



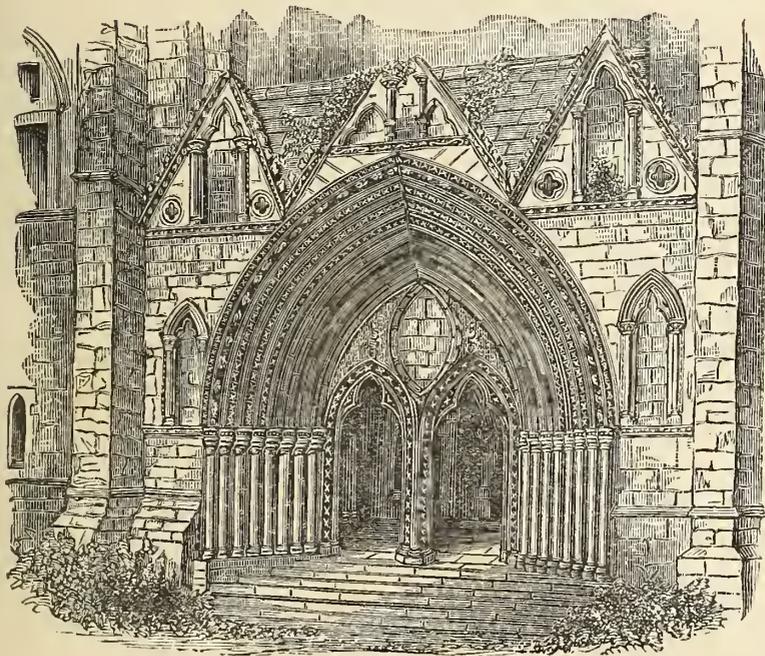
ANNALS
OF THE
PARISH AND BURGH OF ELGIN,

FROM
THE TWELFTH CENTURY TO THE YEAR 1876,

WITH
SOME HISTORICAL AND OTHER NOTICES ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE SUBJECT.

By ROBERT YOUNG,

F.S.A. SCOT.



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PREFACE.

VERY few of the smaller burghs of Scotland have recorded their annals—scarcely any north of Aberdeen.

I have long been desirous that a History of the Burgh of Elgin should be prepared. We had some persons resident in Elgin, both in the past and present generations, who had leisure and talent sufficient for the purpose, and would have done the work great justice, but they allowed the opportunity to pass.

Not willing that it should be longer delayed, I resolved (but with very considerable hesitation) to make the attempt myself, although I have little leisure on my hands for the purpose. I have some facilities which others may not have. First, I have been connected with the Town Council for thirty-eight years, and have had an opportunity of seeing many documents and papers connected with the affairs of the Burgh; and, second, during a period of nearly fifty years in which I have been in business, I have examined many of the title-deeds of private families. I have therefore thought it a duty to preserve what I know, however imperfectly I have performed the task.

The materials for a work on Elgin are very meagre. The earliest notices of a reliable nature are contained in the Chartulary of Moray, which supplies the names of persons, lands, and dates with much accuracy. There are also some slight notices in the National Historians and other writers, in the publications of the Burgh Records Society, and in those of the Convention of Royal Burghs.

The earliest Elgin records we have are called Court Books. They commence in 1540. The volumes, as stated in the Inventory, only contain broken periods as follows:—From 1540 to 1553; from 1570 to 1585; from 1630 to 1634; from 1644 to 1652—in all, about forty years. They consist principally of the transactions of the Burgh Courts, but are also interspersed with meetings of the Magistrates and Town Council. The writing of these old manuscripts is very faint and decayed, and I found my eyes too weak, and my time too limited, to decipher (except in a painful manner) the contents; but the want was in a great measure supplied by the use of a small volume of extracts, made by the late Mr. John Miller of Forres, and kindly sent to me by his son, Mr. J. D. Miller of the *Forres Gazette*. I hope some day these scattered fragments may be printed under the editorship of some competent person, as they would tend to throw some light on the history of the Burgh three centuries ago.

The regular Minute Books commence in 1670, and from that date, a period of upwards of two hundred years, they are quite complete. I have used the contents of these volumes very freely, more particularly since the year 1700; and they give an account of manners and customs that have entirely passed away.

I have attempted a description of civil and ecclesiastical affairs, genealogies of families, biographies of literary men, and other miscellaneous subjects, which I hope may prove of some interest. I have stated my authorities, as far as possible, on the margin, and I frequently quote the exact words of the writers to whom I refer.

I desire to record my thanks to Messrs. Forsyth and Stewart, solicitors, and Mr. Duff, their assistant, for free access to all the burgh records; to Mr. James David Murdoch, Sheriff-Clerk Depute, for his kindness in

supplying information about the Sheriff and Commissary Courts; to Captain Dunbar-Dunbar of Sea Park, for various deeds, charters, and writings, and, in particular, for a charter proving that Alexander Seton, the great Earl of Dunfermline, Chancellor of Scotland, was Provost of Elgin in the beginning of the seventeenth century; to Provost Culbard, for various papers throwing light on the trade and commerce of the Burgh both in former and present times; to Mr. William Anderson, Lossie Wynd, for interesting documents from his ample store; and to Mr. James Elder, for statistics regarding the poor.

I commenced this work without any fixed plan. It has assumed its present form during the progress of composition, and is printed from the original draft without material alteration.

In attempting to occupy a field so extended and hitherto almost untrodden, I must have committed many unavoidable errors, made important omissions, and several repetitions; but with all its defects, I trust the work may prove in some measure useful as a record of events of former times, and may be an inducement to some more competent writer to improve on what I have done.

I have endeavoured, as much as possible, to avoid any remarks of a personal nature, and hope I have succeeded in stating nothing that would hurt the feelings of the most delicate. If it prove otherwise, I shall extremely regret it.

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THE PARISH OF ELGIN.

CHAPTER I.

THE origin of parishes in Scotland is involved in great obscurity. In the time of the ecclesiastical government of the Culdees,* there were neither counties nor parishes. From the sixth to the twelfth centuries the arrangement seems to have been to erect large monasteries in certain districts, such as Iona, Deer, Monymusk, Brechin, Dunkeld, Abernethy, and others, for religious and educational purposes, and from these central points there issued bodies of missionaries, who spread over the adjoining country preaching the gospel, and instructing the people in the knowledge of divine things. The Culdee Church was strictly a missionary one. Many of the religious men connected with that Church were anchorites, who retired from the world and gave themselves, as was the fashion of the times, to religious contemplation, living in cells apart from the world, and only mixing occasionally with their fellow-men. They were no doubt good men, and obtained from a rude and savage people the greatest veneration. There are many of the cells of these recluses still remaining in the Western Isles, some of them in places now uninhabited. On the mainland of Scotland few traces now remain of these early saints. Their places of abode were of the most rude description, and by the improvement of the country the materials have been all removed.

It was only by slow degrees that the parochial system was established. It seems to have been introduced by the

* It has become the fashion of the present day to call the early Church by the name "Columban." I adhere to the old name "Culdee." I understand the word "Keledei" or "Celedai" to mean "worshippers of God."

great Saxon immigration which took place after the Norman Conquest in England. Queen Margaret, wife of Malcolm Canmore, encouraged all Saxon habits and customs, both in civil and religious affairs, and, being a woman of considerable abilities, obtained a great hold both on her husband the king, and also upon the nobility and commons of Scotland. The divisions of parishes had for some time previously prevailed in England, and were carried by the influx of inhabitants from the south gradually into Scotland. Our Scottish kings gave great encouragement to the new settlers, bestowed on them grants of land, upon which they erected manor houses. A church for the district then followed; the proprietor gave a grant of tithes from his estate; and immediately the manor tithed to its church became what we now call a parish. The earliest account we have of the formation of a parish in Scotland is that of Ednam, in the Merse. King Edgar bestowed these lands upon Thor, an Englishman (the land was then desert), and he cultivated and settled it. It became his manor, and there he erected a church, which he endowed and dedicated to St. Cuthbert. Melrose and other districts followed, and so the parochial system gradually spread over Scotland, and under the wise kings with whom Scotland was blessed during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, the country made great progress in civilization and all useful arts. Commerce flourished, justice was strictly administered, and all our great abbeys, cathedral churches, and other public buildings, whose ruins we still admire, were erected. By the close of the thirteenth century Scotland had reached a high degree of progress, and, had not the English wars ensued after the death of King Alexander III., which stopped all improvement, and were a death-struggle for liberty, the country would have soon attained a high rank among the nations of Europe. It was otherwise ordered, and for the next four hundred years Scotland was distressed either with foreign wars or intestine broils, and all material advance put a stop to.

Of the origin of the parish of Elgin, and by whom erected, nothing is known. The very name is buried in obscurity. Our local historians have had much discussion about the name, some stating it to be derived from Helgy, a General

Innes' Early
Scotch
History, page
12.

Life of Saint
Ninian,
pages 283, 284.

of Sigurd Earl of Orkney; others from the words Hely Dun, or Holy Hill. All this is mere conjecture. The name is no doubt of Celtic origin, but perhaps so corrupted that it is impossible to arrive at its true derivation. It is evidently of great antiquity, and of a much earlier date than the time of Helgy. Elgin is referred to in our early histories in the beginning of the eleventh century, and is first noticed in the Chartulary of Moray in the time of King William the Lyon, in a writ executed by that king relative to teinds and Church rights. The witnesses are, among others, Matthew Bishop of Aberdeen, John Bishop of Caithness, William the son of Freskyn, William de Lindesei, and Peter de Polloc. There is no date to the charter, but it points to a period between 1170 and 1200. It is probable that Elgin was formed into a parish in this king's reign, and that a parish church was erected before the year 1200. Like other parishes, Elgin is very curiously arranged, and most inconvenient in its shape. It seems to have been altered at different periods, more particularly in the year 1657, when the large estate of Kellas was detached from Elgin, and added to Dallas. This has considerably altered and diminished the breadth of the parish.

Registrum
Moraviense,
page 6.

Survey of
Province of
Moray, page 166.

The parish of Elgin contains a surface of 19,258 acres. It is nearly all flat land, a valley extending from east to west, very unequal in breadth and exceedingly crooked. It is very well watered. The river Lossie, descending from the hills of Dallas, runs through the centre of it for many miles, and the smaller stream of the Lochty, winding through the vale of Pluscarden, joins the Lossie at Inverlochty, and forms with it a considerable stream, passing on the north side of the town of Elgin, and then entering the parish of St. Andrew's-Lhanbryd. There are besides many smaller brooks and streams which add to the beauty of the district. The parish is bounded on the south by St. Andrew's, Rothes, Birnie, and Dallas; on the east by St. Andrew's; on the north by Alves, Spynie, and St. Andrew's; and on the west by Alves and Rafford. Its extreme length, from Blackhills at the east, to Bognie in the parish of Rafford at the west, is eleven miles; opposite New Elgin, in a line to join Alves, four and a-half miles; opposite Whitewreath and Lhanmorn,

three and a-half miles ; and opposite Upper Manbeen, four and a-half miles. In breadth opposite Westertown the parish is two and three-fourths miles ; from Colburn past Riach three and one-eighth miles ; from Buinach to Moss-towie three and seven-eighths miles ; opposite the town of Elgin one and three-fourths miles ; and at Culbackhillock the breadth diminishes to one hundred and thirty-five yards —Birnie and St. Andrew's-Lhanbryd pressing in upon both sides. The soil of the parish is very unequal. It is generally light and sandy, but kindly, and with copious rains and sunshine, raises excellent crops. There are some pieces of good land, such as the small farm of Panns, part of the large farm of Manbeen, the Haughland near Elgin, the farm of Inverlochty, and part of Pluscarden ; but these are exceptions to the general rule. Considerable plantations have been made during the last century at Mayne by the Earl of Findlater ; and within the last fifty years the extensive range of the Hill of Heldon in Pluscarden has been planted by the Earl of Fife, besides plantations of smaller dimensions which have been made by his Lordship at Lhanmorn and otherwise. These have tended not only to beautify the country, but have given shelter and supplied timber for country purposes. The Earl of Fife is proprietor of about two-thirds of the parish, and has been the principal heritor for the last 150 years. The Earl of Moray is the oldest heritor, the family having been proprietors of the compact barony of Pittendrich for about two centuries. None of the heritors extend farther back. The parish runs into a narrow point at the Glen of Rothes. Several parishes here meet at a large stone, a curious remnant of antiquity. In my early days I remember this stone of much larger dimensions, but some persons, out of mere wanton mischief, have broken off a large piece from the top, so that it has not the same conspicuous appearance as formerly.

I propose, in the following pages, in the first place to go over the landward part of the parish of Elgin, and thereafter to give some account of the history, ancient and modern, of the burgh ; and beginning at the extreme east end, I would first mention the estate of

BLACKHILLS.

This property at an early date was a part of the extensive estate of Innes, and long held in property by one of the oldest cadets of that great house. It was at one time much more extensive than at present; running across the hills, it embraced some lands in the parish of Rothés, now belonging to the Earl of Seafield. The estate, as it now stands, was sold by John Innes of Blackhills to Sir Archibald Dunbar of Northfield on 23d June, 1796, at the price of £7000, who resold it on 16th August, 1798, to Lachlan Cuming of Demerara, a descendant of Cuming of Craigmill, in Dallas, for £7353. Mr. Cuming made the place his principal residence, and died there at an advanced age, upwards of thirty years ago, when his Trustees sold it to the Earl of Fife. It fitted in well to his Lordship's estates, being situated in the very heart of his property, and made an excellent and valuable addition to it. Since it came into the possession of the Earl, the property has been much improved by planting, and a new and commodious mansion house, with suitable offices, has been erected. It has been since occupied by very respectable tenants—first by the late Dr. William Geddes, and after his retirement, by Mr. David Maxwell, both of whom have kept the house, garden, and grounds in excellent order. The other tenants on the estate are industrious and thriving, and, as upon the rest of his Lordship's estates, are moderately rented. The land lies high, and is somewhat cold and exposed, and the difference in the temperature between this and the lower part of the parish in the winter season is striking.

THORNHILL, CLACKMARRAS, LANGMORN, OR
LHANMORN, AND WHITEWREATH.

These lands, comprehending a considerable extent of country, are said by Mr. Shaw in his History of the Province of Moray to have been a part of the estate of Coxtou, and if so, belonged to the family of Innes of Coxtou, who

acquired that estate about the latter part of the sixteenth century, and built the tower of Coxton in the early part of the seventeenth century. The property of Whitewreath seems to have been acquired about the middle of the seventeenth century by the Rev. John Brodie, minister of Auldearn, and Dean of Moray, third son of David Brodie of Brodie. He died in 1655, and was succeeded in Whitewreath by his son, William Brodie, who was served heir in special to his father in 1656. He was succeeded by his son, William Brodie of Whitewreath, advocate, who was one of the Commissaries of Edinburgh in the year 1712, and died unmarried in 1739. He is said to have been succeeded by his cousin, Sir William Dunbar of Durn, Baronet. The Duff family acquired this large district early last century, and it still belongs to the Earl of Fife. The estate has been much improved and sheltered of late years by considerable plantations, which are generally thriving. The land is light and sandy, but some large farms have been laid off and are well cultivated. Among others we may mention Langmorn, Easter and Wester Whitewreath, Clackmarras, Riach, and others. In a favourable year with copious showers these lands produce excellent crops. Good dwelling houses and steadings have been erected, and the tenants seem to be thriving.*

Tree of
Brodie Family.

GLASSGREEN, BURNSIDE, &c., AND PART OF LINKWOOD.

These lands, with a small portion of some adjoining lands, form part of the considerable estate of Linkwood, belonging to the Earl of Seafield. The remaining part is situated in the parish of St. Andrew's. Glassgreen holds of the Magistrates of Elgin for payment of a small feu-duty. Linkwood proper was Church land, and is stated in the rental of the Bishoprick of Moray as then held for payment of 20 bolls of bear yearly. This is still received by the Crown as coming in place of the Bishop. In the middle of the seventeenth

* It is said that there was a church at Langmorn, dedicated to St. Morgan, from whence the name Lhan Morn.

century it belonged to a family of the name of Gibson. In the year 1685 Robert Gibson was proprietor. He had a yearly rental of 2500 merks, and was reckoned an opulent man. He married a sister of Anderson of Westerton, in the parish of Botriphnie, but was unhappy in his marriage, and his domestic troubles drove him mad. He probably was naturally a weak-minded man. According to the practice of these times, when lunatics were so cruelly treated, he was imprisoned in the Jail of Elgin, and became a raging maniac. In the month of October, 1700, when the Magistrates were in Edinburgh on business before the Privy Council, Gibson set fire to the Tolbooth in the night time, and there being no means of quenching the flames, it was burnt to the ground. In the course of certain lucid intervals, Mr. Gibson granted a bond of interdiction in favour of Anderson of Westerton and Major Anderson; and about the year 1704, with consent of his interdictors, he disposed the lands of Linkwood to Alexander Dunbar of Bishopmill. A few months thereafter, viz., in October, 1704, Dunbar of Bishopmill, with advice of Major Anderson, Linkwood's brother-in-law, granted a disposition of the estate in favour of Sir Alexander Innes of Coxton. In 1707, Sir Alexander Innes disposed, *inter alia*, the estate of Linkwood to his son, Sir George Innes, who obtained a charter of resignation under the Great Seal, and on the 24th June, 1712, he disposed the lands and assigned the charter to James Wiseman, writer in Elgin. In February, 1720, James Wiseman disposed the estate to John Dunbar of Burgie, the nephew and heir of Dunbar of Bishopmill. On 31st May, 1727, Dunbar of Burgie entered into a minute of sale with James Anderson, Commissary Clerk of Moray, whereby Mr. Anderson bound himself to pay 46,000 merks Scots at the term of Whitsunday, 1728, as the price of the estate, which he did, and the property was disposed to him accordingly, except a small part which had been sold by Sir George Innes partly to Duff of Dipple, and partly to Innes of Dunkinty. James Anderson died in 1731, and was succeeded by his eldest son, William Anderson, who died in 1745, at the early age of thirty-eight. He was succeeded by his brother, Robert Anderson, who married Margaret Gordon, daughter of Alexander Gordon

Chambers's
Domestic
Annals of
Scotland, vol.
III., page 239.

of Cairnfield, by whom he had three sons. He sold the estate of Linkwood about the year 1767 to the Earl of Findlater, and died in 1777. The property has since that date continued in possession of the Earl of Findlater, and his successor, the Earl of Seafield. The principal part of the estate of Linkwood proper has been possessed by the same family, as tenants, for upwards of a century—first by Mr. Peter May, who was factor to the Earl of Findlater, and thereafter factor to the Earl of Bute. He was succeeded by his nephew, Mr. George Brown, who, besides being factor to Lord Findlater, carried on an extensive business as land-surveyor. He died in 1816, and was succeeded by his son, Mr. Peter Brown, and the farm is now possessed by his son, Mr. William Brown. The land is light and sandy, and not very productive, but it has been well cared for, and embellished with plantations. An excellent house has been built, with an extensive lawn and garden, and it forms a very delightful residence. Mr. Brown has lately acquired about thirty acres of the farm on a permanent feu from the proprietor, the Earl of Seafield, on which he has erected a new distillery, where an extensive business is carried on, the buildings, machinery, and distilling apparatus being all of the best and most modern description.

The other parts of the estate, Glassgreen, Burnside, Tyockside, &c., are let to industrious tenants. The soil is generally thin and poor, but from the proximity of the lands to Elgin, and other favourable circumstances, bring fair rents to the proprietor and tolerable returns to the tenants.

ASHGROVE, &c.

Immediately to the north of Linkwood lies the small property of Ashgrove. In the middle of last century it belonged to Mr. William Grant, and was known by the name of Grantsgreen. There was a large bleaching establishment here. Mr. Grant died about the year 1790, when the property was sold to Dr. James Coull, Commissary of Moray, who changed the name to Ashgrove. Dr. Coull spent a long life here, and brought up a fine family. After

his death it was sold, and the house lot was purchased by Mr. William Topp, who now possesses it, and occupies the mansion house. The other lot was purchased by Mr. Grant of Thornhill, Forres, to whose son it now belongs. Near this ground, and on the very boundary of the parish, a new cemetery has been laid out in a very tasteful manner, well enclosed, with a handsome lodge for the keeper, and substantial iron gates. The inhabitants of Elgin seem to prefer this new resting place for their dead to the old Cathedral burying ground. It is a pleasant resort in a summer evening, and there is a melancholy satisfaction in visiting the tombs of departed friends, and musing on the vanity of all earthly things. So many tombs have already been erected in the course of the few years during which it has been opened, that it will soon be necessary to have it enlarged.

To the westward of Ashgrove lies a tract of ground, formerly moorland, and long pertaining to the Magistrates of Elgin. In the year 1760, a considerable portion of it was feued off to the Trades of Elgin; and in the beginning of the present century the remainder was feued off in lots, at a feu-duty of above twenty shillings per acre, to the late Mr. Alexander Brander, Provost of Elgin, Dr. James Coull, and Dr. Thomas Stephen. The Trades have given out part of their ground in building lots, and formed it into regular streets, and it is known by the name of New Elgin. The houses are in general tolerably good, but occupied, with few exceptions, by the humbler classes. During the time of making the Highland and Morayshire Railway lines, the village was occupied by industrious people of the labouring class, but since that time it has fallen back, and is understood now not to be in a very thriving condition. The lots of ground conveyed to Mr. Brander, Dr. Coull, and Dr. Stephen, have been converted into arable ground, and although of inferior quality, bring in a tolerable rent to the proprietors.

To the north of Ashgrove are the lands of the Preceptory of Maisondieu, now belonging to the Magistrates of Elgin, under a Royal Charter from King James VI.—the rents to be used for educational and charitable purposes, and for the common good of the burgh. The foundations of the

old house of Maisondieu, or Domus Dei, are still sacredly preserved, but the extent and style of the building are not known. It appears to have been erected in the reign of Alexander II., and to have been burned by Alexander Earl of Buchan (the Wolfe of Badenoch) about the year 1390. It was no doubt rebuilt, and, like other religious buildings connected with the Roman Catholic Church, fell into ruins at the Reformation, and the materials were sacrilegiously carried away. There was a considerable landed estate attached to the Preceptory, such as the property of Kirdels, Over and Nether Manbeen, and other lands. The ground at Elgin round the old building has been in part feued out, and a considerable part has been occupied by General Anderson's Institution, with its elegant building, and well laid-out grounds.

THE PANNIS.

Crossing the turnpike road from Elgin to Fochabers, we come to the compact small property of Pannis. It is of the finest quality of alluvial land, and, with the adjoining Chanonry Crofts, was long the property of the Bishops of Moray. In the rental of the Bishoprick, in the year 1565, it was tenanted by David Simsone. The annual rent was 24 bolls of barley, to be delivered to the Bishop's granary keeper. In the year 1566 a charter of feu farm was granted by the bishop in favour of James Innes of Drainie, and Katherine Gordon his spouse, of *inter alia, terris vocatis lie Pannis, in Baronia de Spynie, juxta ecclesiam Cathedrallem de Elgin*. The charter is dated at Scone and Elgin, 12th and 26th September, 1566. How long it remained in the possession of the respectable family of Innes of Drainie we have no means of knowing. They were strict Roman Catholics, and did not, as most others, conform to the altered times. It is probable, therefore, they lost this along with their other lands in the following century. About the year 1650, it belonged to John Paterson, Bishop of Ross, and afterwards to his son John Bishop of Edinburgh, who sold it, along with Newmill and other lands, to Mr. William King,

Registrum
Moraviense,
page 435.

Registrum
Moraviense,
page 393.

Provost of Elgin, by disposition, dated 9th December, 1684. Mr. King left it to his son William, who was Sheriff-Depute of the County of Elgin, and it continued in their family until 1809, when Joseph King, the grandson of the first purchaser, died. It thereafter fell to his nephew, Major-General Francis Stewart King, who, dying in 1824, was succeeded by his eldest son, Captain James Stewart, who lived until December, 1874. The property is pleasantly situated on the banks of the Lossie. There is a good farm house and steading upon it, and it has always been occupied by respectable tenants.*

OLDMILLS.

Passing by for the present the town of Elgin we come to the farm and mill of Oldmills. This is the oldest mill erected on the Lossie, and so far back that no trace of the origin remains. It was long known, and still in some degree is, by the name of "Kings Mills." It was granted by King Alexander II. to the prior and monks of Pluscarden, and through all the changes of property which have since occurred, it has followed the fortune of the old Priory. Falling successively to Setons, Mackenzies, Grants, and Duff's, the farm and mills were acquired, in 1710, by William Duff of Dipple, father of William first Earl of Fife, in the possession of whose descendants it still remains. The Burgage Lands of Elgin were astricted to this mill before the middle of the thirteenth century, and by a contract between the Prior of Pluscarden and the Burgesses of Elgin, *omnia grana crescentia, invecta et illata*, were to be ground, or pay multures of a very heavy amount, at this mill. This burden continued undiminished until about the year 1821, when the late James Earl of Fife was pleased to renounce the multure dues on the *invecta et illata* grain, but it is still continued on the *grana crescentia*, and is a very heavy and troublesome burden on all the town's lands. It may be hoped that in

* Since the above was written the property of Panns has been sold by Captain Stewart's heirs to Mr. Alexander Russell, late Provost of Elgin.

the present enlightened age these unnatural burdens will be removed by legislative enactment.

The farm, although of small extent, is valuable, both from the quality of the soil and its close proximity to the town of Elgin. It was tenanted in the middle of the last century by Mr. Alexander Young, father of the late Mr. Young of Burghead. He died here in 1783, when it was let to Mr. John Lawson, by whose son, Mr. Alexander Lawson, it is still possessed. The late Mr. Lawson enclosed the farm with stone dykes, and planted many trees and knolls of wood, which gives it a clothed and picturesque appearance. Mr. Alexander Lawson, the present tenant, having obtained a feu from the Earl of Fife of several acres of ground, has erected upon it a handsome house in the old Scotch style of architecture, and has laid out the grounds in a very tasteful manner. Being in a conspicuous situation, it forms an ornament to the town of Elgin. The farm of Oldmills is bounded on all sides, except the south, by the river Lossie, which here forms the boundary between the parishes of Elgin and Spynie.

BILBOHALL.

This small property lies south-west of the town of Elgin, and was formerly part of the estate of Mayne. It is bounded on the west by the river Lossie; on the south by the lands of Mayne; on the east by the Wards of Elgin; and on the north by the Aughteen Part Lands. It is generally very light and sandy, except towards the Lossie, where it has more depth of soil. There is a curious knoll in the centre of the arable lands called Knockmasting, planted with Scots fir trees of a very old growth. There is a very suitable dwelling-house, and other accommodation, on the property. This small estate was purchased in the early part of last century, probably from the family of Brodie of Mayne, by William first Earl of Fife. He left it, along with Milton, Inverlochty, and other lands, to his third son, the Honourable George Duff, long Convener of the County of Elgin. He died in the year 1818, and was succeeded by his son, Major

George Duff. At his death, about thirty years ago, no settlement having been made of these lands, they reverted to James Earl of Fife, who disposed them to his brother-in-law, Major Alexander Francis Tayler, to whose eldest son, William Tayler, Esquire of Glenbarry, they now belong. From its proximity to the town of Elgin, Bilbohall has always been occupied by respectable tenants; and although, as has been stated before, the quality of the land is very light, and of an inferior description, there has always been a competition for its possession. For a good many years a lime quarry was worked on the south side of the property with tolerable success; but since the railway system was extended to Keith and Mortlach, the introduction of Banffshire lime, of so much superior quality, has entirely superseded the working of lime quarries in Morayshire. The farm of Bilbohall, during the latter part of last century, and beginning of the present, was tenanted by Mr. Archibald Duff, Sheriff-Clerk of the County, who was connected with the Fife family. He was a gentleman of ability and standing, and noted as a man of great humour.

ESTATE OF MAIN, OR MAYNE.*

This estate, as now constituted, lies on both sides of the river Lossie, which here runs very rapidly in its descent from the hills of Dallas, and is very dangerous, cutting its banks very frequently, and bringing down immense quantities of gravel, to the great detriment of the arable ground, requiring constant care and much embanking to prevent its ravages. The property contains the farms of Mayne, Boggs, Hillockhead, and Mossend, in the parish of Elgin, and extends slightly into the parish of Birnie—the rental of the whole, exclusive of the returns of sales of timber, being about £735. This estate, with the adjoining lands of Bilbohall, is said, in former times, to have belonged to a family of the name of Hay; and the lands of Boggs to Andrew Leslie, of the Glen

* I find the estate of Mayne referred to in a charter of foundation of a chaplaincy by Alexander de Menerys, Lord of Lambrid, for praying for his own soul and the soul of his mother, dated at Elgin, the last day of August, 1350.

of Rothes, a respectable cadet of the Earls of Rothes. The estate of Mayne belonged early in the seventeenth century to William Innes, and shortly thereafter was acquired by the Rev. Joseph Brodie, minister first at Keith, and afterwards at Forres, sixth son of David Brodie of Brodie. He married Nicola, daughter of John Guthrie, Bishop of Moray, and was succeeded by his son, Alexander Brodie, who died in 1695. He sold Mayne to David Brodie of Pitgaveny, who died in 1703, without issue. It then fell to Dr. David Brodie, physician in Inverness, son of Francis Brodie of Milton, born 1687, and died at Elgin 1782. He married Margaret, daughter of Alexander Brodie, fourth of Lethen, by whom he had a son, Dr. Alexander Brodie, physician, born about 1724, and died 1806, unmarried; and a daughter, Anne, married to the Rev. James Hay, minister of Dallas, father of the late Colonel Alexander Hay of Westertown. Dr. Alexander Brodie sold the estate of Mayne, towards the end of last century, to the Earl of Findlater, in whose family it continues, having been conveyed by the late Francis Earl of Seafield to his second son, the Honourable James Grant. The Brodie family, when in possession, built a good mansion house, which was much improved by the Earl of Findlater; and his Lordship's Commissioner, Mr. John Ross, made this his residence, and laid out extensive grounds and gardens, and planted a large extent of waste and sandy ground around the mansion house with much taste. The plantations, embracing Scotch fir and larch, as well as various descriptions of hardwood, are all now arrived at maturity, and yield a handsome return to the proprietor. Before the plantations were formed, no place could be more dreary and barren; now it forms a perfect contrast, embosomed in a luxuriant clothing of foliage. The land on the east side of the Lossie is light; on the west side, a rich alluvial loam, yielding heavy crops.

AUGHTEEN PART LANDS.

These lands hold of the Magistrates of Elgin. How they acquired their peculiar name is not well known. There are various theories, but nothing very definite. By measurement

they consist of 373 acres and 30 falls, Scots measure, of nearly all arable land, and are situated on both sides of the Lossie. Originally they are said to have been divided into sixty-four parts, belonging to burgesses of Elgin, although the reason of such a division cannot now be explained. In the beginning of the present century these lands were held by twenty-five different proprietors, but all in run-rig lots. One proprietor would have his land in ten or twenty different rigs let to tenants, who each knew his own lot, which the proprietor himself only partially did. In summer the land was cropped, and in winter the whole ground was one common herding for cattle. There was no green crop, and no enclosures. This state of matters continued until the beginning of the present century, when it was found so inconvenient that a remedy had to be provided. Only two men in Elgin knew the different lots, namely, James Gow and Alexander Stronach, farmers. They were very proud of their knowledge, and jealous of one another. Stronach (or, as he was called, Cloddach, being a native of that place) was a very shrewd person, and in comparing his knowledge with that of James Gow, said—"The Gow wavered," but that he himself had never any doubt as to the lots. The proprietors, in the year 1800, raised an action of division before the Court of Session, and, after some preliminary discussion, the Court remitted the division to Alexander Leslie of Belnageith, and the late William Young of Burghead, then residing at Inchbroom, and appointed Sir George Abercromby of Birkenbog, Sheriff of the County of Elgin, to take the proof. The commissioners appointed Mr. George Brown, Linkwood, to make a plan of the whole ground, and to report to them how in his opinion it should be divided. Mr. Brown and his assistants examined the ground with the aid of the above James Gow and Alexander Stronach, and made a very minute plan, which is now in the Town Clerk's office in Elgin, by which the exact extent of every proprietor's land was known. A quantity equal to the whole of each proprietor's ground was set aside for him in one place, so that he could have it altogether, and the entire Aughteen Part Lands were put into twenty-five lots. The commissioners, on 28th October, 1801, reported

the whole case to Lord Armadale (Ordinary), who made avizandum with same to the Court on the 19th November thereafter; and the business was thus finally settled, with much satisfaction to all concerned, creating an immense improvement to the vicinity of Elgin.

I give an abstract of the division as follows:—

ABSTRACT OR SCHEME OF DIVISION OF THE SIXTY-FOUR
AUGHTTEEN PARTS LANDS OF ELGIN.

Aughtteen Parts.	Nos.		Scots Measure.		
			A.	R.	F.
14	1	Earl of Findlater	98	0	10
	2	William Jack	6	3	7
	3	Kemp's Acre to Town of Elgin	4	0	26
	4	John Gilzean	9	1	2
	5	Robert Duff	6	2	0
	6	John Brander	16	2	18
	7	Provost Alexander Brander	21	2	16
	8	Joseph King	15	2	8
	9	The Guildry of Elgin	9	3	20
	10	Dr. Thomas Stephen	81	0	19
	11	St. Giles' Society of Elgin	8	1	34
	12	Shoemakers of Elgin	15	1	13
	13	Mrs. Bailie Craig	10	0	16
	14	Friendly Society of Elgin	6	3	19
	15	Labouring Society of Elgin	9	1	35
	16	William Innes, gardener, Elgin	4	3	0
	17	Kirk-Session of Elgin	9	3	28
	18	Charles Burges	2	3	0
	19	Charles Gilzean	2	3	28
	20	John Forsyth	3	1	10
	21	Widow Dick	2	0	9
	22	John Gatherer	5	0	8
	23	Earl of Fife	12	3	26
	24	Gardeners' Society of Elgin	4	0	5
	25	Deacon Alexander Winchester	5	2	33
<hr/>			<hr/>		
		64	373	0	30

Of the above parties (among whom the lands were divided) now remaining represented are the Hon. Lieut.-Colonel Grant, representing the Earl of Findlater; the Rev. Dr. Brander, representing his grandfather, Provost Alexander Brander; the Kirk-Session of Elgin; the Earl of Fife; and the Rev. Thomas Stephen, minister of Kinloss, representing his grandfather, Dr. Thomas Stephen. The other principal proprietors

now are Mr. Young of Burghead, Major Thomas Leith of Palmerscross, Mr. Joseph Tait of Haughland, the Trustees of Gray's Hospital, Mr. John Stephen, the Rev. John Eddie, and the Guildry Society of Elgin. Vast improvements have been made within the last fifty years. Almost the whole have been substantially enclosed. Mr. Young has erected an excellent house on his lands, with belts of trees, affording ornament and shelter. Major Leith has a handsome villa at Palmerscross, with a fine garden, green and grape houses, and an excellent range of offices. The Rev. Mr. Stephen has a very good house on the opposite side of the river from Palmerscross, with suitable grounds and garden. He has also built a convenient house and steading on his lands of Bruceland, for the convenience of his tenant there. Other proprietors have also made considerable improvement in buildings and enclosures, and, instead of the wretched state this tract of land was in at the commencement of the present century, all is in good order, and forms a prospect very pleasing to the eye in approaching Elgin from that quarter.

BARONY OF PITTENDRICH.

This fine property contains nine farms and crofts, and has a rental of £1568 15s.* It is bounded on the east by the Aughteen Part Land of Elgin, part of the estate of Main, and the river Lossie; on the west by the estate of Milton and the Earl of Fife; on the north by the lands of Inverlochty and the Elgin road; and on the south by the Buinach Hill. It has been acquired by the Earl of Moray at different times, but principally from the ancient family of Douglas of Pittendrich. Tradition states that the lands of Pittendrich were originally part of the Earldom of Moray, and acquired by the family of Douglas at a very early date. There is no doubt that four members of the family of Douglas came to the north in the early part of the thirteenth century, with their brother Bricius Bishop of Moray. Henry and Hugh were canons of the Cathedral, Alexander was Sheriff of the County of Elgin, and Archibald, after lingering long in the

Valuation Roll,
County of Elgin,
1867.

* Since writing the above, the rental of the Barony has increased to £1808 5s.

north, returned to the south, and became founder of the great family of Douglas. It has been stated that Alexander acquired lands about Elgin, and may have been the founder of the Pittendrich branch of the house of Douglas. I am, however, inclined on the whole to be of opinion that they settled here at a later date. Mr. Innes states, in his *Sketches of Early Scottish History*, that Archibald Earl of Douglas granted his brother-german, James of Douglas, the Barony of Petyn (Petty), the third of Duffhous (Duffus) and Awasschir, and all lands lying within the Thanedoms in the lordship of Kymalamanan (Kilmalemnock), in the Sheriffdom of Elgin, which was confirmed by Crown Charter of James I., 1426. As the third part of Duffus belonged to the Pittendrich family in the year 1472, it is extremely probable that Pittendrich was acquired about the same time as the other lands about Elgin, that is, about the beginning of the fifteenth century. The Douglasses of Pittendrich had a large estate in the county of Elgin down to a late period, being proprietors not only of the Barony of Pittendrich, but also of a third of Duffus, Pitgaveny, Calcotts, Darkland, Sheriffston, and others. In the end of the fifteenth century, these estates were in possession of David Douglas, who had an only daughter, Elizabeth. She married Sir George Douglas, second son of George, Master of Angus, by whom she had two sons, David, afterwards Earl of Angus, and James Earl of Morton, Regent of Scotland in the minority of King James VI. There were two Earls of Angus of this family, but their right to the Earldom expired by the death of Archibald, the eighth Earl, who died without male issue in the year 1588. The lands in the county of Elgin then fell to a collateral branch, and belonged, in 1603, to Archibald Douglas. In the year 1625, James Douglas was served heir to his father, James Douglas, in the town and lands of Mains of Pittendrich, Broomhills, and Bogside, within the parish of Elgin; and Margaret Douglas, wife of John Ross of Leys, was served heir to her brother, James Douglas, in the same lands, in the year 1640. The family at this period was in a very declining state. In the year 1671, Margaret Douglas, with consent of her husband, John Ross, granted a heavy mortgage to James Calder, merchant in Elgin; and

Innes' Sketches, page 398.

Douglas' Peerage, vol. I., page 437.

Abbreviatio Retornatarum, vol. I., head "Elgin and Forres."

on the 13th September, 1680, they sold the right of redemption to Alexander Earl of Moray. After executing this deed, their right to the estate ceased, and the Earl of Moray, having redeemed the property from the debt, entered into full possession. In the year 1683, the Earl obtained a charter from the superior in favour of himself in liferent, and Sir Charles Stewart, his second son, afterwards Earl of Moray, in fee, on which infeftment followed, which is dated 23d April, and recorded in the particular Register of Sasines for the shire of Elgin, 1st May, 1683.

Minute Book
of Particular
Register of
Sasines for Shire
of Elgin.

The Earl of Moray, or some of his sons, have since possessed the estate, and it now belongs to George, the present Earl. There is a traditional story prevailing that the Douglas family, after disposing of the estate, came to great want, and were in a measure dependent on public charity. No trace of them now exists, except some ancient ash and plane trees, and the venerable dovecot having the bloody heart, the crest of the Douglasses, although much obscured, visible upon it. The old trees probably define the spot where the mansion-house of the former proprietors once stood.

The lands of Manbeen, or Monbein, now part of this estate, formerly belonged to the Preceptory of Maisondieu, but were early feued out, and held by different vassals. They are now held in property by the Earl of Moray, but in superiority by the Magistrates of Elgin, as in room of the Preceptor of Maisondieu, under the charter of King James VI. I find the Bishop of Moray, by tack dated at Spynie and Elgin the 2d and 20th April, 1571, with consent of the Chapter, let to his "lovit servand Andrew Moncreiff for his "guid and thankful service, be the space of thir twentie-sax "yeiris by gane, the teind sheaves of Naddir Monbeinis "and Hauch of Monbeinis, within the parochie of Elgin, "payand thairfoir 16 bollis of teynd victual, twa part bear, "and third part sufficient ait meal." In the year 1567, the lands of Upper Manbeen belonged to Hieronymus Spens, as appears by a feu charter granted in his favour by James Thornton, precentor of Moray, of Church lands in Alves, with consent of the Bishop, dated 16th August, 1567. It is probable the lands of Upper Manbeen continued in possession

Registrum
Moraviense,
page 412.

Registrum
Moraviense,
page 393.

of the family of Spens, or Spence, up to the early part of last century. There is a curious old well on the property, with the initials H. S., and the date 1699 upon it cut in stone, with the legend, "*Ex dono Dei bibite gratis.*" This well was probably made by the then proprietor, and the initials are stated to be those of Hieronymus Spence. It is many years since we visited this pleasant spot. It is much to be regretted that the noble proprietor does not have it repaired and enclosed, and some trees or shrubs planted about it. It has evidently been a scene once dear to the owners of former ages, and a pleasant retreat from the bustle of the world. There are other two wells higher up—the Earl's Well, and the Green Well. These we are not much acquainted with.

