the barony of Erskine, their original honour on

the Clyde, till the possessions of the family were reduced to little more than the lordship of Alloa,<sup>1</sup> an ancient Erskine dependence, although dignified by the supreme rights of regality.'

As soon as Lord Mar was of age he entered public life under the patronage of the great Duke of Queensberry, whom he uniformly supported till that nobleman's death in the year 1711. In 1702 Queen Anne appointed him one of her Privy Councillors, gave him command of a regiment of foot,<sup>2</sup> and bestowed on him the Order of St. Andrew. He was active in promoting the union between this country and England; managed the Duke of Hamilton so well that his opposition to that measure was, if not entirely removed, at all events greatly smoothed away; and had not a farthing of the money issued from the English Treasury to bribe Scottish nobles to give their support to the Union. In February 1707 Mar was chosen one of the Representative Peers of Scotland, a distinction, though scarce an honour, which was repeated, perhaps to his satisfaction, in 1708, 1710, and 1713. The important part played by Mar in forcing the Union through the Scots Parliament did not, however, at all stand in the way of his endeavouring to get that measure abrogated in the British Parliament, where in 1713 he spoke strongly in support of Earl Findlater's motion for the repeal of the

<sup>1</sup> This statement is somewhat of an exaggeration, as it does not take into account the Erskine possessions in Mar, which remained in the family till 1731.

<sup>2</sup> Called Mar's Regiment; but not the same with his father's regiment, which was also known by that name. The latter consisted of 'seven hundred and sixtie centinells,' and contained twelve companies, each consisting of eighty men. This regiment was disbanded after the Revolution of 1688. It contained a number of Braemar men.

Union between Scotland and England.<sup>1</sup> If any one, on reading these lines, should consider this change of attitude as in any way surprising or inconsistent, he is respectfully invited to turn to the history of Great Britain in the reign of Queen Anne, when without doubt his surprise will immediately vanish.

The death of Queen Anne and the accession of the Elector of Hanover to the throne of these countries occasioned the downfall of the Tory party. Mar, together with many of his political friends, at first endeavoured to make peace with the Whig faction, which by taking office they had grievously offended. In order to that end Mar wrote a letter to the Elector of Hanover, which he sent to him whilst that Prince was yet in Germany, enumerating his services to the Elector's 'ancestors,' and showing every disposition to acquiesce in his succession. He also, it is said, 'desired to display his influence over the Highlanders, and for that purpose procured a letter, subscribed by a number of the most influential chiefs of the clans, addressed to himself as having an estate and interest in the Highlands, conjuring him to assure the Government of their loyalty to his Sacred Majesty King George, and to protect them and the heads of other clans, who from distance could not attend at the signing of this letter, against the misrepresentations to which they might be exposed; protesting that as they had been ready to follow Lord Mar's directions in obeying Queen Anne, so they would be

<sup>1</sup> Mar was at first, as we have seen, very forward for the Union, but 'towards the end of Queen Ann's reign in 1713 was as forward for the dissolution of the Union, and being on that account and other reasons hated by King George the first, he turned Jacobite and Rebel, after he had taken the usual oaths to government.'—Clerk of Penicuik.

equally forward to concur with him in faithfully serving King George.<sup>1</sup> It is characteristic of the new Sovereign and his political advisers that this letter was rejected—by George, who is said to have been extremely offended at it, on the ground that it was concocted at St. Germain; by the Government, on that of its emanating from one of the late Queen's ministers.<sup>2</sup> In commenting on this foolish step Sir Walter Scott says, after some general remarks on the folly of it: 'A monarch whose claim to obedience is yet young ought in policy to avoid an immediate quarrel with any part of his subjects who are ready to profess allegiance as such. . . . It seems at least certain that in bluntly and in a disparaging manner refusing an address expressing allegiance and loyalty, and affronting the haughty courtier by whom it was presented, King George exposed his government to the desperate alternative of civil war, and the melancholy expedient of terminating it by bringing many noble witnesses to the scaffold, which during the reign of his predecessor had never been stained with British blood shed for political causes.'

The Earl of Mar, repulsed in his advances to the new monarch, not unnaturally concluded from thence that his ruin was positively determined on.<sup>3</sup> The insult which he had received at the hands of the Elector rankled in his bosom, where, uniting itself to some latent and probably inherited sympathies in favour of the exiled Stewarts, it speedily gave rise to a desire for revenge. The unpopu-

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix, Note 1.

<sup>2</sup> Lord Mar held the post of Secretary for Scotland in the Tory Administration of Queen Anne.

<sup>3</sup> This view was rife in the Tory party at that time. See Lord Bolingbroke's letter to Sir William Wyndham and other contemporary writings.

larity of the new dynasty, together with the unsettled state of the country, seemed to favour, if not to invite and to sanction, the employment of strong measures. Mar determined accordingly to make a bid for the independence of his distressed country, and his own ascendancy at the same time, by raising an insurrection in support of the exiled family, and to wipe out the insult he had received at the hands of the Elector and his advisers with the blood of his enemies.

The movements of Lord Mar immediately after his withdrawal from Court would appear to be veiled in some mystery. Early in August 1715, however, the Earl, with Major-General Hamilton and one Colonel Hay, embarked at Gravesend, in the strictest incognito. They sailed in a coal ship, in which, in order the better to escape discovery, they worked their passages as ordinary seamen. The ship touched at Newcastle, where, according to one account, Lord Mar and his companions left her. They are said to have there hired a vessel, in which they continued their journey north as far as the small port of Elie, on the eastern shore of Fife, where they disembarked and joined their friends in those parts. The Master of Sinclair, however, in his Memoirs, which constitute, so far as bare matter of fact alone is concerned, a fairly reliable authority on events connected with the '15, says nothing whatever about Lord Mar and his companions having disembarked at Newcastle, and there and then hired a vessel, but that he was informed that the party were landed at Elie, 'out of a coale bark from London, with onlie tuo seamen, and that my lord and the generall Hamilton had wrought all the way.'

From Elie Mar went to the house of Bethune of Balfour,

near Markinch, where he rested a few days, and had meetings with a number of the neighbouring gentry. The 27th of August saw him, together with a numerous and distinguished company, at Aboyne. Here, in accordance with immemorial right and custom, a great hunting-match was organised and carried out, under cover of which Lord Mar was enabled to make considerable progress in his revolutionary designs. As many as eight hundred persons of all ranks and classes are said to have taken part in this celebrated hunt. According to one contemporary account, 'they (*i.e.* the hunters) went out by glen Cluny and hunted round the whole of Braemar,<sup>1</sup> until they came down upon glen Quoich.' Here a little jollification was held. The deep round hole at the Linn of Quoich, which goes by the name of Lord Mar's Punchbowl, was then entire, though now perforated; and it was out of this *impromptu* stirrup-cup that his lordship and his companions are said to have refreshed themselves.

At the conclusion of the hunting-match, Mar, according to one account, proceeded to Glenlivet, where he raised his standard, and was joined in a short space of time by three or four hundred men. With these levies he marched to Strathdon and took up his residence nominally at the Castle of Kildrummie, but in reality, it is to be inferred, at the house of one of his vassals; for Kildrummie, or what was

<sup>1</sup> 'The "Forest of Mar," which anciently filled both sides of the valley of the Dee, from Mar Lodge upwards to the slopes of Cairntone and Braeriach, with the tributary glens of the Lui and the Dewy, has been much reduced in its vast extent, since the time when John Erskine, Earl of Mar, assembled on its confines the chiefs of twenty powerful clans, with their followers, to waken its echoes with the sound of the huntsman's horn; and then to march at their head to place the "auld Stewarts" on the throne of the three kingdoms.'



left of it, was burnt to the ground in the Revolution of 1688, and had never been rebuilt.<sup>1</sup> From Kildrummie, where he was joined by a number of men, Mar marched his troops to Corgarff, another Erskine stronghold, where his forces again received considerable additions, and where he obtained a large and much-needed supply of ammunition. At Corgarff Mar and his little army remained encamped 'some days,' after which they proceeded to Braemar; where, the old Castle of Braemar being in disrepair, his lordship took up his abode at Invercauld House, the proprietor of which at that time was vassal to Mar for a small part of his estates.