Shaw mentions, when he wrote, 1775, that Upper Manbeen then belonged to Bailie John Laing of Elgin. That family had also some lands in Pluscarden, and house property in Elgin. Bailie Laing mortgaged some land in Elgin, for behoof of a decayed burghess, which he placed under charge of the Elgin Guildry Fund Society. The mortification still exists, and is faithfully administered by that respectable society. At Bailie Laing's death the small property was acquired by the Earl of Moray.

Deed of
Mortification,
dated 22d June,
1749, registered
in Burgh Court
Books of Elgin,
3d May, 1775.

On the lands of Bogside there formerly stood an hospital or church, dedicated to John the Baptist. The period of erection of this building we do not know, but some remains of it existed at a late period. One of the tenants, it is said, carried away the stones in his great desire for agricultural improvements, and used them for making "rumbling drains," a fate which has occurred to many of our old ecclesiastical, as well as castellated buildings. There was also a hermitage or cell for an anchorite on the south side of a knoll at Mains of Pittendrich, which met the same fate as the larger building at Bogside.

The marches of this estate were some years ago very ill defined, and much disputing occurred with the tenants of the Earl of Fife. These were fixed under a submission and decree-arbitral of the Sheriff-Substitute of the County of Elgin, but are still not in a satisfactory state, and require to be adjusted and straightened.

In the early part of the present century this property

was in a very neglected and dilapidated state, much in want of drainage, the houses generally decayed; and several of the tenants in very poor circumstances had to give up their farms. About the year 1818 matters began to improve, and several new tenants with capital entered. In the year 1830 the late Mr. Young of Burghead, and his nephew, Mr. William Young, took a lease of the farm of Wester Manbeen, Broomhill, and several other possessions, all then occupied by different tenants, to which, after a few years, was added the farm of Boghead—the whole comprising about 500 acres. They entered upon an extensive system of drainage extending to many miles; trenched a large part of the best land with the spade, thus bringing up the new and fresh subsoil; built an excellent steading of offices, with an ample supply of water, and made a new run for the water of Lochty (called the Blackburn), which bounded the farm at the north, thus making it one of the best farms in the county, and converting, from a state of comparative waste into a fruitful and well ordered condition, a large tract of country. The fields were laid out into regular shifts, and highly manured, and cultivated under the best system of husbandry. Cattle and sheep of the best description and quality were reared and fed upon it. Mr. Young, junior, occupied the farm for the long period of forty-four years, and retired on the conclusion of a second lease at Whitsunday, 1874. It was then let to the Messrs. Colvin on a nineteen years' lease. The proprietor has erected for the new tenants a large and commodious dwelling-house, and it is understood that further buildings are in contemplation.

The other farms on the estate are in the hands of respectable and thriving tenants.

A distillery was erected on the farm of Manbeen about the year 1826, and was continued for nearly twenty years with good success, very excellent spirits being made, which were extensively sold and much approved by the numerous customers. The concern was given up about the year 1844, and the business was never resumed.

This fine compact property consists of a great variety of soils, from the richest alluvial deposits to gravel and sand, and these varieties often occur in the same field. From

its appearance, the whole of the low lands would seem, at a remote period, to have been the bed of a lake, and thereafter to have been overflowed by the river Lossie, and the small stream of the Lochty, before they were confined to their beds by embankments, to which circumstances, no doubt, the alluvial and gravelly deposits are entirely owing.

In the end of last century the Earl of Moray planted a piece of barren ground on the lands of Upper Manbeen, extending to about a third of a mile in length, with a proportional breadth. This has now reached full growth, and the timber is very useful for country purposes. His Lordship has also planted various knolls and waste pieces of land, which has tended much to shelter and beautify the estate.

KELLAS.

The estate of Kellas, although now annexed to Dallas, was formerly in the parish of Elgin, and therefore falls to be taken notice of in its due order. When, in the seventeenth century, the parish of Altyre was taken from Dallas and annexed to Rafford, Kellas was added to Dallas, to make up in part for its loss. This was first done by authority of the General Assembly of the Church in 1657; and, to give it legal effect, was ratified in Parliament in the year 1661. The ministers of Elgin long resisted this change, as withdrawing their teinds and diminishing their stipends; and, so late as the year 1672, Alexander Cumming, minister of Dallas, complained to the Presbytery that James Horne, minister of Elgin, had that year, without warrant from Bishop or Synod, carried off a considerable part of the stipend then levied in kind.

New Statistical
Account of
Scotland, vol.
XIII., page 195.

Leslie and
Grant's Survey,
page 166.

The estate of Kellas lies on both sides of the river Lossie, below the Barony of Dallas, and borders with the lands of Pluscarden. It was long Church property, and was granted by King Alexander to God, the Blessed Virgin, and St. John the Evangelist, and to the House of God, near Elgin, by charter, dated at Aberdeen, the 23d day of February, and twenty-first year of his reign; confirmed by King David by

charter, dated at Kinloss, 4th April, thirteenth year of his reign; and is referred to in a charter of John Winchester, Bishop of Moray, dated at Spynie, the 12th April, 1443. Kellas was held in feu by Robert Fyndoc from the Bishop in the thirteenth century, and is referred to in an agreement between Bishop Andrew Moray and the Domus Dei of Elgin in the year 1237. The lands of Easter and Wester Kellas and Corponach were granted by the Bishop, with consent of the Chapter, to William Farquharson, reserving the pasture of Corponach to the feuars and tenants of the Barony of Birnie, by charter of feu farm, dated at Scone, the 26th August and 2d September, 1562. And on 15th January, 1584, the Bishop grants a precept of clare constat for infesting William Cuming, *alias* Farquharson, in the lands of "Ester and Vaster "Kellas and the Corponach," as nearest heir to William Farquharson. This precept is dated at Spynie. This family of Farquharson is said to have been descended from Ferquhard, second son of Alexander Cuming, sixth laird of Altyre, who, being mortified and incensed at their chief's refusing to permit them to bury their dead in the family burial-place, laid aside the surname of Cuming, and assumed that of Farquharson, as descendants of this Ferquhard, of whom, it is said, the family of Houghton and others in Aberdeenshire are also descended. The Farquharson family appear to have held the estate of Kellas until the beginning of last century, when they became extinct, and the property, like many others in the neighbourhood, fell to the family of Duff; and the lands are still possessed by the Earl of Fife. They pay a feu-duty to the Crown, as coming in place of the Bishop, of £71 Scots money yearly. This estate has great natural beauty; the Lossie winding through it, sometimes very placidly, and again through rocks, affords great variety of scenery. With judicious planting and improvements it might be made a very valuable and picturesque property, but its natural capabilities have not been taken advantage of hitherto as they might have been done. It is now so mixed up at the north side with the estate of Pluscarden, that its original boundaries cannot be distinguished.

Registrum
Moraviense,
pages 27, 33, 34.

Registrum
Moraviense,
pages 409 & 410.

Douglas'
Baronage of
Scotland, pages
333 and 334,
and Writs of
the Family of
Altyre.

Shaw's History,
Edition 1827,
page 358.

ESTATES OF MILTON, WHITEFIELD, AND INVERLOCHTY.

These properties, now all united, were Church lands, and belonged for many centuries to the Bishops of Moray, who, in the middle ages, possessed the fairest part of the county. We find the following charters and writings relative to these lands :—

Registrum,
pages 137, 138.

Charter by Eva Murthac, Lady of Rothes, of the Lands of Inverlochty, to the Most Holy Trinity, the Church of Moray, and Archibald Bishop of Moray, and his successors, dated the 3d of the Ides of April, 1260.

Page 147.

Charter, David Bishop of Moray, to William de Inverlothi, son and heir of Thomas of Inverlothi, of 4 oxgates of land, with their pertinents, in the town of Inverlothi.

Page 149.

Charter of Excambion by David Bishop of Moray, with consent of the Dean and Chapter, to Adam, the son of Stephen Burgess of Elgin, of the lands of Auchter Spynie, for the lands of Quytford, Innerlothy, Mill of Innerlothy, and the lands of Milton, dated at Elgin, the 23d March, 1309.

Page 408.

Charter of Assedation in liferent from the Bishop, with consent of the Chapter, to David Hepburn and Thomas Hepburn, of the lands of Meikle Innerlochtie and Auldrochtie, in the Baronies of Birnie and Spynie respectively, dated at Elgin, the last day of March, 1554. These persons were natural sons of Bishop Patrick Hepburn, to whom, and other sons, he gave considerable gifts of lands both here and in the parishes of Birnie and Dyke, which they possessed for a considerable period.

Registrum,
page 409.

Assedation by the Bishop, with consent of the Chapter, to Andrew Moncreiff, of the teind sheaves of Little Innerlochtie, dated at Spynie and Elgin, 22d and 23d April, 1571.

Page 425.

Charter of feu farm, without date, but supposed to be about the year 1606, to James Earl of Moray, of the lands of Meikle and Little Inverlochty and Whitefield.

About the middle of the seventeenth century, the lands of Milton and Inverlochty were purchased by Francis Brodie,

sixth son of David Brodie of Brodie. He died in the year 1673, and was succeeded by his son, Francis Brodie, who was twice married, first to Barbara Johnston, sister of William Johnston of Monthagie, Regent of Aberdeen, by whom he had a son, Joseph, who succeeded him, and one daughter; and by a second marriage with Miss Hay, daughter of Hugh Hay of Brightmony, he had, among other children, Ludovick Brodie, Writer to the Signet, who acquired or succeeded to the property of Whitefield, a man well known in his day for his knowledge of law, as well as for his convivial habits. Francis Brodie of Milton died in the year 1693. He was fined in the year 1685 in the sum of £10,000 Scots for refusing the test. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Joseph Brodie, who married Margaret, daughter of Thomas Dunbar of Grange. He sold the estate of Milton and Inverlochty to William Lord Braco in the year 1730.

Tree of the
Brodie Family.

Lord Braco, afterwards William Earl of Fife, left this property, with other lands, to his third son, the Honourable George Duff, who long possessed them. He died in 1818, and was succeeded by his son, Major George Duff, who, at his death, about thirty years ago, disposed them to the Honourable George Skene Duff, who has now sold the property to his nephew, Alexander William George Viscount Macduff, only son of the present Earl of Fife.

The estate in the year 1873 consisted of fourteen farms and crofts, and was let at the sum of £1251 8s. of yearly rent. The soil is very variable, consisting in some places of rich loam and alluvial deposit, in others of light gravel and sand; even the poorest parts are of a kindly nature, and in favourable seasons bear excellent crops. The best, although not the largest farm, is what was known as Little Inverlochty. It is one of the finest farms of its size in the county, and is very pleasantly situated, having the Lossie for its north boundary. The water of Lochty here joins its stream to the Lossie, from whence is the name Inverlochty. The farm of Meikle, or Wester Inverlochty, is the largest upon the estate, but the soil is inferior in quality to the smaller farm, it being partly very wet and partly the reverse. The name of this farm has been improperly changed, and it is now called Lochinver, for what reason is not well known. It is believed

Valuation Roll,
1872-3.

to have been a fancy of a former tenant. These changes of names, except for very strong reasons, should be avoided, as they cause frequently great confusion of titles. On the farm of Milton, a distillery was erected about the year 1826 by Messrs. Pearey & Bain; thereafter carried on by the late Mr. Andrew Pearey alone, and after his death by his successors, Messrs. Stuart & Fraser, with considerable success. The premises are not extensive, but the spirits distilled are of excellent quality, and command a ready sale.

A good deal of wood was planted on the estate by the late Major George Duff, and during his time it was considerably embellished. The tenants' houses appear to be generally good, and some new buildings have recently been erected. On the north part of the property there is great need of drainage, which, if carried out on a proper plan, would tend much to its improvement, and to the general amenity of the district. The water of Lochty, which runs through a part of the estate, adds much to its beauty.

MOSSTOWIE.

This property belongs entirely to the Earl of Fife, and is of considerable extent. It is bounded on the north and west by the parish of Alves; on the east by the estate of Miltonduff; and on the south by the plantations of the Hill of Heldon. It forms the extreme north-west end of the parish. This estate was granted by King Alexander II. to the burgh of Elgin, and is still held in feu from the Magistrates of Elgin for a feu-duty of £50 Scots. I find that a tack of the teind sheaves was granted by Bishop Patrick Hepburn, with consent of the canons, to James Innes of Drainie, and Katherine Gordon, his spouse, for nineteen years, paying yearly fourteen bolls of victual, dated at Spynie and Elgin, 2d June, 1572. In the early part of the seventeenth century Mosstowie, along with Aldroughty, belonged to the Earl of Moray, from whom it passed to Lord Duffus. In the latter part of the same century it was in possession of the Honourable William Sutherland of Roscommon, third son of James second Lord Duffus. He

married in the year 1702, Helen, eldest daughter of William Duff of Dipple, and sister of William Lord Braco, afterwards first Earl of Fife. He was an imprudent man, and the misfortunes of his family followed him. He engaged in the rebellion of the year 1715, and was forfeited. Previous to that date he was due his father-in-law nearly £20,000 Scots, and Dipple had entered upon the possession of the estates, and had drawn the rents for 1713 and 1714. It is probable that William Sutherland left the country after the rebellion. At all events, we hear no more of him, and he must have died not long after. His widow, Helen Duff, well known under the name of Lady Roscommon, took up her abode in the Castle of Quarrelwood, parish of Spynie, where she resided up to the year 1736, and may have lived much longer. Duff of Dipple claimed the estate of Mosstowie, in virtue of his heritable securities, from the Commissioners on the forfeited estates, and succeeded in making his claim good. He was as much inclined to join in the rebellion as his son-in-law; but, with the great prudence which distinguished his family, he saw the danger and restrained himself. The elder family of the Duffs were all inclined to follow the fortunes of the Royal Stuarts. The property of Mosstowie has since continued in possession of the Earl of Fife, and forms a part of their large estates in the parish of Elgin.

The farms on this property are all small. The land is generally very wet; and, although a large central drain was made through the property fifty years ago, it is quite insufficient to carry off the water, being little above the level of the Lossie, the waters of which regorge upon it in time of floods. Nothing will cure this except the removal of the mill of Scroggiemill, with its reservoir of water. If that improvement were carried out, it would thoroughly drain and improve a large district of country to the westward, and add immensely to its value. This, with enclosing and a few belts of planting placed at intervals, would tend much to beautify the country, and is well worth the attention of the noble proprietor.*

* Since writing the above, I understand the mill of Scroggiemill has been removed.

PLUSCARDEN.

Immediately to the west of the lands of Manbeen, on the Barony of Pittendrich, are the farms of Easter and Wester Auchtertyre, and crofts belonging thereto. These probably either formed a separate estate, or may have been part of the estate of Kellas. They now are added to the property of Pluscarden, and are considered as belonging to it. The country here contracts very much, and is a beautiful valley—having the wooded Hill of Heldon on the north, and the Hills of Kellas and Dallas on the south; and, with the exception of the lands of Westertown, hereafter to be mentioned, but which are now added to Pluscarden, the estate runs to the parishes of Rafford and Dallas, by which it is bounded on the west and south. This beautiful property, with the mills of Oldmills, the lands of Grangehill, now called Dalvey, near Forres, and some lands in Durris, were granted by King Alexander II. to the prior and monks of Pluscarden, and the Priory was built in the same king's reign, supposed to have been in the year 1232.* The situation is very fine, being protected from the northern blasts by the Hill of Heldon, and having a sunny and warm frontage towards the south. The monks were of the order of Vallis Caulium, a reform of the Cistercians brought into Scotland by Bishop Malvoisin of St. Andrew's, and settled at Pluscarden, Beauly, and Ardchattan. The rules of the order were very strict, and only the Prior and Procurator were allowed to go beyond the precinct. The Monastery was very rich, and, in addition to the lands above-mentioned, King Robert Bruce granted the Priory a fishing on the river Spey, and the lands of the town of Elgin were thirled to their Mill, *omnia grana crescentia, et invecta et illata*. The Priory was very elegant, as its ruins still attest. It was evidently intended to form a cross, but it is doubtful if the western transept had ever been completed. It was built of hewn ashlar freestone, in the usual style of the times, and the best-prepared lime mortar had been used. The plan of

Keith on
the Religious
Houses in
Scotland,
page 426.

* In the Chartulary of Kinloss, page 5, is the following entry:—"Anno M^oCC^oXLJ^o obiit Rex Alexander, qui fundavit Monasterium de Pluscardyne, et regnavit xxxij annis."

the building had been frequently changed during erection, as may be observed from the many doors and windows filled up. As to the internal arrangements, it is difficult now to state what they had been. No doubt they were suitable to the habits of that age, although perhaps not at all so to modern requirements. The length of the Church from north to south is stated to have been about 94 feet, and the breadth, including aisles, 47 feet, the Refectory 94 feet in length, the length of the Lady's Aisle, Chapter-House, and Kitchen, above which was the Dormitory, 114 feet. The Prior's House, now almost entirely gone, stood on the south-east corner, and communicated with the Church. The beautiful eastern transept was 56 feet in length by 26 feet in breadth. The building when entire must have been very magnificent. The precinct was enclosed with a strong wall—still quite entire—and contained about ten Scots acres, within which was an excellent garden, having the finest fruit trees, including fig trees. The monks were skilled gardeners, and devoted much attention to the care of their garden. The grounds were laid out with much taste, being planted with the best trees known at that time. Within the precinct was a corn mill, and a stream of water, perhaps a branch of the Lochty burn, was directed through the grounds. If the monks were not allowed to go beyond the walls, they had plenty of room and abundance of fresh air within the precinct. The rental is said to have been—Money, £525 10s. 1d.; wheat, 1 chalder, 1 boll, 2 firlots; malt, meal, and bear, 51 chalders, 4 bolls, 3 firlots, 1 peck; oats, 5 chalders, 13 bolls; dry multures, 9 chalders, 11 bolls; salmon, 30 lasts, besides grassums, cain, customs, poultry, &c. Every monk had an allowance of £16 silver money and 1 chalder, 5 bolls, of victual per annum.

Leslie and
Grant's Survey,
pages 78 and 79.

Shaw's History,
Edition 1827,
page 300.

The monks of the order of Vallis Caulium are so named from the first priory of that congregation which was founded by Virard, in the diocese of Langres, between Dijon and Autun, in Burgundy, in the year 1193. They followed the rule of St. Bennet. By their constitution, they were obliged to live an austere and solitary life, none but the Superiors being allowed to go out of the cloisters for any reason whatever. No place could have been more suitable than Pluscarden for such an order of monks. The situation was

Keith, page
426.

very solitary and remote, with perhaps few inhabitants in the neighbourhood, the glen being then uncultivated and covered with the natural forest. The Churchmen would, however, gather a community about them, and, as usual, with their industrious habits, would soon turn the desert into a fruitful field.

We are not aware that any list of the Priors of Pluscarden exists; but we have gathered the following facts:—

Registrum,
page 36. In 1239, Simon Prior is witness to a charter of gift of various Churches by Andrew Bishop of Moray, the penult day of December that year.

Registrum,
page 284. Simon Prior is witness to a charter dated on the feast of the Blessed Virgin, 1286, granted by Hugh Horok, Burgess of Elgin, of the lands of Dandaleith, to God, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and to all Saints, for his own soul and that of Margaret, his wife, and for the souls of his parents, and of Alexander King of Scotland, and Archibald Bishop of Moray.

Registrum,
page 156. In the year 1345, John Pilmore, Bishop of Moray, and Richard Bishop of Dunkeld, held a visitation of the Priory. John Wysi was Prior and Adam Marshall Sub-Prior; William de Inernys and Adam Yung, monks. The Bishop maintained his right of visitation.

Page 168. In the year 1369, Thomas was Prior.

Page 169. The same Prior had a dispute with Sir Robert Chisholm of Quarrelwood, about multures to the Old Mills of Elgin in 1369.

Page 355. Thomas was Prior in 1398, and, on account of age and sickness, resigned his charge to William de Spynie, Bishop of Moray, at the Priory of Pluscarden, the 7th August that year.

Pages 356-7-8. Alexander, monk of Pluscardyne, was elected Prior in room of Thomas, on 13th August, 1398, which election was confirmed by the Bishop, on the 21st day of same month and year.

Writs of the
Family of
Altyre. In the year 1456, Alexander, Prior of Pluscarden, claimed from Thomas Cumming of Altyr the Mill of Altyr, which was resisted by the laird, but, under threat of excommunication, he gave way.

In 1529, George was Prior.

About the middle of the fifteenth century the Prior and Cistercian monks of Pluscarden had become very licentious, and had given themselves up to gross immoralities, thereby breaking through the rules of their order, and they were expelled from the monastery. This took place about the year 1440, when John Flutere was Abbot of Kinloss. In the introduction to the Chartulary of Kinloss, it is stated as follows:—"In his time the Cistercians were banished from Pluscarden, and the Benedictines introduced in their place. Two of the Cistercians were sent to Kinloss, one of whom, after showing his base habits, was transferred to the House of Deer, where he died in old age." The monks of Kinloss and their abbots seem to have been as immoral as their neighbours at Pluscarden, as appears from their chartulary. But their good name was much redeemed by the high character of their two last abbots, Thomas Chrystall and Robert Reid.

Introduction to
Chartulary of
Kinloss,
pages 40 and 41.

The Benedictine monks held possession for about a century, and, if pure at first, eventually became immoral, like their predecessors. William de Boyis, a monk of Dunfermline, was the first Benedictine Prior, 1460. About the year 1540, and up to the Reformation in 1560, Alexander Dunbar was Prior of Pluscarden. He followed the licentious habits of his time, and had a family of illegitimate children, for some of whom he made provision out of the Priory lands.

The book called "Liber Pluscardensis," or the Red Book of Pluscarden, which was supposed at one period to have been an independent history of Scotland, is now found to be a transcript of the books of Fordun's Scotichronicon, with a continuation to the death of King James I., and supposed to have been completed by Maurice Buchanan, a cleric, in the year 1461, within the Priory of Pluscarden. This work is in the Advocates' Library in Edinburgh, and is described as a quarto MS., written on paper. It brings down the history of Scotland to the year 1461. The compiler appears to have been in France during the whole period of the married life there of Margaret, daughter of King James I., and to have belonged to her suite, as, in noticing her death at Chalons in 1445, he states that he saw her daily for nine

Skene's
Introduction to
Fordun's
History of Scot-
land, pages
20 and 21.

years, and was at her burial in the Cathedral Church of the city of Chalons. It is probable that, after a busy life, he had found a pleasure in retiring to the remote Priory of Pluscarden, and employing his pen in transcribing and continuing the Chronicles of Scotland.* The charters of the Priory are in possession of Dr. John Stuart, of the Register House, Edinburgh, and it is understood that he has the intention of publishing them at an early date. It is hoped this may be carried out, as it would be the means of throwing much light on the local history of this corner of the County of Elgin.†

The Reformation, which occurred in 1560, must have created a great change in the quiet glen of Pluscarden, and certainly not for the better to the inhabitants who had lived under the shadow of the great Priory for nearly 350 years, and had been protected by the strong arm of the Church from all external violence. Whatever were the faults of the Romish clergy—and they were many—they were famed for hospitality and for kindness to the poor. The Prior and his clergy were now expelled, and the stately building, being desolate, and getting no repairs, but exposed to the action of the elements, would gradually fall into decay.

In the year 1565, Alexander Seton, fourth son of George Lord Seton, was made commendator of Pluscarden. He was then a child of ten years of age; but, from his earliest years, he seemed marked as the favourite of fortune. Queen Mary was his god-mother, and presented to him, as “ane godbairne gift, the lands of Pluscarty, in Moray.” In 1583, he accompanied his father, Lord Seton, in an embassy to Henry III. of France. In 1587, he was created a Lord of Session, and, four years after, he had the title of Lord Fyvie from the king, and, upon the death of Lord Provand, became President of the Court.

About the year 1603, he had the charge of the young Prince Charles, afterwards King Charles I., and was appointed Lord Chancellor of Scotland, with the title of Earl

Tytler's Life
of Sir
Thomas Craig,
page 230.

* Since writing the above, the first volume of the “*Liber Pluscardensis*” has been published at Edinburgh.

† Dr. John Stuart's death has also since occurred, which may delay or entirely stop this desirable publication.

Dunfermline.* He was one of the foremost men of his time, and, after a very distinguished career as a lawyer and statesman, this eminent person died at his house of Pinkie in the year 1622, at the age of sixty-seven. On the 23d February, 1595, Alexander Seton sold the Barony of Pluscarden, Oldmills, and the Church lands of Durris, to Kenneth Mackenzie of Kintail, who got a charter of *novo damus* in 1607. In the year 1633, George Mackenzie of Kintail, brother and heir of Kenneth Mackenzie, disposed the barony to his brother Thomas,† from whom Sir George Mackenzie of Tarbat evicted it in the year 1649, and disposed it in 1662 to the Earl of Caithness and Major George Bateman. The Earl transferred his whole right to Major Bateman in 1664, and the Major sold the barony to Ludovick Grant of Grant in 1677. It was intended as an estate for his second son, James Grant, and was resigned in his favour in 1709. From James, afterwards Sir James, Grant the estate was purchased in 1710 by William Duff of Dipple, father of William first Earl of Fife, and in the possession of that family it still remains.

Shaw's History,
2d Edition,
page 301.

Although the prior and monks of Pluscarden were expelled from the Monastery at, or shortly after, the Reformation, in the year 1560, no violence seems to have been done to them, either personally or to the buildings and grounds which they inhabited. All was left to silent decay. None of the trees were cut, and none of the materials carried away. The only notice I observe about the place is in the Diary of James Brodie of Brodie, under date 23d September, 1680. He had a relation there of the name of John Brodie, proprietor of a small part of the Priory lands. He remarks as follows :—

“I went to Pluscarden at night, and staid with John there.
“We went thorou that old ruin'd palace at Pluscarden, and
“did sie the vestiges of a great old building and edifice.”

Brodie Diary,
page 444.

* Alexander Earl of Dunfermline was Provost of Elgin. In a charter from the Magistrates in favour of James Thomson, about the year 1606, he subscribes “Al. Dunfermling Proepositus,” and is designed in the deed “Alexander Comes de Dumfermling, Dominus de Fyvie et Urquhart, Proepositus, Burgi de Elgin.”

† Thomas Mackenzie of Pluscarden had a son Colin, whose daughter, Margaret, married, in 1590, Robert Dunbar of Newton, from whom is descended Sir Archibald Dunbar of Northfield, Baronet.

“30th September.—This day, in the morning, I got an account of the death of my worthie honest friend Jo. Brodie, in Pluscarden, who died suddenlie the night befor, and was in the mercat al day, cam hom at night, satt doun to tabl with his famelie at supper, comended his hous to God, and after he had gone to bedd, died within a quarter of an hour, without anie bodies getting a word of him. This is not only a sore stroke on the hous he belongs to, a weil governd hous, such as ther are feu like it in the countrey, both husband and wiffe godlie persons and worthie children. I am also smitten in this stroke, and desirs to be humld under it. I went in the evening to visit them at Pluscarden. I found the woman, her cariage most Christian, and she appears to be a pattern of peace and grace, and submission to God’s hand and will. I cam to Tho. Gordon’s at night.”

“October 1.—The corps of my honest worthie friend John Brodi was transported from Pluscarden to Forres this night, after which I cam home, and Milton with me.”

“October 2.—This was the day of the burial of my honest worthie friend Jo. Brodie, who was brought from Forres to Dyk. After the burial, friends took a word, and appointed a meeting on Saturday nixt at Pluscarden, concerning the affairs of our removd friend. This day’s work might afoord me mater of exercise. This was a man in vigour, strenth, a man of conscience, having a weil ordourd famely trained up in the fear of God. A man of my familiar acquaintance taken away on a sudden. This I desyr to be instructed and taught and warn’d by.”

“October 8.—We went to Pluscarden, where we saw a societie and famely sympathising one with another. The widow’s cariage was such as might evidence much of the grace of God in her. Ther was such compliance, one with another, as gave friends litl to doe. We cam to som setlment betwixt the mother and children, in which I desir to aknowledg God. I went at night with Petgownie” (Brodie of Pitgaveny).

I am not aware that there are any old drawings of Pluscarden Priory. The earliest print I have seen is that

in Shaw's History, published in 1775. It shows the building much as it now is, giving prominence to the eastern transept, which is indeed the most elegant part of the building. A second print was published by the Rev. Charles Cordiner in 1788, containing a view of the west side of the building, and the same year a pretty etching by Adam de Cardonnel, in his Picturesque Antiquities of Scotland, showing the east and north sides. Another print appeared in 1790, in Captain Grose's Antiquities of Scotland. It is essentially different from the previous ones, showing more the south side of the Monastery and the Prior's house, now almost entirely gone. Since that time, many elegant drawings have been made, both in oil and water colours, some of them by eminent artists. The etching by Mr. Alexander, published in Dr. William Rhind's Sketches of Moray, in 1839, is very admirable; and the recent sketches by Mr. Billings, in his elegant work on the Antiquities of Scotland, show the east, west, and north sides of the Priory, including the Chapter House.

My earliest recollection of Pluscarden is about the year 1819. The present road was not then made. It was approached by a road leading past the mill and along the base of the hill, and entered the building by the old eastern gate through an avenue of stately trees—certainly a very striking access. The place was then in a very neglected and dilapidated condition. The walls, although pretty entire, were in a very mouldering state, the inside filled with rubbish, and all overgrown with nettles, wild berry bushes, and all kinds of noxious weeds—a scene of desolation. The hill at the north and all down the glen were perfectly bare, without a tree—nothing but the purple heather. In the year 1821, the late James Earl of Fife, being much engaged with Elgin Burgh politics, during intervals of leisure paid frequent visits to the Priory, and resolved to convert it into a dwelling house. He had the whole building cleared out, a roof put upon the southern part, a kitchen formed, and, had circumstances permitted, the Priory would have been entirely renovated. The garden was dressed up, a new approach made, a gate and porter's lodge erected, and a variety of rare trees and shrubs planted. It may be questioned whether it would not have been in better taste

to have retained the ancient gateway and approach, and preserved the remains of the mill within the grounds, but it was resolved otherwise. At the same time his Lordship planted the whole of the Hill of Heldon with larch and Scots firs, and some hardwood trees. These have flourished exceedingly, and after the lapse of more than fifty years, the plantations, extending to many hundreds of acres in the parishes of Elgin and Alves, are not only beautiful in appearance and a great embellishment to the Glen of Pluscarden and surrounding country, but are most useful for all country purposes. In a few years the trees will attain their full growth and reach maturity, when they will yield a most valuable return to the proprietor. The old trees about the Monastery are some of them very fine. A thorn tree in front is very aged, and is no doubt coeval with the building, and has seen at least six centuries. As it decays a little on the top, it seems to throw out fresh shoots below, thus renewing its youth. There is a very fine plane tree on the north wall, of large dimensions. After the lapse of many centuries it appears as fresh as when first planted. It has been so pressed upon the north precinct wall that the trunk has become quite flat. The strength of the wall has been so great as completely to resist the pressure, which shows the immense strength of the old mason work. Few modern walls could have resisted such a pressure. The most curious trees are two Scotch pines which stand in the north-east corner of the garden. They are of large dimensions, and of the true Highland kind. Although many centuries must have passed over them, and although somewhat weather-beaten by the mountain breezes, they are still vigorous and fresh in appearance, and may yet stand entire for many years. Some time since, a branch was broken off one of these trees, when it was found to be very red, somewhat approaching the colour of mahogany. The Earl of Fife keeps a gardener at the entrance lodge to attend to the grounds, and show the place to strangers and visitors. The garden has in great measure been converted into a nursery for raising forest trees, for which it is well adapted. The soil within the whole precinct is of the very best description, as is shown by the great

growth of the timber, and the progress of the late plantations, and the site has been chosen with that care for which Churchmen have always been famous.

After the dispersion of the prior and monks at the Reformation, the inhabitants of the quiet glen must have had very few Christian ordinances of any kind. There was no Church nearer than Elgin, at the distance of six to seven miles. They may have had occasional services in the old Monastery from some of the ministers of adjoining parishes at distant periods, but they were, no doubt, very destitute of public worship. This religious destitution continued nearly two centuries; but at length, about the year 1730, a small yearly allowance was procured from the Royal Bounty Scheme of the Church of Scotland, and a minister settled here. So far as I can trace, the first clergyman was a Mr. Tough, a native of Banff. He was settled in 1736, and only continued for about three years. He was afterwards successively minister of Aberlour and Mortlach, and died in 1780. He was a very eminent clergyman in his day. He was succeeded in 1743 by Mr. Francis Hasbane, who laboured in this remote corner of his Master's vineyard on a very small salary, for the long period of twenty-seven years. He died in the year 1770, and a tablet with the following inscription is erected to his memory in a vault of the Priory:—

“Here lyes Mr. Francis Hasbane, late preacher of the Gospel in Pluscarden, who, for twenty-seven years, laboured in the work of his Master with the greatest faithfulness and diligence, and died March 3, 1770, aged 72 years.”

Mr. Hasbane was succeeded by a Mr. Munro. He is said to have been an able minister, and, after an incumbency of a good many years, to have gone to America about 1789, and was succeeded by Mr. Lachlan Macpherson, who was ordained by the Presbytery of Elgin as missionary here on 1st December that year. Mr. Macpherson continued at Pluscarden until October, 1806, when he was settled as minister of the parish of Knockando. He was succeeded by Mr. James Thomson, mathematical teacher in the Elgin Academy, in the year 1807, who continued until 1838, when, having been

*Fasti Scoticanæ
Ecclesie, vol.
III., page 224.*

attacked with a mental malady, he was under the necessity of resigning the charge. Mr. Thomson was a person of considerable abilities, and acted as Presbytery and Synod Clerk. Mr. Robert Dunbar was ordained as his successor in 1839, and died on 17th February, 1859. The Earl of Fife, proprietor of the Priory, had, previous to the year 1835, kindly allowed the congregation to fit up the southern ground floor of the Monastery as a place for religious worship, and although Mr. Dunbar joined the Free Church in 1843, the noble proprietor made no change in the arrangements. It is continued to the present day as before. Mr. Alexander Robb, the present minister, was ordained and settled on 8th September, 1859. The old church and school were a little to the eastward of the Monastery, in a damp, marshy situation ; but, becoming ruinous, were removed, upwards of forty years ago. A new school, under the recent Act, is at Wester Foster Seat, a mile east of the Priory. The teachers at Pluscarden in succession have been Messrs. Thomas Hardy, James Mair, Alexander Bremner, William Murdoch, Alexander Leal, — Thorburn, and John P. Meikleham.

We have dwelt long over the old Priory and its history and scenery. It is full of pleasant recollections and memories of frequent visits in early days, with many friends now departed from the world. It cannot pretend to the richness of the architecture of Melrose Abbey, nor to the grandeur of the scenery of Dryburgh, with the noble river Tweed rolling at its base ; but for quiet beauty no ancient religious building in the north of Scotland can equal Pluscarden ; and on a summer evening, with the broad rays of the setting sun falling on the grey Monastery, and amidst the rich foliage of the stately old trees, and the quiet rivulet of the Lochty murmuring at the gate, no spot can be more delightful to linger in and to meditate upon the faded glories of former ages.

Although the Glen of Pluscarden has many attractions, we cannot say much in its praise as an agricultural district. Draining and enclosing, and in many cases new steadings, are required. The farms on this estate are generally of small size, and perhaps in the present state of the country they should not be now enlarged. The practice of throwing

several small farms into one, while it may create a saving in buildings, has tended to the depopulation of country districts, the driving of the inhabitants into large towns, and has created a scarcity of agricultural labour, which has of late been very much felt, and is now found to be a serious calamity.

WESTERTOWN.

This pretty little estate was a part of the Priory lands of Pluscarden, but for upwards of 300 years was separated from it. Very lately it has again reverted to and become connected with the larger property, in the person of the present Earl of Fife. Alexander Dunbar, the last Prior of Pluscarden, had several illegitimate children, and previous to the Reformation had conveyed to Patrick Dunbar, his son, the estate of Sanquhar, near Forres, which continued with his descendants for a considerable time. Seeing the times were likely to prove fatal to the Roman Catholic Church, he, on the 12th September, 1560, with consent of the Convent, granted a charter of the lands of Westertown in favour of John Dunbar, another illegitimate son. He does not call him his own son, but designs him as brother of Patrick Dunbar of Sanquhar. The charter is dated at Pluscarden, on the above date, and sasine follows on the 19th of same month. These deeds were confirmed by a Crown Charter from King James VI., dated at the Palace of Falkland, 4th August, 1586. The above John Dunbar conveyed the estate to Robert Dunbar of Inshallon and his spouse, by charter dated 29th May, 1576. This Robert Dunbar was succeeded by his son, also Robert, as appears by a precept of clare constat from Kenneth Mackenzie of Kintail, then proprietor of Pluscarden, and the superior of Westertown, dated at the Chanonry of Ross, 12th August, 1606. Robert Dunbar last mentioned conveyed the estate to Patrick Dunbar and Janet Cumming, his spouse, on 22d May and 9th June, 1615. On 1st June, 1643, we find Patrick Dunbar, son of the last Patrick Dunbar, retoured as heir to his father, and on 22d October, 1645, he sold the

estate to John Watson of Coltfoot. The property continued in the family of Watson for several generations, and in 1768 was conveyed by John Watson, the proprietor, who had been a merchant in Moscow, to Margaret Watson, his sister, in liferent, and after her death to Peter Rose, afterwards called Peter Rose Watson, his nephew, and the other heirs and substitutes therein mentioned. The settlement is dated 15th March, 1768, and recorded in the Books of Council and Session, 24th July, 1781. Mr. Peter Rose succeeded, but died in insolvent circumstances about the year 1799; his estate was sequestrated, and Alexander Leslie of Belnageth was appointed Trustee. So far as we can gather, Mr. Rose Watson's debts were paid from the proceeds of the sale of his property of Coltfoot, and the lands of Westertown, being saved from the wreck, were disposed to Miss Margaret Rose, his niece, by Mr. Leslie, the Trustee, with consent of William Rose of Belivat, on the 14th February, 1801. Miss Rose sold the estate to Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Hay, son of the Rev. James Hay, minister of Dallas, by his wife, Ann Brodie, daughter of Dr. David Brodie of Mayne. Colonel Hay had been in India for about twenty years, and had there acquired what was at that time considered a handsome fortune. The conveyance by Miss Rose to him is dated 20th November, 1813. The property was then a very poor one, with very little arable land, and much of it waste and uncultivated. Colonel Hay immediately began to improve it. He planted a large part with larch and Scots firs, which have thriven remarkably well, and are now approaching maturity. He also drained and trenched a large extent of moor ground, converting it into arable land; erected a handsome mansion-house in the modern castellated style at a very great cost; and made a large garden, which he enclosed with high walls, on which the best kinds of fruit are raised, with an extensive lawn, fish pond, and suitable approach. These improvements were executed at great cost, and were not remunerative; but they were no doubt a source of much enjoyment to an active-minded man. Colonel Hay married a daughter of the late Captain Alexander Macleod of Dalvey, by whom he had three sons. This lady died in early life. Colonel Hay himself died in the year 1845, and left the property to his

son, David Hay, who did not survive his father many years. In the year 1855 the property was sold to the Hon. George Skene Duff of Milton, who, after possessing it for a few years, made an excambion of it for the estate of Ardgay, in the parish of Alves, with his brother, James Earl of Fife. It now belongs to the Earl of Fife, and forms part of the estate of Pluscarden, by which it is surrounded on all sides. The House of Westertown is now the mansion-house of the whole Barony of Pluscarden, and is very centrally situated for that purpose. In these sporting times, when shootings are so valuable, it is usually let to some nobleman or gentleman, who becomes tenant for sporting purposes of the moors of Kellas and Pluscarden, and it appears never to want an occupant. It forms a delightful residence for the summer and autumn months, from the beauty of its scenery and bracing and healthful climate. There is not, however, much good arable ground upon it, and in an agricultural point of view the estate is not very valuable.

CHAPTER II.

OF the early history of the Province of Moray nothing almost is known. Sir Robert Gordon states that the name Moravia is derived from a colony which came from Moravia, in Germany, and settled in the Province shortly after the commencement of the Christian era. Mr. Shaw, on the contrary, very properly disregards this tradition, and conjectures that the name may proceed from the Gaelic words Mor, the sea, and Tav, the side, the lowlands of Moray being situated on the side of the sea. Neither of the derivations carries much probability of being the true one. Who were the first inhabitants of this district we know not. They have left little or no trace behind. They seem to have been a very low type of the human race, dwelling in the meanest habitations, or in holes of the earth, having no agriculture, but supporting themselves on shell fish, and contending with the wild beasts with stone weapons, and arrows pointed with flints. When this primeval race disappeared it is impossible to discover. When the Romans came into Scotland, they found it possessed by a warlike people whom they called Caledonians, and with whom they had long and severe conflicts; and, although the Romans, from their superiority of weapons and discipline, had the advantage in these wars, yet, owing to the determined valour of the inhabitants, and the difficulty of travelling through a country then covered with primeval forests, and filled with morasses, without roads or means of communication, they made little or no progress; and, after contending for many years, they were obliged finally to abandon North Britain. There seems no doubt, however, that for a considerable period of time they had stations on the sea coast, and, notwithstanding all the statements made to the contrary, there is every reason to believe that Burghead, or Ptoroton, was one of these fortified stations. It is probable that in these northern

Sir Robert
Gordon's
Genealogy of
the Earls
of Sutherland,
page 13.