According to some accounts Invercauld engaged in the Rising reluctantly; accordingly to others he did precisely the reverse. The Master of Sinclair, whose testimony, however, is not much to be relied on where Mar is concerned, states that Farquharson manifested the utmost reluctance to come 'out.' 'After the meeting of Aboyne,' says the Master, who has not a word, it will be noticed, about Mar's proceeding to Kildrummie, where it is certain he was at one time, from both despatches and declarations dated at that place,—'After the meeting of Aboyne Mar returned to Invercauld's house,<sup>2</sup> who, because his vassal for a small part of his estate, as I have already said, he commanded to get the Fercharsons, his clan, together in

<sup>1</sup> In a genealogy of the Erskine family, compiled by George Erskine, Bailie of Alloa, it is stated that Lord Mar's lands 'suffered very much while the armies were in the field after the Revolution; and he then had the Castles of Kildrummie, Braemar, and Corgarff burnt.'

<sup>2</sup> It is perhaps here necessary to remark, for the edification of the uninitiated, that in Scotland a man's property often does duty for his name. Hence 'Invercauld's house' simply means the house of Farquharson, or Farquharson's house.

armes to obey his orders. This gentleman, though as zealous as anie, but having had more occasion to know his lordship than others, did not amuse himself with what his lordship said, refused to stir till the king's landing; and the meantime, being unwilling to make noise or struggle, left his house to Mar and retired to Aberdeen.'

The truth of the matter seems to be, however, not that Invercauld was as 'zealous as anie,' or that he particularly distrusted Mar, though there is reason to believe that the two were not on the best of terms, as the saying is, as I shall have occasion presently to show; but that Invercauld had a keen eye to his own interest, and thought it better to remain close than to embark on so hazardous an undertaking as that which Mar and the clans now pressed him to join. The laird's sympathies, there can be no manner of doubt, were with the supporters of Prince James in 1715, just as they were with those of Prince Charlie in 1745; but caution and prudence alike restrained him from taking an active share in either undertaking, though it is significant of his attitude that those qualities by no means operated to influence him to exercise his authority with his kinsmen and his clansmen, to deter them from going very heartily and unanimously into both the 'Rebellions.'

I said above that there is reason to believe that Mar and Invercauld were not on the best of terms. At all events, it is certain that there had been friction between them previous to the setting on foot the lamentable affair of 1715. There is printed in the Murray Correspondence a notice of a summons issued in 1704, at the instance of Kenneth M'Kenzie of Dalmore, forester to the Earl of

Mar, against John Farquharson of Invercauld and others, who with a concourse of 400 men had risen to prevent him from 'driving the forest' according to the Earl's custom and right, 'the said Invercauld himself being on their head with a bagpipe playing.'

Such disputes are, no doubt, trivial in themselves, and as a rule are no sooner opened than they are accommodated; but in many cases they leave behind them the seeds of future estrangement, and even enmity; and though there is no reason to believe that in the case before us the quarrel between Mar and his vassal was of long duration or conducted with much bitterness, still it may well be that when matters came to the touch, as it were, Invercauld shrank from embarking in an undertaking with a man with whom he had quarrelled, and, having done so, it is but reasonable to suppose might not have retained any particular partiality for.

With a view to still further undervaluing the credit and interest of his enemy Mar, and placing his authority in as low and small a light as possible, which seem to an unprejudiced reader to be the two great objects for which the Master compiled his 'Memoirs,' Sinclair then goes on to say that, besides trying in vain to get Invercauld to come out, Mar endeavoured to persuade John Farquharson of Inverey, descended from a younger son of Finlay Mor Farquharson of Invercauld, to appear in arms also; but that he, though disposed to join the Rising, would have nothing to do with his lordship, 'in spite of the entreaties of all his friends, till the Marquis of Huntley,<sup>1</sup> to whom he offered

<sup>1</sup> The Marquis himself appeared in arms, but made his peace with the Government before the end of the Rising.

his service, persuaded him to submit to obey Mar. Lord Mar then offered him command of all his men; but to no purpose, for neither he nor Mar had influence enough to bring out above a hundred, or a few more, out of Braemar.'

Another, and, save in respect of the following particular relating to Invercauld, much more probable account, however, states that Farquharson of Inverey at once obeyed the summons of Mar, and that his brother, James Farquharson of Balmoral, was made aide-de-camp to his lordship, which is certainly a fact. Inverey, on receiving his commission, at once sent out the fiery cross,<sup>1</sup> and soon the hills and glens of Braemar resounded with the war-cry of the clans as they hastened to obey the summons of their chief. John Farquharson of Invercauld is said to have seized his claymore and at once set out, crying, 'Follow me, my merry men!' the Farquharsons of Ravimay and Loquomor joining him; Harry Farquharson of Whitehouse, with his three sons Francis, Charles, and John, and with them all the men of Cromar. Donald Farquharson of Micras, and Laurence

<sup>1</sup> The Fiery Cross, or in Gaelic 'Croishtarich.' 'On the lands of Monaltry, on the north bank of the river Dee, where there is not above sixty yards from the river to the top of a high, steep, rocky hill, stands a cairn by the name of Carn-na-Cuimhne, or Cairn of Remembrance. Hither, when the fiery cross was sent round, every man repaired in his best clothes and arms. The stake of wood, one end of which was dipped in blood, the other burnt, as an emblem of fire and sword, was put into the hands of the person nearest to where the alarm was given, who immediately ran and gave it to his nearest neighbour; that person ran to the nearest village or cottage, and so on. The stake of wood was called Croishtarich, and at this day, in the event of an affray or squabble, the word has such an effect that its mere mention would be sufficient to bring assistance to the person or persons in danger of assault.'

of Cobbleton of Tullich, with his brother Robert, Lewis Farquharson of Auchendryne, with his sons and men, also appeared in arms, and joined the Jacobite army, then encamped at Braemar. Other members of this celebrated clan who came out in the Fifteen were Donald Farquharson of Coldrach, with his son George and all their following; the Broughdearge Farquharsons, William and Alexander, with Peter of Roshalzie, 'and with them all the men of Glen Shee and Glen Isla; Shaw Farquharson, and with him all the men of Strathaven and Glenlivet, and finally Rob Roy raised and brought all the men of Gairn.'

A better place for organising a rising could not be imagined than Braemar before it was opened up by the Hanoverian government. 'The late John, Earl of Mar,' says the author of the Memorial concerning a cross-road from Inverlochy, etc., to Aberdeen, 'came to that country (i.e. Braemar), not only because it was his own, but by reason it was the fittest place in the Nation for his purpose. He lay secure from being attacked by any forces then in the North, considering his situation in an inaccessible country, where there were no roads fit for horse, and far less for wheel-carriages, artillery, and provisions. This central situation gave him the considerable advantage that in a few days after his arrival he had full correspondence with the whole Potentates, chieftains, and other considerable Persons in the Highlands and Lowlands, benorth the river Forth, and in less than a fortnight more he had them all, either in person or by his emissaries, at his headquarters, where they had time and leisure not only to hatch a Rebellion but to ripen and bring forth an insurrection and armament so formidable.'

On the 6th<sup>1</sup> of September 1715 Lord Mar raised on a rocky eminence just outside Castletown of Braemar the standard of his revolt.<sup>2</sup> A brass plate within the Invercauld Arms marks the exact spot on which this interesting event took place. The standard itself, which was made by Lady Mar, was of a 'bright blue colour, having on one

<sup>1</sup> The date of this event is variously given. Marischal Keith, who was in the Rising, says in his *Memoirs* that 'the standard was raised on the 3rd of September.'

<sup>2</sup> It is said that Mar had only sixty followers when he proclaimed the Prince at Castletown; but this statement is manifestly an error. In the well-known letter addressed by Mar to Jock Forbes, his Bailie of Kildrummie, he rates his henchman soundly for not sending up to Castletown more than the 'hundred men' who appeared in arms in answer to his lordship's summons, threatening that if his tenants do not all immediately come out in their 'best arms' he will burn their crops and habitations.\* If, then, Kildrummie alone supplied one hundred men, in addition to those, there is every reason to believe, who were recruited from that place when Mar himself was there (which number, in all probability, amounted to three or four hundred Highlanders), what becomes of the small retinue of sixty which the author of the *Annals of the Second Year of George I.* says comprised Mar's entire following at the setting up of the standard in Braemar? It is significant of these facts and figures that Patten, the historian of the Rising, fixes Mar's personal following at one thousand men, 'most of whom,' he says, 'are with their chief against the government and in the Rebellion.' This calculation and estimate, however, take no account whatever of the numerous and powerful clan of the Farquharsons, the greatest part of whom, with their chief and principal gentlemen, it would be absurd to suppose refrained from taking part in the proceedings at Castletown on the 6th of September. Marischal Keith says that Mar had 800 men assembled at his hunting, 'and with these he set up the royal standard.'

'The standard of the Braes of Mar  
Is up and streaming rarely.  
The gathering pipe of Lochnagar  
Is sounding lang an' sairly.  
The Highland men  
Frae hill and glen  
Are coming late and early.'