Shaw's History,
page 6.

parts the Romans did not proceed far from the coast. In the time of St. Columba, who lived in the sixth century, and of the venerable Bede, who wrote his history in the eighth century, the northern parts of Scotland were possessed by the Picts. In this all writers are agreed. The Roman writers do not state what language the Caledonians spoke, which is much to be regretted. The authors of the last century, including Mr. Shaw and John Pinkerton, express themselves most distinctly that the Picts were a German or Teutonic race. But on what grounds they come to this decision are not apparent. We have no trace of German words in the old names of places. All are purely Celtic, and the earliest record we have in the north-east coast of Scotland is in the Gaelic language. This is forcibly brought out and very satisfactorily proved by Mr. Skene in his learned work on the Highlanders of Scotland, published in 1837, and confirmed by subsequent writers.

The nation of the Southern Picts was subdued, or otherwise amalgamated with the Dalriadian Scots of Argyle, by Kenneth Macalpine, in the year 843. This seems to have been brought about by the assistance of the Northern Picts, with whom and the Scots there had been long a friendly alliance. In consequence, the Picts of the north were not interfered with for a considerable time after the conquest of the southern parts, but lived quietly under their own kings or governors. This period of history is exceedingly obscure, and it is difficult to throw light upon it. It seems, however, clear that particular districts of country had local governors, either hereditary or elective, and that the Province of Moray, then very extensive, was governed by an officer called a Maormar. These local rulers had not only the management of civil affairs, but were leaders of the troops in the time of war. The Maormars of Moray were, during the tenth and eleventh centuries, by far the most powerful chiefs in Scotland. Their immense territories extended from the eastern to the western seas, and their power and influence were very great over the whole of the North of Scotland. They were the only chiefs who attempted, during this period, to resist the encroachments of the Northmen, and, although the resistance was unsuccessful, yet in consequence of a connection

Skene, vol. II.,
page 161.

formed between the head of their race and the Norwegian Earl, the very success of the Northmen in the end contributed to increase the power of the Maormars of Moray, and to extend over Scotland the tribes dependent upon them.

Macbeth, the son of Finlay, and who was grandson of Malcolm II., became King of Scotland. He was previously Maormar of Moray, and was cousin-german of King Duncan, whom he slew, perhaps in battle. He seems to have owed his success to the intimate alliance he had formed with the Norwegian Earls of Orkney. After the fall of Macbeth, an increasing and perpetual animosity prevailed between Malcolm Canmore and his descendants and the successors of Macbeth for a whole century—a conflict of races—the kings of Scotland being wishful to introduce the greater civilisation of the Saxons and Normans, while the Northern Picts or Highlanders were determined to resist these innovations. At the head of the latter were the great Maormars of Moray. The son and grandson of Macbeth seem to have been Maormars of Moray in succession.

From the year 1057, when Malcolm Canmore succeeded to the throne, up to the year 1161, the inhabitants of Moray supported every pretender to the throne against the reigning house, and, in their repeated insurrections, they were supported by the greater part of the northern chiefs, as well as by the Norwegian Earls of Orkney. These rebellions occurred in every successive reign of Malcolm III., Edgar, Alexander I., and Malcolm IV., with renewed struggles. It was, however, in vain for them to contend against the rising power of the kings of the race of Malcolm Canmore, and the great force which, by the assistance of the Norman and Saxon barons, they were enabled to bring into the field against them. Accordingly, these insurrections were successively put down with increased loss to the inhabitants of Moray, until at length, in the year 1161, upon the ill success of the attempt to place William of Egremont (the grandson of Duncan, Malcolm Canmore's eldest son) upon the throne, Malcolm IV., after a violent struggle, finally succeeded in subjecting the country, and in completely crushing the family which had hitherto been known as Maormars of Moray.

It was at this period that various families of Saxon or Norman origin were introduced into the North of Scotland. Of these the Cumins, Bissets of Lovat, Inneses, Roses of Kilravock, and probably also the great house founded by Freskyn, which eventually took the name of de Moravia, became permanent settlers, and through them the kings of Scotland were enabled to curb the Pictish native tribes, a considerable part of whom were transferred to the midland and southern parts of Scotland, and there founded great families, whose descendants still flourish. The families of Brodie and Calder are supposed to belong to the old races who inhabited Moray before its final conquest at the above period.

Another arrangement was also made which tended to curb the Maormars or Earls, which was the breaking up of the old Provinces and converting them into several Sheriffdoms. Out of the great Province of Moray were created the Sheriffdoms of Inverness, Nairn, Elgin, and Banff in part. They were made hereditary in great families, which, perhaps, was a measure best adapted for the times, and the Sheriffs had the power to name Deputies.

Another plan for civilizing the country was the gradual abolition of the Culdee Church, and introducing the Romish Hierarchy. But this required great caution. The Culdee Church had at this time existed for upwards of five hundred years, and had, no doubt, done much good; but it had declined. It had adopted no parochial system, but was purely a missionary Church, with itinerant preachers and central monasteries, from which the clergy were sent. These were superintended by abbots. But they had degenerated from primitive purity, and the abbots had in many instances become quite secular, and the office had become hereditary in their families. To what extent the Culdee system prevailed in the Province of Moray we have little means of knowing. It is believed there was a large religious establishment at Birnie, and there may have been more in other parts of the country. Dr. Reeves, in his recent edition of the life of St. Columba, by Adamnan, states that the preachers of that Saint extended from Inishymoe, on the group of islands in Clew Bay on the

coast of Mayo, to the north-east coast of Scotland, probably to Burghead, which he calls "Caer Abroc." The Culdee Church eventually had a much wider range, and had been the means of spreading the Christian religion, not only over all Scotland, but to England and Germany. Indeed, for many centuries their missionaries had, in their frail vessels, crossed many tempestuous seas, and fearlessly entered, at the risk of their lives, among the savage nations of northern Europe. The successors of Malcolm Canmore were of opinion, and probably judged wisely, that the introduction of Romish Bishops would be the means of curbing the nobility and fostering civilisation, and with that view dioceses were laid out, Bishops established, great Abbeys and Priories founded, and extensive grants of land made for their endowment.

Before this period there seem to have been few or no stone buildings in the northern parts of Scotland. The country was covered with forests, and the houses of the upper classes were built of large logs of wood, and for defence were enclosed either with turf walls or with wooden palisades. The Pictish towers, built of dry stones without mortar, and having subterranean chambers, so common from Ross-shire to Orkney, appear to have been unknown within the Province of Moray. The dwellings of the humbler classes were built either of turf, or of clay and wood, and the churches of similiar materials. Agriculture was at a low ebb. There seems to have been little corn grown. The inhabitants depended much upon their cattle, and subsisted also partly on deer and other wild animals, by which the extensive forests were then inhabited.

The County of Moray, and the Parish of Elgin in particular, which is our special subject, was then largely covered with water. The river Lossie and the Lochty, then running upon a higher level than now, and having no embankments, must have poured their waters into the plain, and have formed lakes and marshes in various quarters. The low lands of Manbeen were evidently under water, which must have spread to a great extent. Part of Pluscarden, as well as Mosstowie, were marshes. The lower part of Inverlochty was a lake, which it continued to be

until our time, and, with partial drainage, is still a marsh. Oldmills and Burrowbriggs were also evidently lakes, and have only become dry from the lower level of the Lossie, and from being well embanked, and still, in time of continued rain, are apt to be heavily flooded. The Haughland, on the west side of Lossie, is evidently composed of alluvial mud brought down by the river, and, if the embankment were not carefully attended to, would soon be carried away again. The higher lands of the parish of Elgin, being composed of sand or light gravel, were at an early period either moor or covered with forests, and during the Pictish or Celtic occupation were unimproved. This is quite apparent from the absence of Celtic names, while those of Saxon origin generally prevail, such as Blackhills, Thornhill, Whitewreath, Linkwood, Glassgreen, Boggs, Bogside, Boghead, Milton, Whitefield. The Celtic names are Lhanmorn, now corrupted into Longmorn, Clackmarras, Panns, Inverlochty, Kellas, Manbeen, Pluscarty, corrupted into Pluscarden, Mosstowie, and others.

The Bishoprick of Moray was not founded before the time of Alexander I., and at that period agriculture was at a very low ebb. The country was distracted with insurrections and civil broils, and was just emerging from barbarism. In the course of forty years thereafter matters were materially improved, and continued to be so during the long reigns of David I. and William the Lyon, when the country had peace, and the Romish Churchmen had taken possession of their extensive possessions. During the twelfth and thirteenth centuries the great monastic buildings at Kinloss, Pluscarden, and Urquhart, and the Cathedral at Elgin were erected, and largely endowed, and under the shadow of the Church, agriculture and other useful arts peacefully flourished. None of the great Barons or their vassals could intrude into the domains of the Church under pain of excommunication, which then carried fearful consequences along with it. The tenants and vassals of the Church therefore had leisure, and did carry out very considerable improvements. By the middle of the thirteenth century the country was in a very advanced state. Wheat, barley, and oats were grown in considerable quantities; traffic with France, England, and

other foreign parts carried on; and both the clergy and laity had acquired comparatively luxurious habits.

By the year 1250 a considerable portion of the parish of Elgin had fallen into the hands of the Churchmen, either by direct gift from the Sovereign, or from the landed proprietors. There was no law of mortmain in Scotland; and the landed Barons, for the good of their own souls and those of their children and parents, gave extensive endowments and founded chaplaincies to defray the cost of prayers and masses. The best lands in the parish of Elgin thus came to the Church. Pluscarden, Milton, Kellas, Manbeen, Inverlochty, the Panns, and a variety of other heritages large and small, with innumerable crofts, all gradually found their way to the Church. It no doubt did good to the country, for the tenants and dependants of the Church, being exempt from military service, had protection and liberty to raise crops for the benefit of the community. It is probable that wheel carriages, although of a very rude description, were introduced at this time, and some kind of passable roads. Nothing can show better the wealth of the Churchmen at this period than the erection of the magnificent buildings in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. The Elgin Cathedral and the Priory of Pluscarden are both built with the finest ashlar stones; and although the finer carved work may have been executed by foreign masons, there is no doubt that the ordinary masonry was done by native artizans, who had arrived at a degree of perfection in the art, in particular for solid and substantial work, not equalled by modern skill. It is quite marvellous how such quantities of stone as were used in these buildings could have been carried in the wretched wheeled vehicles of the day. While these northern parts must have suffered considerably by the long wars with England which ensued after the death of King Alexander III. in 1285, and which ruined and deteriorated the country, still it must have been, in comparison, but slight with what was endured by the southern portion of the kingdom.

Our early historians all dilate upon the very advanced condition of the lowlands of Moray. Hollinshead states—

“ In Murrey land also is not onelie great plentie of wheat, “ barlie, otes, and such like graine, besides nuts and apples,

Hollinshead,
vol. I., page 9.

“but likewise of all kinds of fish, and especially of salmon.” And Buchanan, writing in the following century, expresses himself as follows:—“So abundant is this district in corn and pasturage, and so much beautified, as well as enriched by fruit trees, that it may truly be pronounced the first county in Scotland.” Such was the advanced condition of the lowlands of Moray at the period of the Reformation, when the Romish Churchmen were expelled from their pleasant homes. From their immoral and ill-regulated habits, a change had become necessary, and the country had become ripe for it; but, while this was the case, in an agricultural point of view it rapidly deteriorated. The Churchmen had executed great improvements, and under their wings, and by them alone, the arts of peace had been fostered and had flourished. The Barons and heads of great families had been more or less engaged in feuds and public or private warfare, and their vassals and tenants were little better than serfs. The lay proprietors who succeeded to the Church lands paid no attention to the improvement of the land, and the decline must therefore have been speedy. During the latter part of the reign of Queen Mary, and the minority of King James VI., the one half of the nobility were arrayed in warfare against the other. In the seventeenth century we had the wars of the Covenanters, with only a slight interval of peace during the vigorous administration of Oliver Cromwell, who, in a marvellous manner, comprehended the true interest of the country. Then we had the Revolution of 1688, which gave a slight breathing to the country, but this was again succeeded by the Union of 1707, and the Rebellions of 1715 and 1745, during all which period everything was unsettled, and poverty and wretchedness prevailed to an extent scarcely now to be comprehended. The country around was filled with caterans, sorners, and masterful beggars, who overspread the land. The Highland freebooters were continually making inroads into the lowlands, and carrying off the cattle, harrying and burning the houses of the poor tenants.

Buchanan,
Aikman's
Translation,
vol. I., page 35.

Although the Union with England eventually brought unparalleled benefits to Scotland, there can be no doubt that for a long period after it took place it had quite an

Old Statistical
Account,
vol. V., page 7.

opposite effect, and it was sixty years after that event before its beneficial effects began to appear. About the year 1760, the country began to make a start. Previous to this time, there had been no green crops and no artificial grasses. The cattle during winter were entirely fed on straw, and by the spring were in a very wretched condition. They were purchased in a lean state by dealers, and driven to markets in the South of Scotland or to England. Potatoes were introduced perhaps as early as 1740, and gradually increased in quantity. Turnip husbandry followed. The Rev. John Grant, minister of Elgin, who writes the Old Statistical Account of the Parish in 1793, gives a most minute description of the mode of agriculture followed at that period, by which it would appear that some regular system of cropping had been then introduced on well regulated farms. He remarks thus—"Fallows are "daily becoming more universal, as are turnips, which "several farmers begin to raise on a large scale, either "to feed cattle for the butcher, or, which is found to be "more advantageous, to give them to their young cattle, "as it greatly improves their size. The practice of sowing "clover and rye grass is daily gaining ground. Six pounds "of red clover seed, and from eight to ten of white, with "a bushel of rye grass, is the general quantity to an acre. "Hay is taken for two years, and pasture the third, and "then the field is broken up for oats or barley according "to its state. A few sow red clover alone, at the rate of "about twenty pounds to the acre."

In the year 1792, it appears that 10,000 bolls of grain had been shipped to Leith, London, and other parts, from the local harbours of Morayshire, which were the first considerable exports since 1782, when the crop entirely failed. At the same period, there were nineteen small stills for whisky brewing in the county, measuring in all 635 gallons, which distilled 3863 bolls of bear, and the Elgin Brewery, then recently established, and which still flourishes, malted above 1500 bolls. Ploughmen's wages, in the year 1760, were from £2 to £2 10s. per annum. In 1793, they had increased to £5 and £7 per annum. Since the beginning of the present century the

progress of agriculture, and the manners and mode of living of the farming class, have greatly altered. At the commencement of the century, the farm houses were generally small. There were no carpeted floors, except among a very few of the first-class men. The steadings were generally thatched, and the accommodation for cattle very poor; the byres and sheds close, and ill-aired; and few of the fields were enclosed. There were no artificial manures. The farmers depended on the cattle and horse manure alone, except along the coast, where some sea ware and fish manure could be had. The progress of the war with France tended materially to raise the price of grain, and by the year 1812 it had risen to an enormous price. This incited the farmers to stimulate the land, and lime was freely used for the purpose. It was rather a dangerous experiment, for when largely laid upon light land, it sometimes had the effect of putting a stop to vegetation. It has since been much given up. The high price of grain had the natural effect of raising rents, and upon those farms which were let during the war, the great reduction in prices, which occurred at the close of it, ruined many respectable farmers, and about the year 1817 and 1818, and for some time thereafter, there were many bankruptcies, and much distress among the agricultural classes. In various instances the proprietors could not find tenants, and were obliged to take the farms under their own management.

Gradually an improvement took place, and, with some exceptional seasons, progress has on the whole been steady. Farm houses and steadings have been much improved. Generally, the houses are now slated, and the comforts of the tenants increased. Their families receive a high class education, and are fitted to occupy the best positions in the country. Artificial manures, which were introduced about forty years ago, have increased to an enormous extent, and now form a great part of the tenant's outlay. It may be a subject for consideration whether these stimulating manures are not rather too much used, and may possibly be the cause of weakening the potato, and making it so delicate and liable to disease. Green crop husbandry, particularly turnips, are

one of our most valuable crops, and are constantly increasing in quantity. Rearing of cattle is the most important branch of agriculture. The care taken in having the finest breeds of cattle is very great. Prices have increased four-fold within the last seventy years, and the farmer's interest is to keep his stock up to the times, and to have cattle which will arrive at maturity in the shortest period. The price of labour has increased with the times. Ploughmen's and labourers' wages are now £30 to £35 per annum, and so many, with the great facilities for travelling to America, Australia, and New Zealand now afforded, have emigrated to these parts, that labour can hardly be got at any price. Still, the country makes progress, and the careful and industrious tenant does well to himself. While rents have risen largely, the enormous taxation which now prevails has more than increased in proportion, and the proprietor does not, upon a fair average, pocket more than two-thirds of his rental, and when the estates are mortgaged, it becomes a very serious affair for the landholders. The tendency of the age has been for a considerable period to throw many small farms and crofts into one large farm, with the view of saving buildings, and also of preventing the growth of poor-rates in the parish. This has been the means of driving the labouring classes either into the large towns, or causing them to emigrate, and has been the principal cause of the increase in the price of labour. Both proprietors and tenants are now trying to retrace their steps, and, in many instances, are erecting houses for servants and labourers. It is hoped this course may be attended with the desired success.

The parish of Elgin, as we have stated before, has not a great proportion of first-class land in it. It is generally light, sandy, or gravelly, but kindly, and in a favourable season, with copious showers and sunshine, makes a good return. It has not, however, as a whole, made such progress as the adjoining parishes of Alves and Spynie. Compared with these, Elgin has inferior farm houses and steadings, not much enclosed lands, and the farming has not arrived at the same perfection. The cause of this we do not pretend to explain, but we think it will be admitted to be correct. In Morayshire the best enclosures are stone dykes. Hedges

do not thrive; but, from the great expense of stone fences, tenants are obliged to resort to the temporary expedient of enclosing with wire palings, which do not even last for a nineteen years' lease. There are none of the farms in the parish of Elgin very extensive. The highest rents are Wester Manbeen, £560; Lochinver, or Wester Inverlochty, £353; Easter Inverlochty, £234; Longmorn, £294; Easter Pittendrich, £224; and Mayne, £455. None of the others much exceed £200 per annum, and very few reach that amount. The average rents are under £100. The total rental of the parish by the Valuation Roll of 1872-73, being the last one published, is £10,305 6s.—whereof the Earl of Fife has £4437 7s.; the Earl of Moray, £1548 15s.; the Honourable George Skene Duff, now Viscount Macduff's, £1251 8s.; the Honourable James Grant, £635 5s.; the Earl of Seafield, £295; the Rev. Thomas Stephen, £326 7s.; the Rev. Dr. Brander, £212 15s.; and Captain Stewart of Lesmurdie, £216 4s. The other rents are small. When the Earl of Fife's and Viscount Macduff's estates are united, their rental will considerably exceed one-half of the landward part of the parish, while in extent they are perhaps two-thirds of the surface.*

Having now gone over the description of the various parts of the parish in detached estates, and also given a general historical account of it, so far as the slender materials at our disposal will admit, we would desire to give a few details as to roads, bridges, woods, population, education, and other miscellaneous subjects relating to its general improvement.

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

From the earliest ages there no doubt has been some kind of road passing through this district from the South to the North, but when the mode of transport was entirely on horseback, there was no great necessity for fine roads, and perhaps in early times there was little more than a broad track. At the same time it is quite clear from historical

* Since writing the above the rental of the parish has somewhat increased.

records that large armies were brought by our early kings to the north; and when Edward I. of England invaded Scotland, he was for some time in and about Elgin, and must have brought a large body of troops with him, and also supplies for his army, in the shape of provisions and military stores, with wheel waggons, although these stores may have partly been brought by sea. The roads must have then been kept in repair by tenants and their servants turning out and giving so many weeks annually. Perhaps this was done voluntarily before the Statute Labour Acts were passed. The old king's highway from Fochabers to Elgin seems to have been much in the line of the present great road, entering Elgin by the Stonecross Hill. At the west end of Elgin it passed by the north side of Gray's Hospital, then went west to Gallowhill, where it turned northward to a ford upon the Lossie near Scroggiemill. On crossing the river it went due westward by the side of the Oakwood, past Aldroughty, and through the parish of Spynie, entering Alves at the Knock Hill; and ascending the Hill at Alves, it got upon level ground, and went due west to Forres. A road to Duffus and Drainie passed through Bishopmill at a ford. A road to Pluscarden, Kellas, and Dallas, branched off from the old king's highway, at Bruceland, crossed the river by a ford, passed through Haughland, and went due west to the Lochty or Blackburn, near the mill of Pittendrich, where there was another ford. At Pittendrich the road again divided, one branch going to Pluscarden and another to Kellas. There was a wooden bridge for passengers—a very old one—near Palmerscross, with a footpath through the Haughland. Another road went from the back of the town of Elgin to Mayne, with a ford across the river to Boghead, Boggs, and other farms. Another road passed from Elgin to Rothes and Birnie, leaving Elgin by Moss Wynd, now called Moss Street. There were no bridges on these roads over the numerous streams. All passengers passed by fords. When, therefore, the rivers and streams were in flood, the country was closed up and impassable; and passengers had to wait in very uncomfortable circumstances until the floods abated. The large rivers, such as the Spey, Findhorn, and even the smaller streams, had ferry boats; and there are many strange

tales of persons travelling making narrow escapes with their lives, and of learned judges and advocates travelling upon circuits being detained for hours and even days by the sides of our northern rivers in their perilous journeys. Many deaths occurred yearly to persons rashly attempting to take the rivers when in flood ; and in winter, during the time of frost, the country was in a measure closed up. There seem to have been no bridges to the north of Aberdeen prior to the early part of the seventeenth century, if we except the old bridge on the Spey at Boat of Bridge, which, perhaps, was of wood, and fell into ruins at, or previous to, the Reformation, and other temporary wooden bridges, which were erected over the Lossie and other streams, when forests were abundant.

The first stone bridge over the Lossie was the bridge at Oldmills, now called the " Old Bow Brig." It was erected by the Magistrates of Elgin in the year 1630. It consists of one arch, and is founded on rock upon both sides of the river. No more convenient position could have been chosen. It was five years in erection, and bears the following inscription :—" Elginum condidit. Ibi concordia fiat. Foundit 1630, finishit 1635." The south side of the bridge is in the parish of Elgin, and the north in Spynie. This erection must have proved a great blessing to the burgh of Elgin, as well as to the whole North of Scotland, affording, as it does, a safe passage at all times. The foundations of the bridge are very substantial, and during the greatest floods have never given way in the very least. Indeed, there is a feeling in the country that it is quite an invulnerable structure. After the erection of the bridge, new roads were formed in all directions through the parish of Spynie, connecting the districts of Duffus, Drainie, and Alves with the burgh of Elgin. After the lapse of a period of 150 years, it was still the only stone bridge on the Lossie. Indeed, it was not a period of progress, but in its earlier part, after the Union with England, rather of decline. In the year 1789, a desire having been expressed for improved access to the town of Elgin, and the traffic of the country having by that time considerably increased, it was found necessary to alter and lower the arch. This was done at the expense of the

County of Elgin, when the following inscription was added to the previous one :—"Rebuilt by the County, 1789, in four months." The rebuilding, however, was no more than remodelling the arch, for the foundations, side walls, and approaches are all of the original work, as may be seen from the style of the masonry, many of the parapet stones being bevelled work. The bridge has stood for the last eighty-six years without further alteration. It seems to require no repair, and appears as firm as the rock on which it is founded, and promises to stand erect for centuries to come, showing that the old masonry compares favourably with that of modern times.

The next bridge erected at Elgin was what was called the Brewery Bridge, at the east of the town. It was built about the year 1798, and has two arches. It was a very convenient addition to the access to the town, connecting it with the parishes of Drainie, St. Andrew's, and Urquhart, and the town's harbour of Lossiemouth.

In the commencement of the present century the great Turnpike Road to the North was made through the County of Elgin. It is the best road ever made in the North of Scotland, and cannot be surpassed by any in the kingdom, having a uniform breadth of thirty feet. It only passes through the parish of Elgin for the short distance of two miles, entering at the Stonecross Hill at the east, and leaving it at Sheriffmill at the west. In connection with this road, a stone bridge of two arches was built over the Lossie at Sheriffmill. It was very nearly carried away by the great flood of August, 1829. Since then its foundations have been better secured, and although now seventy-five years old, it is still substantial.

In the year 1814, a stone bridge of two arches was erected over the Lossie at Bishopmill to connect it with Elgin. It seemed a strong fabric, but having a gravelly foundation, and being in a part of the river where the current from the mill dam is strong, it was completely carried away with the flood of the year 1829. It was replaced by a cast metal bridge, having stone abutments, which stood for more than forty years ; but it was then found to be too narrow and inconvenient for the greatly increased traffic of the district.

In the year 1872, a fine metal bridge of twenty-five feet in breadth was erected in its place, with a convenient side path, at a cost of about £1600, and which has proved a great comfort and convenience to the community, there being no bridge in the county which has so much traffic upon it.

About the year 1814, a stone bridge, also of two arches, was erected upon the Lossie at Palmerscross, there being formerly only a dangerous ford on the river. This bridge has also been a great convenience to the public. It was nearly carried away in 1829, but fortunately was saved at that disastrous time. About the same time as the Palmerscross Bridge was erected, a good substantial one of a single arch was built upon the water of Lochty at Pittendrich, connecting the line of the Pluscarden road. This was much required, for in the time of floods the water rises with great rapidity, and is dangerous. In 1821, the road to Pluscarden was altered and carried round a mile, which involved the necessity of another small bridge on the Lochty. This road may be more convenient for the district, but it deteriorates the picturesque beauty of the old approach to the Priory. It has been carried westward over the hill, and connects the parishes of Elgin and Rafford. A very good county road has also been carried up the south side of Pluscarden to the village of Dallas, which has been found useful. A good stone or metal bridge across the Lossie near the manse of Birnie to connect the county to the west of Lossie with the Glen of Rothes, through the parish of Birnie, is much required, and it is hoped may shortly be carried out.

About, or shortly before, the year 1830, a very good turnpike road from Elgin to Rothes was made, which was a very important improvement to the country. There being a great many streams of water on the ground, several small bridges were required, but not involving any great cost. This road has proved of great use to the district through which it passes, and has tended much to the reclamation of waste land along its course. If the Glen of Rothes was planted on the sides of the hills with larch, Scots fir, and a judicious selection of hardwood trees, it would much improve it, and give it a very picturesque appearance, the natural capabilities being so great.

Since the year 1830, no new roads have been made in the parish of Elgin, and really none are required, improvement in this respect being carried as far as possible.

In the beginning of the present century there was no public conveyance to the north of Aberdeen. The mail bags were carried on horseback, and only were despatched three times a-week. There was little correspondence. It is not long since the last post rider died. His name was Alexander Logie. He rode the post horse from Fochabers to Elgin, and was afterwards a farm servant to my father. He died a few years ago, at an advanced age. A mail coach with two horses was started about the year 1812. It was a very slow conveyance, and occupied a long time in running from Aberdeen to Inverness. It reached Elgin from the south in the evening. It was horsed from Elgin to Forres with a pair of rather ancient animals, much the worse of the wear, which were known as "the deaf and the blind horse." This conveyance continued until about the year 1819, when some spirited gentlemen started a four-horse coach called "The Duke of Gordon," which left Inverness at six o'clock in the morning, passed through Elgin at mid-day, and reached Aberdeen at ten o'clock at night. The proprietors of the mail took alarm at this innovation, and were determined not to be behind. They also put four horses into their coach, and both conveyances prospered. About the year 1826 a coach was started to run from Aberdeen to Elgin called "The Star." It left Aberdeen at eight o'clock in the morning, and reached Elgin at five in the afternoon. Another "Star Coach" commenced about the same time to run to Inverness. It started from Elgin at seven o'clock in the morning, reaching Inverness at twelve o'clock noon. It left on its return journey about three o'clock in the afternoon, and reached Elgin about half-past seven in the evening. Eventually, a daily coach was started for Banff; and another, called "The Speyside Mail," went from Elgin by Rothies to the Bridge of Carr. The country was thus exceedingly well supplied with public conveyances, according to the necessities of the time. The last and greatest of the coaches set agoing was "The Defiance," which commenced running about the year 1835, and so successful was it, that

it superseded "The Duke of Gordon" coach, and "The Star" coach to Aberdeen. It was the best regulated and most prosperous public conveyance we ever had in the North of Scotland, and continued to maintain its public favour until entirely superseded by the railway system. No one could have dreamt in the early part of the present century the extraordinary progress the country was to make within the next period of fifty years. The introduction of railways, and, in particular, of telegraphic communication, seems to be almost miraculous. It was never supposed that railways could be maintained to the north of Aberdeen. The comparative poverty of the country, and the paucity of population, all seemed to forbid it. When, therefore, first proposed, it was considered a visionary scheme.

In the year 1846, an Act of Parliament was obtained for making a railway between Aberdeen and Inverness, with branches to Burghead and other parts. This was perhaps the best line ever proposed, and had it been carried out to the full extent first intended, would probably have rendered all other lines unnecessary, and been a profitable concern. It was to have been a double line throughout its whole course. But a time of great pecuniary pressure ensued, and the crisis of 1848 put a stop for some time to all projected railway lines. This proposed line, called "The Great North of Scotland Railway," only gradually crept northwards, in the reduced form of a single line, and eventually stopped at Keith. In the meantime the people of Inverness had not been inattentive spectators of what was going on, and they were anxious to make a beginning to themselves; and in the year 1855, they procured an Act for making a railway from Inverness to Nairn. In the year 1846, an Act of Parliament was obtained for making a line of railway from Elgin to Lossiemouth under the name of "The Morayshire Railway," which was shortly thereafter completed; and in 1856, an Act was passed for constructing a line from Nairn to Keith, under the name of "The Inverness and Aberdeen Junction Railway," and which was completed in 1858. This line passes on the south side of the town of Elgin.

The railway to Lossiemouth would of itself have been a very profitable concern, for there was and continues to

be a large traffic, both in goods and passengers; but it was eventually resolved, and an Act of Parliament was procured, to extend the line to Craigellachie, and to build a bridge over the Spey, there to connect it with the Speyside branch of the Great North of Scotland Railway. This additional line was carried out, and while it has been of great use to the town of Elgin and the district of Strathspey, connecting them both together, it has hitherto made no return in the way of dividend to the shareholders.

In the year 1861, an Act was obtained for making a railway from Forres to Perth, under the name of "The Inverness and Perth Junction Railway Company." This gigantic scheme, passing through a mountainous and barren country, was considered a perfect chimera. It was, however, finished at vast expense, and is a very solid and well-constructed line. In the year 1865, it was consolidated by Act of Parliament with the Inverness and Nairn, and the Inverness and Aberdeen Junction Railways, under the name of "The Highland Railway Company," and has turned out a most prosperous and very remunerative undertaking, and likely to increase with the development of the country, having branches now connecting it with Ross, Sutherland, and Caithness, the Isle of Skye, and the port of Burghead.

The Highland Railway passes through the parish of Elgin from east to west about four miles, and the Morayshire Railway from north to south, about five miles, thus connecting Elgin with all parts of the country—a marvellous change from the single post rider of the year 1812.

WOODS AND PLANTATIONS.

There can be no doubt that in ancient times the parish of Elgin was largely covered with dense forests. Our historical records bear that there was an extensive oak forest at Longmorn, in which trees of large size flourished. The hills of Kellas and Pluscarden were also well wooded, and the trees were used for building castles, churches, dwelling houses, and bridges, before the introduction of

stone masonry. Wood was also used for fuel, being the only substance then known in Scotland for that purpose, except peats. Large roots of fir and oak are still found in the morasses, which prove that the extent of forest land was great. The wood was much wasted, and when cut was never replanted, so that in the course of ages it became exhausted, and, by the end of the sixteenth century, the country was totally bare.

In Slezer's "View of the Burgh of Elgin," published in 1693, there is scarcely any appearance of trees about the town, and, in the landward part of the parish up to the latter years of the last century, the country was totally destitute of wood, and must have presented a miserably bare appearance. A few old trees existed at Pittendrich, ash and plane, a remnant of the old family of Douglas, which had been mercifully spared by their successors; some ash trees at Milton, planted by the Brodies; and the aged trees at the Priory of Pluscarden, the work of the priors and monks of former ages—these were the whole plantations in the parish of Elgin. James, the second Earl of Fife, was the ablest and most far-seeing man of his time, and in the improvement of his estates, he made most extensive plantations in the parishes of St. Andrew's, Urquhart, and Spynie, thereby embellishing not only extensive moors, but also every barren knoll in these districts; but, although he was the proprietor of half the parish of Elgin, there is no evidence that he planted a single tree in it, which now appears very strange. He may have had reasons for not doing so, now unknown to us.

Previous to the middle of the last century, the Earl of Findlater had no land in the parish of Elgin, nor, indeed, in the County of Moray. In the year 1758, his Lordship purchased the estates of Rothies and Easter Elchies, and shortly thereafter acquired lands in the parishes of Elgin, Birnie, and Spynie. These purchases were made by James, Lord Deskford, afterwards sixth Earl of Findlater. His Lordship was one of the greatest improvers of land in Scotland, and in particular in planting. He is stated to have planted in his time in Banffshire and Morayshire 8000 acres with larch, Scots fir, and ornamental trees. His Lordship

Old Statistical
Account, Parish
of Cullen,
vol. XII., pages
150, 151.

died in 1770, and, although his successor lived almost entirely abroad, improvements were continued by his commissioners. The estate of Mayne was purchased by the Earl of Findlater in the latter part of the last century, and must have then been an exceedingly bare and barren spot, surrounded with sandy knolls. His Lordship immediately set about forming plantations of larch, fir, and hardwood, on the whole barren ground upon the estate. Eventually, Mr. John Ross, one of his Lordship's commissioners, took up his residence at Mayne, and completed the extensive plantations, embellishing the place also with ornamental trees and shrubs. The trees, after the lapse of nearly a century, have now reached maturity, and bring a handsome return to the proprietor. Francis, eighth Earl of Moray, made a plantation at Manbeen about the year 1790, which has thriven well. His Lordship was a very extensive planter. He succeeded his father in 1767, and is stated to have planted, within two years of his succession, thirteen millions of trees on his estates of Darnaway, Doune, and Donibristle, whereof about a million and a-half were oaks. His Lordship, up to the period of his death in 1810, continued to be an extensive planter.

The Fife family made no plantations in the parish of Elgin until about the year 1821, when the Earl, having occasion to be much in Elgin looking after his political interest, resolved to plant the extensive range of the Hill of Heldon in Pluscarden, which was then bare heather. This he accomplished within a few years—the whole hill being planted with Scots fir, larch, and some hardwood trees. This plantation is not only in the parish of Elgin, but also largely extends to the parish of Alves; and, perhaps, contains in whole not less than 1000 acres. Since that date his Lordship has made considerable plantations in the east end of the parish, at Longmorn and Blackhills, which have embellished and sheltered the country. About the end of the last century, the Honourable George Duff made a plantation on the estate of Milton, principally of Scots fir, which, having since arrived at maturity, has in part been cut down. Other proprietors in the parish have planted belts of trees, clumps, and single trees in rows; and the

district, instead of being bare and barren as at the end of last century, has now a clothed and rich appearance. The extent of wood now in the parish may not be under 2000 acres, and might still be further extended with benefit to the country. During the same period many beautiful gardens have been formed in the parish, in which the best varieties of fruit trees have been planted, with hot and green houses, in which many of the delicate fruits and plants, that will not thrive in the open air, are yearly raised. The progress in this respect has been very great, and exhibits the improving taste of the times.

QUARRIES.

There are no extensive quarries worked in the parish of Elgin. From the proximity of the burgh to the great quarries in the parishes of Spynie and Alves, it has been found more convenient to procure building materials from that quarter, than by opening new quarries in Elgin parish; but it cannot be doubted that very fine stone could be got here. The Priory of Pluscarden is built of a fine quality of white sandstone of a very lasting description, for, after the lapse of upwards of six hundred years, there are very few decayed stones in that magnificent building, the materials of which have evidently been taken from the neighbouring hill. The Hill of Heldon, indeed, seems to consist of an immense mass of the best freestone, and may at some time be brought into extensive use. The mansion-house of Westertown is built of a hard blue or grey stone, quite of another kind, and which, no doubt, has been found on that estate, having corner and rybat stones of freestone, which, combined, look very well. No district can be better supplied with the best building materials than the upper part of the parish of Elgin.

POPULATION.

It is very difficult to form any idea of the extent of the population of this parish in ancient times. It is probable, from the great number of small farms and crofts which then

existed, that the population in the landward part of the parish was greater than now, and that in the burgh less. I have discovered no census prior to the last century. It is possible our ancestors, like the Israelites of old, had a religious dread of inquiring into the numbers of the people, in case a like calamity might befall them as did the tribes of Israel in King David's time, when he made a census of the people, and brought down the vengeance of Heaven upon him. The population of the burgh of Elgin seems to have been considerably greater in the beginning and middle of last century than at the close of it. This may be attributed to the falling off of the burgh trade after the Union with England, which did not revive until the commencement of the present century. The Rev. John Grant, writing in 1793, states as follows:—"The population of the parish of Elgyn, "in the country part of that district, is, from various causes, "considerably on the decline. The town, indeed, has "increased in the number of its inhabitants, but not of late "in proportion to the decrease in the country. The number "of souls is 1614, divided into 377 families, among which "are 43 who have but one person in each. In the town "there are 2920 souls, divided into 658 families, of which "140 contain one person in each. The total number is 1035 "families, and 4354 souls, which is nearly $4\frac{1}{2}$ to a family. "The return to Dr. Webster, in the year 1755, from this "parish being 6306, fully proves to what extent depopulation has been carried." No Government census seems to have been made until the year 1801. At and after that date the decennial returns are as follows:—

Old Statistical
Account,
vol. V., page 15.

1801	4345	1841	6083
1811	4602	1851	7277
1821	5308	1861	8726
1831	{ Males, 2824 } 6130	1871	8603
	{ Females, 3306 }		

The population in the burgh part of the parish has steadily increased since the year 1801, except for the decades ending 1841 and 1871. The last falling off may be easily accounted for, because in 1861 there was a large body of men then resident in Elgin, engaged in work on the railway lines,

then in progress of being made; whereas in 1871 there was no such work going on. The population of the landward part of the parish has considerably declined since the year 1793, which may be easily accounted for from the circumstance of so many small farms and crofts being thrown into larger farms, and also to the large emigration which has taken place to America, Australia, and New Zealand.

In the year 1841, the landward population had nearly fallen off one half since 1793, being reduced to 867 souls. Since that time it has gradually but slightly increased.

In 1851 it had increased in number to	972
In 1861 " "	1183
In 1871 " "	1264

It is not probable that the landward population, for the reasons stated above, will increase much, nor can it be so in the burgh either. The limited nature of the employment and business of this district compels young men to seek their fortunes in the South of Scotland, England, or the Colonies; and the great facilities which now exist for travelling to the most remote parts of the world, and the inducements held out by public companies to emigrate, are readily taken advantage of. This now prevails so much that labourers have become very scarce, and wages have been quadrupled within a very short space of time.

EDUCATION.

There are no villages in the landward part of the parish, and in consequence there never has been a strictly parochial school. Education, until lately, was very much therefore confined to the burgh; and of the schools there we shall treat when we come to speak of the affairs of the burgh. The parish being upwards of ten miles in length, it was impossible, in particular during the winter months, for children to travel to the town. It is probable that at Pluscarden, when the Romish clergy resided there, some kind of education was given to the people, although it

must be confessed the ministers of that Church were not advocates for education. The Reformers had the most anxious desire to promote education, but money was very scarce, and the nobility and gentry would do nothing until compelled by law, either to erect school-houses or to give salaries to teachers.

The non-existence of parochial schools in any part of the parish, must have been felt as a grievous want for a long period. Necessity compelled the country people to have schools of some kind, to give their children the elements of education. In consequence, teaching began to be given in various parts of the country districts, first by old men or women, who got some small money fees, or meal or milk, for the learning imparted. The schools at first were huts, but they gradually improved; and the heritors gave ground for a croft or garden, and sometimes a small salary. Schools were gradually set up at Clackmarras, Milton, Pluscarden, and Mosstowie; and, in time, a better class of teachers have been obtained. Since the passing of the recent Education Act, a new Female School has been erected at New Elgin, and another school for boys and girls at Pluscarden. New schools will follow gradually in the other districts. Emoluments of the male and female teachers are now very handsome. The fees are collected by neutral parties, so that the teacher is left to devote his attention entirely to his pupils. The best educated persons to conduct the schools are got from the Normal Training Schools, and the salaries being so good, the teachers will soon be better paid than the clergy. Every person is now compelled to send his children to school. A good education, therefore, will in future be given to the poorest in the land, which, it is hoped, may be the means of raising the character and status of the population, and banishing ignorance and vice.

CLIMATE.