See also the Appendix, note 2.

\* See Appendix, note 3.

side the arms of Scotland richly embroidered in gold, with these words underneath, "No Union," and on the top the ancient motto, "Nemo me Impune Lacessit." The standard had also two pendants of white ribbon, on one of which was written, "For our King and Oppressed Country"; on the other, "For our Lives and Liberties." As the standard was being raised, the gilt ball<sup>1</sup> at the top is said to have fallen to the ground, a circumstance which, in the opinion of many present, boded no good to the Jacobite cause.

After the proclamation 'all the ministers prayed nixt Sunday for King George; on which on Monday when this was noticed they wer in very hard circumstances; ther horses were all seized,' etc. The Jacobites sent one minister notice that 'they would roast him quick (alive), together with his wife.' Lord Panmure's orders were said to have been to 'crope Mr. Dunbarr's ears, slit his nose,'<sup>2</sup> and otherwise maltreat the reverend gentleman. The same authority also states that 'a great many tents and wearing-cloaths had been making up and down the country (Braemar). Hunting had been frequent throu the summer; and rendivouses there from all quarters.'

It is much to be regretted that no particular account of what took place on this memorable and interesting occasion has come down to us. It must have been a distinguished, enthusiastic, and numerous gathering that assembled on the Braes of Mar to witness the setting up of Prince Jamie's standard.

<sup>1</sup> Marischal Keith says that it was a 'crown'; but it matters little what it was.

<sup>2</sup> Wodrow's *Analects*, vol. iv. p. 302.

'The noble chiefs,  
The Drummond and Glengarry,  
Macgregor, Murray, Rollo, Keith,  
Panmure and gallant Harry,  
M'Donald's men,  
Clan Ronald's men,  
M'Kenzie's men,  
Macgillivray's men,  
Strathallan's men,  
The Lowlan' men  
Of Callander and Airly.'

A more formal list of the names of those who were at Braemar at the setting-up of the Prince's standard includes the names of the Marquises of Huntly and Tullibardine; Earls Nithsdale, Marischal, Traquair, Errol, Southeske, Carnwath, Seaforth, Linlithgow, etc.; Viscounts Kilsyth, Kenmure, Kingston, and Stormont; Lords Rollo, Duffus, Drummond, Strathallan, Ogilvy, Nairn; the chieftains Glendarule, Auldbain, Auchterhouse, and Glengarry; and two generals, Hamilton and Gordon. But this is really no description of a scene which must have been as striking and sensational as it was weird and picturesque; and it is much to be regretted, I venture to repeat, that no full, true, and particular account of it has come down to us from our ancestors. Our forebears, it seems to me, especially those who could write, and cultivated the gift and habit of literary composition, possessed a singularly poor conception of the duty which they owed to a curious and historically-minded posterity. Mr. Cunninghame-Graham, in his *Notes on the District of Menteith*, hits off this failing of our ancestors very wittily and entertainingly. 'Ancient Highland families,' says he, 'often kept a "Leabhar dearg" (*Anglicè*, Red Book), in which they set down what seemed



remarkable to them. The unfortunate thing is, that what seemed remarkable to them is generally uninteresting to the modern reader; that which the modern reader would have been infinitely obliged to them for recording was to them commonplace. What they chiefly chronicled were the accounts of fights, of murders, of sudden deaths, marriages, and apparitions of saints and goblins. What we should have desired to hear of would have been the account of the fashions of their clothes and arms, the amount of half-raw meat, or quantity of bolls of porridge, they consumed in a day; if women had rights amongst them, and of what kind they were; and as to whether there were any other amusements at night except the somewhat monotonous pastime of sitting listening to the bards chanting the praises of Fingal and his heroes. Even the bards at times must have been somewhat flat, for in such a climate the difficulty of keeping the clanieagh at English concert pitch must have been almost insuperable. It is perhaps as interesting to read in Barbour's *Bruce* that "cracks of warre," i.e. cannons, were first seen at such a battle, as to learn the style and title of all the knights killed or taken prisoners at the battle in question.'

A few days after the setting-up of the Prince's standard in Castletown, Mar, at the head of the Jacobite forces, bent his march south. He went by way of Spittal of Glenshee to Kirkmichael, a small village in Braemar, where he again proclaimed Prince James. From Kirkmichael the army marched to Moulin (in Perthshire), and thence, by Logie Rait, to Dunkeld, and so on to Perth, which a body of horse under Colonel Kay captured for the Highlanders after a short and half-hearted resistance.

At the conclusion of the affair of 1715 Braemar and Castletown of Braemar suffered severely from the vengeance of the victorious Government. A body of English troops was sent into the district, with instructions to burn, waste, and destroy whatever they could lay hands on. This barbarous order, it is scarce necessary to add, was executed to the letter: it is said that not a single house was left standing in Braemar and Castletown after the soldiers were withdrawn from the district.

Of the Braemar men who took part in this unfortunate Rising, some were killed in battle, a few executed, and a great number tried, condemned, and transported. Some, it is true, escaped from all and any of these fates; and after a time spent in skulking about the country returned to their native glens and fastnesses. These men either at once made their peace with the Government or in course of time came to be reconciled to it, the latter, so long as they remained tranquil, wisely refraining from molesting them. A few of those who were out in the Fifteen, and who lived to witness the second attempt in favour of the exiled Stewarts in 1745, joined Prince Charlie and his brave though scanty legions.<sup>1</sup> That movement, however, was

<sup>1</sup> It is remarkable that whilst Mar had no less than ten or twelve thousand men—some accounts say fourteen thousand—at one time under his command, Prince Charlie had at no period of his undertaking more than four or five thousand. And yet it must be confessed that the latter, with fewer men at his back, and with fewer opportunities and advantages than Mar enjoyed, put an infinitely better face upon his expedition than Mar was able to do, in spite of his larger army and greater opportunities and advantages. The explanation of this circumstance lies to a great extent in the fact that Mar was no general. He was a skilful manager, an able courtier, an accomplished and eloquent speaker, and a very clever man; but not only was he without experience in military affairs, but, what was more disastrous still, he had no genius for them. His command was emphatically

not general in the country of the Farquharsons. The chief himself did not go out ; and though, as I have said, some of his men did, yet there is reason to believe that even then the Jacobite instinct and influence were greatly on the wane.

Invercauld himself was taken prisoner at Preston, and tried and condemned by the shameful tribunal erected by Government at that town to suppress the unfortunate Jacobites, and put into prison, where he remained for some time. In 1717, however, he was released from jail, and, having made his peace with the Hanoverian government, was suffered by it to return to his home and to retain the possession of his estates.

Captain Peter Farquharson of Rochby was shot and mortally wounded at the siege of Preston, whilst fighting bravely. 'This gentleman,' says Patten in his *History of the Rising*, 'being shot through the bone of the leg, endured a great deal of Torture, in the operation of the surgeon : when he was first brought into the Inn, called the White Bull, the House where all the wounded men were carried to be dressed, he took a glass of Brandy and said, "Come, lads, here is our Master's health ; though I can do no more I wish you good success." His leg was cut off by an unskilful butcher, rather than a surgeon, and he presently died.'

The barbarities practised after Culloden on the persons of the defenceless clansmen would appear to have had

a blunder, and should never have been allowed. Had Berwick, as Mar and the Jacobites generally desired, taken command of the Rising from the beginning, the probability is that it would have had a very different period to that which was eventually put to it, through the blunders of its commander and the treachery and the incapacity of many of those who were engaged with him in that noble but ill-managed attempt.

abundant precedents in those which, there is every reason to believe, were practised on those gentlemen's predecessors in the support of a great cause, after the unfortunate affair of Preston. A great deal has been said and written on the subject of the former ; but that of the latter has been scarce touched on by our historians. Nevertheless, it would appear as if there were as good ground and justification for plain speaking in the case of the one as there certainly is necessity for the same thing in that of the other. Mar himself, in his 'Legacies' to Scotland, and to his son, Lord Erskine, printed by the Scottish History Society, has a reference to it in the following words: 'I regret much,' says he, 'that I have never been able to procure (tho' I have often endeavour'd it) a particular full and exact account of that body of men I sent over the forth from fife to join the noblemen and gentlemen of the South of Scotland and North of England then in armes for the King, and of their affair in the citadell of Leith and at Seaton House, their joining the gentlemen of the South and their march into England until the unfortunat affair of Preston, the barbaritys w<sup>ch</sup> were committed on our people after that shamefull surrender, and the cruell treatment the prisoners met w<sup>h</sup> who were caried to London and those left behind in the county prisons.'

In the Appendix also to the third Report of the Historical mss. Commission, there is mention made (p. 375) of a letter which is said to have been found on 'the person of a countryman,' and which refers in unmistakable terms to the alleged torturing of prisoners at Preston. This letter states that '70 of those taken at Preston were tortured to death, most sold to be slaves in the Plantations, 600 sold

for forty shillings each,' and concludes with advising the Highlanders to emigrate to Sweden, Holland, France, or the north of Ireland. It is both a curious and significant fact, in my opinion, that two such independent witnesses as Mar and this countryman should both be found making reference to the same circumstance; the one in such general terms as if it were matter of common notoriety; the other, in the particular manner above mentioned. I commend this subject of the Government's treatment of its prisoners after Preston to the notice of future historians of Great Britain, as being one which, though much neglected, is undoubtedly highly suggestive.

In consequence of his 'act of rebellion,' Mar, together with several other noblemen, was attainted by Parliament. His estates, also, were confiscated; but, by an arrangement with Government, were purchased by auction in behalf of his only son and heir, Thomas, Lord Erskine, by James Erskine, Lord Mar's brother, and better known as Lord Grange.<sup>1</sup> By Grange they were held until the year 1731, when, in consequence of the pressing poverty of the family, it was deemed advisable to part with them for ever. They were accordingly privately sold to the then Farquharson of Invercauld and to a forebear of the present Duke of Fife, by the heads of whose respective families they have been retained since that time.

Grange, it would appear, was a good negotiator, and strove hard to make a good bargain for his unfortunate nephew. Invercauld, however, was no less 'canny,' and

<sup>1</sup> This event took place at Edinburgh, 30th June 1724. Although considerably shrunk, the Mar estates at that time were still of great extent. They comprised 'all and hail the lands and lordship of Kildrummie, the lands of Strathdon, lands of Braemar, Strathdee, and Glengarden.'

so seller and purchaser were pretty evenly matched. At last, however, the conditions of sale were made out and the bargain concluded, Grange, after the manner of sellers, vowing that he was cheating his nephew to part with his property at so ridiculous a price; Invercauld, on his part, after the manner of purchasers, being no less positive that he was giving far more money than the property was really worth.

In the Forfeited Estates Papers (1715-45) there is an abstract of the rental, in kind and in money, of Lord Mar's Aberdeenshire property. It is curious, and I give it as showing the manner in which estates were assessed in those days:—

EARL OF MAR'S ESTATE IN ABERDEEN.

SHIRE OF ABERDEEN.<sup>1</sup>

|   |   | £  | s. | d. |    |
|---|---|--|----|----|----|
| Feu-duties or chief Rents of Mar            | { | Payable in money . . . . .                 | 48 | 7  | 3½ |
|   |   | Poultry, 109½ at 2d. each . . . . .        | 0  | 18 | 3  |
|   |   | Loads of Peat, 181½ at 2d. each . . . . .  | 1  | 10 | 3  |
| Do. of Carvoich . . . . .                   |   | 16   | 18 | 7½ |    |
| Do. of Cromar . . . . .                     |   | 7  | 16 | 7½ |    |
| Do. of Kelly . . . . .                      |   | 7  | 11 | 1½ |    |
| Blench Duty of Garrioch and Kelly . . . . . |   | 0  | 1  | 4½ |    |
| Feu-duties or chief Rents of Kildrummy      | { | Payable in money . . . . .                 | 68 | 9  | 0½ |
|   |   | Wethers, 17 at 3s. 10½d. each . . . . .    | 3  | 6  | 1½ |
|   |   | Geese, 60 at 10d. each . . . . .           | 2  | 10 | 0  |
|   |   | Capons, 48 at 5d. each . . . . .           | 1  | 0  | 0  |
|   |   | Hens or Poultry, 275 at 2d. each . . . . . | 2  | 5  | 10 |

<sup>1</sup> 'Tenants,' says Pennant in his *Tours in Scotland* (1790), 'pay their rent generally in this country (Braemar) in money, except what they pay in poultry, which is done to promote the breed, as the gentry are so remote from any market. Those that rent a mill pay a hog or two, an animal so detested by the Highlanders that very few can be prevailed on to taste it, in any shape. Labour is here very cheap, the usual pay being fifty shillings a year, and two pecks of oatmeal a week.'

## BRAEMAR

|  |  | Payable in money—              |    |    |     |    |     |    |
|--|--|--------------------------------|----|----|-----|----|-----|----|
|  |  | B.                             | F. | P. |     |    |     |    |
|  | Barley .   | 82                             | 2  | 0  |     |    |     |    |
|  | Oatmeal .  | 129                            | 1  | 1  |     |    |     |    |
|  |  | <hr/>                          |    |    |     |    |     |    |
| Farms or Rents<br>of Tenants of Kil-<br>drummy |  | 191                            | 3  | 1  | at  | £  | s.  | d. |
|  |  | 6s. 11½d. per boll .           |    |    |     | 66 | 12  | 0½ |
|  |  | Wethers, 5 at 3s. 10½d. each . |    |    |     | 0  | 19  | 5½ |
|  |  | Geese, 6 at 10d. each . . . .  |    |    |     | 0  | 5   | 0  |
|  |  | Capons, 18 at 5d. each . . . . |    |    |     | 0  | 7   | 6  |
|  |  | Hens, 180 at 2d. each . . . .  |    |    |     | 1  | 10  | 0  |
|  |  | 1 Sow at . . . . .             |    |    |     | 0  | 11  | 1½ |
|  | 4 ells Linen at 6½d. per ell .                     |                                |    |    | 0   | 2  | 2½  |    |
|  | Payable in money . . . . .                         |                                |    |    | 28  | 9  | 3½  |    |
| Farms or Rents of<br>Tenants of Corgarff       | Wethers, 15 at 3s. 10½d. each                      |                                |    |    | 2   | 18 | 4   |    |
|  | Butter, 14 stone at 6s. 8d. per<br>stone . . . . . |                                |    |    | 4   | 13 | 4   |    |
| Farms or Rents of<br>Tenants of Braemar        | Payable in money . . . . .                         |                                |    |    | 49  | 14 | 2½  |    |
|  | Total . . . . .                                    |                                |    |    | 391 | 4  | 10½ |    |

## DEDUCTIONS.

|   |  | £    | s. | d.  |
|---|--|------|----|-----|
| Stipend to Minister<br>of Towy          | Payable in money . . . . .                             | 3    | 15 | 0   |
|   | „ in oatmeal, B. 6, at<br>6s. 11½d. per boll . . . . . | 2    | 18 | 0   |
| Do. Minister of Strathdon . . . . .     |  | 9    | 8  | 10½ |
| Do. Minister of Kil-<br>drummy          | Payable in money . . . . .                             | 19   | 11 | 8   |
|   | Oatmeal, B. 16, at 6s. 11½d.<br>per boll . . . . .     | 5    | 11 | 1½  |
| Do. to the Minister of Crathy . . . . . |  | 2    | 13 | 4   |
| Total . . . . .                         |  | 43   | 18 | 0   |
| Annual neat produce . . . . .           |  | £348 | 3  | 2½  |

## CHAPTER IV

### CASTLETOWN AND ITS FUTURE

No traveller entering Castletown of Braemar for the first time, and during the winter, can fail to be struck by the great resemblance it bears to many of the villages of Switzerland. One strong point of resemblance is the high, pine-covered hills by which both are surrounded. Another is the strong aroma of burning peat and pine wood, which assail the nostrils as agreeably in the streets of the one as they do in those of the other. Lofty snow-covered mountains in the distance, of which, as in most of the villages of Switzerland, occasional glimpses can be obtained as well at Castletown as in the hamlets of the Engadine, is another feature in common. Not only the size and situation, but the very appearance and construction even, of the shops constitute a fourth ; whilst a fifth can easily be found both at Castletown and at many a Swiss village in the rushing, foaming burn, which cleaves with a wedge, as it were, the centre of the village, and then hurries on over boulder and crag to join the greater stream beyond.

Again, a noticeable, not to say remarkable, feature of many of the Swiss villages is the extraordinary size of the hotels in comparison with the rest of the buildings. Now this, curiously enough, is the case at Castletown, whose



two big inns are manifestly ludicrously out of proportion to the rest of the houses, which, architecturally, not only bear a strong resemblance to those of the Swiss villages, but would almost seem to have been constructed with that precise object in view.