The climate of the lowlands of Moray may be pronounced about the best in Scotland, and perhaps few parts of England excel it. Old writers state that we have forty days

more of fair weather than any other part of Scotland. Even in winter, when severe frosts occur in London, we are often much more clear of ice than in the metropolis. This is owing to several causes. In the first place, we border with the sea on the north, which tempers the climate. On the south we have a range of hills, which absorbs much of the moisture; and, above all, we have a light porous subsoil, which, when rain falls, acts like a sponge, and does not permit wet to accumulate on the surface.

The parish of Elgin is remarkably well situated. It is protected from the northern blasts by the hills of Quarrywood and Heldon, and has the full benefit of the sun from the south. Perhaps in the spring it is somewhat exposed to the easterly winds, from which it is not so well sheltered; but the prevailing winds, for the greater part of the year, are westerly, which is proved from the fact that all trees in exposed situations are bent towards the east; and if a moor is planted on the west end with fir trees, it will gradually sow itself to the east. The climate of the parish of Elgin is somewhat diversified. About the burgh, in the winter season, we are not generally much exposed to cold, and snow seldom lies long. Indeed, there can be no place better adapted for winter quarters, and it has been much resorted to by persons of the better class, in consequence of these advantages. In summer the air is hot and relaxing, and persons, whose circumstances permit them to do so, either go to the sea-side or to the mountains, as may best suit their constitutions, during the sultry summer months. While this is the case in the burgh, other parts of the parish are different. As you ascend towards Blackhills at the east, Lhanmorn and Clackmarras at the south, or Pluscarden at the west, you find the air more fresh and bracing; and the people of Elgin might well have their country houses in any of these localities, without going out of the bounds of the parish. Taking it as a whole, our climate is as healthy, and we have generally as little disease, as any district of the country, the inhabitants being proverbially long-lived.

We have mentioned before that the old historians of Scotland had a high opinion of the climate of Moray. A writer, somewhat later in date, Sir Robert Gordon of

Straloch, in the seventeenth century, states—“That in salubrity of climate Moray is not inferior to any, and in richness and fertility of soil it much exceeds any of our northern provinces. The air is so temperate, that when all around is bound up in the rigour of winter, there are neither lasting snows, nor such frosts as damage fruits or trees, proving the truth of that boast of the natives, that they have forty days more of fine weather in every year than the neighbouring districts. There is no product of this kingdom, which does not thrive; or, if any fail, it is to be attributed to the sloth of the inhabitants, not to the fault of the soil or climate. Corn the earth pours forth in wonderful and never-failing abundance. Fruits of all sorts, herbs, flowers, pulse, are in the greatest plenty, and all early. While harvest has scarce begun in surrounding districts, there all is ripe and cut down, and carried into open barnyards, as is the custom of the country; and, in comparison with other districts, winter is scarcely felt. The earth is almost always open; the sea navigable; and the roads never stopped. So much of the soil is occupied by crops of corn, however, that pasture is scarce, for the whole district is devoted to corn and tillage. But pasture is found at no great distance, and is abundant in the upland country, a few miles inland; and thither the oxen are sent to graze in summer, when the labour of the season is over. Nowhere is there better meat nor cheaper corn, not from scarcity of money, but from the abundance of the soil. The natives, as frequently happens in a fertile soil, are generally sluggish; but they are expert in sea fishing, and excel their neighbours in that art.

“In the lowlands, along the coast, the natives suffer inconvenience from the want of turf for fuel, which is the only hardship experienced by that happy region; and that is only felt in a few places. It must be owned that they generally counteract the cold by hard drinking; but those who exert themselves industriously in the labours of agriculture little feel or care for it.

“The soil is dry, and requires frequent showers in summer to produce abundant crops. It suffers from nothing so much as drought, quite contrary to the neighbouring districts.

“The country is champaign, low, sometimes swelling into pleasant hills, for the most part sandy, but always mixed with clay, which, when manured, is wonderfully fertile.”

ANTIQUITIES.

There are no Druidical stones in the landward part of the parish, and no remains of extreme antiquity, except a sculptured stone at Upper Manbeen, which has nothing very remarkable about it. It is a coarse mica slate, and has engraved on it a fish, spectacles, and something like a closed book. It is very rude, and has no local history of any kind. A sketch of it is given in the first volume of Dr. Stuart's *Sculptured Stones of Scotland*, plate 17. All our parish antiquities point to a period within the time of written records. Our old religious buildings within the parish, except the Priory of Pluscarden, which has already been fully described, are entirely gone. The Hospital at Bogside, the Chapel at Lhanmorn, Hermitage at Pittendrich, and a religious building, probably at Inverlochty, are completely erased, and not a trace of any of them left. The Elgin Cathedral, and religious buildings in the burgh, remain to be referred to in another part of this work.

THE POOR.

Previous to the Reformation, the poor were under the wing of the Roman Catholic clergy, and, in whatever other respects that religious body was deficient, it must be admitted that they have discharged, with the most unwearied zeal, the duties of Christian charity, by clothing and feeding the poor and indigent. The clergy in the parish and burgh of Elgin, being so numerous and having so many endowments in land, the poor people must have been very well attended to, and their daily wants amply supplied. At the Reformation, the whole Church lands were seized by the grasping nobility and gentry, and nothing but the barest endowment left for the new order of clergy. In

consequence, the poor people were left to their own resources, and wandered about the country asking charity, and frequently extorting it from those who lived in solitary places, and who were too weak to resist sturdy beggars and sorners. In the end of the sixteenth, and during the whole of the seventeenth century, the country was in a most wretched state with civil wars and intestine broils, and in no part of Scotland more so than in the County of Moray, which was harried alternately by Royalists and Covenanters. That great statesman, Andrew Fletcher of Saltoun, in the early part of last century, describes Scotland as almost a nation of beggars, and indeed, about the time of the Union with England, it was little better than in that condition, a great proportion of the nation being then in the poorest state; and when years of scarcity took place, many perished or suffered from starvation.

In the closing years of the seventeenth, and opening years of the eighteenth century, there was a period of seven years of bad harvests; and although the lowlands of Moray suffered less than other districts, it was overrun with wandering beggars from the neighbouring counties, many of whom died from want of food. About the year 1740, there was another very bad season, in which the country suffered much distress.*

* Hugh Miller, in his interesting work, *Scenes and Legends of the North of Scotland*, describes the seven bad years in a most graphic manner as follows:—"One night in the month of August, 1694, a cold wind, accompanied by a dense sulphurous fog, passed over the country, and the half-filled corn was struck with mildew. It shrank and whitened in the sun, till the fields seemed as if sprinkled with flour; and where the fog had remained longest—for in some places it stood like a chain of hills during the greater part of the night—the more disastrous were its effects. From this unfortunate year, till the year 1701, the land seemed as if struck with barrenness; and such was the change on the climate, that the seasons of summer and winter were cold and gloomy in nearly the same degree. The wonted heat of the sun was withholden; the very cattle became stunted and meagre; the moors and thickets were nearly divested of their feathered inhabitants, and scarcely a fly or any other insect was to be seen, even in the beginning of autumn—November and December, and in some places January and February being the months of harvest; and labouring people contracted diseases which terminated in death, when employed in cutting down the corn among ice and snow. Of the scanty produce of the fields, much was left to rot on the ground, and much of what was carried home proved unfit for the subsistence of either man or beast. The pestilence which accompanied this terrible visitation broke out in November, 1694, when many of the people were seized with strange fevers and sore fluxes of a most infectious nature, which defied the utmost power of medicine." The same writer describes the famine of 1740 as follows:—"The autumn and winter of the year 1740 were like the black years which succeeded the Revolution, long remembered all over Scotland, and more especially to the north of the Grampians. One evening, late in the summer of this year, crops of rich promise were waving on every field, and the farmer anticipated an early harvest. Next morning a chill dense fog had settled on the whole country, and, when it cleared up, the half-filled ears drooped on their stalks, and the long-pointed leaves slanted towards the soil, as if scathed by fire. The hope of the season was blasted. Harvest came, but it brought with it little of the labour, and none of the joy of other harvests. Towards the close of autumn, not an ounce of meal was to be had in the market."

The year 1782 was also a severe year of famine. Harvest did not take place in the upper districts of Aberdeen and Banffshire until the month of January, 1783, and there was nothing to reap but empty straw. I have heard this described by many eyewitnesses. Morayshire, owing to its fine climate, suffered in a less degree than the neighbouring counties. Still, by the spring of 1783, many even about Elgin were in great want, and, had it not been for the large importation of military stores and provisions brought into the North of Scotland, consequent upon the close of the war with the American Colonies, many people must have perished from absolute starvation. These importations consisted principally of white pease, and it was long remembered in Morayshire as the year of the "white pease." Many of the poorer districts of the North did not recover from the calamity of 1782 for a period of years.

The whole sustentation of the poor at this time consisted of the Church door collections, and some small funds mortified by pious individuals, and full liberty to beg, both in town and country. In the year 1793, the yearly Church door collections in the parish of Elgin only amounted to £45, and the interest of the mortified funds in the hands of the Kirk-Session to £8 11s. It is marvellous how the poor could have been supported on such a pittance. In the years 1799 and 1800 there was another period of scarcity, and much distress and discontent, also serious rioting, and attacks upon gentlemen connected with the corn trade.

Old Statistical
Account,
vol. V., page 14.

In the year 1835, the average number of poor on the roll of the Kirk-Session, receiving regular parochial aid, was 160. Of these about 30 received a weekly allowance of from 6d. to 3s., or an average of £3 5s. per annum. About sixty pounds were distributed half-yearly among the remaining 130 poor, averaging 9s. annually to each. Besides this sum they received each coals to the value of 2s. 2d.; and the interest of money and rents of lands, under the management of the Magistrates for behoof of the poor, amounted to £23 7s. 6d. The amount of Church door collections was £150 in the year 1834; donation from one heritor, £5; other persons, £42; interest of £1365

mortified for relief of the poor under the management of the Kirk-Session, £54 15s. No regular mode of procuring funds for the poor, besides that of Church collections, had then been adopted. The writer of the New Statistical Account of the Parish states as follows:—"It is believed that generally speaking the poor are averse to seek relief until driven to it by necessity, and that they consider it a degradation to be put upon the poor's roll."

New Statistical
Account,
vol. XIII., p. 26,
County of Elgin.

At this period the poor wandered through the country daily, and were liberally supplied with bread and meal by the farmers; and on Saturdays they went round the town, and called upon respectable families, when a certain small sum of copper was given to each, and they seemed to be very contented, and tolerably well provided for. The religious differences in the Church of Scotland, which ensued in consequence of the passing of the Veto Act by the General Assembly in the year 1834, and which culminated in the disruption of the Church in 1843, brought about a serious change in parochial economy, many substantial persons having then left the Church. The Sunday collections immediately fell off to such an extent that they were not equal to the support of the poor as formerly, and the clergy of the Established Church discovered that they could not meet the demands made upon them. Had the Church even continued entire, it is doubtful, from the change of times, and the increasing demands of the poor, if the former parochial system could have been long maintained; but the sudden loss of so many of her people, some of whom were the most abundant in their charity, brought matters at once to a crisis, and Parliament had to be called on to pass an Act for compulsory assessment. After due consideration on the part of the Government officials, the Poor-Law Act for Scotland was introduced, and received the Royal assent on 4th August, 1845, and was adopted by the parish of Elgin immediately thereafter, at a meeting held in the Parish Church on the 16th September of that year, Alexander Forteach of Newton presiding, the late Thomas Miln of Milnfield being the first Chairman of the Board. The number of poor enrolled on the first year was 235, and the rate of assessment on proprietors of lands, 4d. per

£1 ; on tenants of lands, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. per £1 ; on tenants of houses, $6\frac{1}{2}$ d. per £1 ; and on tenants of shops, 3d. per £1. The total amount assessed was £1200. In 1850, the assessment was £1367, and the rates on proprietors of land $9\frac{3}{4}$ d. per £1 ; house proprietors, $8\frac{1}{2}$ d. per £1 ; occupiers of dwelling-houses, 1s. 4d. per £1 ; of shops, $8\frac{1}{2}$ d. per £1 ; and occupiers of land, $6\frac{1}{2}$ d. per £1. In the year 1852 the rates and amount of assessment were the same as in 1850. In the year 1863 the assessment had increased more than one-third, being £2250, the number of poor on the roll from 230 to 240—the rate of assessment being :—For proprietors of lands, 1s. per £1 ; tenants and occupants of houses, 1s. $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. per £1 ; occupants of shops, $10\frac{1}{2}$ d. ; occupants of land, $8\frac{1}{2}$ d. per £1. In the year 1875-76 the sum raised by assessment is £2100, which is a diminution of £150 since 1863. The rates are as follows :—On proprietors of lands and heritages, 9d. per £1 ; on tenants of lands, 7d. per £1 ; on tenants of shops, 9d. per £1 ; and on tenants of houses, 11d. per £1.*

Mr. Miln continued Chairman of the Board until 1855, when he resigned, and was presented with his portrait as an acknowledgment of his services. He was succeeded as Chairman by Dr. William Geddes, who continued until his death in November, 1861 ; and he was again replaced by Provost Alexander Russell, who still ably fulfils the duties of his office.† The Inspectors have been, first, John Shepherd, who did not continue long ; second, Jonathan Stiven ; and third, James Elder. All these officials have done their duty well, both to the poor and the ratepayers ; and the management has been equal to that of any parish in Scotland. The laying on of parish rates has very much lowered the character of the poor ; they feel no sense of shame now in applying for relief from the public funds. Instead of that, it is now a scramble who will get most, and the old honest

* Previous to the Reformation there were no Acts of Parliament relating to the poor, the Church having made due provision for them. The first Act was passed in 1579, cap. 74, entitled an Act "For punishment of strang and idle beggars, and relief of the pure and impotent." Another Act in 1672, cap. 18, entitled "Act for establishing correction houses, for idle beggars and vagabonds ;" 3d, William and Mary, 11th August, 1692, "Proclamation of the Privy Council anent beggars ;" 4th, William and Mary, 29th August, 1693, "A proclamation of the Privy Council anent beggars ;" 5th, William and Mary, 31st July, 1694, "A proclamation for putting former Acts and proclamations anent beggars in execution ;" 6th, William, "Proclamation anent the poor." These stringent Acts and proclamations seem in practice to have lain dormant.

† Since the above was written, Mr. Russell's long and faithful services have been terminated by his death, and Mr. Alexander Urquhart has been appointed Chairman in his place.

pride of the humbler classes appears to be almost entirely extinguished.

The numbers of poor on the roll, or receiving casual relief, have not varied much since the year 1845, as will appear from the table hereto annexed, and it may be confidently hoped that, if the present good management be continued as hitherto it has been, the increase of paupers may not be serious for many years. It is very desirable that habits of economy and prudence, foresight and independence, should be impressed on the humbler classes, and that the spirit of honest pride, which so distinguished former generations, should be continued.

LIST OF POOR RECEIVING RELIEF ON THE ROLL OF
THE PARISH OF ELGIN, FROM 1846 TO 1875.

Year.	Relieved.	On the Roll, 15th May.	Year.	Relieved.	On the Roll, 15th May.	
1846 . . .	235	} No Returns made by order of Board of Supervision on this head.	1861 . . .	287	233	
1847 . . .	264		1862 . . .	289	235	
1848 . . .	289		1863 . . .	267	231	
1849 . . .	273		1864 . . .	287	230	
1850 . . .	233		1865 . . .	287	214	
1851 . . .	233		1866 . . .	260	188	
1852 . . .	268		1867 . . .	222	187	
1853 . . .	258		1868 . . .	220	176	
1854 . . .	255		1869 . . .	236	186	
1855 . . .	251		1870 . . .	246	182	
1856 . . .	259		1871 . . .	236	184	
1857 . . .	282		1872 . . .	225	179	
1858 . . .	263		217	1873 . . .	227	154
1859 . . .	Return not found.			1874 . . .	221	146
1860 . . .	278	223	1875 . . .	199	140	

Since the establishment of the Poor-house on the north side of Bishopmill, in the year 1865, the applications for parochial relief have sensibly declined, from a fear of being sent to the Poor-house. The paupers, although well attended to there, and their wants carefully supplied, have a great dislike to the restraint and confinement, and the regular hours they are obliged to keep. This house, from its good management and the beneficial effect it has upon the poor, has been a great boon to the general community of the county.

MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS.

The lowlands of Moray are a purely agricultural district, and, with the exception of the fisheries on the coast, they are dependent on the produce of the land. I have already adverted to the gradual improvement of the country, to the high character it had attained during the ascendancy of the Roman Catholic Church, to the decline during the troubles after the Reformation and the Covenanting wars of the seventeenth century, and to the gradual improvements which have taken place since the middle of last century up to the present time. The fishings on the coast and on the rivers have also proved a source of great wealth to the country. The herring fishing, for half a century previous to the year 1872, had been in the way of bringing into the county from £30,000 to £40,000 per annum, which was divided among fishermen, curers, labourers, and servants. For these few years back the herrings have gone more to the Aberdeenshire coast, and our best fishermen have got employment there. It cannot be doubted, however, but that the fish will return to their former haunts, and that the fishing will be as good as ever, and it is sincerely to be hoped that this traffic, so beneficial to the country, may soon be entirely revived. The salmon fishings on the Spey, Findhorn, and on the whole Morayshire coast, have, for many years, been a source of great wealth to the country, large sums being paid for wages, and otherwise disbursed both by proprietors and tenants. It is probable that a sum of £20,000, at least, flows annually into the county under this head of revenue. They have not failed in any season, except in the year 1875, when, from some natural causes not known, nor even guessed at, they almost proved a blank. These occasional failures cannot be well explained; but the rivers and their tributary streams are now so well protected, that it may naturally be expected this valuable fish will increase in quantity, and continue, as it has been for centuries, one of the most important products we have. The white fishings of cod, ling, and haddock, although in a quiet and less known way, are also most valuable. The large quantities received by the curers

and sent by railway, either in a fresh or cured state, to the London, Glasgow, Edinburgh and other markets daily, must be very great, and, although it would be a work of considerable labour to ascertain the quantities and the money returns, they must be very large. Within the last forty years the price of white fish has quadrupled, and it is still increasing.

During the last fifty years the prices of grain have been pretty stationary. The introduction of free trade in corn has been a most valuable boon to the poor. We have had bread at a very moderate price, and both meal and flour have been abundant. With the exception of the year 1846, when the potato crop failed entirely, and when grain, in consequence, rose almost to a famine price, we have had no scarcity. Beef, mutton, eggs, butter, milk, and all farm produce have risen fourfold during this period, which may be attributed to various causes. The establishment of steamers first carried all our produce to London and other towns in the South, and railways have now made matters more rapid and easy. Cattle can be transported to any market in the kingdom in the space of twenty-four hours, and the whole of Britain is now brought to a level. By means of the wonderful telegraphic wire, information as to prices can be procured from the most reliable quarters in half an-hour. Another reason for increase of prices is the large quantity of butcher meat used by the working-classes. The tradesman or labourer, who formerly lived upon oatmeal, fish, and potatoes, now uses butcher meat. This he is able to do from the great increase in wages. In these classes there is not much economy. However high their wages may be, they generally spend what they make, and only very few lay aside a portion for old age, and times of sickness. The farm-servants in the South of Scotland even now live much upon flesh diet. All these causes have tended to raise the prices of cattle, sheep, and other bestial, and the farmer devotes his best attention, and directs all his energy, to the rearing of cattle. The object now seems to be not to have cattle of the finest and purest breeds, but to have those that will most quickly make a return, and for this purpose they cross the native cattle with the shorthorn breed. There is thus a considerable danger that the pure native breeds will

soon degenerate. This practice very considerably prevails in our own district, and over the county.

The progress made in agriculture since the commencement of the present century has been very great. At that time money was exceedingly scarce. We had few banks, and they were very unwilling to make advances to any persons, more particularly to the farming class. Even to persons in the best position, credit on cash securities were very sparingly given, and the bank-agents were strictly limited by the parent establishments in their advances. Even fifty years ago, an advance of a few hundred pounds was reckoned a great accommodation. Matters have since wonderfully changed. Bank agencies, since the year 1825, have multiplied over the whole country. Every village has now its bank, and in consequence great facilities have been given for procuring money ; and the capital received has, on the whole, been well expended upon the improvement of the country—the procuring of foreign manures, the introduction of more useful breeds of horses, sheep, and cattle, and raising up a class of respectable purchasers of corn and cattle within the country, and also of bringing dealers to our markets from the southern parts of the kingdom. Fifty years ago, the farmers had generally to ship their grain to London or Leith by the smacks, or trading vessels, and entrust the sales to agents there, to whom they paid a high commission, or to sell to the local traders, who had little capital, and who gave them bills payable at four or six months' date. Now we have most respectable agents resident in the country who pay for the grain, cash on delivery, without the slightest trouble to the sellers. Business is now conducted most rapidly and satisfactorily. Indeed, it may be thought by people of the old school that matters are getting too quick in their movements, and that life has too much hurry and turmoil for the human frame. And yet it seems as if we were only in progress to a greater degree of speed. Improvement of roads and formation of railways have also tended to quicken business. Fifty years ago, few people left home. The few coaches we had were often half empty of passengers, and it was a rare thing for a person to go the length of Edinburgh, and few Scotchmen had then ever been

in London. Some of our best and leading farmers had then been little beyond their native counties, and had little wish to move far from home. Now there is a constant movement. Even at the most remote railway stations, we find a crowd of passengers anxiously waiting to be carried to their respective destinations.

The Morayshire Farmer Club, established in 1799, has tended much to foster agricultural improvement. It has been carried on with spirit from the commencement, and which has been much owing to its active and intelligent secretaries. The first of these, Mr. Alexander Allan, writer in Elgin, a young man of much promise, did not live long. He was succeeded by the late Mr. Isaac Forsyth, a person of the most energetic and vigorous mind, who for thirty years and upwards devoted every energy to the business of the Club, and under his care it attained great prosperity. His successors, Mr. Alexander Brown, and Mr. James Geddes, and the present secretaries, Messrs. Ferguson and Macdonald, have well kept up its character; and no institution of the kind in Scotland has been better sustained, or been of more usefulness. The frequent meetings of the Club, the cattle shows, prizes for stock, and discussion of agricultural subjects, have all tended to progressive improvements, and to keeping up a spirit of emulation most successful in its results.

The change of manners and customs since the beginning of the present century has been great. The secondary class of farmers were many of them at that time dressed in coarse grey or blue coats, with large buttons, and broad bonnets. There were no carpets; only the bare boards of the flooring. Butcher meat was seldom enjoyed, except at harvest homes, the Christmas seasons, or other rare occasions. The sons of the family did the farm work, and the daughters managed all household affairs. Carts were small in size, and horses of a short hardy breed, kept at little expense. When going to markets, people either walked or rode the farm horses. Even within the last fifty years there were not four gigs used by gentlemen in the parish of Elgin. The servant men were generally dressed in suits of green or white corduroy cloth, and the female servants had no bonnets. On week days they wore petticoats of coarse blue cloth, with

white or coloured wrappers, and seldom had shoes or stockings. The younger girls had no caps or head-dresses of any kind, even on Sundays. The more advanced in life wore caps, with a ribbon for binding when in dress, and elderly females had grey or red cloaks with hoods. When going to church or to the towns, they walked barefoot, and put on their shoes and stockings only when they approached the end of their journey. The wages of female servants, even of the best class, seldom then exceeded two pounds in the half-year, and any expense in dress had, therefore, carefully to be avoided. The adoption of a change of dress was introduced by the increase of wages. Bonnets began to be used about forty-five years ago, and rapidly increased with the rising generation, and now the country girls appear dressed in the most gaudy apparel, and quite up to the fashion of the times, and, with wages quadrupled, perhaps save less money than they did before. The Rev. John Grant, in the year 1793, makes the following remarks on the increasing luxurious habits of his time:—"Luxury and its certain attendant, an exorbitant expense of living, most materially affects population. It discourages marriage until persons acquire an income adequate, in their estimation, to that state; or, in other words, until they are advanced in years, and then a puny, helpless race of children is produced. Hence, how many men of every description remain single? and how many young women of every rank are never married? who, in the beginning of this century, and even so late as 1745, would have been the parents of a numerous and healthy progeny." These observations contain much force and truth in them, but if the worthy clergyman complained so much of the luxury of the times eighty or ninety years ago, what might be said of the expensive habits of the present day? The change even within my recollection is wonderful, and more particularly within the last twenty-five years, when intercourse with all parts of the country has so much grown, and classes are so mingled together.

Old Statistical
Account,
vol. V., page 22.

Half a century ago, very little wine was used among the middle classes. Whisky punch was the prevailing liquor, and it must be confessed there was no stint of that beverage.

The dinner hours were early ; three or four o'clock afternoon was the usual time, and when friends met, and bowls of punch laid on the table, the sitting generally was a protracted one, usually followed by a supper, with additional punch, to an early hour in the morning. These meetings were, however, not frequent. The dinners were plain, and even port and sherry wines were sparingly introduced. How changed now, with rare soups, entrées, dinners à la Russe, and the finest French and German wines. Assuredly we have departed from the simplicity of our fathers. The change of living has created more delicacy of body, has increased apoplectic and paralytic diseases, but we seem to have less pulmonary affections than formerly.

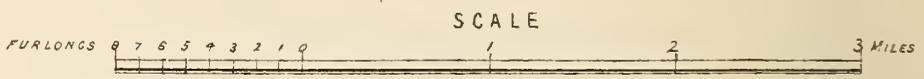
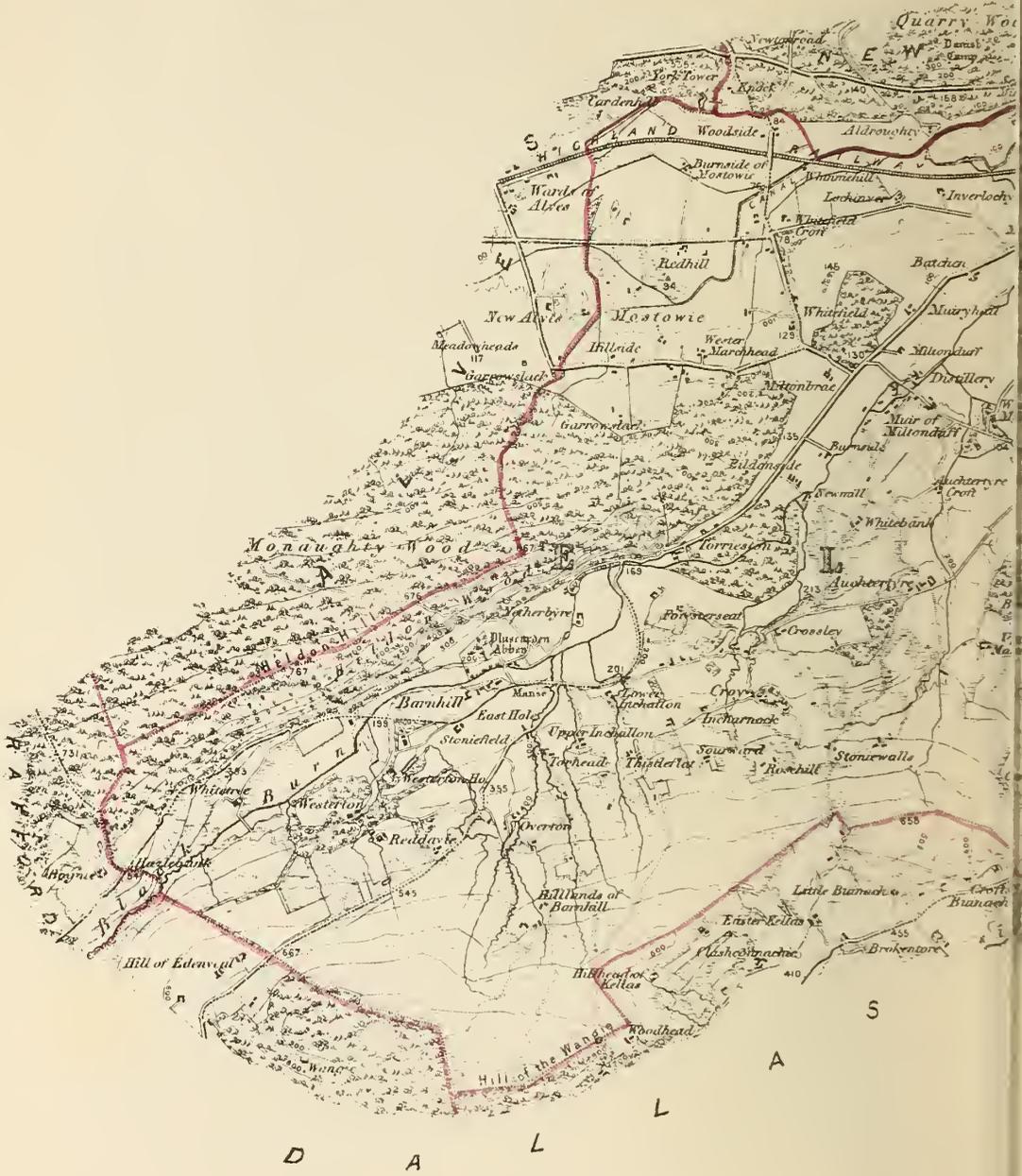
With the increase of education, superstition has much declined. Sixty years since a belief in the power of departed spirits, witchcraft, fairies, and demonology was very great. In the winter evenings it was common to sit round the fire and relate the most marvellous stories about witches, the evil one, ghosts, and fairies, all which were confidently believed. Certain old families had demons or spirits connected with them, who were occasionally seen, and more particularly at the time of death. Witches met and made nocturnal visits through the air, and fairies at the Knock of Alves "tripped through meadows of air," and the unwary travellers, more particularly after having imbibed a quantity of strong ale or potent aqua vitæ at the Elgin markets, were entrapped by the inhabitants of the unseen world into splendid halls in the recesses of the hill, where music and dancing were carried on without ceasing, and the enchantment was so potent that days, months, and years passed away before the delicious dream was at an end. Witches had great power over cattle, particularly in abstracting the milk from cows ; and the intervention of wise men and women was called in to defeat the potent spell. Pilgrimages to holy wells were common, and the "Braemou' Well" at the village of Hopeman was reckoned particularly potent. People from Elgin and all parts of the country went there annually, either to drink or wash in the water, which was supposed to have healing powers, and all visitors had to leave a gift, however small, to the tutelar

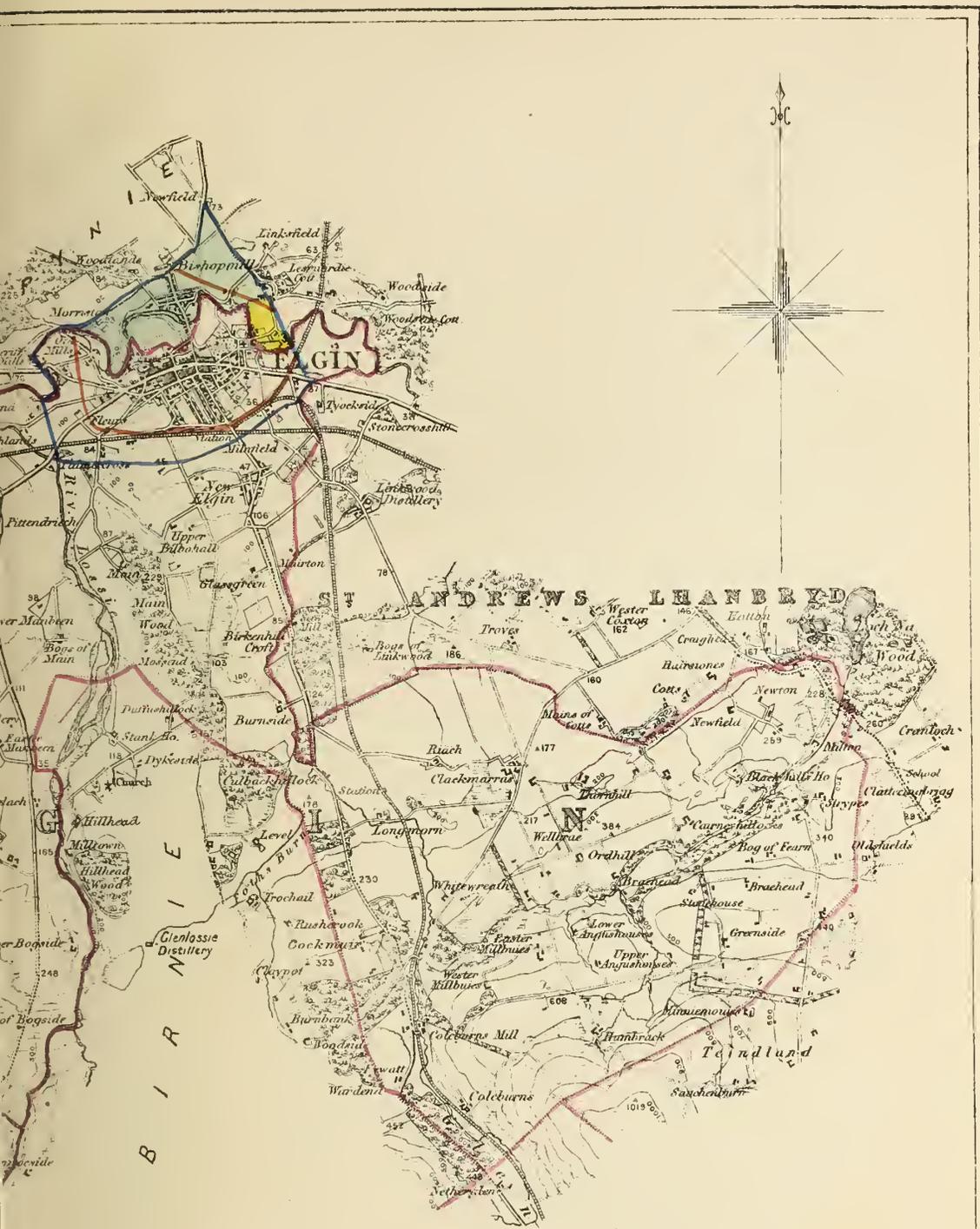
saint, or spirit of the well. The power of the devil was thought to be very great ; and I believe it is an undoubted fact that, within the last half century, a respectable farmer, having a severe disease among his cattle, was advised to make a burnt offering to the spirit of evil, and that he actually sacrificed one of his oxen for that purpose. There was a charm about these old superstitions. It seems natural to the human mind to hold that there are good and evil influences around us ; and there is a proneness in all rude stages of society to cling to these superstitions. The advance of knowledge and education has now expelled the darkness, and it is not likely to return. Other evils arise from the progress of knowledge—an exaltation of human reason, a desire to be wise beyond what is written in the Scriptures, and we have to bewail the serious increase of error and scepticism, and the inclination to scoff at revealed religion. At the same time, charity and benevolence abound, and are increasing, the wants of the poor are unsparingly supplied, and we fervently hope that, among all the religious differences and disputes of the day, the progress of good is growing and evil declining.

Among the many improvements of the present age, nothing is more pleasant to the eye than the comfort of the dwellings of all classes, and the neatness of gardens and shrubberies. The introduction of evergreen plants from abroad has added much to the beauty of the country. Sixty years ago, these beautiful plants were almost unknown. Now we have bays, Portugal laurels, rhododendrons, the arbutus, and lauristinus flourishing in all directions, and they give, even in the short days of winter, a clothed appearance to the landscape, when the deciduous trees are bare and lifeless. With all the faults of the present age, we have many blessings and comforts in this latter part of the nineteenth century, of which our forefathers knew nothing. We enjoy peace and plenty, perfect freedom, good government, knowledge, and literature, and cannot be too grateful to Providence for His goodness in placing us in the best age of the world, and in the most enlightened nation of the earth.

PARISH AND BURGH
 OF
E L G I N

—1876.—





NOTE—The Parish Boundary is coloured RED
 The Parliamentary Boundary of the Burgh BLUE
 The Municipal Boundary of the Burgh BROWN
 The portion of the Parish of New Spynie within
 the Burgh is coloured GREEN, and that of the
 Parish of St. Andrew's Ithanryd YELLOW.

THE BURGH OF ELGIN.

THE BURGH OF ELGIN.

CHAPTER I.

FROM THE TWELFTH CENTURY TO THE YEAR 1700.

THE town or burgh of Elgin is situated in the north-east corner of the parish, and is bounded on the north by the parish of Spynie, and on the east by that of St. Andrew's. These parishes are so close to the town, that parts of them are now in its suburbs. It is stated by tradition that the Lossie at one time was the northern boundary; and the appearance of the ground favours the idea that the river in former ages had flowed eastward from Blackfriars' Haugh to the ground where the Episcopal Chapel now stands, and thence by Mr. Culbard's works, turning again northwards to something like its present course at Bishopmill. In some recent excavations at Mr. Culbard's works, the remains of an ancient water course were found, which corroborate the tradition. This old bed of the river must have been changed at an early date, for in the year 1570 the lands of Burrowbriggs, in the parish of Spynie, which now bound the town of Elgin, are described as "*pecia terræ vocata Burrowbriggis, ex australi parte de Lossin.*"

Registrum
Moravie se,
page 414.

There is a prevailing idea that the town of Elgin was built by the Norwegians, but there is no evidence to that effect. There can be no doubt that these hardy invaders were much in the lowlands of Moray between the years 850 and 1050, a period of two centuries, and at different intervals during that time were masters of the country, in which they formed colonies. But if I might hazard an opinion on such an uncertain subject, I would be inclined to think that the town and castle are of an older date, and that they were the

seat of the old Maormars of Moray during the Pictish period of history, and down to the reign of Malcolm IV. At this early period the Castle and all the buildings were of wood, the country then abounding in primeval forests. In the earliest notice of the town in the Chartulary of Moray, about the year 1190, the name is spelt Elgin as at present, but in various writings it is called Elgyn, Helgun, and Aigin. I have very carefully searched the old Scottish historians, and the first account of Elgin I have discovered is about the year 1010. I have also examined the works of Torfaeus, so far as accessible to me, and the valuable work called "Orkneyinga Saga," which narrates the movements of the Norsemen from 795 to 1468, when Orkney became virtually annexed to Scotland, but I can find no notice of Elgin in these northern writers. King David I. seems to have been a good deal in the Province of Moray, and founded the Abbey of Kinloss, the earliest and one of our most important ecclesiastical buildings, in the year 1151. In his time we have the first authentic notice of the town of Elgin.*

William the Lyon, his grandson, who succeeded to the throne in the year 1165, during his long reign of forty-nine years, was frequently in Elgin, and granted a variety of writings here, principally relating to ecclesiastical affairs. Richard Bishop of Moray had been his chaplain; and the King had a special regard for his old servant, and, besides bestowing upon him considerable grants of land, lent the regal authority for enforcing the tithes and dues of the Church, and supporting its jurisdiction. King William, on occasion of his visits to Elgin, was accompanied by the high officers of State, and many of the nobility. We find among other names Earl Patrick, Earl Gilbert, William the son of Freskyn, William de Lindsay, William de Haia, Ranulf de Soulis, Peter de Polloc, Philip Marischal, Hugh the Chancellor, Duncan Earl Justiciar, Philip de Valoniis, Chamberlain, besides various Bishops and other Churchmen. The several years in which these writings were granted are not stated, nor the years of the king's reign, so that the times of the

Registrum
Moraviense,
pages 6, 8, 9, 10,
11, &c.

* King David granted to the Priory of Urquhart an annual payment of twenty shillings out of the ferme of his burgh and waters of Elgin—de firma Burgi mei et aquarum de Elgin. Elgin was not yet a Bishop's See.—(The Burgh Records of Scotland, vol. I., preface, page 35.)

royal visits cannot with certainty be ascertained. Elgin at this time must have been a place of considerable importance, and have had accommodation sufficient for the king and a body of nobility and clergy, and must have been possessed of certain burghal rights, either by law or under special charter. King William confirmed to the burgh of Aberdeen, and to all his burgesses of Moray, and to all his burgesses “be north the Munth” their free hanse (liberum ansum suum), to be held when they chose and where they chose, as freely and honourably as they held it in the time of his grandfather King David. That combination must have included the king’s burghs of Aberdeen, Kintore, Banff, Cullen, Elgin, Forres, Nairn, and Inverness—probably none of the towns beyond the Moray Firth, which were hardly yet brought under allegiance to the King of Scots.

Burgh Records
of Scotland,
vol. I., preface,
page 39.

King William was succeeded by his son Alexander II., the greatest benefactor Elgin ever had. He seems to have liked the climate of Moray, and to have paid frequent visits to the district. He was in Elgin on 15th October, 1221, with Malcolm Earl of Fife, William Cumyn, Earl of Buchan, and other laity and clergy. He was here on 30th June, 1228, and then granted a charter of the lands of Robenfield for the sustentation of the Bridge of Spey, and in 1234 he grants to the burgh of Elgin the charter of Free Guild, which is still preserved as the most valuable muniment of the town. In the year 1235, he gives a charter of three marks yearly out of the farms of the burgh of Elgin for sustaining a chaplain in the Cathedral Church of Elgin, for prayer for his own soul, those of his predecessors, and for the soul of King Duncan, his ancestor, and all the faithful. King Alexander held Christmas in Elgin in the year 1231, which is recorded by Wyntoun as follows :—

Registrum
Moraviense,
page 122.

“ A thowsand twa hundyr and thretty gane,
“ And to tha yhit reknyt ane ;
“ The King Alysandyre in Elgyne
“ Held his Yhule ; and come our syne
“ The Munthis passand till Munros.”

Wyntoun, vol.
II., pages
241, 242.

The king married, first, Joan, daughter of John King of England, by whom he had no family. She died 4th March,

Genealogy of
Kings of
Scotland, 1599.

Hailes' Annals, 1238. He married, second, Mary, daughter of Ingelram de Couci, a great Lord in Picardy,* at Roxburgh, 15th May, vol. 1., page 170.
 Tytler, vol. I. 1239. Of this marriage, a son was born to Alexander at Roxburgh, 4th September, 1241, afterwards King Alexander III.

King Alexander and his Queen, Mary de Couci, were in Elgin in 1242. The birth of his son, and the visit to Elgin, is related by Wyntoun as follows :—

Wyntoun's
Chronicle, vol.
II., pages
245, 246.

“ A thousand twa hundyr and fourty yhere,
 “ And twa for to be reknyd clere,
 “ Till Alysandyre, oure secownd Kyng,
 “ Dame Mary bare, that Lady yhyng,
 “ A fayre sone, and cald wes he
 “ Alysawndyre, as lyk to be
 “ Till hys fadyr in till fame,
 “ As he wes howyn and had his name.
 “ The Kyng and the Qwene alsua,
 “ And ane honest court wyth tha
 “ That ilk yhere in Murrawe past;
 “ But sone agayne he sped hym fast,
 “ Swa efftyre that he come fra Elgyne.”

In this king's reign were founded the Elgin Cathedral, the Priory of Pluscarden, the Domus Dei or Maisondieu at Elgin, the old Greyfriars' Monastery on the south side of the High Street, near the Little Cross, and the Blackfriars' Monastery on the banks of the Lossie, on the north side of the town. These foundations were no doubt much owing to the king's partiality to the town and adjoining district, and must have tended very much to the improvement of the country. King Alexander was partial to the mendicant friars of the Order of St. Dominic, called with us the Blackfriars. For them he founded no fewer than eight Monasteries—at Edinburgh, Berwick, Ayr, Perth, Aberdeen, Elgin, Stirling, and Inverness. It is stated that Alexander saw Dominic in France in the year 1217, and the sight of the saint may have made an impression upon his youthful

Hailes' Annals
of Scotland,
vol I., pages
176, 177.

* The family of de Couci affected royal pomp, and considered all titles as beneath their dignity. The *cri de guerre* of Ingelram de Couci was—

Tytler's History,
vol. I.

Je ne suis Roy, ni Prince aussi,
 Je suis le Seigneur de Couci.

On account of his brave actions, possessions, and three marriages with ladies of royal and illustrious families, he was surnamed “Le Grand.”

mind ; and perhaps he considered the mendicant friars as the cheapest ecclesiastics. His revenues could not supply the costly institutions of Cistercians and Canons regular, in which his great-grandfather, David I., took pleasure.

Angus of Argyle had been wont to do homage to the King of Norway for certain islands. Alexander required that homage to be done to himself, and it being denied, he resolved to enforce it. While engaged in this enterprise, he was seized with a burning fever, and perhaps having no medical advice in that then remote region, he died in the Island of Kerrera, near the Sound of Mull, on the 8th July, 1249, in the fifty-first year of his age, and thirty-fifth of his reign. His body was conveyed to Melrose, and there interred. A large marble stone, stated to be still seen there, is supposed to mark the place of his burial. We have lingered with pleasure on the reign of this excellent king, and the greatest benefactor the burgh and district of Elgin ever had. His death at so early an age was a great loss to the realm of Scotland. He was one of the wisest princes that ever reigned over the kingdom. Active and energetic in his conduct, steadiness and magnanimity are the striking features of his character.

King Alexander III. appears to have been little in Elgin or in the Province of Moray. There is some evidence that he was here in 1263, the year in which the battle of Largs was fought. In this king's reign the country was in general well regulated. It was a time of much progress in civilisation and in arts of peaceful industry, and Elgin, like other parts of the country, enjoyed the benefit of the good government. It is supposed that Scotland had, in this long period of peace, and before the great wars with England which ensued, made as much progress as in the beginning of the eighteenth century, when the final Union with England took place. King Alexander was killed by being thrown from his horse in riding, in the dusk of the evening, between Burntisland and Kinghorn, falling over a precipice, on the 16th March, 1285-6. He died in the forty-fifth year of his age, and thirty-seventh of his reign. He was long and most affectionately remembered for his incessant labours in distributing justice. He made an annual progress through the

kingdom, and held courts in every quarter. His conduct towards England was uniformly candid and wise; but he never submitted to any concession which might injure the independency of the Kingdom or Church of Scotland. The evils and misfortunes which befell the country after his untimely death, made his subjects the more reflect upon the happiness and comfort they enjoyed under his mild and beneficent government.

At this period the town of Elgin must have attained considerable wealth and standing, and, from the great number of religious buildings in it, and being the seat of the powerful Bishops of Moray, must have been the resort of the nobility and great barons of the kingdom. Perhaps, therefore, few burghs of Scotland were then in a more advanced condition. It is generally supposed that at this period, although we have no distinct information on the subject, the best houses in the town were clustered about the Castlehill; that they were generally built of wood and thatched with straw; that the burgh consisted of one street extending from the Church of St. Giles at the east to the Gallowhill at the west. I think it very probable that at this period, and for long after, the Church, with its graveyard around it, formed the east boundary of the burgh, and that the ground between this and the precinct wall of the Cathedral was open, without any buildings. The west end of the town, therefore, extended along the ridge of the Fleurs Land, by what was called the Bulletloan Road, terminating at the knoll now called Gallowhill, or Hatton Hill, as above stated. This accords with tradition, and also with the appearance of the ground. What population there was in the burgh in the year 1286 it is impossible to say; but there is no doubt the burgesses were active and industrious men, and carried on a considerable trade, both at home and probably with foreign parts. The sea then flowed through the Loch of Spynie, and there was a harbour within little more than a mile from the town, which must have been taken advantage of by the merchants resident in the burgh. There was at this time some kind of municipal government, although, perhaps, not very well defined. There was a Provost as early as 1261, and one or more Bailies in

1296. And there were artizans, consisting of smiths, armourers, glaziers, shoemakers, builders, and others. There never seems to have been a wall about the burgh, but it was probably enclosed with strong palisades, wood being then very abundant. Eventually, the town had four ports or gates, but I am of opinion that these were erected at a period considerably subsequent to the time we are now referring to.

King Alexander III. having died* without any issue surviving, his grand-daughter Margaret, daughter of the King of Norway, was proclaimed Queen, and a marriage was arranged between her and the eldest son of Edward I. of England (afterwards Edward II.), which, had it taken place, and a family been born, would have brought about a union with England in the end of the thirteenth century, and thus have saved England and Scotland from much misery and bloodshed. The young Queen, however, only eight years of age, was seized with a mortal illness on her passage from Norway, and died in Orkney, in the month of September, 1290, to the deep sorrow of the community of Scotland.

It is not our province to enter upon any discussion on the subject of the dispute between Robert Bruce, John Baliol, and others for the throne of Scotland, which ensued after the death of the Maid of Norway. There should have been no dispute, according to strict law. John Baliol was the undoubted heir to the Crown, and should have succeeded at once. The reference to Edward I. of England was most unfortunate, but it was done with the best motives, and with the view of preventing bloodshed. Baliol was a mean spirited person, and his taking the Crown as a vassal of Edward, and doing homage to him for it, was an act of great baseness. However, so it was. Baliol, on the 18th of November, 1292, swore fealty to Edward as Lord Paramount of the Kingdom of Scotland, and bound

Tytler, vol. I.,
page 85.

* The miseries which befell Scotland after the death of Alexander III. are thus stated by Wyntoun—

“Quhen Alysandyr oure Kyng wes dede,
“That Scotland led in luive and le,
“Away was sous of ale and brede,
“Of wyne and wax, of gamyn and gle,
“Oure gold was changyd into lede.
“Christ, born into virgynyte,
“Succour Scotland, and remede,
“That stad is in perplexyte.”

Wyntoun, vol.
II., page 266.

himself to due submission. This proceeding placed Scotland in a state of bondage to England, which the spirit of the nation could not long endure. Accordingly, after suffering great humiliations, the Scotch were driven into war with England, but were, with a disunited nobility and a weak monarch, no match for the powerful sovereign of that country. Baliol, after an inglorious reign of less than four years, was compelled to resign for ever throne and kingdom, and it was left to Wallace, Bruce, and other gallant men, after years of war and bloodshed, to redeem the kingdom from the hands of their powerful enemies.

The march of Edward I. to the North of Scotland in the year 1296, with the view of putting down his enemies, and consolidating his power, is quite wonderful. A very correct account of his daily proceedings, from the 28th March, when he crossed the Tweed with 5000 armed horsemen and 30,000 foot, until his return to Berwick on the 22d August, is recorded in documents illustrative of the history of Scotland, from 1286 to 1306, recently published by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury. By these records it would appear that King Edward reached Aberdeen on Saturday, the 14th July, where he found a good castle and a good town upon the sea, "and there he tarried for five days;" that on Sunday, the 22d July, he was at Banff Castle; on Monday, the 23d, at Cullen Manor; on Tuesday he was in tents upon the Moor on the river Spey, which he crossed on Wednesday, and lay on the opposite side at the Manor of Rapenach, in the County of Moray. On Thursday, the 26th July, he was at the City of Elgin,* "a good castle and a good town, and there he abode two days." He seems to have taken up his abode in the Castle, then entire, and containing tolerable accommodation even for a sovereign; but it is very difficult to understand how an army such as King Edward had with him, with a body of his nobility, could have been maintained in this country, or obtained supplies of provisions; and it must, therefore, be conjectured that he had a fleet in the Moray Firth, containing stores for victualing the army. On Friday, the 27th July, the king received

Illustrations of
History of
Scotland, from
1286 to 1306,
vol. II., pages
25 to 32.

* It is remarkable that Elgin is almost the only town in Scotland which the above chronicle dignifies with the name of City, which shows that it must then have been a place of considerable importance.

the submission of the nobility and gentry of the district, and the burgesses of the city and community also assembled, and they proclaimed their goodwill and faithful service, in presence of the Lords John de Benstede, William de Meltone, Robert de Cottingham, John de Winton, and Galfrid de Stokes. It is stated that they did so spontaneously, not from violence or fear, and annulled all confederations, contracts, and agreements which they had with the King of France. This is not easily understood, except that Elgin had then a considerable trade with the King of France, which the English King wished them to abrogate. Reginald Cheyne of Duffus, the successor of the great family of Moravia, and then one of the most influential men and largest proprietors in the North of Scotland, was in the most entire confidence of King Edward, and to him was committed the charge of the Castle of Elgin, and of the country round—the king, however, for further security, leaving an English garrison here, as in other important towns. Finding the country quiet, the king did not go farther North at this time, but left Elgin on Sunday, the 29th July, 1296, and was that day at the Castle or Manor of Rothes, and sent Sir John de Cantelow, Sir Hugh de Spencer, and Sir John Hastings, to search the district of Badenoch; and Anthony Bek, Bishop of Durham, with his troops, he sent back over the mountains by another road from that which he himself took. On Monday he went to Invercherrach, then in Mortlach, now in Cabrach, where, the chronicle states, “there are no more than three houses in a row in a valley between two mountains.” On Tuesday, 31st July, he was at Kildrummy, a castle of the Earl of Mar, and there abode Wednesday, the day of St. Peter, in the beginning of August. It now appears strange that the great road then southwards should have been through so wild a country. The Castle of Elgin would seem to have been under the charge of Henry de Rye, an Englishman, as early as 1291. On 18th November, that year, he grants a receipt to Reginald le Chen, younger, by the hands of Gilbert, the Clerk, for forty pounds sterling as his stipend, and on 27th June, 1292, he grants a receipt to Alexander de Balliol, Chamberlain of Scotland, for thirty-nine pounds, twelve shillings, and tenpence for his wages to the feast of the Holy

Illustrations of
History of
Scotland, from
1286 to 1306,
vol. II., page 64.

Illustrations of
History of
Scotland, vol. I.,
pages 256, 330.

Trinity in that year, from the King of England, as Superior of the Kingdom of Scotland, for the custody of the Castles of Elgin and Forres. It does not seem that any damage was done to the town of Elgin or to the country round by the visit of the English army at this time. Everything appears to have been well and very carefully arranged, and it was the desire of the king not to irritate those whom he then considered would undoubtedly be his future subjects.

Seven years have passed, and King Edward, now at the advanced age of sixty-four, finds that, after the expenditure of much blood and treasure, he is no nearer the conquest of Scotland than he was at first. He, therefore, resolved to humble the Scottish nation at once, and declared that it was his determined purpose either to reduce the nation to entire subjection, or to raze the land utterly with fire and sword, and turn it into a desert fit only for the beasts of the field. A recent historian writes as follows :—“ In recording the history of this last miserable campaign, the historian has to tell a tale of sullen submission and pitiless rage ; he has little to do but to follow in dejection the chariot wheels of the conqueror, and to hear them crushing under their iron weight all that was free and brave in a devoted country.”

Tytler, vol. I.,
page 173.

Edward separated his army into two divisions. He gave the command of one to his eldest son, the Prince of Wales, who directed his march westward into Scotland, while the king himself, at the head of the second division, proceeded eastward by Morpeth and Roxburgh, and reached Edinburgh without challenge or interruption, in the beginning of June, 1303. The whole course of the king, as well as that of the prince, was marked by smoke and devastation, by the plunder of towns and villages, the robbery of granges, the flames of woods, and the total destruction of the small tracts of cultivated lands which yet remained. From Edinburgh Edward continued his victorious progress by Linlithgow and Clackmannan to Perth, and afterwards to Aberdeen. From this city, continuing his march northward, he reached Banff on the 4th September. He was at Cullen on the 5th, and halted at Elgin on the 10th and 11th. He is supposed to have left Elgin on the 13th, but at all events he was at

Hemingford,
205.

Tytler, vol. I.,
page 174.

Fordun, page
328.

Hailles, vol. I.,
page 303.

Kinloss Abbey on the 20th September, which he seems to have made his headquarters up to the 10th October, but being occasionally at Lochindorb and Kildrummy Castles in the interval. The country seems to have suffered much more rough treatment than in the former expedition in 1296. Considerable burning and destruction took place at Forres. To what extent Elgin suffered we are not informed. That some damage was done is apparent from a petition given in to King Edward by Walter, Dean of the Cathedral Church of Elgin, who prays "our Lord the King that of his grace he would grant him twenty oaks in his forest of the Launde Morgoun, in the place nearest Elgin, in order to build and repair two houses, and to surround his garden, which were destroyed and burnt by the prince's army, when he resided in his Manor of Elgin. Herein the Dean of Elgin prays the King's favour if it pleases him." This request was complied with. The king's indorsation is as follows:—"Rex concessit quod habeat xx. quercus quos petit." King Edward went southwards in the middle of October, never to return to the North. He was at Dundee on the 20th of that month, and in December took up his winter quarters at Dunfermline, where he was joined by his Queen. In the early part of the summer of 1304, he took the Castle of Stirling after a long siege, the last stronghold held by the Scots; and in the end of that year he returned to England and held his Christmas at Lincoln, considering that his conquest was completed.

In the following year, 1305, Wallace, the great enemy of Edward, was betrayed into his hands, was executed, and quartered, his head placed on London Bridge, and his limbs sent to Newcastle, Berwick, Perth, and Aberdeen. Tyranny is short sighted. King Edward could have adopted no more sure plan of canonising the memory of Wallace, and increasing the animosity of the Scottish nation to himself. Tytler states—"Scotland may be said to be entirely reduced, "and Edward flattered himself that he was now in quiet to "enjoy that sovereignty which had been purchased by a war "of fifteen years, and at an incredible expense of blood and "treasure. But how idle are the dreams of ambition! In "less than six months from the execution of Wallace, this

Illustrations of
History of
Scotland, vol.
II., page 451.

Tytler, vol. I.,
page 175.

Tytler, vol. I.,
page 188.

“ new system of government was entirely overthrown, and
“ Scotland once more free.”*

The war of independence under Bruce began in the spring of 1306, and virtually ended at the Battle of Bannockburn, in June, 1314, a period of upwards of eight years of hard fighting. King Edward I., the cruel enemy of Scotland, died at the small village of Burgh-on-Sands, not far from Carlisle, on the 7th July, 1307, breathing in his last moments vengeance against Scotland. A contemporary writer states that, when he perceived he could not recover, he called to him his eldest son, who was afterward king, and made him swear, in presence of all his barons, by the saints, that, as soon as he should be dead, he would have his body boiled in a large caldron until the flesh should be separated from the bones; that he would have the flesh buried, and the bones preserved; and that every time the Scots should rebel against him, he would summon his people, and carry with him the bones of his father; for he believed, most firmly that, so long as his bones should be carried against the Scots, those Scots would never be victorious. His son, however, did not fulfil what he had sworn, but had his father carried to London and buried.

Froissart's
Chronicle,
Johne's Edition,
vol. I., cap. 26,
page 38.

The conduct of King Edward towards Scotland reacted upon himself and his own country, created a series of wars and bloodshed which endured for ages, and an enmity which has only ceased in our own time. It threw back Scotland into a state of comparative barbarism, and made her fair fields a desert, from which the country did not recover for five centuries and a-half. If Edward had known that, after the lapse of three centuries, a direct descendant of Robert Bruce would sit on the throne of England, such a thought would have considerably aggravated his dying pangs.†

* Wallace was executed 23d August, 1305. The new regulations for the government of Scotland were introduced on the 15th October, 1305. Bruce was crowned 27th March, 1306.

† The following prophecy, ascribed to Thomas the Rhymer, but no doubt the fabrication of a later age, is curious:—

Minstrelys of
the Scottish
Border,
Edition 1821,
vol. III., page
199.

“ Who shall rule the Isle of Britane
“ From the North to the South Sea?
“ A French Queene shall beare the sonne,
“ Shall rule all Britaine to the sea:
“ He of the Bruce's blood shall come,
“ As neere as to the ninth degree.”

This of course refers to the succession of King James VI. to the throne of England in the year 1603.

The close of the war of independence brought great changes into Scotland, and we lose sight of many of the old nobility. In particular in the North, the great family of Comyn almost disappears from the page of history. The Chiens or Cheynes, the representatives of the family of de Moravia, who had first gone entirely with the English, but afterwards returned to their allegiance and fought valiantly for Bruce, shortly afterwards ended in co-heiresses, and their extensive estates were divided into portions. In place of these, the noble family of Randolph, which has left an imperishable name in Scottish history, and had been raised to the Earldom of Moray, appears like a meteor for a little time. The first of the family of Randolph of whom we find any trace was Donegal, proprietor of Stranit in Nithsdale, in the reign of David I. He was succeeded by his eldest son Ranulph, and from him the family take the name. He married Bethoc, an heiress of various Manors, and made a donation of some lands to the Monastery of Kelso. He was succeeded by his son Thomas filius Ranulphi. He was one of the great Barons of Scotland, who became bound to maintain the agreement between Henry III. and Alexander II. before the Pope's Legate in 1237. He died in 1262, and was interred at Melrose, leaving by Juliana, his wife, a son, Thomas Ranulph, who was Sheriff of the County of Roxburgh in 1266. He was appointed Great Chamberlain of Scotland in 1269, and held that office till 1278. He sat in the

Chartulary of
Kelso.

Fœdera, vol. I.,
page 376, &c.

The poem, "King Edward's Dream," by Hogg, the Etrick Shepherd, expresses well the feelings of Scotsmen on that monarch. We insert the concluding stanzas:—

"King Edward awoke with a groan and a start—
 "The vision was vanished, but not from his heart.
 "His courage was high, but his vigour was gone;
 "He cursed the Scotch nation, and bade them lead on.
 "His legions moved on like a cloud of the west,
 "But fierce was the fever that boiled in his breast.
 "On sand of the Solway they rested his bed,
 "Where the soul of the king and the warrior fled:
 "He heard not the sound of the evening curfew,
 "But the whisper that died on his tongue was—'Subdue!'"

Hogg's
Queen's Wake,
Edition 1819,
page 263.

Before leaving the subject of King Edward, we would desire to refer to the very elaborate and careful work of our townsman, Mr. James Taylor, which was published in the year 1853. It contains an immense body of information on King Edward's invasion of Scotland, and his visits to the North in 1296 and 1303. It was prepared with much labour from authentic records obtained in the British Museum, and from other sources in London, Mr. Taylor having devoted several months' residence in the metropolis for the purpose. So far as I have means of judging, it is a most valuable and accurate work, and it is a pity that it should not be better known, which it would certainly have been if published in London or Edinburgh. I desire to express my humble opinion on the great merit of this book.

Parliament, at Brigham, when the marriage of Queen Margaret with Prince Edward was agreed to. He married Lady Isabella Bruce, eldest daughter of Robert Earl of Carrick, sister of King Robert Bruce, and by her had one son, Thomas Randolph,* the great supporter of his uncle in the war of independence. He took the Castle of Roxburgh in 1312, and the Castle of Edinburgh the same year, and led the left wing of the Scottish army at Bannockburn, 24th June, 1314. He got from his uncle, King Robert, a grant of the Isle of Man, and various lands in Berwick, Fife, Dumfries, and Nithsdale, and was created Earl of Moray, with all the lands of that great earldom, extending from the mouth of the Spey to the borders of Argyle, and the marches of Ross. He was appointed Regent of Scotland on the death of King Robert Bruce, and died at Musselburgh, from stone, on 20th July, 1332, when preparing to march against the English invaders. Although much occupied with his public functions, he was frequently in the North, and built the Castle of Darnaway, or Tarnua, with its great hall,† which last still remains. He kept the Highland freebooters in great awe. He also attended to his duties as Constable of the Castle of Elgin. He married Isabella, only daughter of Sir John Stewart of Bonkyl, with whom he got the Barony of Garlies, and by her had issue,

1. Thomas, second Earl of Moray ;
2. John, third Earl of Moray ; and

A daughter, Agnes, married to Patrick, ninth Earl of Dunbar and March, who, in her right, became Earl of Moray.

Thomas, the eldest son, succeeded his father, but only enjoyed the title twenty-three days, being killed at the fatal Battle of Dupplin, 12th August, 1332. He died unmarried.

John, his brother, succeeded. He had a short but very eventful life. He commanded the right wing of the Scottish army at the Battle of Durham, where he was killed, 17th October, 1346. He married his cousin Isabella

* The true name of this family is Ranulph. Randolph is evidently a corruption.

† Recent writers are of opinion that the great hall of Darnaway is a century later in date than this period.

Stewart, only daughter of Sir Alexander Stewart of Bonkyl, and widow of Donald Earl of Mar; but by her had no issue. He was succeeded by his heroic sister, Agnes Countess of Dunbar and March, who died about the year 1369, leaving two sons, George tenth Earl of Dunbar and March, and John Earl of Moray. The Castle of Elgin at this time appears to have become almost ruinous. Like the other royal Castles in Scotland, after the English wars it was dismantled, the Scots preferring not to have any fortified places for an enemy to take possession of. Accordingly, the Earls of Moray, when they came to Elgin, occupied a house erected by them on the present site of Thunderton House, where there were extensive grounds and gardens, and it had no doubt much better accommodation, and was more agreeable as a residence, than the old Castle.

John Dunbar, second son of Agnes Randolph, Countess of Dunbar and March, succeeded his mother. He married Marjory, eldest daughter of King Robert II., and had a charter of the whole Earldom of Moray, with the exception of Lochaber and Badenoch and the Castle of Urquhart, to him and his wife, and the longest liver of them, and the heirs lawfully procreated, or to be procreated between them, whom failing, to George de Dunbar, Earl of March, and his lawful heirs whomsoever, dated 9th March, 1372. They were the first Dunbars who possessed estates in the North of Scotland. This Earl and his Countess had a charter of the King's Lands of the Thanage of Kyntore, 26th August, 1375, and a pension of £100 sterling, out of the customs of Elgin and Forres, and of £100 sterling out of the customs of Aberdeen, from King Robert II. The Earl was at the Battle of Otterburn in 1388, and was killed at a tourney with the Earl Marshal of England, 1394. He had by his Countess two sons and a daughter, viz., Thomas, who succeeded his father, a son Alexander, who got the lands of Fren draught, and Lady Mabella, married to Robert sixth Earl of Sutherland. Thomas second Earl of Moray of this family was taken prisoner at the Battle of Homildon, 14th September, 1402. He was the father of Thomas, third Earl. He was one of the hostages to England for King

Great Seal
Register,
88, 140.

Douglas'
Peerage, Wood's
Edition, vol. II.,
page 253.

James I., but was released 16th July, 1425. He is said to have had a daughter married to Hugh Lord Lovat; but this is doubtful, as he was succeeded in the Earldom by his cousin, James Dunbar of Fren draught. These Earls were all Constables of the Castle of Elgin, and had right to certain custom dues of the burgh.

In the month of June, 1390, occurred that very memorable and distressing event, the burning of the town of Elgin by Alexander Stewart, Earl of Buchan. It resulted from a dispute between the Earl and Alexander Barr, Bishop of Moray. The Earl was of a most ferocious and savage nature. He had married Euphamie Countess of Ross, widow of Walter de Leslie, but having no family by her, he had taken up with another woman, who was the mother of several sons by him. By a sentence pronounced by the Bishops of Moray and Ross in 1389, he was ordained to live with the Countess, under pain of Church censure, which seems to have irritated him very much; and, in revenge, he seized the Bishop of Moray's lands in Badenoch, and, being for this offence excommunicated, he, in retaliation, issued from his mountain retreat at Lochindorb and burnt the town of Forres, the choir of the Church, and the manse of the Archdeacon; and, not content with this, he, in farther prosecution of his revenge, in the subsequent month burnt the town of Elgin, the Church of St. Giles, the Maisondieu, the magnificent Cathedral, with eighteen houses of the canons. The town of Elgin was probably almost entirely of wood at this time, and perhaps it was only the centre part of the Cathedral which was destroyed, the western and eastern steeples being of solid stone. This event seems to have roused the whole kingdom, and the Bishop made a lamentable complaint to the king and his council, in consequence of which the Earl, commonly called the Wolfe of Badenoch, was compelled to make restitution and humble submission to the Church, which he did. In the Chartulary of Moray the following are related as memorable events:—

“In the month of April, in the year of our Lord, 1390, Robert Stewart, King of Scotland, died at Dundonald, and was buried at Scone. To him succeeded in the kingdom

Registrum
Moraviense,
page 353.

Tytler's
History, vol.
III., page 64.
Shaw's History,
page 314.

Registrum
Moraviense,
page 381.

Registrum
Moraviense,
pages 381 & 382.

“his eldest son the Earl of Carrick, called Robert, who was
 “crowned King at Scone in the subsequent feast of the
 “assumption of the blessed Mary; and on the morrow was
 “crowned Queen Annabella, his wife, by the Lord Walter
 “Trail, Bishop of St. Andrew’s.

“In that year, before said coronation, the followers of
 “Lord Alexander Stewart, son of the deceased King, in the
 “end of the month of May burnt the Church of Forres, and
 “the quire of the Church of St. Lawrence, also the manor of
 “the Archdeacon near the town; and in the month of June
 “following, in the feast of the blessed Botolph Abbot, the
 “said Lord Alexander being present, they burnt the whole
 “town of Elgin, and the Church of St. Giles in the same,
 “the House of God (*Domus Dei*) near Elgyn, eighteen noble
 “and beautiful manses of the canons and chaplains, and,
 “what is most grievously to be lamented, the noble and
 “highly adorned Church of Moray, the delight of the country
 “and ornament of the kingdom, with all the books, charters,
 “and other goods of the country placed therein. And after
 “this the said Lord Alexander Stewart, by special commis-
 “sion from Lord Alexander Burr, Bishop, was absolved by
 “Lord Walter Trail, Bishop of St. Andrew’s, in presence of
 “the Lord the King, the Earl of Fife, Lord William de
 “Keith, Malcolm de Drummond, Lord of Marre, and Lord
 “Thomas de Erskyn; and many others, at Perth, before the
 “doors of the Church of the Predicate Brothers, and there-
 “after before the high altar, from the sentence of
 “excommunication, on condition that he make satisfaction
 “to the Church of Moray, and that he send to the Pope for
 “absolution from the former sentence of excommunication
 “made against him.”

As the Earl of Buchan makes a very prominent figure in the history of the burgh of Elgin, it will be proper to give here a short account of his life. He was the fourth son of King Robert II., by his first wife Elizabeth Muir. Immediately after the succession of his father to the throne of Scotland, he obtained from him a charter, dated at Scone, 30th March, 1371, granting to his dearest son, Alexander Stewart, knight, his whole lands of Badenoch, namely, sixty

davochs of the lands of Badenoch, with the Castle of Lochyndorbe, and the lands and forests thereto annexed, to him and the legitimate heirs of his body, to be held as freely and fully as the late John Comyn held the same. He also received a grant of the lands of Strathaven, in Banffshire, 17th June, 1371; was constituted King's Lieutenant in the northern parts, from the bounds of the County of Moray to the Pentland Firth, and within the whole County of Inverness, excepting the Regality of the County of Moray, 7th October, 1372; and obtained from his father a grant of the relief of the County of Lennox, 3d April, 1373. He got a grant of the Earldom of Buchan, then in the hands of the Crown, by the forfeiture of the Comyns, 1374. He had also the Earldom of Ross for life in right of his wife, Eufame, Countess of Ross. Her grant to him of that Earldom is confirmed by King Robert in the twelfth year of his reign. The same year he had charters, wherein he is sometimes called Lord of Badenoch, and sometimes Earl of Buchan, of the Barony of Kynedward; the Thanedom and Castle of Dingwall; the Baronies and Lordship of Skye and Lewes; lands in Caithness, Sutherland, Inverness, and Nairn; some lands in Athol; the Barony of Fythkill; lands in Galloway, Forgandenny, and Kinfauns, in Perthshire; the Thanedom of Glendowachie, and the lands of Deskford in Banffshire—all by resignation of Eufame his wife, who is called Countess of Ross and Domina de Ross. He also had charters of half a davoch of land of Invernorsyn, with the park, and a fourth part of Blary, Inchbrenys, Lochletter, and Dalstanghy, in Inverness-shire, by resignation of Robert de Chisholm; and of the lands of Abernethy in the same county, by resignation of John Comyn; and from his brother King Robert III., of the Castlehill of the town of Inverness. This great lord was long known by the name of the Wolfe of Badenoch, and he well deserved the title. He seized the Bishop of Moray's lands in Badenoch, and, being excommunicated, he, in resentment, burned the town of Forres, the choir of the Church, and the manse of the Archdeacon, in May, 1390; and in the subsequent month he burned the town of Elgin, the Church of St. Giles, the Maisondieu, and the Cathedral, with eighteen houses of the canons. On his

Sutherland
Peerage Case,
page 155.

Robertson's
Index of
Charters, pages
124, 134, &c.

humble submission, he was absolved by the Bishop of St. Andrew's in the Blackfriars' Church at Perth, on condition that he should make full satisfaction to the Bishop and Church of Moray, and obtain absolution from the Pope. He died 24th July, 1394, and was buried in the middle of the choir of the Cathedral Church of Dunkeld, under a stately monument thus inscribed:—"Hic jacet Dominus Alexander Senescallus Comes de Buchan et Dominus de Badenoch, *bonæ memoriæ*, qui obiit 24 die mensis Julii, A.D. 1394." The monument consists of his effigy recumbent in armour, and as large as life, supported by a row of ornamental pillars, intermixed with figures. It remained entire till the Revolution of 1688, when a party of Cameronians, stationed at that time in Dunkeld, mutilated and defaced it. Still, however, it is in tolerably complete preservation.

Douglas' Peerage, vol. 1., page 265.

Old Statistical Account, vol. XX., page 420.

Billing's Antiquities, vol. 11.

The Wolfe of Badenoch married Eufame, Countess of Ross, widow of Walter de Leslie. By a sentence pronounced by the Bishops of Moray and Ross in the year 1389, he was ordained to live with the Countess, whom he had deserted for Mariota filia Athyn, and he became bound not to maltreat his wife, under a penalty of £200. By the Countess he had no issue, but he left five natural sons, viz., Alexander Earl of Marr, Sir Andrew, Walter, James, and Duncan, from whom several families of the name of Stewart are descended.* As the Earl of Buchan died without heirs lawfully begotten, his large estates fell to his elder brother, Robert Duke of Albany, for in a charter dated 20th September, 1406, he is designed, "Dux Albanie et Comes de Monteth and Buchan."

Sutherland Peerage Case, page 155.

In the year 1402, Elgin, so lately burnt by the Wolfe of

* The illegitimate sons of the Wolfe of Badenoch were nearly as wild as their father, but more politic. Alexander, the eldest son, made his first appearance in public life as a leader of a formidable band of robbers in the Highlands of Scotland. He stormed the Castle of Kildrummy, which belonged to the Countess of Mar, and by force or persuasion prevailed on her to become his wife. After this he assumed the title of Earl of Mar, and did good service to his country. He was ambassador to England in the year 1406, and was again in that country in 1407. In 1408 he was in Flanders with a noble company, and distinguished himself in the service of the Duke of Burgundy. In 1411 he led the Royal army against Donald Lord of the Isles, at the bloody Battle of Harlaw. He was ambassador again to England in 1416. He died, without issue, in 1435.

Duncan Stewart, another son of the Wolfe of Badenoch, left a name for ferocity scarcely inferior to his father. He, in the latter years of the fourteenth century, at the head of a wild body of ketherans, armed with sword and target, broke across the range of hills which divide the counties of Aberdeen and Forfar, and began to destroy the country and murder the inhabitants with reckless cruelty. Sir Walter Ogilvie, then Sheriff of Angus, with other barons, attacked the freebooters at Gasklune, near the water of Isla, but were almost instantly overwhelmed by the Highlanders, who fought with a ferocity and contempt of life which seem to have struck terror into their assailants. Ogilvie and several other barons were killed, along with sixty men-at-arms, and others were grievously wounded. The raid was long remembered in Forfarshire.

Tytler's History, vol. 111., pp. 64, 65

Registrum
Moraviense,
pages 382 & 383.

Badenoch, suffered another violent attack and outrage from the Highlanders. On the 3d July of that year, Alexander, third son of the Lord of the Isles, with his captains, violently entered the Chanonry of Elgin, and plundered it of all goods found in it. He also burnt great part of the town of Elgin, for which outrage he was excommunicated. On the 6th October following he returned to Elgin with his troops, and, being informed that he had invaded a sanctuary, and that he and his men had in consequence incurred the sentence of excommunication, they made humble acknowledgment of their crimes, and, on due contrition, were absolved by William Spynie, Bishop of Moray, first before the doors of the Church, and then before the high altar. They also paid a sum of money, with part of which a cross was erected where the Chanonry begins, near the town of Elgin. This cross is supposed to have been about the spot where the Little Cross now stands. What compensation was made to the citizens of Elgin for this cruel and wanton outrage is not recorded. In these barbarous times little consideration was given to the humbler classes.

Douglas'
Peerage, Wood's
Edition, vol. II.,
page 253.

James Dunbar, the fourth Earl of Moray of that name, had, by his second marriage, with Lady Janet Gordon, eldest daughter of Alexander, first Earl of Huntly, two daughters. The eldest, Janet Dunbar, was married to James, second Lord Crichton, and the second, Lady Mary, to Archibald, third son of James, seventh Earl of Douglas. By means of the great power of the Douglas family, Archibald Douglas was enabled to get Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield, the true heir to the Earldom of Moray, set aside, and also the elder sister, Lady Janet Crichton, and, in right of his wife, the younger sister, obtained from the Crown the Earldom of Moray. He was one of the conservators of a truce with England in the years 1449, 1451, and 1453. He and his descendants might have enjoyed the Earldom of Moray in comfort and peace, but the ambition of the House of Douglas knew no bounds, and when his brothers William and James, Earls of Douglas, rebelled against their sovereign, he joined in the league with them and the Earls of Crawford and Ross, in which he was opposed by the Earl of Huntly. In the year 1452, when the Earl of Huntly went south to fight

Sir Robert
Gordon's
Genealogy of
Earls of Suther-
land, pages 72,
73.

the Battle of Brechin, the Earl of Moray invaded the lands of Strathbogie, burnt the Castle of Huntly, and committed many outrages in that district. Whereupon the Earl of Huntly returned to the north, and, finding that the Earl of Moray had returned to his own country, he pursued him thither with a considerable force, especially of cavalry. Douglas assembled his troops, principally footmen, and encamped upon the hill of Pluscarden, which was inaccessible to horsemen, not being able to meet the Gordons on the plains. Huntly, finding part of the town of Elgin (probably the western part) disaffected to him, burnt that half of it, and his horsemen scattered themselves to waste the Earl of Moray's lands. Whereupon the Earl of Moray, coming down from the hill, attacked the Gordons, and, falling upon four or five hundred horsemen, drove them into the Bog of Dunkinty. Many of them were drowned, others were killed, few or none of the company escaping. Douglas, notwithstanding this advantage, could not make head against the Gordons, and had eventually to give up the unequal contest.

Home of
Godscroft's
History of the
House of
Douglas, Glas-
gow Edition,
pages 293, 294.

It is the tradition of the country, that the half of the town of Elgin then burnt was not rebuilt; that part of it having stood westward of the present burgh, and extended to the Gallow Hill, which then formed the western boundary, as the Church of St. Giles, with its churchyard, formed the eastern boundary; that after this event, the new buildings were continued eastward to the precincts of the College of Elgin. I think this extremely probable, and the appearance of the town coincides with the tradition. It is supposed that at this time the Earl of Moray gave to the town of Elgin the Sixty-four Aughteen Part Lands, which, perhaps, then formed part of the Earl's lands of Pittendrich, to compensate the loss of burning half the town; or they may have been part of the lands which belonged to him as Constable of the Castle. Archibald Douglas appears to have been the last Constable of the royal Castle of Elgin. He endeavoured to excite a rebellion in the North in the year 1454, but was obliged to take shelter in the Western Isles, from whence he proceeded to the South, to join his brother, the Earl of Douglas, in arms against the king. He fell in

Shaw's History
of Moray, pages
263, 264.

an action with the forces of King James II., at Arkinholm, in Dumfriesshire, 1st May, 1455. He was attainted for fortifying the Castles of Lochindorb and Tarnua against the king and laws, and other acts of treason, 12th June, 1455.

Douglas' Peerage, Wood's Edition, vol. II., pages 253, 254.

Whereupon the Earldom of Moray became vested in the Crown, in whose hands it remained until revived in the year 1501, in the person of James Stewart, illegitimate son of King James IV., by Janet, daughter of John Lord Kennedy.

Archibald Earl of Moray, during his stormy period of possession of the Earldom, found time to attend to his northern estate. He restored and strengthened the old keep of Lochindorb, once the head castle of the Lordship of Badenoch, and he made the forest Castle of Darnaway defensible, but his great operations for restoring or rebuilding the Castle and Hall were still in progress at the time of his downfall. William Thane of Calder was employed after the Douglas rebellion in fixing the rental and managing the estates in the North which had fallen to the Crown by these events, and he and Thomas Carmichael, Canon of Moray, held jointly the office of King's Chamberlains beyond Spey, and rendered their accounts of the whole income and expense connected with the Crown property of that district, at Linlithgow, on the 15th July, 1457. These accounts make us acquainted with the private life of King James II., and fill up partially a gap of several years left entirely blank by our historians. As soon as the rout of Arkinholm, and the fall of Abercorn Castle (1455), had marked the entire suppression of the Douglas rebellion, the king seems to have turned his attention to establishing order and authority in the North, and especially in the great Earldom which Archibald Douglas had forfeited with his life.

Sketches of Early Scotch History, pages 404, 405, 406.