It would be a difficult thing, in my opinion, to exaggerate the attractions and advantages of a place like Castletown, which is situated eighteen miles from the nearest railway station, and is liable to be 'snowed-up' for six weeks together during the winter. The difficulty rather is to use the language of moderation in treating of such obvious advantages; for who can deny but that they are so, in an age in which the amenities of localities are proportioned all too frequently according to their propinquity to the so-called 'centres of civilisation,' and in which everything is subordinated to the interests of the 'cheap-tripper'? I believe some people are unwise enough to desire to extend the railway from Ballater to Castletown. But these are probably merely 'up-to-date' excursionists, or at most self-seeking individuals with commercial axes to grind, who have no regard whatever for what is beautiful in the locality, and cannot, therefore, be expected to know what is best for the town. But though all suggestion of carrying the railway from Ballater to Castletown ought to be severely discouraged, yet there is no reason whatever why the latter should not prosper as much as the former, if not in a more substantial degree.

For instance, it is an absurd mistake to suppose that Castletown is habitable during the summer only. I affirm, and on good medical authority, that it is quite as healthy and invigorating, if not more so, in the winter. If the

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modern treatment of the consumptive is well founded—and all medical experience points to the conclusion that it is so—Castletown ought to have a great future before it. At present, owing no doubt in a great measure to ignorance regarding the capabilities of Great Britain in this respect, the unfortunate consumptive is shipped off to the Engadine of Switzerland for the winter, or to such distant health-recruiting countries as California or South Africa, where, in addition to the vexation and annoyance of being situated a great distance from home, he is liable to be fleeced by the natives of those countries, besides being more or less compelled to conform to their usages and customs—disadvantages and drawbacks which, perhaps, the sound in body and purse can put up with, but which vex considerably those who are not so fortunately circumstanced. But to return to Castletown: what valid reason is there why it should not become a great winter health-resort for those suffering from diseases of the chest, or who have inherited consumptive tendencies? None that I am aware of. On the other hand, there seems to be every reason why it should enjoy the benefit of those striking advantages, in the shape of unrivalled scenery and a dry, pure, bracing atmosphere, etc., which nature has bestowed on it, and which, I make bold to say, are not to be found in a similar state of perfection anywhere else in Great Britain.

At present, paradoxical as it may seem, the greatest advantage, apart from those natural ones mentioned above, which Castletown possesses, is the fact that it has no railway. And this happy immunity, properly considered, is a splendid augury of its future prosperity

as a winter health-resort; for, apart altogether from the recognised fact that railways spoil scenery, and are a means of lowering the standard of the purity of the atmosphere, there is this important consideration to be taken into account, namely, that the class of people who would go to Castletown in the winter-time not only, as a general rule, hate and detest the railway, but are, in point of fact, practically independent of it, so far as the means of locomotion are concerned. That is to say, what is there to prevent an invalid from compassing a comparatively short drive of eighteen miles in a comfortable covered conveyance, who at present, when he is ordered to, say, St. Moritz by his medical attendant, is obliged to undertake one of fifty, in a wretched ill-ventilated vehicle, and, more often than not, in the depth of a rigorous winter?

Moreover, from the point of view of those who benefit most by the invasion of Castletown by tourists in the summer, namely, the hotel-keepers, it is much to be doubted whether they would benefit in the least degree by the railway's coming to their town. Indeed, the weight of all obtainable evidence is on the other side, for railways involve competition, and competition, as most hotel-keepers know to their cost, means a considerable shrinkage in profits. At present it is the interest of the hotel-keepers at Castletown to keep the railway at a distance—firstly, because so long as their town is inaccessible to the 'cheap-tripper,' so long will it be patronised by a better and more opulent class of people; and, secondly, because the absence of anything like active competition enables them not only to charge high prices during the

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summer season, but also indirectly to exercise a species of mild censorship with regard to the entertainment of visitors.

The only obstacle, with the exception of a railway, that I can see to the future prosperity of Castletown as a health-resort, lies in the danger that, tempted by a spell of good fortune, it may be induced to throw off some of its primitive ways and surroundings, and embark on a course of 'improvements.' Anything approaching the construction of winter-gardens, concert-halls, switchback railways—in fine, any abominations of that kind—would be the immediate ruin of it, as I have reason to believe they have been that of a great many other promising places. The duty of the inhabitants of Castletown, if one who is a stranger among them, though come of a family which used to have an estate and interest in Braemar, may presume to touch on it, is to keep their delightful little town as Highland and as primitive as possible. Let them discourage anything like 'improvements,' in the fashionable watering-place sense of the term, and concede nothing to the Sassenach tripper except what is reasonable and agreeable to concede. If they conduct business upon these common-sense principles they and their town are like to flourish everlastingly; if, on the other hand, they do the thing which they ought not, though prosperity should exist for a time, yet, as sure as eggs are eggs, adversity would soon follow after.

## CHAPTER V

### METEOROLOGICAL AND WEATHER-WISE<sup>1</sup>

THE Meteorological Observatory of Castletown of Braemar is situated in lat. 57° N., long. 3° 24' W., at a height of 1111 feet above mean sea-level. The Observatory is under the direction of Mr. James Aitken, J.P., who has been engaged for forty years in the work of observation. Throughout the period covered by the records, the readings have been made with great regularity. The observations during one or two months are partially incomplete; they have, however, been carefully interpolated from the records of neighbouring stations, due allowance being made for differences in elevation; but there is no hiatus of any importance to detract from the continuity of the observations.

With regard to the temperature of the air of Braemar, the records, which embrace a period of forty years, show that the highest temperature was 85°, on 14th August 1876; and the lowest 12° below zero, on the 24th December 1860. Amongst other high temperatures may be noticed a reading of 83·8°, on 12th July 1866; while, on the other hand, a minimum of 8·8° below zero

<sup>1</sup> For the facts and figures herein given I am indebted to the Report made by Mr. R. C. Mossman, F.R.S.E., published in the *Journal of the Scottish Meteorological Society*.

was recorded on 15th of December 1882. Temperatures below zero are comparatively frequent, occurring in four Januarys, three Februarys, two Marchs, and nine Decembers.<sup>1</sup>

The mean temperature for the period was  $48.8^{\circ}$ , or, reduced to sea-level,  $46.9^{\circ}$ , the correction being at the rate of one degree for every 276 feet of vertical ascent as deduced from the Ben Nevis observations. The highest mean annual temperature was  $45^{\circ}$ , in 1857, and the lowest  $40.5^{\circ}$ , in 1860, giving a range in the annual means of  $4.5^{\circ}$ . Other warm years were 1868 and 1893, with mean temperatures of  $44.4^{\circ}$ , while 1879 was almost as cold as 1860, with a mean of  $40.7^{\circ}$ .

The warmest month was July 1868, with a mean temperature of  $58.5^{\circ}$ , or  $4^{\circ}$  above the average; and the coldest month January 1881, the mean of which was  $24.5^{\circ}$ , or  $9.2^{\circ}$  below the average, the extreme range in the monthly means being  $34^{\circ}$ .

The mean daily range of temperature is greatest in June,  $17.7^{\circ}$ , and least in January,  $11^{\circ}$ , these values being considerably in excess of the daily range at stations near the level of the sea. The large daily range at Braemar is doubtless due to its inland position and surroundings, the air during the day being greatly heated, whereas at night cold currents flow down from the adjacent high grounds converging in the valleys. The largest mean daily difference between the maxima and

<sup>1</sup> During the winter of 1895, a winter of exceptional severity in Braemar, the thermometer on one occasion (10th February) registered 17 degrees below zero. On nineteen other occasions it was never less than 8 degrees below zero.

minima for any month was  $24.1^{\circ}$  in July 1868, and again in June 1887; and the least,  $7^{\circ}$  in January 1862; the mean daily range was  $16.2^{\circ}$  in 1870, and  $12.3^{\circ}$  in 1857; these being the extremes.

The mean monthly range is greatest,  $41.2^{\circ}$ , in April and June, and least,  $35.5^{\circ}$ , in February. The annual range of temperature is very large, the mean difference between the absolute maximum and minimum being  $74.4^{\circ}$ .

With regard to rainfall, the mean annual amount is 35.02 inches, the maximum for any year being 59.25 inches, in 1872, and the minimum 25.10 inches, in 1887. These annual amounts are respectively 69 per cent. above and 28 per cent. below the average annual rainfall.

The driest month is May, the average rainfall being 2.12 inches, and the wettest October, the average being 3.91 inches. The three driest months are March, April, and May, the total for these months being 6.62 inches; August, September, and October being the three wettest, with a total rainfall of 10.82 inches. The heaviest monthly rainfall was 8.70 inches, in December 1876; the driest month being February 1891, with a rainfall of 0.23 inch. It is interesting to note that the minimum falls are all below one inch, with the exception of August and October, the smallest rainfall for these months being 1.10 inch and 1.03 inch respectively. The largest daily rainfall observed in the period embraced by the records was 3.44 inches, on 12th August 1885, this large quantity falling in less than twelve hours.