Our late learned Sheriff, Mr. Cosmo Innes, writes of this obscure period of Scottish history as follows:—"It is evident that the king was himself active in the work of civilisation. He held courts of justice, directed a new renting of the Earldom, which he bestowed upon his infant son David; took up his residence, sometimes at Inverness, sometimes at *Elgin*. While at the latter rural city, he claimed the hospitality of the Bishop (John Winchester) at the Castle of Spynie, or found lodging for his little court in the College

“ in the manse of Mr. David Stewart, parson of Duffus, who
 “ was then employed, along with the Thane of Cawdor, in
 “ the administration of the Earldom. While the king was
 “ residing there, and the parson of Duffus absent, probably
 “ on some embassy, the manse was accidentally set on fire,
 “ with some of the homely fare provided for the royal
 “ larder, and either to remedy that disaster, or to give
 “ additional accommodation for the unusual guests of the little
 “ dwelling, a new kitchen was built at the king’s expense.*
 “ It was not only for state business and holding of justice
 “ courts that the young King stayed in Moray. He felt the
 “ fascination of the country, and took means to enjoy it.
 “ The Castle of Lochindorb, a formidable Norman fortress,
 “ in a moorland loch, which had been fortified against
 “ his authority by Douglas, he doomed to destruction, and
 “ employed the Thane of Cawdor to demolish it (the cost of
 “ demolishing the strong fortalice was £24); but he chose
 “ Darnaway for his hunting seat, as old Thomas Randolph
 “ had done a century before, and completed the extensive
 “ repairs and new erections which the Douglas Earl had
 “ begun. The massive beams of oak, and solid structure
 “ of the roof of the new work described in these accounts,
 “ are still in part recognisable in the great hall of Darnaway,
 “ which popular tradition, ever turning towards a fabulous
 “ antiquity, ascribes to Earl Randolph, but which is
 “ certainly of this period. Here for two seasons the king
 “ enjoyed the sport of the chase. Great territories on both
 “ sides of the river were thrown out of cultivation for the
 “ sport, and the tenants sat free of rent, while their lands
 “ were waste. What was the manner of hunting, we are
 “ not informed. The sport of hawking, indeed, might well
 “ be enjoyed on the river bank at Darnaway, but hawking
 “ could not require a whole district to be laid waste. The

* David Stewart, parson of Duffus, was afterwards Bishop of Moray, and built the large tower at the Castle of Spynie, called “Davy’s Tower,” the finest part of the building. He died in the year 1475, and was buried beside his brother James, the preceding Bishop, in St. Peter’s and St. Paul’s Aisle, on the north side of the Cathedral.

The Manse of Duffus, in the College of Elgin, was a small picturesque building on the east side of the street now called King Street. It was only removed about forty-five years ago. An etching of it is given in Rhind’s Sketches of Moray, page 85. It might have been repaired at small expense and kept up as a residence, but, like other ancient landmarks of the town, has given way to modern improvements. How such a small building could have accommodated a king and his court it is now difficult to understand.

“fox was not of old esteemed a beast of chase in Scotland,
 “nor perhaps so early in England. The wolf was trapped,
 “and speared, and done to death as vermin. There is no
 “doubt the King’s chief game was the red deer, the natives
 “of these hills, and it is probable that the hart was shot
 “with arrows, and hunted down with the old rough grey-
 “hound, still known among us as the deer hound, and until
 “lately in Ireland as the wolf dog, with such help of slower
 “dogs of surer scent as the country could afford; for the
 “English hound was hardly known in old Scotland. But
 “riding up to hounds, or riding at all, must have been very
 “partially used among the peat mosses and rocks of the
 “upper valley of the Findhorn.”*

King James IV. paid several visits to Elgin when on his way to Tain, where he frequently visited the Shrine of St. Duthac. The king had great fits of remorse for his concern in the death of his father, and endeavoured to appease his conscience by performance of religious duties, to saints both in the North and South of Scotland. His visits to Tain were frequent, the Shrine of Duthac† being particularly sacred. On his way south and north his conduct was not consistent with the religious objects he had in view, and he mixed pleasure with religious services. The treasurer’s accounts of the period show in how many ways the king’s

Anno 1504.

* The Castle of Lochindorb referred to in the text was a Royal Fort, at a very early date, and was no doubt built to overawe the wild inhabitants of the adjacent Highland district. The small island on which the building is erected is partly artificial. The more ancient work is perhaps as old as the middle of the twelfth century, and appears to be about the same age and of similar construction as the Castle of Duffus. The Norman works were erected by King Edward I. of England, who greatly added to the strength of the building. The fortifications were also added to by Archibald Douglas, Earl of Moray. Although dismantled by King James II., it was not demolished, and the Castle was restored to the Earl of Moray in 1501 and 1561, when the Earldom was revived in these years. It was sold with other lands by James Earl of Moray, to John Campbell of Calder in 1606, and now belongs to the Earl of Seafield. The outer wall of the Castle is still almost entire, and even the interior also wonderfully preserved. The mortar used in the building is of excellent quality, now almost as hard as stone. The Castle owes its preservation to its insular situation, as its materials could not be easily carried away. It forms a striking object amidst the wild scenery in which it lies, and well repays a visit to its ruins. The surrounding hills are very bare and naked, and it is matter of surprise that the noble proprietors do not plant extensively around the lake, which would add so much to the beauty of the scenery.

Keith’s Bishops,
 Russell’s
 Edition, p. 186.

Sir Robert
 Gordon, page 32.

† St. Duthac, or Duffus, was Bishop of Ross, and lived in the reign of King Alexander II. He was of a noble family, held in great sanctity, and is enrolled among the saints. He died in the year 1249, according to the Breviary of Aberdeen. He is the patron saint of the Burgh of Tain, and the ruins of his chapel still exist there. During the middle ages it was held to be a sanctuary, but it was frequently violated by the wild Highlanders of the district. Sir Robert Gordon says—“He was a verie godlie man, patron of Sanct Duffus, his chappel, besyd the town of Tayne, into the which chapple a great confluence, yea some of our kings, did resort in pilgrimage in former ages.” There was a manse in Elgin called St. Duchas Manse. It stood on the south side of the High Street, where the shop and house of Mr. Williamson, hat manufacturer, are now situated.

Proceedings of
the Society of
Antiquaries,
vol. X., pages
533, 534.

pilgrimages combined the features so well described by Chaucer in the *Canterbury Tales*. When King James set out in October, 1504, on his journey to St. Duthac's Shrine, he was accompanied by his dogs and hawks, with which he enjoyed sports at various places on the way. When he was lodging at Strathbogie with the Earl of Huntly, he got payment from the treasurer of twenty French crowns "to play at the cartis." He had with him four Italian minstrels, and he gave a present to the "piparis at Abirdene," and at Dunottar, "to the chield that playit on the monocordis." He rewarded "the maidens of Forres that dansit to the King," while he had maidens "that dansit" at Elgin, and others "that dansit" at Darnaway. How long the king's visit at Elgin lasted at this time we have no special account.

In the year 1506, in Bishop Forman's time, the great steeple of the Cathedral fell. Whether the whole tower was destroyed or only the spire, does not appear. The next year the Bishop began to rebuild it, but it was not finished until Bishop Patrick Hepburn's Episcopate in 1538, when it is stated to have been 198 feet in height.

1506.

In the year 1540, the Council Court Books of the Burgh, in so far as now extant, commence. John Young was then Provost; William Gadderar and William Robertson were Bailies. These names still prevail in the town, but whether they were ancestors of those who now bear that name may be doubtful. These records throw little historical light upon the affairs of the town, but as they sometimes refer to ancient manners and customs of a period now much forgotten, we shall refer to them occasionally as opportunity occurs. The ancient volumes are written in a very cramped hand, difficult, except for practised eyes, to decipher.

1540.

The first entry in the Council Court Book is as follows:—

"The heid Burrow Court of Elgin, haldon wtin ye
"Tolbuith of ye samyn, be John Young, eldar, Provost,
"Wm. Gederar, Zounger, and Wm. Robertson, Bailzies of
"ye samyn, ye foure day of October, in ye zeir of God
"JmVC and forty zeirs (1540).

"The quhilk day, David Hardy, w^t ye consent of ye
"haill communitie, wes creat and sworne frieman of yis

“ Burgh, and maid aythe as use is, and sall pay ane stane
 “ of wax to ye next Zoull wake.

“ The quhilk day Margaret Balfour was fined in ane
 “ amerciament for ye wranguess defaming of Johne Murray,
 “ Cathaness man, sayand he theifed w^t utyrs injurious words ;
 “ and in lyikwis, for wrangus halding of 20s. fro ye said
 “ Johne, as dett, for ye quhilk injurious words, sche was
 “ decernit to restore ye said Johne to his guid fame, and
 “ offer ane pund of wax to Saint Geliss wake.

Rhind's
 Sketches of
 Moray, page 52.

“ Ye quhilk day, William Gaderar, eldar, was electit,
 “ and chosin Alderman for ane zeir, next to come, and
 “ sworne to execute ye samyn trewlie during ye said space.”

The doctrines of the Reformation had for many years been making progress in Scotland, notwithstanding the attempts of the Romish clergy to stem the torrent. The celibacy of the religious orders had naturally brought with it great licentiousness of manners, and many of the clergy lived in open profligacy. This of course had a bad effect upon the people ; and when the followers of Luther and Calvin both preached and practised the necessity of a purer life, many of all classes of the community were drawn to believe in the doctrines inculcated by them. The Catholic Hierarchy first tried, by severity and by bringing many of the reformed preachers to the stake, to put an end to the new order of things, but the “ blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church ;” and, when people saw these men brought to suffer death, and to bear it with patience and serenity, sealing their testimony with their blood, they were the more impressed with the truth of the doctrines taught. The Catholics at last considered it would be well if they could reform their own Church, and, with that view, the Bishops and other high dignitaries held a great meeting in the Church of the Blackfriars in Edinburgh, on the 27th of November, 1558. It included prelates and representatives from both the Provinces of St. Andrew's and Glasgow, and hence received the name of a Provincial General Council. Many persons of note were present. Amongst the prelates were William Gordon, Bishop of Aberdeen ; Patrick Hepburn, Bishop of Moray ; and Robert Reid, Bishop of Orkney. The

first two had more need to be reformed themselves than to deliberate on the reformation of others. The Bishop of Orkney was of a very different character. He was one of the most estimable prelates of his time, distinguished in a licentious age for purity of life, and deservedly revered as the patron of religion and learning. The meeting, composed of such discordant materials, could agree about nothing. The Bishop of Moray opposed all personal reformation, and the prelates separated without any definite resolution, except that they determined to oppose the Reformation and all freedom in religious worship. They never met again in Synod. I have not seen an account of this meeting by any of our historians, except Lindsay of Pitscottie, who was a contemporary. He describes it very graphically, but in such indelicate language that I cannot repeat it.

Pitscottie's
History, Edition
1778, page 315.

1560.

The Reformation of the year 1560 came upon the Catholics and clergy of that Church as a great surprise and a heavy stroke. They were perfectly unprepared for it. And when the Convention of Estates decreed the Reformation, they lost all heart. The only gentleman from this district whom we know positively to have been a member of the Reformation Convention was John Grant of Freuchy. He and his descendants, as well as the families of Innes and Brodie, continued steadfast supporters of Reformation principles.*

Douglas'
Baronage of
Scotland, p. 344.

In the year 1560, the Burgh of Elgin must have been one of the most important Episcopal towns in Scotland, having not only the magnificent Cathedral, but also the residences of the dignified clergy and canons, the Monasteries of the Blackfriars and Greyfriars, the Preceptory of Maison-dieu, the Bishop's Town House, and various other religious foundations. The town must have also been the resort of the nobility and gentry of various northern counties, who frequently came to pay their court to the Bishop, or performed their devotions at the Episcopal seat, and who, in their frequent visits, must have spent considerable sums of money. The loss in a temporal sense, therefore, by the Reformation must have been very great. In one sweep the

* Since writing the above, I find that William Innes of that Ilk was also a member of the Reformation Convention or Parliament.—(Forbes' Account of the Family of Innes, page 128.)

great Hierarchy and religious orders, and usages of many centuries, were carried away, and a new and untried state of religious services introduced. What effect it had upon the burgh and its inhabitants we have no means of knowing. That, as regarded their pecuniary interests, it was for the worse, cannot be doubted. Patrick Hepburn, the last Bishop of the Roman Catholic Church, was undoubtedly a profligate man, and led a very licentious life. Although perhaps not much worse than the generality of his Episcopal brethren of that day, he has incurred more odium than the others, from having been the uncle of the notorious Earl of Bothwell, whom he aided and abetted in his evil practices.* The Bishop managed to hold possession of a great part of the revenues of his diocese, and to live in the Episcopal Palace of Spynie until his death, which happened on the 20th June, 1573. He was Bishop of Moray for thirty-eight years, and left considerable property out of the Church lands to his illegitimate children.

Robert Pont was settled as first Protestant minister at Elgin, and was Commissioner for Moray in the year 1563, and remained until 1565. It was probably only a temporary arrangement.

Fasti Scoticanæ
Ecclesiæ, vol.
III., page 150.

In 1567, Alexander Winchester was settled as permanent minister. His stipend was at first very small, £100 Scots (£8 6s. 8d. sterling.) He continued, with some intervals of absence, and with a somewhat increased stipend, up to 1580.

1562.

In the year 1562, Queen Mary, accompanied by her illegitimate brother, then Earl of Mar, and many of the nobility, set out on her progress to the North. At Aberdeen she was met by the Earl of Huntly, the head of the Romish party, who invited the Queen to visit him at his Castle of Strathbogie, then perhaps the most magnificent building in the North of Scotland. This she declined. She passed on through Elgin, but what stay she made, and where she lodged in the town, we have no account now extant. She pushed forward to the Castle of Inverness, where she intended to remain for some time, but found the gates closed

Tytler's History,
vol. VI., pages
265, 266.

* After the Battle of Carberry Hill, the Earl of Bothwell fled northwards to his uncle the Bishop, and remained there for some time. During his stay a violent brawl occurred, in which one of the Bishop's illegitimate sons was killed.—(Mackenzie's History of Scotland, page 409.)

against her. The captain, who was a retainer of the Earl of Huntly, refused to open the Castle without the orders of Lord Gordon. Whereupon a general assault was ordered, but the captain, being awed by the formidable array against him, surrendered the place, when he was hanged over the ramparts. The Queen did not remain long at Inverness. Being informed that the Earl of Huntly watched to intercept her in the woods on the banks of the Spey, she crossed that river, and returned to Aberdeen at the head of three thousand men.

At Aberdeen the Queen created her brother Earl of Moray, a prize he had long coveted, and which, after the interval of more than 300 years, still remains with his descendants. The Earl of Huntly, being persuaded that his ruin was contemplated, assembled his vassals, and marched rapidly to Aberdeen, in the hope of there seizing the Queen. But his forces melted down, and on arriving there he was attacked by the Earls of Moray, Morton, and Athol, at the head of two thousand men. A battle ensued on the Hill of Corrichie, about twelve miles from Aberdeen. Being driven by the fire of the arquebuses into a piece of marshy ground, Huntly was there attacked by the spearmen of the Earl of Moray, and completely defeated—himself slain or suffocated by the weight of his armour, his two sons made prisoners, and the rest of his followers either killed, dispersed, or taken. Sir John Gordon, the second son, who was supposed to be the cause of the rebellion, and who had aspired to the hand of the Queen, was executed. The eldest son, Lord Gordon, was found guilty of treason, and imprisoned. The immense estates of the family were seized by the Crown, the title forfeited, and the great house of Huntly for the time reduced to poverty and ruin. This created a feud between the families of Huntly and Moray, which thereafter caused further bloodshed.

About the middle of the sixteenth century a violent feud broke out between the powerful families of Innes and Dunbar, the first having large estates in the east end of the County of Elgin, and the latter in the west. The special cause of this feud is not well known. It may have proceeded from jealousy of each other's power. On the first day of January,

Account of the
Family of
Innes, page 128.

1554, the Inneses, to the number of 80 persons, all armed, came to the Cathedral of Elgin during vespers, and of ancient feud and forethought felony, cruelly invaded Alexander Dunbar, Prior of Pluscarden, David Dunbar, Dean of Moray, and other Dunbars, laymen, with purpose to slay them, *in presence of the holy sacraments*. The Dunbars, on the other hand, had come to the Church with a like deadly intent, but not against the Churchmen. They had only intended to kill William Innes of that Ilk, and his servants. Of the doings and success of the rival clans on that first day of January, we do not learn much, and can only imagine the scene of violence and bloodshed within a religious temple. The battle was not decisive, for both parties had recourse to legal proceedings for twenty years, with only such trials of more mortal weapons as accident threw in their way, till the 18th October, 1577, on which day the slumbering fire broke out afresh. The former generation had passed away, and the persons are different, but they inherited the names and blood feud of their fathers. The narrative from the Criminal Letters is as follows:—

“ John Innes, brother-german of Robert Innes of Inver-
 “ markie ; John Innes, *alias* Lang John ; John Innes, son of
 “ Beroald Innes in Whitraw ; Andrew Innes, *alias* Kow-the-
 “ gegat ; Andrew Innes, *alias* the Scholar ; George Douglas,
 “ vicar of Aberchirder, and others, their followers, came
 “ armed, in feir of war, with corslets, head-pieces, swords,
 “ and shields, to the manse of Alexander Dunbar, the Dean
 “ in the Canonry of Elgin, and, while he was abiding in
 “ peaceful manner within his house, they beat and wounded
 “ Andrew Smyth, his servant and keeper of his horses, broke
 “ up the stable door, and cut the halters of four of his
 “ horses, intending to take them away. The Dean, roused
 “ by the extraordinary disturbance in the close of his manse,
 “ came out from his chamber alone in his gown (*toga cinctus*),
 “ and altogether without arms, except the dirk which he
 “ always carried. John Innes (we do not know which of the
 “ three) immediately attacked him with his sword, and
 “ wounded him cruelly on the head and both hands, by
 “ which wounds he will for a long time be disabled. And

“so they left him, where he would have died if help had not come. And the said John, not satisfied with his blood, most cruelly, horribly, and without mercy, slew Elizabeth Dunbar, the Dean’s eldest daughter, a girl of thirteen years old, killing her with a thrust of his sword in her breast, and left her dead on the ground.”

For that bloody deed the Inneses were indicted, but fled from justice; were denounced rebels, and put to the horn. On 29th May, 1578, they, under silence of night, came to the Dean’s house at Carsehillock, and carried off forty sheep, wethers, ewes, and lambs.

The king granted commission to the Sheriffs of the shires of Aberdeen, Banff, Elgin, Forres, Nairn, and Inverness, to Provosts of Burghs, and to the Bailies of the Regalities of Pluscarden and Kinloss, to apprehend the murderous robbers, and bring them to justice, with authority to seize, burn, and destroy any fortalices where they may take shelter. This commission is dated at Stirling, the 4th June, 1578.

The above commission not proving effectual, and the parties being at length mutually weary of the continued feud, agreed to meet to try and arrange their disputes. Accordingly, a convention of friends was held at the Cluny Hills, beside Forres, on the 7th November, 1578, when Lachlan Mackintosh of Dunachtyn, and Robert Innes of Invermarkie, appeared for their kin and friends, and Dean Alexander Dunbar and James Dunbar of Cumnock for their party, and submitted their disputes to the arbitration of George Bishop of Moray, Robert Munro of Fowlis, Walter Urquhart, Sheriff of Cromarty, Alexander Falkoner of Halkerton, John Gordon of Cairnboro, and Andrew Meldrum of Dumbreck, as neutral friends; and, until the decree of the arbiters should be pronounced, it was provided by the reference, “*That nane of the Dunbarrs repara or resort be east the Cairn of Kilbueak, except the sonnes of umquhill Alexander Dunbar of Conzie; and, syklyk, that nane of the name of Innes sall repara within the Brucht of Forres befor the forsaid day; which abstinence and assurance as forsaid,*” the forsaid parties, submittand for them and their forsaid,

Account of the
Family of
Innes,
page 129.

“ faythfullie promises be the fayth and treuth of their
 “ bodies under paine of infamie, perjurie, and inhabilitie in all
 “ tymes cuming, to abyd, fulfill, and underly the decreett of
 “ the forsaidis Jugis, in all pointes, haldaned the same firme
 “ and stabill in all tyme cuming.” Like wild cats, they
 required to be kept apart, to prevent them flying at each
 other’s throats. It is presumed that the decree-arbitral of
 the referees had the desired effect, and that the blood feud
 which had continued for upwards of thirty years was
 brought to a conclusion, as we do not hear farther about it.

Cap’tain Dunbar
 Dunbar’s Social
 Life in Former
 Days, Second
 Series, pages 1
 to 5.

Register of
 Privy Council,
 vol. I., pages
 673, 674.

A meeting of the Privy Council was held at Elgin on the
 5th and 24th days of June, 1569. Sederunt—James Earl
 of Moray, Lord Regent, James Earl of Morton, John Earl of
 Athol, Patrick Lord Lindsay, John Lord Glammiss, the Lord
 Gray, John Lord Invermeyth, the Commendator of Dunfermline,
 the Commendator of Balmerino, the Lord Clerk Register
 Balnaves. Business was transacted about the revenues of
 the Priory of Pluscarden, to be used for religious purposes,
 and various other matters of importance.

1570.

James Earl of Moray, Regent of Scotland, was shot in
 the street of Linlithgow by Hamilton of Bothwell Haugh,
 on the 21st January, 1570, in the thirty-seventh year of
 his age, and was buried in St. Giles’ Church, Edinburgh,
 where his monument still remains, having been recently
 renovated by his descendants, the late John Earl of Moray.
 He was the ablest man in Scotland of his day, both as a
 soldier and statesman, and his death at the time was
 the greatest loss that could have befallen the nation. Had
 he been a legitimate son of his father, King James V., and
 succeeded him on the Throne, he would undoubtedly have
 proved the greatest sovereign of all the Stewart race. He
 still lives in the affections of the Scottish nation, and has
 earned for himself the name of the “ Good Regent.” He
 married, in February, 1561, Lady Annas Keith, eldest
 daughter of William Earl Marischal, and by her (who
 married, secondly, Colin, sixth Earl of Argyll) had two
 daughters, Lady Elizabeth, who married James Stewart,
 son of James Lord Doun, and Lady Margaret, married
 to Francis, ninth Earl of Errol. The Countess of Moray
 died in June, 1588, having outlived both her husbands.

She was a most estimable person, and possessed of great abilities, and conducted the management of her husband's estate after his death, in very troublous times, with the greatest prudence. Much of her correspondence still remains in existence, and she continued to subscribe her maiden name, "Annas Keith," both in her first and second husband's time.

The Cathedral Church of Moray was not injured nor destroyed by the mob, nor by any party at the Reformation. Its first dilapidation was by Act of the Privy Council, to the following effect:—"Edinburgh, February 14, 1567-8.—
 "Seeing provision must be made for maintaining the men
 "of war, whose services cannot be spared, until the rebellious
 "and disobedient be reduced, therefore appoint that the lead
 "be taken from the Cathedral Churches of Aberdeen and
 "Elgin, and sold for sustentation of said men of war; and
 "command and charge the Earl of Huntly, Sheriff of Aber-
 "deen, and his Deputies, Alexander Dunbar of Cumnock,
 "Knight, Sheriff of Elgin and Forres, and his Deputies,
 "William Bishop of Aberdeen, and Patrick Bishop of Moray,
 "that they defend and assist Alexander Clerk and William
 "Birnie, and their servants, in taking down and selling the
 "lead."*

Shaw's History,
Edition 1827,
page 317.

Register of the
Privy Council,
vol. I., pages
608, 609.

Mr. Shaw adds that the lead was accordingly taken off these Churches, and shipped at Aberdeen for Holland; but soon after the ship had left the river she sank, which was owing, as many thought, to the superstition of the Roman Catholic captain. It may be considered strange in the present day that any Government would have committed such a barbarous act as to strip two such fine Cathedrals of their roofs, for the very trifling value of a small quantity of lead, which would now only be worth the merest trifle, but it was perhaps then considered a meritorious act to destroy the idolatrous edifices, beside the value of the lead, and to allow them to fall into decay.†

George Douglas, illegitimate son of Archibald Earl of

* I have inserted the minute of the Privy Council verbatim in the Appendix.

† In 1569, at a meeting of the Privy Council, held at Aberdeen, in presence of James Earl of Moray, Regent, an attempt was made to restore the roof of the Cathedral, and a taxation was laid on the benefices in Moray to that effect. A Master of Works was also appointed. In consequence, however, of the death of the Regent, soon after, it entirely failed.

Records of Privy
Council, vol. I.,
page 677.

Angus, was consecrated first Protestant Bishop of Moray in 1573. He held office for sixteen years, and died about the year 1589 or 1590, and was buried in the Church of Holyrood House. He is said to have been a quiet, careful pastor, and settled many disputes among the lawless men of his time. After his death, Episcopacy being for the time abolished, and a Presbyterian Church set up, the remaining lands of the Bishoprick were erected into a temporal Lordship, in the person of Alexander Lord Spynie, and so continued until 1606, when Episcopacy was again restored.

James Stuart, Lord Doun, in 1580, married Lady Elizabeth Stuart, the eldest daughter of the "Good Regent," and immediately assumed the title of Earl of Moray. He was a very handsome man, with great beauty of person, and was known by the name of "The Bonny Earl of Moray." The old feud between the Moray and Huntly families, which had occurred in the Regent's time, was revived again. The Earl of Moray had befriended the turbulent Stewart Earl of Bothwell, and the King and his Chancellor, Maitland, were prevailed upon to grant a commission to Huntly for the capture of that nobleman, not dreaming perhaps of the tragedy which was to ensue.

Anno 1592.

Chambers's
Domestic
Annals of
Scotland, vol. I.,
pages 230 to 235.

Huntly, with forty armed horsemen, crossed the Forth at Queensferry, and, at a late hour upon a winter night, reached the Earl of Moray's house at Donibristle, where he was living quietly with Patrick Dunbar of Boghall, then acting as Sheriff of Moray, and a few servants. He was summoned by the Gordons to surrender, but resolved to resist. Whereupon his enemies gathered corn from the neighbouring farms, and, piling it against the door, set it on fire. The Sheriff of Moray, having come out first, was immediately slain. The Earl would have escaped among the rocks in the darkness of the night, but, unfortunately, part of his dress having taken fire, the light betrayed him, and he was cruelly murdered. Next morning the town of Edinburgh was full of mourning and lamentation at the sad event, and the people were much enraged at the slaughter of the son-in-law of the "Good Regent." The Earl's body, and that of Dunbar, the Sheriff, were brought over to Leith, to be thence carried to the Church of St. Giles to be interred.

There was a great cry for vengeance, but the king befriended Huntly, and he escaped.

The death of the Earl of Moray caused great feuds and quarrels in the North, the Clan Chattan and Grants being resolved to avenge his death, and much bloodshed ensued. The Earl of Angus was eventually sent with a commission to the North, to put an end to the strife, which he appears to have succeeded in doing.

The king at length brought about a reconciliation between the families of Huntly and Moray; and the successor of the murdered Earl, in the year 1601, married Lady Anne Gordon, Huntly's daughter, after which there was peace.

Douglas' Peerage, vol. 11., page 259.

The Jail and Court-house of Elgin appear to have stood for many centuries in the centre of the High Street, on the site of the present water fountain. They are mentioned in the year 1540. In the year 1572 they seem to have been undergoing repair, for on the 13th October of that year the Burgh Court was held within the "Qhoir of the Paroche Kirk." They probably were then thatched buildings. In the year 1602 the buildings had become ruinous, and a contract was entered into on the 27th January that year, between William Young, Alexander Annand, Alexander Pringle, and James Garden, Bailies; James Douglas, John Gordon, Thomas Hay, Alexander Boynd, James Leslie, and Thomas Milne, younger, persons of Council, on the one part, and William Dunbar and John Ross, indwellers in Elgin, on the other part, by which the contractors bound themselves "to "big ane sufficient tolbeith within the said burgh, quhair the "auld tolbeith thereof presently stands, of threiscore futtis "length, twentie futtis of braid and wydness." It was to have a sufficient prison house, a Council room, and other accommodation. The cost was to be 513 merks, with other allowances. The work seems to have been completed about the year 1605. The stones of the wall enclosing St. Giles' Churchyard were freely used in the building, and the roof was "sclaited wi' stanes frae Dollas." This jail stood until the year 1716, when it was removed for another building on the same site, which remained until our own time.

1602.

At this period, 1605, the Churchyard of St. Giles, which for several centuries had been used as the burying ground of

the burgh, seems to have been removed, connected with the High Street, and paved with causeway stones, and the Cathedral ground was used as the burial place of the burgh.

1603.

Queen Elizabeth of England died in the end of March, 1603, and King James, early in April, left the Scottish Capital for London, which he reached, after a month's progress through England. He was received with acclamations, and the great sovereign who had just died was soon forgotten in the rejoicings for the new one. It is very remarkable that after centuries of struggles and bloodshed with the great houses of Plantagenet and Tudor, the family of Stewart should have so quietly, and with the general approval of both countries, succeeded to the throne of England. The Stewarts had a fair field before them, and, with the exercise of ordinary prudence, might have transmitted the throne of Great Britain in the male direct line to the latest posterity. King James was more prudent than his son and grandsons, but, like them, he had a view to the exercise of high prerogative, and eventually to absolute sovereignty. He did not like the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, nor its leader, Andrew Melville, and, shortly after his succession to the English throne, he thought he had the power to put them down. Episcopacy had been extinguished in 1592. In 1606 it was restored, and the king declared supreme head in all matters, both temporal and spiritual. This was the beginning of that struggle which caused so much strife and bloodshed in Scotland for the greater part of this century, and which, gradually spreading into England, brought King Charles to the block, and at last ended in the expulsion of the male line of the house of Stewart from the throne of both kingdoms. Alexander Douglas, minister of Elgin, was promoted to the see of Moray in the year 1606, but as King James had bestowed the temporalities of the diocese on Alexander Lindsay, Lord Spynie, he was under the necessity of buying them back, along with the Palace of Spynie, as an endowment to the Bishoprick. The revenues and lands had been so dilapidated by Patrick Hepburn, the last Popish Bishop, that little remained for his Protestant successor. The new Bishop was a prudent, judicious, and religious person, and was much respected; and having the

confidence of his brethren in the ministry, the affairs of the diocese were conducted in his time in a peaceable and orderly manner. The Cathedral having gone to ruin, the Parish Church of St. Giles was used as the Cathedral Church of the diocese during the entire period when Episcopacy was the established religion of Scotland. Bishop Douglas died at Elgin in May, 1623, and was buried in the south aisle of the Church of St. Giles, in a vault built by his widow, who likewise erected a handsome monument over his burial place.*

Keith's Bishops,
Russell's
Edition, page
152.

It may be here remarked that when Episcopacy was established in Scotland, during the whole period of its existence, it was essentially different in its forms from the Church of England. There was no instrumental music, no liturgy, and no high ritualism. The Church was governed by Presbyteries and Synods, and the Bishop occupied no higher seat than his brethren, except that he was perpetual Moderator of Synod and Presbytery. In all other respects it resembled in its forms a Presbyterian Church, except in the attempt made by Archbishop Laud in the year 1637 to introduce a Service Book, which so signally failed, and which led to such serious consequences, as we shall hereafter have to refer to. Bishop Douglas, having died, was succeeded by John Guthrie of Guthrie, proprietor of the fine estate of that name in Forfarshire. He had previously been minister at Perth, and afterwards in Edinburgh. He had more ample means than his predecessor, and lived in the Castle of Spynie in some prelatie style.

King James VI. died in the month of March, 1625, after, on the whole, a quiet and prosperous reign. He was still little after the prime of life, and might have survived many years. He was cautious in his policy, and avoided the extremes into which his son and successor hurried, to his own ruin.

The following incident is recorded by Spalding, under date of the year 1629 :—

“ Alexander Innes, Notar Public in Elgin, cruellie slew
“ Robert Tulloch, brother to Alexander Tulloch of Tannachy,

Spalding's
History, vol. I.,
page 13.

* When the old St. Giles' Church was demolished, in the year 1827, this monument was removed to the Elgin Cathedral, where it still remains, in excellent preservation.

“ at the Panns Port in Elgin, about Whitsunday, 1629. He “ fled to Ireland, his wyf and children followit, bot forder “ punition.”

1637. It is stated by the same author that upon the 6th July, Spalding, vol. I., 1637, there was new bearmmeal sold in Elgin, “ quhilk wes page 76. very air in the yeir.”

In the same month of July, 1637, on a Sunday, occurred the formidable riot in St. Giles' Church, Edinburgh, when the attempt was made by the Dean of Edinburgh to introduce Archbishop Laud's semi-Popish Service Book, when Jenny Geddes, of famous memory, threw her stool at the Dean's head, and the Bishop of Edinburgh, David Lindsay, narrowly escaped with his life. This very ill-judged affair, and the forcing of a liturgy upon an unwilling people, were the beginning of those troubles which, after years of bloodshed, brought both Laud and his master King Charles to the scaffold.*

Spalding, vol. I., Upon the 3d October, 1637, in the afternoon, there fell page 81. out in Moray a violent tempest of rain, which continued for ten days. In the quaint language of the old historian, “ it dang on nicht and day.” Waters and burns flowed up over bank and brae; corn mills, and mill houses, were washed away; houses, kilns, folds, and cots where beasts were kept, were all destroyed. The corn, well stacked in the previous favourable early season, began to rot. It is further added that it was “ lamentabill to sie, and quhair of the like wes never seen befor.”

Chambers's On the 4th December of this year, there rose at night a Domestic Domestic Annals, vol. II., 1638, the famous Glasgow Assembly of the Church of Scotland began its session, and continued until the 20th December, Alexander Henderson being Moderator. They deposed all the Bishops in Scotland. They had not much to state against John Guthrie, Bishop of Moray, but he fell with the rest. He lived in the Castle page 114. of Moray, but he fell with the rest. He lived in the Castle

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* Laud's Prayer Book is now very rare. The only copy I have ever seen is one in possession of Sir Archibald Dunbar of Northfield, which is in excellent preservation.

of Spynie, which he fortified, till 1640, but was obliged to surrender it to Colonel Munro, a Covenanting officer, that year. He then retired to his own house of Guthrie in Forfarshire, where he died before the restoration of the Royal Family in 1660. There were no Commissioners from the Presbytery or Burgh of Elgin at this Assembly.

Gordon of Rothiemay's History, vol. II., page 6.

James Earl of Moray, the grandson of the Regent, died at Darnaway Castle upon the 6th August, 1638, and, on the following day, was quietly interred at the Church of Dyke, without any convocation, pomp, or worldly glory, as he had himself directed before his death. He left two children behind him, a son and daughter. The son succeeded to the Earldom. The daughter married the laird of Grant.

Spalding, vol. I., pages 97, 98, 245.

The Countess of Moray did not long outlive her husband. She died at Elgin on the 19th January, 1640. Her place of abode was no doubt the Earl of Moray's house, now called Thunderton House. She was interred in St. Mary's Aisle in the Elgin Cathedral, beside her father, the Marquis of Huntly, and not at Dyke, where her husband was buried.

1640.

King Charles called a General Assembly of the Church to be held at Edinburgh, the 12th August, 1639—the Earl of Traquair Commissioner. Mr. David Dickson was chosen Moderator. The Commissioner for the Burgh of Elgin was John Douglas; and for the Presbytery of Elgin Gavin Dunbar, minister at Alves, and Alexander Spence, minister at Birnie. Thomas Mackenzie, of Pluscarden, was ruling elder. The Assembly sat till the end of the month, their principal discussions being on the subject of Episcopacy. It was a more moderate and harmonious meeting than the celebrated one of the preceding November.

Gordon of Rothiemay's History, vol. III., page 38.

On Monday, 28th December, 1640, Gilbert Ross, minister at Elgin, accompanied by the young laird of Innes, the laird of Brodie, and some others, and without authority, broke down the timber partition wall dividing the Cathedral Church of Elgin from the choir, which had stood since the Reformation, nearly eighty years. On the west side was painted, in excellent colours, illuminated with stars of bright gold, the crucifixion of our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. This piece was so excellently done that the colours and stars had never faded, but kept whole and sound, notwithstanding

Spalding, vol. I., pages 376, 377.

Chambers's Domestic Annals, vol. II., pages 138, 139.

the College or Chanonry Kirk wanted the roof since the Reformation, and not a whole window therein to save the same from storm, snow, sleet, and wet, which was wonderful. On the other side of this wall, towards the east, was depicted the day of judgment. All was thrown to the ground. It was said the minister caused the wood to be brought to his own house, to be burnt in the kitchen and other uses, but every night the fire was extinguished, and could not be kept in to kindle the morning fire, at which the servants and others were astonished, and thereupon the minister left off and forebore to bring in or burn any more of that timber in his house. This was marked, spread through Elgin, and credibly reported.*

1645.

Upon 9th May, 1645, was fought the Battle of Auldearn, between the Marquis of Montrose, on the king's part, and General Hurry, on the side of the Covenanters. Owing to a gross mistake of Major Drummond, Hurry was completely defeated, with the loss of 2000 men. Several leading gentlemen were killed. The General, the Earls of Seaforth, Sutherland, and Findlater, and the lairds of Boyne, Innes, and Birkenbog, who were in the Covenanting army, escaped. Drummond was tried by a council of war at Inverness, and shot.

Spalding's
History, vol. II.,
page 474.

Montrose burnt the laird of Calder's lands and houses in Nairn, and plundered his whole goods. He harried the Earl of Moray's lands—the Earl was then in England. Also, the lands of Kinstearry, and Lethen, and many others; and upon Sunday evening, the 11th May, he came to Elgin to supper. He sent out parties to Garmouth and burnt the town, then pertaining to the laird of Innes, and he plundered but did not burn the Greyfriars' in Elgin, also then belonging to the laird of Innes. He burnt the houses in Elgin of Walter Smith, John Miln, John Douglas of Morristown, and Alexander Douglas. The houses of Robert Gibson, George Donaldson, and George Sutherland, took fire from the others, and were burnt down. Those of John Hay, Provost, and Gavin Douglas escaped the fire, the owners paying a composition. The town of Bishopmill, and the Milltown,

* I give the words from Spalding's History almost verbatim, only changing them into modern language.

then pertaining to Major Sutherland's wife in life-rent, were burnt, and the laird of Pluscarden's house* in Elgin was plundered. Montrose left Elgin on Wednesday, the 14th May, and marched to Bog of Gight. From thence he went to Birkenbog. The laird being a great Covenanter, and a special object of ill-will, he had a body of men quartered upon his lands. From thence he sent out a party and burnt the town of Cullen, then pertaining in great part to the Earl of Findlater. It had been plundered before.

The County of Moray and the Town of Elgin at this period of confusion were sometimes in the hands of the Covenanters, and at other times in possession of the Royalists. On 4th December, 1645, Elgin was threatened by Lord Aboyne with another attack, and the Magistrates made application to Sir Robert Gordon of Gordonston, who stood well with both parties, and who was a relative of the Earl of Aboyne, requesting him to take some pains "for the saiffitie of this poor desolate town, and to represent the miseries thereof, and their sufferings this twelffmonth by gane, to the effect that we be not over burdenet, for very littell now will put us clein out of breath." This document is signed by J. Hay, Provost of Elgin, and Nicholas Dunbar, George Cuming, and Thomas Calder, Bailies.

1645.

Social Life in
Former Days,
Second Series,
pages 53, 54, 55.

In the spring of 1647, the town was threatened by Lord Lewis Gordon, who, with a band of armed followers, appeared before sunrise on the morning of the 13th February. The Magistrates again requested the assistance of Sir Robert Gordon to ward off the attack, and despatched an express, subscribed by George Cuming, W. Layng, William Falconer, and T. Calder, requesting that his "Worschip mycht cum in the morrow, als tymlic as he culd, that we mycht have your worschip's counsell and opinion in this matter betwixt my Lord Lewis and us." It is probable Sir Robert Gordon complied with this request, and, being a relative of Lord Lewis Gordon, and a person of influence, his interference may have saved the town from plunder.

1647.

Montrose was surprised and totally defeated by General David Leslie at Philiphaugh, on the night of the 12th

* The laird of Pluscarden's house stood nearly where Grant Lodge now is, and was no doubt purchased along with the estate of Pluscarden, when the Grant family acquired that property.

September, 1645, and narrowly escaped with a small body of his men. His hitherto victorious career was finally put a stop to, and he never was able to make head in Scotland again. When he next appears on the scene, it was to end his life on the scaffold.

Burton's
History of
Scotland, vol.
VII., pages
249, 261, 263.

1649.

After various changes of fortune, King Charles I. was condemned by the High Court of Justice at Westminster, and beheaded on the 30th January, 1649. On the 5th February, Charles II. was solemnly proclaimed at the Cross of Edinburgh "King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland," and on the 17th March following a deputation of commissioners sailed from Kirkcaldy to confer with the young king, then in Holland. These consisted of the Earl of Cassilis, Alexander Brodie of Brodie, Alexander Jaffery of Kingswells, Provost of Aberdeen, and the Provost of Irvine, all men of high character, who represented the Estates. The Church was represented by Robert Baillie, with another minister and a ruling elder. The deputation, although not of the highest rank and station, were possessed of much singleness of purpose, and had the greatest anxiety for the public good. The king accepted all the terms of the commissioners, although, with the duplicity of character so strongly embedded in his family, he only intended to keep them so long as he found it convenient to do so.

Escaping some danger from the cruisers of the Republic, the king arrived at the mouth of the Spey on the 3d of July. Before landing, he subscribed the Covenants, National and Solemn, and had sermons and exhortations made to him by the ministers to persevere therein. Although so near Elgin, he did not come to it, but found protection in the Bog of Gight, from whence he went to Aberdeen, Dunnottar, and Dundee.

1650.

In the beginning of September, 1650, occurred the Battle of Dunbar between Cromwell and David Leslie. The commanders were well matched, and had Leslie been left to his own freedom, he might have gained the victory, but he was overborne by the Covenanting leaders and the Clergy, and suffered a total defeat. This was followed by the Battle of Worcester in September, 1651, in which the Royal forces were also totally defeated, and so ended the

great civil war. "It was begun by the Scots. They partook "in the first great victory over the Royal party, and here "they shared its last battle and conclusive defeat. Among "the captives taken were David Leslie and Middleton, who "became conspicuous in the reign of Charles II."

Burton's
History, vol.
VII., pages 296,
297.

On 5th September, 1643, at a meeting of the Town Council: present—John Hay, Provost, Alexander Leslie, James Douglas, John Douglas and George Cuming, Bailies; Gavin Douglas, Robert Hardie, William Falconer, James Annand, Andrew Annand, John Myln, Thomas Calder, William Laing, William Robertson, Alexander Russell, and Nicolas Dunbar, persons of Council; which day "the hail "Counsell, all in ane voice upon ane petition given in by the "Merchants of this Burghe, to them have statute and "ordainit that there sall be ane Dean of Guild, and to him "as great priviledges as anie Burghe of this kingdome, and "ane discreit man to be chosen be the said Counsell of Elgin "yearly to bear that office; and for this present yeir also, the "hail Counsell chusit the said George Cuming to be Dean "of Guild." Previous to this date the Council had consisted of sixteen persons, and they had no Dean of Guild. In future, and up to the present day, it has consisted of seventeen members.

Extracts from
Burgh Minute
Book.

After the Battle of Dunbar, Scotland was under the firm government of Cromwell; and General Monk and his army, under orders from the Central Government at London, were the rulers of this country. It was a breathing time in a distracted land. The country was at peace, and for a few years enjoyed some kind of prosperity and liberty of conscience. There was a small body of troops quartered at Elgin under an English officer. Tradition states that they were under good discipline, and introduced many useful arts into the burgh. It is also stated that they had a great aversion to all remnants of Popery, and amused themselves by destroying the remains of the carved work in the Cathedral. It was probably, therefore, at this time that the fine tracery work of the great western window was demolished. The election of the Magistrates was under charge of the military officer, as appears from the following extract:—

1652. “Primo Appryle, 1652.—Sicklyke the said day the said
 Extracts from “Mr. John Hay presented the General’s warrant from the
 Burgh Minutes. “Commissioners of the Commonwealth of England to the
 “town for electing Magistrates and giving oaths, together
 “with a particular order warranting Colonel Thomas Fitch
 “to see the election, and give the oath. Sicklyke Wednesday
 “next is appointit for electing of the Magistrates, and the
 “whole freemen ordainit to be cited to be present at the
 “election.”

1657. The Trades of Elgin from a very early date had considerable privileges within the burgh. In the year 1657 there were seven crafts, viz. :—Glovers and saddlers, smiths or metallers (consisting of pewterers, braziers, tinkers, and other workers of metals), tailors, shoemakers, weavers, wrights, and butchers. The Magistrates at this period entered into an agreement with the Trades, whereby each craft was to have a deacon, and regulations were made for the government and management of the different Corporations. These are embodied at considerable length in a deed then executed and recorded in the records of the Town Council. Farther privileges seem to have been given in the year 1670.*

Oliver Cromwell died on the 3d September, 1659, in the 59th year of his age. He might have lived for years, but was worn out with the cares and anxieties of his arduous life. He was long maligned, but posterity have done more justice to his memory, and a great writer of the present day, Thomas Carlyle, holds him up as a hero, and he no doubt was a man of wonderful talents, and honourably maintained the dignity of his country.

1659. In November, 1659, General Monk left Scotland with his well disciplined army. He had kept the country tranquil for several years, and it had increased in prosperity,

*The agreement between the Magistrates and the Trades is dated 5th October, 1657, and is subscribed on the part of the Magistrates by John Douglas, Provost; George Cuming, Bailie; Thomas Calder, Bailie; John Hay, Bailie; Robert Dunbar, William Cobban, Andrew Leslie, and David Brodie, Councillors; and on the part of the Trades by John Ogilvie, Deacon, Convener; William Gilzean, Deacon of the Hammermen; John Chalmer, Deacon of the Glovers; Thomas Ogilvie, Deacon of the Tailors; Andrew Kay, Deacon of the Shoemakers; Thomas Cock, Deacon of the Weavers; John Thomson, Deacon of the Butchers; and James Dick, Deacon of the Wrights and Masons. Several of the Deacons could not write, and their hands are led by Alexander Hay, Notary.

if not in contentment, under his rule. His ulterior objects were concealed when he commenced his march. Perhaps he did not quite know them himself. The issue, as is well known, was the restoration of King Charles II., and his return to London on the 20th May, 1660. Monk did well to himself, but little for his country.

Scotland had now many dreary years of convulsions and persecutions before it. Under such statesmen as Middleton, Lauderdale, and Rothes, what else could have been expected? The Stuart family had learned nothing, and forgotten nothing by adversity, and the king, a disguised Roman Catholic, taken up with his own licentious pleasures, cared little for the good of his subjects and country.

The first Parliament after the restoration of King Charles II. was held in 1661. Middleton being the Royal Commissioner, he was created an Earl for the occasion. It was a most unwise appointment. He had no experience as a statesman. A mere soldier of fortune, he had risen from the ranks, and had been a pikeman in Hepburn's regiment in France. His government was marked by great severity. The Members of Parliament were frequently intoxicated. It was a time of rioting and drunkenness, and it has obtained the name of the "Drunken Parliament." Episcopacy was restored even in a more objectionable manner than previous to 1638, and by the "Act Rescissory" all the wise legislation for nearly thirty years was abrogated at one sweep. The two persons at this period at the head of the Church were James Sharp, minister of Crail and Professor of Divinity at St. Andrew's, and Robert Douglas, minister of the High Church in Edinburgh. Both were men of considerable talents, and had been early friends; but their courses now lay different. James Sharp was son of William Sharp, Sheriff-Clerk of Banff; his mother, Isabella Leslie, daughter of the laird of Kininvie. He was born in the year 1613, and at this time was in the prime of life. He had been the trusted chief of the Presbyterian party, and perhaps honestly so at first. But the offer of the Archbishoprick of St. Andrew's was too much for his integrity, and he betrayed the cause he had undertaken to uphold. His cruelty to the Presbyterians during his future life, and

1661.

Burton's
History of
Scotland, vol.
VII., page 416.

Douglas'
Peerage, vol.
II., page 231.

the overbearing manner with which he conducted himself, led to his murder in 1679.*

Burton's
History, vol.
VII., pages 285,
286.

Robert Douglas is believed to have been the grandson of Queen Mary, his father being her reputed son by George Douglas of Lochleven. He had been chaplain to the Scots troops under Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden, who esteemed him much. He was a man of high character, of dignified presence, and was offered the Bishoprick of Edinburgh, or Archbishoprick of Glasgow; but declined both, and retired into private life.†

By the "Act Rescissory," the patronage of the Parish Church of Elgin, which had been vested in the Magistrates in the reign of King Charles I., was now restored to the Crown, and continued to be so exercised until the final abolition of Church patronage in 1874.

Keith's Bishops,
page 152.

Murdoch Mackenzie was admitted minister of Elgin in 1645. He had been in his early years chaplain in one of the Scots regiments in the service of the King of Sweden; thereafter minister of Contin and Inverness. He had been an ardent Covenanter; but, when the Bishoprick of Moray was offered to him in the year 1662, he could not resist the temptation. He appears to have been a person of considerable talents, carried the most of his clergy along with him, and managed his diocese with prudence. He was translated to Orkney in 1677, and died there in the spring of 1688, the year of the Revolution. The only ministers in the Presbytery of Elgin who refused to submit to the new order of things were George Innes, minister at Dipple, and Thomas Urquhart, minister at Essil, and they were deposed.

Private History
of Duffus
Family.

Alexander Sutherland of Duffus was created a peer in the year 1650, by the title of Lord Duffus. He married, first, Jane, daughter of Colin Lord Kintail, widow of William Lord Berriedale; second, a daughter of Sir Robert Innes of Innes, by neither of whom he had any surviving issue. He married, third, Margaret, daughter of James Earl of Moray,

Burnet's
History of his
own Times.

* Bishop Burnet, in the History of his own Times, depicts the character of Sharp in the darkest light, and, although an Episcopalian himself, has no sympathy for the conduct which betrayed the party Sharp was bound to serve.

Chambers's
Biographical
Dictionary, part
III., pp. 135, 136.

† Of the latter days of Douglas we know little. In the year 1669 he was admitted by the Privy Council as an indulged clergyman in the parish of Pencaitland, East Lothian. The period of his death is unknown, nor is there any certain information about his family, except that he had a son, Alexander, who was minister of Logie, and a correspondent of Wodrow, the historian.

by whom he had James, his successor, and a daughter Henrietta, married to George Earl of Linlithgow. He acquired, or purchased from his father-in-law, the Earl of Moray, the lands of Ardgay, Leggat, Kintrae, and others, and the great lodging in Elgin, which, while in his Lordship's family, was called Duffus House, and, after the Dunbars purchased it, Thunderton House. This fine house he enlarged and beautified, and laid out the grounds very tastefully, and it became the principal residence of the Duffus family up to the year 1705. From 1650 up to the beginning of the following century, Lord Duffus held a high position in the burgh of Elgin, and exercised a very important influence on the affairs of the town. Unfortunately, the family took the wrong side in politics, and lent themselves as instruments for favouring the projects of an arbitrary Government, which tended to their own ruin.

The Magistrates of Elgin, on 27th September, 1675, in a petition given in by the Deacons and representatives of the Trades and Crafts, supplicating that they would admit as a member of the Council a Deacon Convener, agreed to their request, and nominated and appointed James Chalmer, glover in Elgin, to be Deacon Convener for the ensuing year.

Council
Minutes.

In the beginning of 1676, George Gordon, tailor in Elgin, was fined £40 for attending conventicles, and speaking against the Bishops, and to stand in the Jogs, and thereafter to remove from the place until he made his peace with the parties offended.

James Aitken or Aiken, a native of Orkney, and who had led a troubled life, was appointed Bishop of Moray in the year 1677. He was a pious, respectable, and prudent prelate, and kept his diocese in peace, but did not long enjoy it, having been translated to the See of Galloway in 1680, where he had little comfort. He died in Edinburgh in 1687, and was buried in the Church of the Greyfriars there.

Keith's Bishops,
page 153.

The County of Moray was in a very disturbed state from 1662 up to the Revolution, and religious dissensions prevailed here, as in other parts of Scotland—the families of Grant and Innes, and the Brodies of Brodie, Lethen, Milton, Mayne, and Pitgaveny being all on the Covenanting side,

and the Earl of Moray, Lord Duffus, and others on the side of arbitrary government. Robert Martin of Morriston, who had been Clerk of Justiciary in the time of the Commonwealth, was a very active emissary between the north and south country Whigs, and also with the Liberal party in England, at this time, and was trusted with all their secrets. He was a man of strong religious feelings, and an ardent supporter of civil and religious liberty, for which he suffered both in person and property. He is frequently referred to by Wodrow, the historian, and also in the Brodie Diary.

Wodrow's
History, vol.
III., page 106.

The Battle of Bothwell Bridge was fought on Sunday, 22d June, 1679, between the Duke of Monmouth and the Covenanters. The latter might have made good terms for themselves, or even have gained the victory; but they had so many divisions that it was impossible they could make head against the royal army, and they were, therefore, entirely dispersed, and the cause ruined. It was a sad, disastrous affair, and followed by cruel consequences to the poor men concerned in it.

Council
Minutes.

On the same day the Church of St. Giles, in the High Street of Elgin, fell, immediately after the forenoon service. It had been roofed with heavy freestone slabs, and probably the timber work had become decayed, and unable longer to support the great weight upon it. Perhaps it had little repair for 300 years, when it was burned by the Wolfe of Badenoch, as formerly stated. The steeple and the choir of the church were not injured, nor the strong pillars of Norman architecture which supported the aisles; but the nave seems to have been utterly destroyed. On 21st January, 1680, the following minute of the Magistrates is recorded:—

“The said day the Provost, Bailies, and Counsell, with
“consent and advyse of the haill communitie of the said
“burgh, having met together in the south yle of Saint
“Geilles Church, their ordinar place of meeting, for con-
“sidering the rebuilding of Saint Geilles Church, within the
“said burgh, laittlie fallen; and after due consideration, with
“consent foresaid, did appoint and ordain twentie months’
“cess to be stented upon and uplifted from each inhabitant
“within the said burgh, as their proportions for helping the

“rebuilding of the said Church, and those inhabitants whose freewill offerings did not extend to the said twentie months’ cess as the samyn sould be stented, should be liable to the samyn stent, and those whose offerings exceeded the said stent should be preferred to have seats and deskis in the said Church after the Magistrates, Counsell, and heritors of the said Parochin of Elgin were first served.”

The rebuilding of the Church was finished in 1684, at the expense of the heritors of the parish, merchants, and tradesmen of the town, and some private donors. The laird of Grant furnished the timber for the roofing, &c., partly in payment of his stent, and partly as a voluntary contribution. The pulpit, Magistrates’ loft, and other prominent parts, were of oak. The workmanship of the pulpit cost £244, the glazing of the windows £400, and the total expense above £4000, all Scots money. The contractor for the mason work was John Ross, father of Margaret Ross, who was the first wife of Alexander Forsyth, merchant in Elgin.* The mason work perhaps only consisted of the fine western front, with its great Venetian window, and some repairs to the aisles. The Church, as then completed, stood to our own time, and is hallowed by the recollections of the days of our youth.

In the Parliament of 1681, at which the Duke of York, afterwards King James VII., presided, was introduced the famous Test Act, which caused so much trouble. It was appointed to be taken on solemn oath by every person holding office, whether of the Government or of Corporations. It went down, on the civil side, to schoolmasters and clerks, and, on the military side, to the rank and file. It asserted “That the kings of this realm derive their royal power from God Almighty alone, and that none can attempt to alter the succession without perjury and rebellion,” and the oath bears that the party professes “the true Protestant religion contained in the Confession of Faith received in the first Parliament of King James VI.,” and that he believes “the same to be founded on the Word of God,” and adds, the

Shaw's History,
Edition 1827,
pages 87 and 88.

Burton's His-
tory, vol. VII.,
pages 533, 534.

Wodrow's His-
tory, vol. III.,
pp. 295 and 296.

* Alexander Forsyth was the father of our late worthy and revered citizen, Mr. Isaac Forsyth, who was born of the second marriage with Ann Harold.

Council
Minutes.

most bitter part to Covenanters, "that the King's Majesty " is the only supreme governor of this realm over all persons " and in all causes as well ecclesiastical as civil." This oath was taken by the Magistrates of Elgin, and sworn to in the most solemn manner by them and by many of the burgesses after great deliberation, and perhaps with considerable doubts, in the end of the year 1681, and is subscribed by George Cuming, Provost; David Stewart, Bailie; John Spens, Bailie; John Chalmers, Bailie; George Chalmers, Town Clerk; J. Russell, Bailie; John Fyfe, Dean of Guild; John Murison, Clerk to the Crafts; John Warden, Deacon of the Glovers; John Burgess, Deacon of the Hammermen; and many others. The oath, when fully read, is so extreme, so arbitrary, and so derogatory to the freedom of the subject, that it is wonderful, even in that age of high prerogative, that any man could have attached his name to it. It was refused by Alexander Marshall, minister at Dipple; William Geddes, minister at Urquhart;* and James Horn, minister at Elgin, who were all deprived of their livings in the Church.

The following occurs in the Town Council records, December 19, 1681:—

Council
Minutes.

"Said day Alexander Russell, Bailie, gave in to the " Counsell, from William Cuming of Auchry, two silver cups, " dedicated by him to them, to be kept by them, and to be " given out by them, and taken in by them, for the use of " the Communion tables, in times of giving the Sacrament, " which were delivered to James Winchester, Treasurer of " the Council, with his letter of dedication, and the Council " ordered ane letter of thanksgiving to him therefore."

The laird of Auchry was a very successful merchant in the burgh of Elgin, and was at this time in the height of his prosperity, and an extensive landowner. During the whole of his life he was a great benefactor to the burgh, as we shall have hereafter to notice.

* William Geddes was author of a religious work called "The Saints' Recreation upon the Estate of Grace: Spiritual Hymns and Songs, with supplement of fifteen Hymns on Divine Subjects," an edition of which was published at Glasgow in the year 1753.

It appears that at this time the great bell of the Parish Church was rung at four o'clock in the morning, to raise the inhabitants from their slumbers to commence the duties of the day, which would try the nerves of their degenerate descendants of the present time.

On the 8th January, 1685, a commission was granted by the Privy Council at Edinburgh, to the Earls of Errol and Kintore, and Sir George Munro, to prosecute all persons guilty of Church disorders and other crimes in the bounds betwixt Spey and Ness, including Strathspey and Abernethy, and their first meeting to be at Elgin, the 22d January of that year. As soon as the Commissioners arrived in the town, they caused a new gallows to be erected *ad terrorem*. Most of the Presbyterians in this country were summoned before them, although they had no crimes but absence from the kirk and attendance at conventicles. They fined the laird of Brodie in 45,000 merks merely for having a conventicle in his house; Alexander Brodie of Lethen in 40,000 pounds—all that they had against him was, that he would not depone he had not heard a Presbyterian minister preach. Francis Brodie of Milton was fined 19,000 pounds; David Brodie of Pitgaveny 18,000 pounds; and Francis Brodie of Windyhill in nearly the value of his estate. The laird of Grant was fined 42,500 pounds; and James Urquhart, John Stuart, Alexander Dunbar, and George Meldrum, minister, were banished and imprisoned in the Bass and Blackness Castles. A great many were fined or imprisoned, viz., Alexander and Mark Mavor, portioners of Urquhart; Donald Munro, baker in Elgin; Jane Brodie, relict of Alexander Thomson, merchant in Elgin; Christian Leslie, daughter of Leslie of Aikenway; and Beatrix Brodie, widow of the same proprietor, besides many others. Special enquiries were made, among other matters, into the conduct of Robert Martin of Morriston, Brodie of Pitgaveny, and Hay of Park, as to their contributing money and doing favours to rebels.

Thomas Dunbar of Grange, the laird of Innes, younger, William Brodie of Coltfeld, and William Brodie of White-wreath, were cited to appear when called. It is very doubtful whether all the fines levied at this time were fully paid. Some of the parties delayed or evaded payment until

Wodrow's
History, vol.
IV., pages 192
to 195.

the Revolution came, which entirely relieved them. Lord Duffus attended on the Commissioners at this court with a troop of militia. Dunbar of Westfield, Hereditary Sheriff of Moray, was superseded at this time, on account of supposed leanings to the Presbyterian side, and Tulloch of Tannachie was appointed in his place.

King Charles II. died on the 6th February, 1685, after a short illness. Notwithstanding all his faults, he was regretted by the nation. Had he left lawful descendants, the throne would have fallen to them, and there would probably have been no Revolution. His death-bed has been very vividly depicted by Lord Macaulay, as well as his character and conduct. It was a grossly licentious age, and the example set by the king much contributed to it; but the arbitrary and cruel character of his brother and successor, King James VII., caused the nation to look back with much regret on the loss of their late sovereign, and soon produced a revolution which excluded from the throne for ever the male line of the Royal House of Stuart.

George Marquis of Huntly was advanced to the dignity of Duke of Gordon, by patent dated at Whitehall, 1st November, 1684. He was a strict Roman Catholic, and is supposed to have owed his elevation to the Duke of York. On the accession of King James VII. he was sworn a Privy Councillor, appointed a Lord of the Treasury, and Governor of the Castle of Edinburgh, and was invested with the Order of the Thistle, on its revival in April, 1687. At the Revolution he held out the Castle for King James, up to the 16th June, 1689, after sustaining a seige, when he surrendered, and made submission to King William. But he continued to have a strong leaning to the Stuart family, and his loyalty was much suspected up to the period of his death, which happened on the 7th December, 1716. The Gordon family are stated by Mr. Shaw to have been indebted to the Marquis of Argyle in the year 1650 in the sum of one million of merks Scots, and the judicial rental of the Gordon estates was 50,000 merks. Lord Lorne lived in Gordon Castle from 1653 to 1st February, 1661. The family of Huntly were saved from being sunk under this debt by Argyle's forfeiture in 1661, when the king remitted the whole of it.

Macaulay's
History, vol.
II., pages 11,
12, 13.

Douglas'
Peerage, Wood's
Edition, vol. I.,
pages 653, 654.

Shaw's History,
Edition 1827,
pages 18 and 19.

In the spring of 1685, the Earl of Argyle made preparation for his ill-fated expedition to Scotland, which sailed on the 1st May, and ended in ruin and defeat. The only person in this quarter accessory to it was Robert Martin of Morriston, but he did not accompany the expedition, being exhausted by weakness, disease, and increasing years. He died in Holland, April or May, 1685. His property was forfeited on the 22d of May of that year, but restored to his son at the Revolution. His widow, Jean Porterfield, had the influence, through her friends, to procure a gift of the lands of Morriston in favour of herself, which is dated at Whitehall, the 9th November, 1686. It cannot be doubted that her husband died a martyr to the cause of civil and religious liberty.

Wodrow's History, vol. IV., pages 276, 277.

Fountainhall's Diary, page 131.

It would seem that some of the title-deeds of the burgh had been in possession of Mr. Martin. The following entry occurs in the Council minutes:—

“26th April, 1686.—The relict of umquhill Robert Martin did deliver to the Magistrates and Council the Town's great Charter, dated October, 1633, and sasine following, 3d February, 1637; Ratification, 20th March, 1661; Ratification, 1524; Charter of the Town's common lands and privileges, dated 1457.”

Council Minutes.

Mr. Burton states as follows:—“In the limited Parliamentary work of this reign, a measure was passed carrying after it a long train of evil influences. It established the strict system of entail peculiar to Scotland, and it was a device to meet, so far as the law of private rights could, the influence of those forfeitures for political offences which were ruining so many families, and uprooting the aristocracy of the country in detail.” This Act passed in the year 1685, and it may be added that it was also a device of the nobility and gentry, many of whom were then in a state of great poverty and depression, to preserve their estates in perpetual succession to their posterity, and prevent them falling into the hands of the mercantile classes, who were then fast rising to wealth and consequence. No measure could have been passed more adapted for retarding the progress

Burton's History, vol. VII., page 575.

of improvement, and no district has suffered more from its effects than the County of Moray. Notwithstanding the many modifications this obnoxious statute has undergone by successive legislation, it still hangs as a dead weight on the country, and improvements cannot be fully carried out until there is an entirely free trade in land, and this ill-devised Act be completely removed, which the progress of society loudly demands.

Keith's Bishops,
Russell's
Edition, page
154.

Colin Falconer, Bishop of Moray, died 11th November, 1686. He was the most popular of all the Bishops. He has left the character of being hospitable, pious, and peaceable. His funeral was largely attended, and his death much regretted. Being a native of the county, he was well acquainted with the habits of the people, and gave his advice in all cases of disputes and differences, which he frequently got amicably settled. His body was deposited in the south aisle of St. Giles' Church, Elgin, at the bottom of the tower towards the east. He was the last Bishop who lived in the Castle of Spynie. His immediate successor, Bishop Rose, never took possession of the diocese, being translated to Edinburgh in 1687.

Council
Minutes.

The Magistrates of the Burgh at this period were very anxious to acquire a site for a harbour, the merchants of the town being obliged to export and import all their goods at the distant port of Findhorn, which was very inconvenient. On 25th October, 1686, James Wiseman, Bailie; John Fyfe, Dean of Guild; and Robert Donaldson, late Bailie, were instructed to go to Brodie to commune with the laird of Brodie on the subject of obtaining a feu from him for the use of the harbour. This no doubt refers to the intended harbour at Lossiemouth.

It appears that a Crown right for erecting a harbour had been procured at this time. The following excerpt from the Council minutes is very distinct:—

“ELGIN, 20th June, 1687.—Convened in Council Sir
“ Alexander Innes of Coxtton, Provost; Patrick Chalmers
“ and James Wiseman, Bailies; William Calder, Dean of
“ Guild; Kenneth Mackenzie, Treasurer; George Grant,
“ William King, David Brodie, Robert Anderson, Alexander

“Ogilvie, persons of Council. The said day the Council
“appoint proclamation to be made this day, and upon Friday
“next, being the 24th inst., by tuck of drum, through the
“town and college, and by the officers to the brewers of
“Oldmilns, that the commencement of the king’s gift to the
“town upon the account of the harbour, at Elgin Head,
“begins at the first of July next, 1687, from which time
“and forward the brewers are to pay four pennies Scots for
“each pint of ale and beer, conform to the terms of the
“king’s royal gift, which lyes in the hands of Kenneth
“Mackenzie, Treasurer, till it be put in the town’s charter
“kist.”

For several years at this period religious disputes between Presbyterians and Episcopalians had been very great, and had caused much strife. The Magistrates generally belonged to the latter party ; and, on the 7th May, 1688, they issued a proclamation intimating to the inhabitants of the burgh, that such persons as shall be guilty of abusing or reproaching Churchmen of whatever sex, age, or quality, shall immediately, on discovery, “be
“imprisoned within the Tolbooth, there to remain until they
“receive their sentence, whether by scourging, fining,
“banishment, or long imprisonment ; and this to be pub-
“lished by tuck of drum upon Friday next by ten o’clock.”

On the 5th November, 1688, William Prince of Orange landed at Torbay in England, and King James having abdicated the throne shortly thereafter, the male line of the house of Stuart ceased to reign. On the 4th April, 1689, the Convention of Estates in Scotland declared the throne vacant, and accomplished the Revolution of the monarchy in this kingdom. It seems clear that if the Bishops had declared themselves for the new order of affairs, Prelacy might have been continued as the established religion, but they had fixed themselves with the exiled king, and would in no way recognise the change of Government. The Presbyterian Church, as framed at the Revolution, owes its existence to William Carstairs, afterwards Principal of the University of Edinburgh. He was a person of moderation and sense, and had very great influence over King William ;

and while much attached to his own Church, the affairs of which he conducted with prudence, he was also not opposed to civil and religious liberty. He has been accused of want of spirit in not taking higher ground, and, in fact, of having been the founder of the moderate party, but had he adopted or recommended extreme measures, the Church of Scotland, in its present Presbyterian form, would have had no existence at the Revolution. We may therefore pronounce Carstairs as an honest, upright, and able man, who devoted himself to promote the good of his country, both in Church and State, as long as he lived, and to whose memory Scotland owes so much.

Fasti Scoticanæ
Ecclesiæ, Part
V., pages 152,
153.

William Hay, of the family of Park, was the last established Bishop of Moray. He was minister first at Kilconquhar, in Fife, and afterwards at Perth, and was consecrated Bishop of Moray in the early part of the year 1688. The Revolution, which occurred the same year, expelled him from his diocese, and he died at his son-in-law's house at Castlehill, near Inverness, on the 17th March, 1707.

Alexander Tod, who had succeeded James Horn as minister of Elgin in 1682, was a High Churchman, and devoted to the cause of King James. He was deprived by the Privy Council on the 10th October, 1689, for not reading the proclamation of the Estates, and not praying for King William and Queen Mary. Of his subsequent life we know nothing, but it is probable he may have officiated in the town to a congregation of nonjurors, Lord Duffus and many others of the best station being strongly attached to the exiled Royal Family. Through the same influence, the Parish Church was kept vacant until the month of June, 1696, when two ministers were settled at one time, as we shall have hereafter to notice.

Douglas'
Baronage of
Scotland,
page 337.

George Cuming of Lochtervaidich died on the 20th September, 1689. He had been connected with the Town Council for at least half a century, and had been the first Dean of Guild of the burgh, as before mentioned, having been elected to that office in 1643. He had taken a deep interest in the affairs of the town, and is stated to have been Provost at different periods of his life, his tenure of

office having embraced a period of thirty years, perhaps the longest time any person held such an office. He was interred near St. Mary's Aisle in the Cathedral, where his grave-stone, long buried under the ruins of the great steeple, has been recovered, and may still be seen in tolerable preservation. He was the father of William Cuming of Auchry, whose charitable bequest to decayed merchants of the burgh still exists. The memory of this very respectable family is still affectionately preserved in the town.

On the 15th May, 1689, there was a poll election of the Magistrates and Town Council by the inhabitants having scot and lot.

In the early part of the year 1689, Graham of Claverhouse, Viscount Dundee, began to take arms for King James. He had declined the orders of the Convention to make his appearance at Edinburgh, and had moved northward to gather troops from the Highland clans. General Mackay, then Commander-in-Chief in Scotland, was sent to intercept him, and marched by Brechin, Cairn-o'-Mount, and the Dee. When he approached Elgin, he was informed that the inhabitants were threatened with an invasion from Macdonald of Keppoch, and other pillagers from Inverness, and they implored the aid of the General to save their houses from being plundered by the Highlanders. The alarming news received a ready sympathy in the General himself, who, with not quite four hundred men, tired with hard marches, found himself threatened by an overwhelming force. It was his interest immediately to throw himself into Elgin, where the towers of the Cathedral and the Bishop's Palace would afford him a fortification of considerable strength against any ordinary force of that time, and especially a Highland one. The urgency of his position stimulated the rapidity of his troops, and the foot keeping up with the horse for several miles, he entered Elgin, and brought up his stragglers in time enough to make the post effective. Thus established, he was in a position to communicate with the northern gentry and the chiefs favourable to his cause. He found them very lukewarm, with few exceptions, the landed proprietors being unwilling to leave their own lands to be pillaged by the Jacobite Highlanders. He obtained,

Burton's
History, vol.
VIII., pages
113, 114.

however, between four and five hundred men, including those of the laird of Grant, who now joined him. Dundee having abandoned Inverness, it was occupied by Mackay, who considered it preferable in strength to Elgin.

In the month of July this year was fought the Battle of Killiecrankie, between Viscount Dundee* as General for King James, and Mackay the Commander for King William. Although Mackay was defeated by the rapid charge of the Highlanders, the victory was a fruitless one, owing to the death of Dundee, who was killed in the fight. What the consequences might have been had Dundee survived, it is impossible to speculate upon. The probability is that, even in that event, the Revolution settlement would have been completed. In consequence of his death the rebel army rapidly melted away, and the clans returned home. The rout of King James' forces at Cromdale† the following year put an end to the rebellion at that time, and there was little farther disturbance for a considerable period.

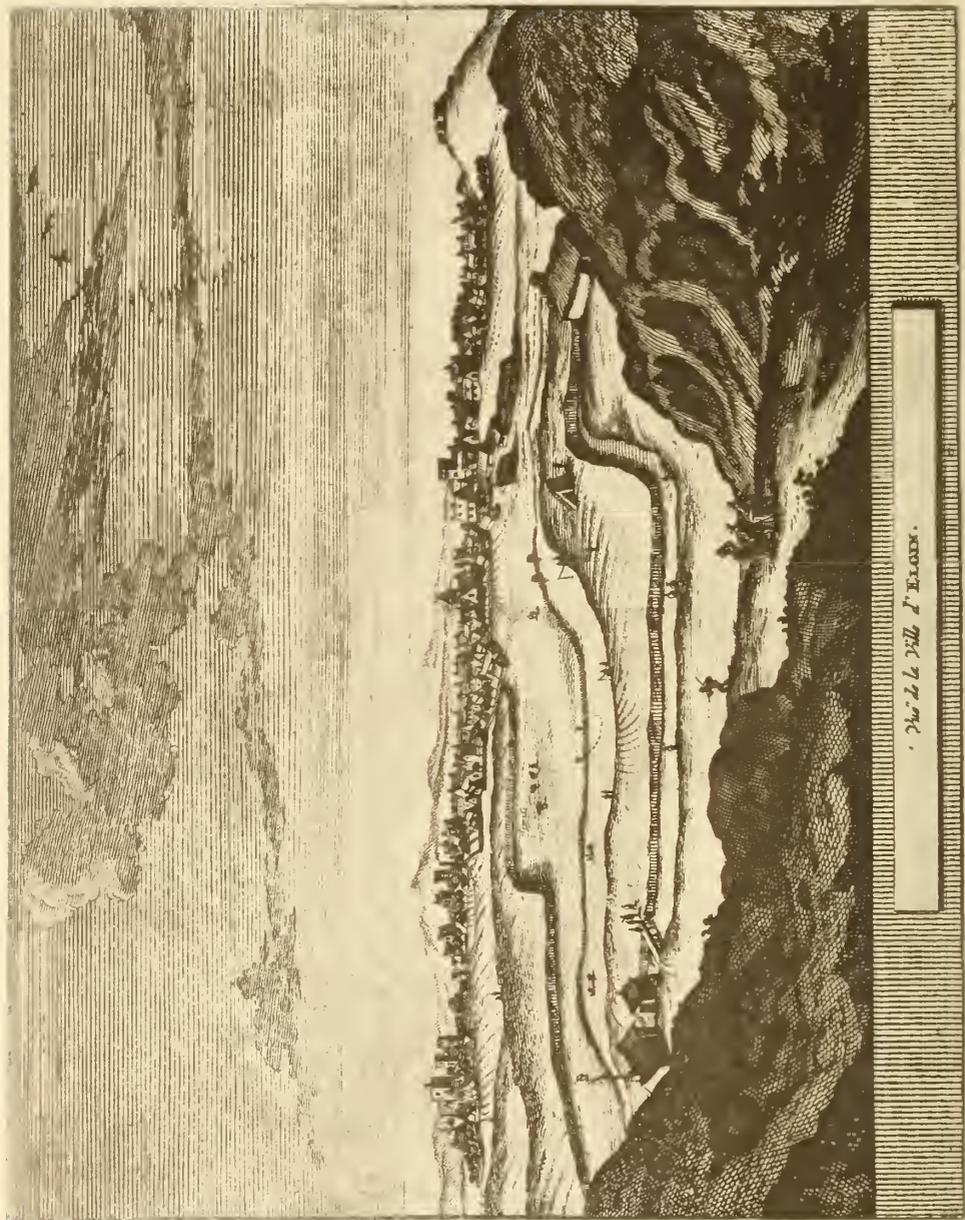
Council
Minutes.

On the 6th October, 1690, the Town Council appointed their captain and his company to meet that afternoon at the Fish Market to keep rejoicings for his Majesty King William's success in Ireland, and his safe and easy return to England. This was after the Battle of the Boyne, which took place in the beginning of July previous, and the king's subsequent successful warfare.

The Town Council met on 16th October, 1693: present—William King of Newmill, Provost, with Alexander Russell, James Stewart, John Donaldson, and Robert Innes, Bailies, and various Councillors; and there was laid before them a deed of mortification by William Cuming of Auchry for decayed old men within the Hospital of Elgin, to be put therein, the name of Cuming to be preferred. The sum mortified then amounted to £1893 Scots money, whereof 2600 merks had been expended in the purchase of the Leper Lands, and the remainder of the sum was to be laid out in

* The character of Viscount Dundee has been a good deal raised, indeed, entirely depends on his victory at Killiecrankie, and his death on the battlefield, which have thrown a halo on his memory. The victory was owing, not so much to his generalship, as to the courage and daring rush of the Highlanders, a mode of warfare to which Mackay's troops were entirely unaccustomed. Dundee's savage conduct to the Covenanters has left an indelible disgrace on his name.

† The popular ballad of the "Haughs of Cromdale," which is still sung, is most incorrect in all particulars—as to date, circumstances, and parties engaged; indeed, it is a pure romance.



WALK HILL & FLOOD.

the purchase of an additional piece of ground near the burgh, the Dean of Guild and his Treasurer, and their successors, to have the charge of the mortification. The deed was ordered to be recorded in the Town Court books, and an extract given to the Dean of Guild, and the principal to be placed in the cadjet "ad futuram rei memoriam."

The work called *Theatrum Scotiæ* was published this year (1693.) The author is "John Slezer, captain of the "artillery company, and surveyor of their Majesties' stores "and magazines in the kingdom of Scotland." It contains views of castles, towns, &c., within the kingdom, and is a work of wonderful merit for that time. He had begun his work as early as the reign of Charles II., perhaps about 1668, and must have bestowed much labour and expense upon it, for which he was poorly rewarded. The book contains views of Aberdeen, Elgin, Inverness, and Chanonry, besides the Elgin Cathedral, Gordon Castle, &c. The plate of Elgin is the worst executed in the book, the lines being very faint, and not well brought out. It has been taken from Bishopmill, and is evidently of a date prior to 1679, as it contains the Parish Church in the state it existed before its fall that year. The most prominent features are the Cathedral, with the great steeple then pretty entire, the large buildings in the College, which are likely the Marquis of Huntly's and the laird of Pluscarden's houses; the Church of St. Giles, with the choir extending eastward, and two transepts running south and north from the main building; Lord Duffus' house, with tower and bartizan, then lately repaired and embellished; Sir James Calder's elegant house, almost new; and the ruins of the Castle on Ladyhill, then much more extensive than now. The plate is dedicated to "The right honourable the Earl of Elgin and Ailsbury, "Viscount Bruce of Ampthill, Baron Bruce of Kinloss, "Wharton, and Skelton, &c.," and has his Lordship's arms beautifully emblazoned. The letterpress attached bears the following short notice:—

"ELGIN,

"A town in the shire of Murray, situated on a pleasant plain. It is the "Bishop's seat, and the head town of the Sheriffdom. Upon a sandy hill to

“the west of the town are to be seen the ruins of an old castle. It had a Cathedral Church of admirable structure, as appears from the walls and ruins, which are still extant.

“It gives the title of Earl of Elgin to the family of Ailsbury in England.”

This description is followed by lines from the classical pen of Arthur Johnston :—

DE ELGINA, CARMEN ARCTURI JONSTONI.

Laudibus Elginæ cedunt Peneia Tempe
 Et Bajæ veteres, Hesperidumque nemus,
 Hinc Maris, inde vides prædivitis æquora campi.
 Frugibus hæc populum, piscibus illa beant,
 Huc sua Phæaces miserunt poma : Damasci
 Pruna nec hic desunt, vel Corasuntis opes.
 Attica mellifici liquistis tecta volucres ;
 Et juvat hic pressis cogere mella favis
 Æmulus argento fæcundos Loxa per agros
 Errat et obliquis in mare serpit aquis,
 Arcibus Heroum nitidis urbs cingitur, intus
 Plebei radiant nobiliumque lares
 Omnia delectant, veteris sed rudera Templi
 Dum spectas lachrymis, Scotia, tinge genas.

There is a much better plate of Elgin, but seemingly the same view, executed at Paris, but without date, and on a smaller scale, with the title, “*Vue de la Ville d’Elgin.*”*

In the autumn of 1694 and spring of 1695 the great sand drift occurred, which overwhelmed the barony of Culbin, in the parish of Dyke, and desolated the coast of the parishes of Duffus and Drainie, destroying an immense tract of fertile land, filling up lakes, changing the courses of streams, and carrying ruin in its course. This calamity has been well described by Mr. John Martin in his interesting lecture ; also by Mr. Fraser Mackintosh, in his antiquarian notes published in 1865 ; and in a paper contained in the last edition of Shaw’s *History of Moray*. This melancholy event has left permanent effects on the County of Moray which never can be eradicated.

* Dr. Rhind, in his interesting *Sketches of the Past and Present State of Moray*, records that there is a rude engraving of Elgin in existence of the fifteenth century, and that the town then occupied much the same position as now, only that the Lossie flowed much nearer the north part of the town than it does at present. This engraving would be invaluable if it could be found. Dr. Rhind does not state where he saw it, and refers to no authority.

The Magistrates of Elgin had been long wishful to get ministers settled in the Parish Church, and had sent deputations year after year to Edinburgh and other places for the purpose, but had been thwarted in their efforts partly by the paucity of clergymen, and partly by the efforts of Lord Duffus and other Jacobites within the burgh to prevent a settlement. After an interval of eight years from the period of the Revolution, they now succeeded in their object. By authority of the General Assembly, and on the unanimous call of the congregation, Mr. Robert Langlands, from the Barony Parish, Glasgow, and Mr. James Thomson, from the parish of Colinton, were settled as Collegiate Ministers of Elgin upon the 21st June, 1696. Both were able men, and zealous in the discharge of their duties. They were unwilling to come so far north, but had to obey their ecclesiastical superiors. Mr. Langlands unfortunately died on the 12th August following. He is described as a "most shining star of the Church, a sweet fluent preacher of the Word, a faithful expounder of the mysteries of God, a most vigilant pastor." His death was much regretted. He had no successor until the year 1701, so difficult was it then to procure ministers, and particularly so in the North of Scotland. Mr. Thomson, who was an active able minister, in the meantime discharged all the duties. He had been unwilling to come to Elgin, but after his settlement took well to the place. His first wife, Elizabeth, daughter of the Reverend Thomas Paterson, minister of Borthwick, and widow of George Turnbull of Currie, died 12th August, 1698; and he married, secondly, Janet, daughter of Brodie of Lethen, by whom he had a son, James. This second marriage bound him with new ties to the North, and he discharged his duties in the ministry in the town of Elgin for nearly thirty-three years, having died 1st June, 1726. He bequeathed 600 merks to buy Bibles for the poor.*

*Fasti Scoticanæ
Ecclesiae, vol.
III., pages
152, 153.*

*Murray's Annals
of the Parish
of Colinton,
pages 2 and 3*

A series of bad harvests occurred from 1694 to 1700, both inclusive, which seems to have left a vivid impression

* Mr Thomson was proprietor of the estate of Newton of Colessie, in Fife, which was sold by his son. He was much attached to his former parish of Colinton, and frequently officiated there after his removal to Elgin. His son James was brought up to the medical profession, but being independent, does not appear to have followed it out. He devoted himself much to literature, and was author of a translation of the Commentaries of the Emperor Marcus Antoninus, which work was not published until 1747. He died in 1760. Mr. Thomson, minister of Elgin, was uncle to the

*Murray's Annals
of Colinton,
page 1.*

on the country. Morayshire, being an early district, perhaps did not feel it so much as the neighbouring counties of Aberdeen and Banff, and the Highlands; but tradition states that numbers of poor came to Elgin for food, which could not be supplied to them, and there died in consequence of the famine. The family of Dunbar of Burgie lived at this time at the North College, and were very charitable. They could not supply the wants of the poor, but prepared every day a large caldron of thick gruel from oatmeal, which was handed to all applicants so long as it lasted. Many died on their way to the College in search of food, and it is stated that dead bodies of famished persons were frequently found in the lane near the Cathedral, who were interred by the charitable family above named. I have before me a certified list of the fiars prices of Morayshire for these years, under the hand of James Anderson, Commissary Clerk, which are as follows:—

1694.....	£4	3	4	Scots money, per Boll.
1695.....	6	0	0	” ”
1696.....	6	0	0	” ”
1697.....	6	13	4	” ”
1698.....	8	0	0	” ”
1699.....	6	13	4	” ”
1700.....	4	6	8	” ”

Supposing the pound Scots money of that period to have been equal to the pound sterling of the present day, the price of grain would have varied from 83s. 4d. per boll in 1694 to 160s., which it reached in 1698—certainly a famine price. Still, the prices were much under the years 1648, 1649, and 1653, when they reached 180s. per boll.