The air of Braemar is driest in June, with a mean humidity of 76.8 per cent., and dampest in November, the mean being 88.8 per cent.

An examination of the bi-daily wind observations shows that the prevailing wind is from the south-west, the percentage frequently being S.W. 44, N.E. 14; S., W., and N.W., 8; E., 7; S.E., 6; and N., 5. The mean annual percentage of S.W. winds is 44, but in January they are 52, *i.e.* 8 per cent. above their annual mean.

The south wind is the warmest in spring and summer at Braemar, and south-west in autumn and winter. On the other hand, the coldest winds are from the north, except in winter, when east is the coldest point. Easterly and south-easterly winds are of rare occurrence during the winter at Braemar.

One of Jordan's photographic sunshine recorders has been in use at Braemar since 1887 for the measurement of sunshine. During the period this instrument has been yielding results the sunniest month was June 1891, with 229 hours' sunshine, being 43 per cent. of the total possible. April 1892, with 204 hours' sunshine, had, however, 48 per cent. of the possible duration. The dullest months were January 1887 and December 1890, with 9 hours' sunshine, or 4 per cent. of the possible. It should be remembered, however, that the high hills surrounding Braemar on every side exclude a considerable portion of sunshine during the morning and evening hours, this remark being specially applicable to the winter months, when the sun's declination is low. The spring and early summer months enjoy the most sunshine, a distinct droop taking place in July and August, although September shows a slight improvement on the two preceding months. The fall from June to July is sharp and decided both at Braemar and at Aberdeen, amounting



to 11 per cent. of the possible at the latter, and 10 per cent. at the former. It is here interesting to note that Mr. Mossman considers it remarkable that so much bright sunshine should be received at this elevated station. In this connection he quotes Dr. Buchan, who, in a paper written more than thirty years ago, says: 'The greater height to which cultivation is successfully carried in Aberdeenshire, as compared with the rest of Scotland, may be explained by the greater length of the day; by the higher and more extensive platform of the hills, and the consequent higher summer temperature of the incumbent air; and by the greater dryness and clearness of the atmosphere, arising from the circumstance that the south-west winds, before reaching the Aberdeen hills, must necessarily be deprived of much of their moisture by the hills lying to the south-west, over which they had previously passed.'

For the decennium 1880-89—the data being derived from the summaries in the annual returns from stations of the second order, published by direction of the Meteorological Council—the following table shows the number of days on which snow fell, and the number of thunderstorms and gales, observed in the ten years under consideration :—

| Month.         | Days with<br>Snow. | Thunder-<br>storms. | Gales. |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------|
| January . . .  | 60                 | 0                   | 27     |
| February . . . | 57                 | 1                   | 41     |
| March . . .    | 98                 | 1                   | 27     |
| April . . .    | 49                 | 2                   | 10     |
| May . . .      | 28                 | 9                   | 5      |
| June . . .     | 3                  | 16                  | 6      |

| Month.          | Days with Snow. | Thunderstorms. | Gales. |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------|
| July . . .      | 3               | 18             | 2      |
| August . . .    | 0               | 5              | 11     |
| September . . . | 2               | 7              | 13     |
| October . . .   | 36              | 1              | 23     |
| November . . .  | 46              | 0              | 33     |
| December . . .  | 79              | 2              | 30     |
| Spring . . .    | 175             | 12             | 42     |
| Summer . . .    | 6               | 39             | 19     |
| Autumn . . .    | 84              | 8              | 69     |
| Winter . . .    | 196             | 3              | 98     |
| Year . . .      | 461             | 62             | 228    |

Thus it will be seen that snow has fallen in every month of the year except August. The maximum in March is doubtless due to the fact that this month was unusually cold in the ten years under discussion.

The annual period of thunderstorms is well marked, nearly all occurring in summer, when the temperature is rising widely, and ascending currents are consequently strongest. One or two cases have been observed during the winter, these being, no doubt, associated with deep cyclonic storms passing to the north-westward. Gales are comparatively rare, and are uncommon from May to July, the latter month having only two in the decennium dealt with.

In the preceding chapter attention has been called to the suitability of Braemar as a winter health resort, and the question asked why it should not be made one. To the latter question the answer must be, that Braemar is not at present a winter health resort because it has occurred apparently to no one, or at any rate to but very few, that the Castletown and district possess any possibilities in that

direction. Now, however, that the suggestion has been made publicly, and meteorological data have been furnished showing the practicability of, and in great measure confirming, as it were, that suggestion, there really remains no discoverable or intelligible reason why it should not be carried out. The public have seen, in the light of the foregoing statistics, that the month of August is one of the wettest in Braemar. Now, it is a well-ascertained fact that August is the month in which the greatest number of people visit Braemar, so that it would seem to hold good in reason, that if the wettest month in the year at Braemar is that in which the greatest number of people visit it, the other months in the year, which are not so wet, ought at least to have their fair share of public patronage, since, in this somewhat dour and inhospitable climate of ours, it is invariably rain and wind and mist that the greatest number of people seek to avoid.

In a town and district teeming, as it were, with so many extraordinary natural beauties, it would perhaps be invidious to single out any particular month or season as being pre-eminently the one in which it is best to visit Braemar. Under all conceivable conditions, circumstances, and variations of temperature and climate, Braemar has striking and exceptional attractions. But if it were incumbent on any one to make a distinction in this connection, it would be, I imagine, in favour of the spring. Words fail to express the beauty of Braemar at that season of the year; and no one need be alarmed that I am about to attempt a description. I much doubt whether the famous Wizard of the North, Sir Walter Scott himself, would have been able to do adequate justice to that

which, I confess, my poor pen is utterly unable to cope with, even supposing he had ventured to address himself to so amazing and arduous a task. The probability indeed is that, like myself, he would have contented his admirers, and earned their gratitude at the same time, by confining himself to the simple pregnant statement, that it is impossible for the mind of man to conceive anything more enchanting and beautiful than the country of Braemar in the early months of the year, and have left them to ascertain the truth of that statement for themselves. This, at all events, is what I propose to do, who have probably as much modesty as Sir Walter Scott had, on this or any other topic; and shall bring this chapter to a conclusion by offering a few general observations on the subject of Braemar and its climate in relation to strangers and visitors.

Castletown and Braemar generally are remarkably free from damp, the air is extremely bracing, the position of the former unrivalled from the point of view of shelter from cold and inhospitable winds, and its drainage excellent. All these natural and artificial advantages, as well as others too numerous to mention, might well be taken advantage of by those who, regularly as the winter approaches, begin to take thought as to where they shall go, and are generally as a consequence at a loss to decide. Why not, then, I would say to these doubtful people, go to Braemar? There, at all events, you will not be fleeced by greedy foreigners: if you *are* fleeced at all, of which I beg leave to state I much doubt the possibility, you will at any rate be fleeced by honest, intelligent Highlanders, who are infinitely superior in every respect

to Frenchmen or Swiss. Here, at all events, you will be surrounded by your own countrymen, to whom you can communicate all your wants, commands, and necessities, without murdering a foreign language or driving yourself crazy in your efforts to make yourself understood.

Thither, at all events, you can go without crossing the seas or making a railway journey which, if you are really indisposed, will so fatigue and weaken you as to render you unfit to take any enjoyment or interest in life for weeks after it. To these people I would say : Go to Braemar about the end of December, when you may reasonably expect the weather to have settled down, as it were, for the winter, and establish yourselves there until the end of June, when the summer visitors begin to arrive and it is full time for you to be departing. To such people I would say : Take your bicycles, your skates, your toboggans, or whatever the particular means of diversion may be that you affect, and enjoy the unrivalled scenery and the free, bracing atmosphere of Braemar, whilst you have life to enjoy them, and there is light enough to move about by. Above all, to such intending immigrants I would say : Go in such numbers, and with so great stores of baggage, that the 'authorities,' whoever they may be, may be forced to abolish, out of shame, their one small, crazy, stuffy, miserable vehicle, which during the winter months plies once a day between Castletown and Ballater and *vice versa* ; and agitate at once violently and diligently for the substitution of a decent coach or coaches, with three or four services at least either way *per diem*.

## CHAPTER VI

### A JACOBITE REVERIE

I SUPPOSE the warmth of the fire, assisted by the excellent dinner I had consumed, was responsible for the feeling of unconquerable drowsiness that gradually stole over and eventually overcame me, plunging me at the same time into the mysterious land of dreams, as I sat in the comfortable coffee-room of the Farquharson Arms, Braemar, one cold winter's night.

\* \* \* \* \*

I awoke with a start, to find myself confronted by an individual whose strange appearance and old-fashioned picturesque attire made it apparent to me that I was either not yet wholly awake, or that I had been suddenly precipitated into a preceding century. He was dressed as a Highlander of the beginning of the last century,<sup>1</sup> and I could see at once by his appearance and general bearing, as well as by the richness of his apparel, that he was a person of note. He wore the belted plaid and tartan doublet of the period ; whilst his legs, which were bare from an inch or two above the knees down to

<sup>1</sup> The Highland targe or target used by Lord Mar in the affair of 1715 is still preserved. It is of steel ornamented with gold. One of his pistols, also, is preserved in the Tower of London. It is of the time of James VI., and was originally a matchlock. Illustrations of both these interesting relics will be found in Logan's *Scottish Gael*.

about the middle of the calves, were encased in hose of the same bright tartan with that which adorned the rest of his person. Rather below than above the middling height, his person was yet so well formed, and his whole bearing and appearance so full of dignity, that I felt myself compelled to allow the former circumstance to weigh little with me in forming the favourable opinion which, no sooner had I set eyes on my mysterious visitor, than I immediately had of him.

Whilst these reflections—for such they were, rather than the first crude emotions indicative of surprise—were passing through my mind, the stranger advanced to me, and, holding out his hand, grasped mine firmly with his own.

‘I am glad to see you here to-night, cousin,’ he said, as he did so, in smooth, polished accents, and bowing slightly at the same time, ‘for we are in need of your assistance, as well as that of all honest men, lovers of their King and country, in the momentous affair on which we are now preparing to embark.’

‘And what may that be?’ I returned. ‘And whom have I the honour of addressing?’

At this last question the stranger smiled slightly; then, seeming to be amazed, passed a white jewelled hand slowly over his spacious forehead, as if to assist recollection. ‘I am your collateral ancestor, the Earl of Mar,’ he said at length, in accents whose melancholy it was impossible to mistake, ‘the contriver and leader of what is known as the “Rebellion of 1715.” That was an ill-managed affair,’ he added apologetically, after a pause, seeing that I did not immediately reply to him.

I then roused myself, and having expressed the infinite pleasure it gave me of meeting so distinguished a member of my family, proceeded to question him on the subject of the business that had brought him to me that night.

‘You must know, then, cousin,’ said he in answer to my eager interrogations, ‘that our King has intrusted me with the task of raising the Highlands in his behalf, and that I am come down here to my estates in the Highlands in order to execute his commands. The whole country is prepared to rise. Scotland is as one man for our lawful sovereign King James the Eighth, and I doubt not that you will join me, as many of your kinsmen have already done, in assisting me to bring in the King. I have his Majesty’s commission here in my pocket appointing me Commander-in-Chief of his Majesty’s forces in Scotland. But come, this is not a place in which to discuss business. Let us go to my castle by the road yonder.<sup>1</sup> I have company there to-night, and if there is any hesitation on your part, I doubt not that the more there shall be to remove your scruples the better it will be for yourself and his Majesty’s service.’

I rose from my seat for the purpose of accompanying the Earl to the castle, and was in the act of passing out of the hotel door with him into the bitter cold night, when I suddenly recollected that I was not attired in a manner to meet company, more especially a brilliant, well-dressed company such as that I was like to meet at the castle. ‘Oh, never mind that!’ exclaimed the Earl genially, to whom I

<sup>1</sup> Here is a poetic licence in my dream. In 1715 old Mar Castle was in disrepair, which obliged Mar to occupy Invercauld whilst he was waiting returns to the orders he had sent out through the Highlands.



confided my scruples. 'You have on the Highland dress, and though much of what I see about you is strange to me, yet have no fear, cousin, that you will be objected to by my friends on that account.'

During our walk to the castle the Earl was silent, and seemed too much occupied with his thoughts,—which, judging by the expression on his countenance (which I was able to see every now and then when the moon emerged from behind the scudding clouds), were of no light or pleasant order;—I say the Earl was too much occupied with his thoughts to engage in conversation or offer any remarks upon the observations I from time to time addressed to him. Just, however, as we turned off the road, and were about to enter the short, irregular path that leads up to the castle door, the Earl stopped suddenly, and, drawing me to him, began speaking to me in low, rapid accents.

'I am taking you here to-night,' he said, 'nominally among friends. But I have reason to suspect that many who call themselves so would not mind acting towards me in a very different manner, if opportunity offered. Be on your guard, therefore, cousin, with respect to all that is said to you, and believe very little of what may be affirmed to you for truth in the course of conversation. Come, it is cold standing here talking: let us enter the castle.'

The company to which the Earl introduced me equalled, if indeed it did not surpass, that which my imagination had previously depicted to me. About a hundred gentlemen were assembled together in what was evidently the principal chamber or banqueting-hall of the castle. A

large table ran down the centre of the room, at which the company was seated, and on which was spread a magnificent banquet, or, to speak more correctly, the remains of one, for the company were already dined when I entered the castle, and all the servants had retired.

'This is Mr. Campbell of Glendarule,' said my Lord Mar, taking me up to a short, thickset, dark-complexioned man, dressed in the Campbell tartan, and introducing me with a low bow; 'I am sure you must have heard of Glendarule, cousin?' I said that it gave me great pleasure to meet Mr. Campbell,—of whom indeed I had often read as an ardent, and some said not too scrupulous, Jacobite.

'He is an honest man, and much my friend,' whispered Lord Mar in my ear during a pause in my conversation with Mr. Campbell. 'But come, you have doubtless seen enough of him; let me now introduce you to my friend Pitsligo.<sup>1</sup> I see him yonder. I declare he is as solemn as ever, though we are on the eve of a great merry undertaking.' But before Lord Mar could effect his hospitable purpose an individual seated at the end of the table rose from his chair, and, having called the attention of the company to himself by vigorously rapping the table with a knife, proceeded to deliver himself of a speech.

'Who is that man?' I whispered to Lord Mar, ere half a dozen words had escaped the speaker's lips.

'Who is that?' echoed my kinsman. 'Oh, that's Far-

<sup>1</sup> Lord Forbes of Pitsligo, more commonly known as Lord Pitsligo, was remarkable for the solemnity of his manner and the grotesque gravity of his speech. Nevertheless he was an ardent patriot and Jacobite, deeply attached to the Stewarts, and a man of good genius and ripe common-sense. He subsequently served under Prince Charles Edward in the '45.

quharson of Invercauld, a very good man, and a true lover of his King and country, but inclined to be over-cautious at times. This speech-making is most inopportune, and I must do something to stop it,' added Lord Mar irritably, as soon as he perceived that the drift of the orator's remarks was to lay rather more stress on the danger and uncertainty of the present undertaking than he did on its chances of success.

'My lords and gentlemen,' exclaimed the Earl, in a loud tone of voice, which had the effect of immediately silencing Invercauld and drawing the general attention to himself, 'allow me to introduce to you a kinsman of mine and a recruit to the cause. He is a true patriot, and as much for King James and a Repeal of the Union as we are ourselves.—I hope I am not misinterpreting your sentiments, cousin?' added his lordship, in a lower tone of voice, and turning to me as if for confirmation of this somewhat startling announcement.

Finding that the immediate result of these words was to fix the company's gaze upon myself, I soon began to experience all those disagreeable and embarrassing sensations which betoken extreme shyness and surprise. Accordingly it is not greatly to be wondered at that in my hopeless endeavours to return a suitable reply, I stuttered and stammered to such an extent that only the company's good breeding and manners manifestly prevented them from laughing outright. Just, however, when my confusion was at its height, and I was preparing to sit down without making a single intelligible remark, a gentleman rose at the end of the table, and, addressing my Lord Mar in sneering accents, proceeded to congratulate him in par-

ticular, and the Jacobite party and interest in general, on the admirable new recruit whom both had acquired.

The man's sarcastic accents and sneering language, which last was all the more irritating because it was couched in terms of the pinkest politeness, so enraged me that, as if by a miracle, my confusion suddenly disappeared; which left me at liberty to return a Roland for his Oliver, which I did in a manner that manifestly delighted Lord Mar and some of the company as much as it surprised, and I may say delighted, myself. How far I should have gone in my denunciations of my interrupter I am unable to say, for, just as matters were reaching a climax, his lordship intervened, and, plucking me by the sleeve, bade me in a loud voice to desist, for that 'it was the Master of Sinclair I was speaking to, and every one must be aware that it was no use my endeavouring to teach civility to a murderer.'<sup>1</sup>

No sooner had my lord uttered that sinister word than the Master drew his sword, and, giving vent to a frightful oath, rushed furiously upon my kinsman. At the same time the rest of the company sprang to their feet, and, drawing their swords, prepared to join in the *mêlée*. Seizing a claymore which by chance I saw lying on a table near me, I too, though little experienced in

<sup>1</sup> The Master of Sinclair was accused, and should have been convicted, for no doubt existed as to his guilt, of murdering a brother-officer in a duel under peculiarly atrocious circumstances whilst he was serving in the army under Marlborough. He got off, however, and was subsequently permitted to return to this country. No small part of the Master's animosity to Mar was due to the fact that he believed that Mar had endeavoured to dissuade Queen Anne from granting him a pardon. So far from this being the case, however, it would appear that Mar took it upon himself to urge the Queen to give Sinclair one.

the use of arms, put myself in a posture of defence. A furious stroke from Sinclair's weapon soon put Lord Mar<sup>1</sup> at a disadvantage, who fell upon one knee, and must inevitably have been killed by the Master in that position, had I not providentially struck up his sword and by so doing turned his attention to myself. It is needless to say, however, that I was no match for that desperate and experienced swordsman. A few passes and my claymore was knocked out of my hands, and I myself forced to the ground, in which position I was in as much danger of suffering the fate from which, but a few minutes before, I had rescued my kinsman, as ever he had been in from the same cause. In that dreadful situation it seemed to me as if nothing could save me. The ruffian above me, his wild eyes glaring down upon me with unspeakable malice, and his drawn sword uplifted with evident intention to slay me, was manifestly only staying his hand a few

<sup>1</sup> I much fear that in my dream I did, without consciousness, I hope it will be allowed, an injustice to Lord Mar; for besides being a brave man he was an excellent swordsman. In Logan's *Scottish Gael* the following anecdote will be found:—'John Campbell, a soldier in the Black Watch, killed nine men with it (the sword) at Fontenoy, and on attacking the tenth his left arm was unfortunately carried off by a cannon ball. Donald Macleod, who was so remarkable for his robust frame, having entered the service of King William and enjoyed for many years a pension from George III., relates many brilliant anecdotes of his countryman's prowess. He fought various single combats both at home and abroad. On one occasion he cut off part of the calf of a German's leg and wounded him in the sword-arm to show that he had it in his power to take his life. In the rebellion of 1715 he accepted a challenge from a Captain Macdonald, a celebrated fencer in the Earl of Mar's army, who had openly defied the Royal (i.e. the Hanoverian) army. In his trial of skill Macleod cut off the other's purse and asked him if he wanted anything else taken off, on which Macdonald gave up the contest, acknowledging his inferiority, and left the victor his purse as trophy. The Earl, who was himself an excellent swordsman, and kept a band of clever fellows about him, sent ten guineas to Macleod, and his general, Argyle, added as much.'

seconds in order that he might the longer enjoy my agony. The fear and certainty of death were already upon me. Soon I would be a dead man. A moment more and——

\* \* \* \* \*

At this conjuncture I awoke. My dream was over, the fire near out, and the room was cold. But, as if to compensate me for these discomforts, mine host of the 'Farquharson Arms' entered the room just as I awoke, and, depositing a jug of hot water and a bottle of whisky on the table by my side, inquired in the most innocent manner imaginable whether I was like to require any more refreshment for the night, as it was past ten o'clock and the bar was about to be closed.

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ENVOY

FAREWELL then, ye mountains, in mystery piled,  
 Where the birthplace and home of the tempest is found;  
 Farewell, ye red torrents, all foaming and wild,  
 Farewell to your dreamy and desolate sound.  
 Tho' o'er flood, field, and mountain my wanderings be wide,  
 Back, still back to Braemar faithful fancy shall flee,  
 And the beauty of Kelvin, the grandeur of Clyde,  
 Shall but deepen my sigh for the banks of the Dee.

CHRISTOPHER NORTH.

## APPENDIX

NOTE 1.—The rapidity with which prominent persons changed the complexion of their political opinions in the good old days is amusingly and strikingly exemplified in the following correspondence, which passed between Mar and the Provost and Magistrates of Aberdeen, less than a year before the beginning of the Rising of 1715 :—

‘WHYTEHALL, *August 21, 1714.*

‘GENTLEMEN,—The Lords Justices having been informed That some ill disposed persons at Aberdeen Did, in the night time, and under the disguise of women’s apparell, proclaim the pretender, and that my lord Justice Clerk has already wrote to you to make enquiry into the said fact, their Lo<sup>s</sup> have likewise directed me to signifie their commands to you, that you cause the persons who have been guilty of the said treasonable practices to be apprehended, in order to their being prosecuted according to law, And that you transmit to me ane account of your proceedings herein.—I am, gentlemen, your most obedient humble servant so subscribed,  
MAR.

‘Directed this  
To the Provost and  
Rest of the Magistrats of Aberdeen.’

‘MY LORD,—Wee received your Lops. letter of the 21st inst. yester-night anent that disorder that fell out here the tenth inst., wee were enquiring all wee could formerly to find out the actors, and this day we have examined severall persons and find that upon the said tenth instant after midnight some young men attended by sevell women went threw the streets with two viollers playing to them, who played seall tunnes, one whereof wes Lett the King enjoy his own againe, And they came to a

fountaine a litle above the cross and took water in their hatts and drank the Pretender King James his health, but cannot learn of any proclamation made by them. Wee have caused search for seall of the persons wee got account of, but non of them to be found and as we are informed they got ane express about midnight acquainting them of your Lop. order to us being a few hours after ours came to hand. And shall inform ourselves all we cane further in this matter and transmitt to your Lop. a full account, Only wee thought it our duty to give your Lop. this hint of the mater at this tyme. We shall not be wanting on all occasions to testifie our sincere affection to his Majtie King George and the present governement and to approve ourselves as becometh, My lord, Yeur Lop. most humble and most obedient servants.

'ABD., 30 Augt. 1714.

'To the Right Honll. the

Earle of Mar, one of his Majties Secretarys of Stat.'

—*Historical Papers*, 1699-1750, vol. i.; New Spalding Club.

NOTE 2.—The Reverend John Alexander, Episcopal incumbent at Kildrummie, was taken to task by the Presbytery of Alford, at the conclusion of the Rising of 1715, for having 'given great scandall by his rebellious practises during the time of the late unnaturall rebellien.' He was summoned to appear at Alford to answer the charges brought against him, when the following evidence was led:—

'James Reid, in Old Morlich,' being 'solemnly sworn, purged of malice and partiall councill,' deponed that 'he heard a man's voice praying, but he saw no man's face at the erecting of the standard (at Castletown), whom he could distinguish from one another, and that he saw Master Alexander at the water of Cluny, when they were on their march.'

'Arthur Weir . . . deponed he saw Master John Alexander in Braemarr the very day the standard was erected with the late Earl of Marr<sup>1</sup> and army, that he heard a man pray, but could not tell if it was Master Alexander or not, and that he heard it in the army that Master Alexander was the man that prayed.'

<sup>1</sup> It is a fiction of law to describe a person attainted of his honours and titles as 'late.'



'Patrick Forbes . . . deponed he saw Master Alexander in his return from the *army* beyond Invercald, and that he was in the rear of the *army* when he saw him.'

'Alexander Leith . . . deponed he saw Master Alexander in Braemar when he was returning from the *army*.'—*Historical Papers*, 1699-1750, vol. i. ; New Spalding Club.

It will thus be seen that all these witnesses agree in describing Mar's forces in Braemar as an 'army.' It is evident that they would not have employed that word to describe a small following of sixty men, which is all the force, according to Rae and others, that Mar was able to bring out of Braemar.

NOTE 3.—It would appear that Mar's threat was, in some instances, no idle one. At a Justice of Peace Court held at 'Kirktoone of Alford,' 15th March 1716, for disarming the country, William Tough in 'Nedher Kildrummy' deponed that some of the men accused before the court of having taken part in the Jacobite Rising 'were forced and compelled to go out in the unhappy Rebellion much against their inclina<sup>tn</sup>, And that they did to be free of the same, Flee from their houses for severall dayes, And that by my lord Marr's order, Parties were sent out who did sett fire to their houses and corn-yards, And that after they had absconded for severall dayes, they were taken prisoners by the same parties, and were sent prisoners to Braemar, where my lord Mar then was.' Many of these men who were so pressed 'how-soonever they had ane opportunity of deserting they came home, thereby testifying their want of inclination to rebell.'—*Historical Papers*, 1699-1750, vol. i. ; New Spalding Club.