Council
Minutes.

The burgh seems to have been in a disturbed state in 1697. On the 7th June that year the following entry occurs in the minute book:—“The Councill appoints that “hereafter there be ane nightlie guard, consisting of twelve “men and a captain, kept within the town, frae nine o’clock

Memoir of
Thomas
Thomson, by
J. T. Gibson-
Craig, and
Cosmo Innes.

Reverend Thomas Thomson, minister of Dailly, and grand-uncle to two gentlemen, sons of that clergyman, the late Thomas Thomson, advocate, and the late Reverend John Thomson, minister of Duddingston—the former author of the Abridgement of Retours, in 3 volumes folio, and whose valuable services in the preservation and publication of Scottish records are beyond all praise; the latter, while a faithful clergyman, one of the most distinguished landscape painters that Scotland ever produced.

“at night till four o'clock next morning, during the Magistrates' pleasure, and that those persons who be warned to keep guard and shall absent himself therefrae, shall be lyable in fortie shillings Scots monie of fyne.”

In the month of August, 1697, Elgin was visited by a deputation of Quakers, among the most eminent of that respectable body, viz., Robert Barclay of Ury (son of the accomplished author of the Apology for the Quakers), Andrew Jaffray of Kingswells, David Wallace, and Alexander Spark. It is recorded “that they took journey from Aberdeen, in the love of God and unity of the friends of truth, upon the 17th of sixth month, called August, 1697,” and farther, “that Andrew Jaffray was concerned to preach in the street of Elgin, and had a peaceable time among the people at the Cross about the seventh hour, though at our first coming into that town hardly any one would receive us.” The deputation proceeded to Forres, Nairn, and Inverness, and afterwards to Stratherrick, visiting Lochiel at his house of Achnacarry, the famous Sir Ewen Cameron, with whom some of them appear to have been intimately acquainted, and who was related by marriage to the Ury family, and whose son, the young laird, accompanied them so far on their journey. They had religious meetings at Lochiel's, with the troops at the garrison in Inverlochy Castle, and other places. In particular, it is recorded that on the 26th August they “*had a very good meeting, at which Lochiel, elder and younger, were present, and several people that understood English, who were very evidently reached,*” and they “*sensibly felt the love and openness of Lochiel's family more after the meeting than before.*” On the 28th they were in Inverness, where they had religious assemblies, and among others had a conference with “*Robert Cumin of Relugas, a very sharp, discreet, pertinent man. The principles of truth were fully opened, and Robert Cumin most ingenuously conceded to our openings thereupon, when his understanding and the witness of God was reached.*” On the 29th, in the evening, Andrew Jaffray went to visit the old Bishop of Moray, William Hay, “*who was sore diseased in his body by a palsy.*” On the 30th August the party returned to Elgin, and lodged with William Douglas, where they had been before, and

within a day or two returned to Aberdeen, after a journey of two hundred and forty-four miles.*

1698.

The Magistrates of Elgin had for some years been wishful to have a harbour at Lossiemouth, and at last, upon the 9th March, 1698, they entered into a contract of feu with James Brodie of Brodie, then proprietor of the estate of Kinneddar, whereby they acquired a piece of waste and barren ground, part of the Barony of Kinneddar, lying upon the west and north-west sides of the water mouth of the river Lossie, with liberty to make use of the stone quarries lying between the water mouth and the lands of Kinneddar, for building, repairing, and up-keeping of the harbour, pier, and bulwarks, and for bridges, building houses, and other accommodation; and as the ground was then liable to be covered by drifting sand, power was given to sow broom, whins, and bent, to prevent the blowing. The contracting parties on behalf of the burgh were—William King of Newmill, Provost; Robert Innes, James Stewart, and Robert Anderson, Bailies; William Douglas, Dean of Guild; and Thomas Russell, Treasurer. In the following year, 1699, the water mouth of the river was cleared out, and preparations made for building a harbour, but no great progress was made.

In this year, 1699, or the following year, a new arrange-

Diary of
Alexander
Jaffray, p. 269.

* We may claim Robert Barclay, the learned author of the Apology for the Quakers, as a countryman. He was the son of Colonel David Barclay of Ury, by his wife, Katharine Gordon, daughter of Sir Robert Gordon, the first Baronet of Gordonstown, and is said to have been born in the House of Gordonstown, in the year 1648. His father was an eminent officer in the Covenanting service, and after the Restoration was imprisoned in Edinburgh Castle, but, through the influence of the Earl of Middleton, with whom he had served, was released; and after this he lived a good deal in privacy at Gordonstown with Lady Gordon, his mother-in-law, until the death of his wife in 1663, which occasioned him much distress, and turned his thoughts to religious meditation. In 1666 he joined the Society of Friends, and adhered strictly to their principles until his death, which happened in 1686. His son Robert was educated at Paris, and was an eminent scholar. Although much urged to leave his Quaker friends, he adhered with constancy to them, and has more than any other member of that Society given lustre to their cause. The celebrated Apology was published in 1675, and was dedicated to King Charles II. It was printed both in Latin and English, and bears to be from "Ury, the place of my pilgrimage, in my native country of Scotland, the 25th of the month called November, 1675." Robert Barclay, like his co-religionists, suffered for the cause to which he adhered, but survived all these troubles, and was in the end universally esteemed for his virtues and genius. He died in 1690, at the early age of 42. Andrew Jaffray, above referred to, was the son of Alexander Jaffray of Kingswells, near Aberdeen. His father was an eminent man. He was Provost of Aberdeen about the middle of the century, and Member of Parliament for that city, and was one of the Commissioners along with Lord Cassillis, Lord Brodie, and others sent to treat with Charles II. in Holland, in the years 1649 and 1650, and was one of the five Members chosen by Cromwell to represent Scotland in the English Parliament. After the Restoration he was imprisoned for some time in Edinburgh, but was released, it is believed, through the influence of the Earl of Middleton, then the King's Commissioner. About the year 1662 he embraced the Quaker profession, and adhered unwaveringly to it until his death, in 1673. His family continued in the same profession. Sir Ewen Cameron of Lochiel married for his third wife Jane Barclay, sister of the apologist, which accounts for the visit to him in 1697. It was a curious connection for a wild Highland chieftain to make with a Quaker lady. Lochiel's daughter, Una Cameron, married again into the Barclay family.

Cunningham's
History of the
Quakers, p. 145.

Baronage of
Scotland,
page 330.

ment was made between the Magistrates and the Trades, by which the latter obtained right to elect their own Deacons, but no Deacon to remain in office for more than two years without consent of the Magistrates. The previous practice was that the Trades gave in a leet of three members of craft, out of which the Magistrates chose the Deacon.

Council
Minutes.

James Stewart, one of the Bailies of Elgin, was chosen to represent the burgh in Parliament for one session. He was absent fifty-six days, and was paid £540 Scots for his trouble and expenses—a very handsome allowance for these times. He was a person then of importance in the burgh, a proprietor of considerable lands in Birnie, and had a handsome house in the town.

Council
Minutes.

A band of gipsies at this time was in the habit of frequenting the Province of Moray. They went about well armed, helping themselves very freely to the property of the industrious farmers and country people, and usually sleeping in kilns near the farm houses. There seem to have been about thirty of them in whole, men and women, but it seldom happened that more than eight or ten made their appearance in one place. It was quite a familiar sight at a market in Banff, Elgin, or Forres, or any other town of the district, to see nearly a dozen sturdy gipsies march in with a piper playing at their head, their guns slung behind them, and their broadswords by their sides, mingling in the crowd, inspecting the cattle for sale, and watching bargain-making, in order to learn who were receiving money. They were viewed with suspicion and dislike by the farmers and dealers in the markets, but they defied the law, which was unable to put them entirely down.

Chambers's
Domestic
Annals vol. III.,
page 234.

James Macpherson, who is stated to have been an illegitimate son of a member of the family of Invereshie, by a gipsy mother, was a leading man in the band. He was a handsome person, and of great strength and daring, always carrying about with him a two-handed sword, besides other weapons. He had a talent for music, and was a good player on the violin. He had some traits of a generous nature, but, on the whole, he was merely a Highland cateran, breaking into houses, stealing horses and cattle, and living recklessly on the proceeds, like the other members of the tribe with which he associated.

Baird's Memoirs
of the Family of
Duff, pages
53 and 54.

Alexander Duff of Braco, ancestor of the present Earl of Fife, was then a leader in the public affairs of the district. He resolved to check the lawless proceedings of the gipsies by bringing their leaders to justice. It required some courage to face such determined ruffians with arms in their hands, and he had a farther difficulty on account of the laird of Grant, who considered some of the robbers as his tenants, and felt bound to protect them from any jurisdiction beside his own. This applied in particular to two of the band, named Peter and Donald Brown, who had lived for half-a-year at a place adjacent to Castle Grant, and the former of whom was regarded as the captain of the party.

Finding Macpherson, the Browns, and others at St. Samareve's Fair in Keith, Braco resolved to attack them. As soon as he observed them in the market, he desired his brother-in-law, James Stewart of Lesmurdie, to collect a dozen of stout men, which he did. They attacked the gipsies, who, as they had several of their accomplices with them, made a desperate resistance. One of them made a pass at Braco with his sword, intending to run him through the heart. But it slanted along the outside of the ribs, and one of his men immediately stabbed the fellow dead. They then carried Macpherson and Peter Brown to a house in Keith, and set three or four stout men to watch them, not expecting any more opposition, as all the rest of the gang had fled. Braco and Lesmurdie were sitting in an upper room, concerting about the commitment of their prisoners, when the laird of Grant and thirty men came calling for them, swearing no Duff in Scotland should keep them from him. Braco, hearing the noise of the Grants, came down stairs, and said, with seeming unconcern and humour, that he designed to have them sent to prison, but he saw they were too strong a party for him to contend with, and so he must leave them. But without losing a moment, he took a turn through the market, found other two Justices of the Peace, held a court, and assembled sixty men, with whom he re-took the two criminals, and sent them to prison.*

* Alexander Duff of Braco was a very enterprising person, but of a hard, grasping disposition. He was a large purchaser of land, and built up the fortune of the family. He represented the County of Banff in the Scots Parliament, and strongly opposed the Union with England. He died in 1705, aged fifty-four years.

James Macpherson, the two Browns, and James Gordon, were tried before Nicolas Dunbar of Castlefield, Sheriff-Depute of Banffshire, and a jury at Banff on the 7th November, 1700, charged with being habit and repute Egyptians and vagabonds, and keeping the markets in their ordinary manner, of thieving and purse cutting, and being guilty of masterful bangstrie and oppression. The trial was conducted by John Geills, Procurator-Fiscal of the shire of Banff, with the assistance of James Fraser, writer in Elgin. The culprits were defended by John Cuthbert of Braikenhills, their procurator, and John Donaldson, writer in Banff. David Blair, servitor to the laird of Grant, appeared and produced a procuratory from Alexander Grant, younger of that Ilk, empowering them to repledge the persons of Peter and Donald Brown from the Sheriff's jurisdiction to the regality of Grant, and offering a *culreach* or pledge for them. After a learned argument, the Sheriff-Depute sustained his jurisdiction, and remitted the cause to the knowledge of the Assize. A lengthened proof was led, and the jury found them all guilty, and upon the 9th November the Sheriff ordained James Macpherson and James Gordon to be hanged at the Cross of Banff, on Friday the 16th November, and deferred sentence against Peter and Donald Brown.*

Miscellany of
Spalding Club,
vol. III., p. 175.

Macpherson spent the last hours of his life in composing a tune expressive of the reckless courage with which he regarded his fate. He marched to the place of execution playing this air on his violin, and danced to it under the gallows tree. Then he asked if any one in the crowd would accept the fiddle, and keep it for his sake, but finding no one disposed to do so, he broke the instrument over his knee, and threw himself indignantly from the ladder. Such was the life and death of a man possessed of many good qualities, who might in a happier age have risen to some distinction in the world.†

* The whole trial is reported at great length in the third volume of the Miscellany of the Spalding Club, pages 175 to 191.

† Nicolas Dunbar, the Sheriff-Depute of Banffshire at this time, was a Morayshire man, connected with the Dunbars of Newton (ancestors of the Northfield family). His son was proprietor of Hillhead of Birnie. The jury were—William Grant of Creichie, Alexander Sutherland of Kinminitie, John Innes, elder, of Edingeth, Charles Gordon of Glengerrack, Walter Grant of Arndilly, Alexander Grant of Ruthrie, Alexander Grant of Boginduy, John Hamilton in Crauna, William Stewart in Drum, James Milne at Mill of Towie, John Gordon of Davidston, James Duff of

Sentence of death was passed against Peter and Donald Brown on the 21st February, 1701, by the Sheriff-Depute of Banffshire, but, through the powerful influence of the laird of Grant, they escaped the penalty of the law.

Fletcher of Saltoun estimates the number of vagrant poor in Scotland in 1698 at 100,000, and that in 1699, owing to the bad seasons for several years, they had increased to 200,000. He describes them "as vagabonds who live without any regard to the laws of the land, or even those of God and nature." Considering that the population of Scotland was at this time not much above one million, this estimate of the vagrant poor must have been greatly exaggerated. The country must have been then in a bad state. Fletcher adds that "No Magistrate could ever discover which way one in a hundred of these wretches died, or that ever they were baptised. Many murders have been discovered among them; and they are not only a most unspeakable oppression to poor tenants, but they rob many poor people who live in houses distant from any neighbours. In years of plenty many thousands of them meet together in the mountains, where they feast and riot for many days; and at country weddings, markets, burials, and other like public occasions, they are to be seen, both men and women, perpetually drunk, cursing, blaspheming, and fighting together."

The seventeenth century was one of great trouble in Scotland, both in Church and State, and attended with wonderful revolutions and changes of dynasties. Still, it was a time of considerable progress. Men's minds got enlarged, and gradually more enlightened views were arrived at regarding civil and religious liberty. The Stuart family made a violent struggle for arbitrary government, in which, with more exercise of prudence, they might have succeeded, but the conduct of King James VII., his cruel proceedings, and unjust government, brought about the Revolution of 1688, which for ever put an end to tyranny, and introduced a new and milder order of affairs.

Crombie, James Gordon, elder, of Ardmellie, George Gordon of Muirack, John Gordon of Drumwhindle.

There was a wild romance about Macpherson's character, and his memory is fresh to this day, preserved in the immortal verses of Robert Burns. Macpherson's two-handed sword is said to be still preserved at Duff House.

The burgh of Elgin during this century shared in the general troubles of the country, but still made great progress. The population in 1700 may have been about 3000, but the number cannot be ascertained with any great degree of accuracy, as no census was then taken. There was a considerable trade within the burgh, both of exports and imports, particularly during the latter part of the century, and there settled in the place a body of enterprising merchants. Among these we may enumerate George Cuming of Lochtervandich; William Cuming of Auchry, his son; Thomas Calder of Sheriffinill; James Calder of Muirton, his son, who was created a Baronet in 1686; Andrew Leslie of the Glen of Rothes; and in the latter part of the century, William King of Newmill, who came to Elgin about the year 1681, and having married a daughter of Provost George Cuming, succeeded to his business; besides many others. The principal trade was with Holland and the northern ports of Germany, and to some extent with France. Large quantities of malt were made and shipped to Holland for the distillation of gin. There were from thirty to thirty-two malt kilns and malt barns in Elgin, of an average length of 100 feet, good substantial slated buildings, and the manufacture must have been very large. Cured meat and salted salmon were also shipped in large quantities. The trade was carried on from the port of Findhorn, then almost the only shipping place in the county. The vessels in the trade must have been of considerable size, and were generally armed, carrying large crews for defence. The import trade was wines, brandy, and gin, hardware goods, silk, sugar, and other domestic commodities. Before the Union with England, we had almost no trade with that country. Both import and export duties were light, and trade almost free. The best French claret was largely used, and imported at a cheap rate, Scotland being a favoured country in its trade with France. A trade on joint account was largely carried on for many years by William Duff of Muirton, William Duff of Dipple, his nephew, Sir James Calder of Muirton, and William King of Newmill. The Duffs and Mr. King made fortunes; Sir James Calder perhaps was extravagant, and died poor. Brewing was carried on largely within the burgh,

Social Life in
Ferner Days,
2d series, p. 132.

and the quantity of ale and aqua vitæ used is almost incredible. In a list of brewers given up in a court held by Robert Innes and James Stewart, two of the Bailies of the town, upon the 22d June, 1697, whose entries commenced from the 1st March to the 1st June of that year, the names of eighty persons are given. They had all carried on a brisk trade, but William Douglas, who probably kept the principal hotel, in the above three months had brewed, and perhaps consumed, in his business four thousand gallons of ale, and four hundred gallons of aqua vitæ, which conveys the idea that the citizens of Elgin in the olden time had been potent drinkers.

A great many excellent houses were built or improved in this century. We may instance the Earl of Moray's house, which was purchased by Lord Duffus, partly rebuilt and much ornamented; Sir James Calder's house, erected at the head of what is now North Street, a large elegant mansion; Auchry's house, built on piazzas, where the Caledonian Bank now stands; Donaldson of Kinnairdie's house, at the head of Lossie Wynd; Innes of Coxtton's house, where Mr Hay's (cabinetmaker) works now are; the House of the Greyfriars', built by Provost King; Andrew Leslie of Glen of Rothes' house, erected 1634, which was afterwards Mr. Isaac Forsyth's Library; Commissary David Stewart's house, built in 1688, removed about twenty years ago, now thrown into the Grant Lodge gardens; and many others. In short, the architecture of the burgh was much improved, and the activity of the inhabitants formed a striking contrast to the dulness which ensued in the succeeding century.

CHAPTER II.

FROM 1700 TO 1800.

A PETITION was given in to the Privy Council by the Magistrates and Town Council of Elgin on the 20th February, 1701. Robert Gibson of Linkwood, to whom we referred before, had been imprisoned in the Tolbooth as furious, at the desire of his relatives, and some of the neighbouring gentry, and for the preservation of the public peace. In the preceding October, when the Magistrates were in Edinburgh on business before the Privy Council, Gibson set fire to the Tolbooth in the night time, and, there being no means of quenching the flames, it was burned to the ground. Their first duty was to obtain authority from the Privy Council to send the incendiary in shackles to another place of confinement, and now they applied for an exemption from the duty of receiving and confining prisoners for private debts till their Tolbooth should be rebuilt. They obtained the required exemption until the term of Whitsunday, 1703. It is probable some temporary jail was fitted up, for a new one was not erected for a period of fourteen years subsequent to this date. The case of poor Gibson of Linkwood is one of the most melancholy incidents of domestic history on record.

1701.

After an interval of five years from the death of Mr. Langlands, Alexander King was translated from Bonhill, called unanimously and admitted as Collegiate Minister of Elgin, the 27th April, 1701. He laboured in the ministry until the year 1715, when he died, in the sixty-third year of his age.

The Magistrates and Council this year entered into a contract for building the harbour of Lossiemouth. The price was 4500 merks Scots—with the use of such pikes, wedges, hurl barrows, and gane-locks as pertain to the town,

1703.

with iron and lead to bind the work, to defend it from the winter storms, which things shall be given back to the Magistrates after the finishing of the work; also the loan of twelve barrowmen one day weekly during the work. The part of the harbour then erected was probably the north quay, which is still standing, and must have been a piece of substantial work. The harbour of Lossiemouth, like other harbours on the coast, has been a very unprofitable speculation to the proprietors, and a constant drain on the finances of the burgh.

Baird's Memoirs
of the Duffs,
pages 61 to 65.

In this year, 1703, William Duff of Dipple, second son of Alexander Duff of Keithmore, settled in Elgin. He was born in 1653, and was therefore at this period fifty years of age. His father, who was a very wealthy man, only gave him 10,000 merks to begin the world with. He was apprenticed to his uncle, William Duff of Muirton, merchant in Inverness, and eventually became a partner with him and Sir James Calder, and for many years these three carried on almost all the foreign trade to the north of Aberdeen. The uncle and nephew both made large fortunes, for these times. Mr. Duff had retired from commercial business when he made Elgin his residence; but he continued to be a private banker and money lender, and there being little cash in the country at that time, and the proprietors in general poor, he had great opportunities of purchasing land. He appears to have been an honourable, upright man in his dealings, an easy creditor, and much respected. His place of business is said to have been in that house at the Little Cross, on the north side of the High Street, which bears on it the date of 1694, and his dwelling to have been in that old house, recently pulled down, where Mr. Hay's (cabinetmaker) ware-room now is, and which he purchased from Innes of Coxton. During his residence in Elgin, Mr. Duff purchased the estates of Dipple, Coxton, Langmorn, and Whitewreath, Pluscarden, Quarrywood, Aldroughty, Mosstowie, and other lands, and, in short, became the largest proprietor in the parish of Elgin. He was a Jacobite in principles, and much attached to the cause of the Royal Stuart family, but too cautious to join in the rebellion. He was twice married, first to Jean Gordon, daughter of Sir George Gordon of

Edinglassie, by whom he had one son, William, afterwards Earl of Fife, and four daughters, who were all married; and by his second wife, Jean Dunbar, daughter of Sir William Dunbar of Durn, he had one son, Alexander, who died before him, and four daughters, three of whom made excellent marriages.

Dipple succeeded to his nephew, William Duff of Braco, as heir of entail, in 1718. He himself died in the year 1722, leaving to his son a landed estate of £6500 sterling per annum, and £30,000 sterling of money settled at interest—certainly then the largest fortune in the North of Scotland. By his deed of settlement Mr. Duff made several charitable bequests to the poor in the parishes where he had landed property, and in particular to poor in Elgin and Spynie. He also mortified some croft land near the burgh of Elgin for support of a decayed merchant and burgess. This bequest, known as Braco's Mortification, is still in full force, and under the careful management of the Elgin Guildry Fund Society.

The Trades of Elgin having long complained that they had no freedom in the election of their office-bearers, having to submit a leet for approval of the Magistrates, in the year 1705 the Magistrates granted them the privilege of electing their Deacons and Boxmasters by poll election, the voters being burgesses and freemen. The Trades at this period appear to have been in six corporations as now, viz., smiths, tailors, glovers, carpenters, shoemakers, and weavers. These new privileges created considerable jealousy and discontent in the burgh, and we find it recorded that "James Gordon, junior, merchant, was cited before the Council, and fined £100 Scots, for saying that the Magistrates were "a parcel of beasts for giving so large privileges to the "Trades."

Agreement,
17th September,
1705, and pre-
vious ones, 16th
September, and
8th October,
1700.

Council
Minutes.

Various disputes having arisen in the burgh about the election of Magistrates, a petition was given in to the Convention of Burghs to fix the sett and mode of election. The Convention having considered the petition, appointed the Commissioners for Dundee, Aberdeen, Montrose, Inverness, Tain, Banff, Nairn, Forres, and Fortrose to settle the differences which had occurred, to recommend a sett for

Anno 1705.

Elgin, and to report to the next Convention. Accordingly, the Commissioners for the above towns having met at Elgin on the 13th September, 1705, made the following sett, which they ordained to be a constant platform and standard thereanent for the future, to be strictly observed without the least alteration or change, viz. :—

“ That the number of the Town Council of Elgin shall
 “ consist of 17 Councillors, including the Deacon Convener
 “ for the time, and two other deacons of trades, which two
 “ deacons are to be chosen by the Council conform to the
 “ Trades, their contract with the Guildry. Item, that
 “ Monday immediately preceding Michaelmas yearly be the
 “ day of election of the new Council for the ensuing year.
 “ Item, that Tuesday thereafter immediately preceding
 “ Michaelmas as said is be the day of election of the Magis-
 “ trates and other office-bearers of the said burgh. Item,
 “ there shall be put off yearly of the old Council three of the
 “ Guildry and two of the Trades, and in their place as many
 “ elected of the same quality. Item, that out of the foresaid
 “ number of the Council there shall be chosen a Provost,
 “ four Bailies, Dean of Guild, and Treasurer, and other
 “ office-bearers ; which Provost shall not continue in office
 “ of Provostrie *above three years at once*, but prejudice
 “ always to change him yearly as the Council shall think fit ;
 “ and the said Bailies, Dean of Guild, Treasurer, and other
 “ office-bearers shall not continue in their office *above two*
 “ *years*, but prejudice to change them yearly as said is.
 “ Item, that the Provost, Bailies, Dean of Guild, and Trea-
 “ surer shall, *ex officiis*, be continued on the Council for next
 “ year after they are put off their respective offices. Item,
 “ that the old Council yearly choose the new Council, and
 “ that both old and new Councils yearly choose the Magis-
 “ trates and other office-bearers. Item, that no person be
 “ capable to be elected a Magistrate, office-bearer, or
 “ Councillor within the said burgh except resindenters and
 “ burgesses of the same, actual traders and traffickers,
 “ merchants, bearing scott and lott, and all portable charges
 “ with neighbours therein. Item, that the Council shall
 “ yearly choose out of their own number five assessors to the

“ Dean of Guild, to sit with him, whereof three, with the
 “ Dean of Guild himself, to be a quorum. Item, that the
 “ Town Council shall yearly choose fifteen persons extraneous
 “ from the Council, whereof two of the Trades, and nine to
 “ be a quorum, which fifteen persons so chosen shall give
 “ their oath *de fidei* before the Council, and shall be stent
 “ masters for the ensuing year, for proportioning, in presence
 “ of a Bailie, all the stents to be imposed within the burgh
 “ that year ; that no stent be imposed upon the inhabitants
 “ of the burgh, excepting the public cess due by law without
 “ consent of a Head Court. Item, that on the second
 “ Tuesday of September yearly the Magistrates call ane
 “ Head Court, and there expose to the whole inhabitants
 “ the present condition and circumstances of the burgh, and
 “ of the common good thereof, and of their own management
 “ of the same ; and that the haill office-bearers’ books and
 “ accompts lye on the Council table yearly twenty days
 “ preceding the Head Court, for the satisfaction of all
 “ concerned.”

And the Committee willed and declared that the above should stand and continue *inviolable and unchangeable in all time coming*, for the rule and government of said burgh, and should commence and take effect at Michaelmas, 1706, and yearly and continually thereafter ; certifying the breakers thereof that the Royal Burghs would notify and punish them accordingly, and state themselves against them. The Committee adjourned their meeting till to-morrow, at which time they would consider the other grievances under submission. And the Preses, Alexander Leslie, subscribed the sederunt for, and in name of, the meeting.

The following day, 14th September, 1705, the Committee again met, and taking into consideration that the above sett for regulating the elections of the Magistrates and Town Council of Elgin do not take effect till Michaelmas, 1706, and that both parties submitters are desirous by their representations given in to the Committee to have all their differences removed, “ Therefore, they as judges, arbitrators, “ and as having power by the said submission, representa- “ tions, and answers, for preventing the factions and debates

1705.

“that may arise betwixt the said parties, anent the elections of their Magistracy and Council, for the said next ensuing year, did nominate ane Council for the said burgh for the said year as follows :—Thomas Calder and Thomas Donaldson, present Bailies ; William Sutherland and Robert Innes, late Bailies ; William Laing, late Provost ; Thomas Russell, late Treasurer ; James Innes, elder, Dean of Guild ; Alexander Brodie, James Gordon, senior, James Fenton, William Mitchell, and John Sinclair, merchants in the said burgh ; William Gordon, present Treasurer ; and Kenneth Mackenzie, apothecary ; Alexander Catto, present Convener ; John Walker, Deacon to the Hammermen ; and William Innes, Deacon to the Shoemakers.” And they ordained their decree-arbitral to be recorded in the Town Court Books, and an extract to be sent to the next Convention of the Royal Burghs.

The decree-arbitral was laid before the next Convention, held at Edinburgh on the 8th July, 1706, and, being there considered, they ratified and approved of the said sett in the haille heads, clauses, and tenor thereof, and ordained the same to be kept inviolably as the constant rule and sett of government for the said burgh in all time coming, and to be recorded “after the subscription of the acts of this present Convention.” The documents were duly certified and registered by Adam Watt, Town Clerk of Edinburgh, and conjunct General Clerk to the Royal Burghs.

The above are still the regulations of the burgh of Elgin, except in so far as altered by the Reform Bill, and should be strictly acted on, but are far from being carefully observed ; indeed, they appear to be much forgotten.

James Lord Duffus died the 24th September, 1705. He had been long connected with the burgh of Elgin, and was Provost at the time of his death, having been elected in October, 1700, and had exercised great influence over its affairs. He was a most unfortunate man, a bad manager of his property, of expensive habits, a strong Jacobite, opposed to the Revolution settlement, and very illiberal in his politics. He succeeded his father, Alexander, the first Lord Duffus, in 1674, who left him large estates in the parishes of Alves, Spynie, and Duffus, and the fine estate of Skelbo

and other lands in the County of Sutherland. Within thirty years they were all squandered, and when he died he was in a state of bankruptcy. By his marriage with Lady Margaret Mackenzie, eldest daughter of Kenneth, third Earl of Seaforth, he had four sons—1st. Kenneth, who succeeded him as third Lord Duffus; 2d. James, afterwards Sir James Dunbar of Hempriggs, from his marriage with the heiress of that estate; 3d. William, who married, in 1702, Helen Duff, eldest daughter of William Duff of Dipple, and who succeeded his father as Provost of the burgh; 4th. John; and one daughter, Henrietta.* Before his death, Lord Duffus had conveyed his whole estates in trust to his second son, James Sutherland, who endeavoured to extricate his father's affairs, but found it impossible. The estates in Spynie parish were sold to William Duff of Dipple, and those in Duffus and Alves to Archibald Dunbar of Thunderton in the year 1708. The estates in Sutherland were also sold or adjudged by creditors. The splendid furniture in the house in Elgin was sold by public roup. From an inventory still preserved it seems to have been magnificent for those days.†

1705.

James Sutherland, the second son of Lord Duffus, was the only wise man of the family, very prudent and cautious in the management of his affairs. He married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Sir William Dunbar of Hempriggs, on which occasion he changed his name to Dunbar. By his wife he acquired very valuable and extensive estates in Caithness, which remain in the possession of his descendants to the present day. He was created a baronet on 10th December, 1706. The fine old mansion in Elgin was also acquired by Mr. Dunbar of Thunderton, and was long known by the name of Thunderton House.

The Scotch Parliament met at Edinburgh on 3d October, 1706, to discuss the articles of Union with England, James Duke of Queensberry being Her Majesty's Commissioner. I do not find in the Town Council Minute Books any appointment of a Commissioner from the burgh of Elgin to represent them in this Parliament, although it is recorded that the

1706.

* I find Lord Duffus had also a daughter, Katherine, married to Mr. John Cuthbert, Inverness. Documents at Duffus House. She is not mentioned in the peerage.

† A complete inventory of the furniture is given in Notes on Burghead, published in 1868, pages 82 to 89.

Honourable William Sutherland of Mosstowie, then Provost of the burgh, was, on 29th September, 1706, named Commissioner to the Convention of Royal Burghs, to treat of a Union with England. There can be no doubt, however, that he was also Member of Parliament, for I find both him and his brother Kenneth Lord Duffus voting on the Union side on the 27th December, 1706. The debates on the Union, which caused so much tumult in many of the cities and burghs of Scotland, and created so many disturbances throughout the country, appear to have made little excitement in Elgin. The Parliament of Scotland was dissolved on the 28th April, 1707, never to meet again.

Defoe's History
of the Union,
pages 666, 667.

1708.

By the Act of Union, the burghs of Elgin, Banff, Cullen, Inverurie, and Kintore were connected together to return a Member to the British Parliament. Elgin was the first returning burgh. The first election was held there on 26th May, 1708. The delegates were—William King of Newmill, for Elgin; Sir Alexander Ogilvie of Forglen, Baronet, one of the Senators of the College of Justice, for Banff; Colonel Patrick Ogilvie of Loanmay, for Cullen; Alexander Reid of Barra, for Kintore; John Ferguson, Bailie of Inverurie, for Inverurie. Mr. King was chosen Preses of the meeting. Colonel Patrick Ogilvie, the delegate for Cullen, was unanimously chosen Member of Parliament to represent the burghs in the House of Commons.

Council
Minutes.

The Honourable William Sutherland continued Provost until the year 1709, when he retired from office, and was succeeded by William King of Newmill.

1710.

On 19th June this year, William Duff of Dipple was elected to represent the town in the Convention of Royal Burghs, to be held at Edinburgh on the 1st of July then next.

In October, 1710, there was another election of a Member to the British Parliament. Kenneth Mackenzie, one of the Bailies of the burgh, was delegate for Elgin. The meeting for election was held at Banff, being the returning burgh. Alexander Reid of Barra was chosen Member, and sat until 1713. This was the Parliament called by Queen Anne after the dismissal of the Whigs from office, and in which Harley and St. John made so conspicuous an appearance.

Smollet's His-
tory of England,
vol. II.

1711.

The great tower of the Cathedral fell on Peace Sunday,

this year. It had probably been undermined by masons of the town removing stones from it. Various people and children had been walking about it in the morning, and during the time they were at breakfast the building fell, but no one was hurt. The ruins were long used as a quarry, there being no enclosure round the churchyard, and the place remained in a very unseemly state for more than a century afterwards, and was not finally cleared away until about forty years ago. It is probable the side aisles were also crushed by the fall of the tower.

In the year 1704, Mr. Henderson, an Episcopal minister, with consent and permission of the then Magistrates of Elgin, who were probably most of them of the same persuasion, made use of the Little Kirk* for divine service, but the ministers of the Established Church made a complaint to the Privy Council, and their Lordships, in consequence, pronounced an order commanding and ordaining the Sheriff of the County of Elgin to put and keep the ministers in the peaceable possession of the Little Kirk, and to debar all other persons from making use of the same. Mr. Henderson was accordingly, by virtue of this order, removed, and the parish ministers put and kept in possession. In 1712, however, the Magistrates took a farther step in the exercise of their supposed rights, and granted leave to Mr. Blair, an Episcopal clergyman, to perform divine service in the Little Kirk, for the benefit of the inhabitants of Elgin who were of that communion. James Russell, the person who had charge of the keys from the ministers, delivered them on 29th May, of this year, to the Magistrates, or opened the doors for them, and they, with Mr. Blair, accordingly took possession of the building. In consequence of this procedure, a criminal action was raised before the Lords of Justiciary, against the Magistrates of Elgin and Russell the beadle, for an intrusion into the Little Kirk, and restitution thereof was demanded to be made to the ministers of Elgin. The Magistrates lodged defences, insisting upon their rights to dispose of the Church; and the Lords of Justiciary, before

1712.

*The building called the Little Kirk stood at the east end of St. Giles' Church, and was originally the choir of that building. After the fall of that Church in 1679, the Little Kirk was separated from it by a wall, and used as a distinct place of worship, usually for week-day service.

giving their final judgment, remitted the point to be determined by the Court of Session, viz. :—*Whether or not the place called the Little Kirk, then possessed by the Episcopal minister, be a Parish Church, or part of the Parish Church of Elgin?* Parties were heard before the Court of Session, who allowed a conjunct probation to both—*How far the Little Kirk, either in the time of Presbytery or Episcopacy, has been possessed by the ministers of Elgin, by preaching, baptizing, catechising, or marrying therein; and how far possessed by the Magistrates and Town Council for other uses exclusive of the ministers.* A proof having been led, the Court decided that the Little Kirk had been made use of for divine service, preaching, baptizing, and catechising therein, and found it not proved that the Magistrates of Elgin had employed the building for any other uses, exclusive of the bishop and ministers' use and possession, and, therefore, found the place called the Little Kirk was part of St. Giles' Church, the Parish Church of Elgin. The Lords of Justiciary, on this finding of the Court of Session being reported to them, decided that the ministers, having entrusted James Russell with the keys of the Little Kirk, and he having delivered the same to Mr. Blair for his use, was relevant to infer an arbitrary punishment, damages, and expenses against the said James Russell; and also found that the Magistrates, by turning the Established ministers out of possession of the Little Kirk, and putting Mr. Blair into the occupation of the same, relevant to oblige the Magistrates to reponne the Established Church ministers to the peaceable possession of the building, and to infer an arbitrary punishment, damages, and expenses against the Magistrates; and therefore repelled the defences for the Magistrates and James Russell, and remitted them, and the libel as found relevant, to the knowledge of an Assize. After a proof, the jury, by their verdict, found that James Russell had the trust of the keys of the Little Kirk, and that the Magistrates, with Mr. Blair, took possession thereof on the 29th May, 1712. The Court of Justiciary, after this verdict was returned, decerned and ordained the Magistrates and their successors in office, and the said James Russell, jointly and severally, to deliver all the keys of the Little Kirk to the

Established ministers and Kirk Session of the burgh and parish, and to put them in peaceable possession of the building, and to pay £30 sterling as expenses, and a fine of £20 sterling, and ordained the cautioner for the defenders to make payment of the above sums, or to be imprisoned till payment thereof. The above judgments of the Court of Justiciary and the Court of Session were appealed against by the Magistrates of Elgin and James Russell, the beadle; and the House of Lords reversed all the findings of the Court below, "and farther ordered and adjudged that the said appellants be quieted in the possession of the Little Church in Elgin, it being no part of the Parish Church."

It is very probable that the above decision of the House of Lords was much owing to the hostile feeling then entertained against the Presbyterians of Scotland by the Government of the day, led by Harley and St. John, who were wishful to upset the Revolution Settlement, and to restore the House of Stuart, and had a strong desire to elevate the Episcopalians in Scotland, and depress the Presbyterian party, who were hostile to their views. The effect of the above decision probably only continued until the death of Queen Anne, when the Government turned round in favour of the opposite party.

Following out the policy of depressing the Presbyterians, the Government introduced, on 13th March, 1712, into the House of Commons, a bill for restoring Church Patronage in Scotland, notwithstanding that it was a complete breach of the Treaty of Union passed only five years previously. The measure was pressed forward with indecent haste. On the 7th April it passed the House of Commons, 173 members voting for it, and 76 against it. The very next day it was carried up to the House of Lords. It was read a second time, committed, reported, and read a third time, all in one day, the 12th April, and received the Royal Assent the 22d of same month. This cruel and unjust measure, so destructive to the Church of Scotland, has been fraught with innumerable evils to the country, and has been the cause of continued religious controversy ever since, from generation to generation; and, notwithstanding that the Act has been repealed in the year 1874, its effects are likely to last so long as the Church of Scotland endures.

Hetherington's
History of
Church of Scot-
land, edition
1841, page 601.

1713.

Rhind's
Sketches, p. 53.

John Gatherer, farmer at Netherbyre of Pluscarden, a descendant of an old Elgin family, was cruelly murdered this summer by Andrew M'Pherson, a deserter from the army, who was in search of plunder. He was dragged from his bed in a state of nudity by M'Pherson, who inflicted several deadly wounds upon his person with a bayonet. The cries of the dying man brought a servant girl, the only inmate of the house, to his assistance. She seized the ruffian by the hair of the head, and brought him with his face to the ground, knelt upon his back, and, in this position, held him till her screams awakened the farm servants, who were sleeping in the adjoining offices. They secured the murderer with ropes, and lodged him in a garret till the arrival of a party from Elgin with the Sheriff's warrant to incarcerate him in the jail. On the 24th June, he was sentenced by Alexander Dunbar, Sheriff-Depute of the County, to be hanged upon the gibbet of Elgin, his head and two arms to be severed from his body, the head to be put upon the Tolbooth, one of his arms upon the West Port, and the other upon the East Port of the burgh; and warrant was granted to the Magistrates to put the foresaid sentence in execution, and to see the same done according to the tenor of the sentence. The murderer was executed on the Gallowgreen upon the same day, and his head and arms disposed of in terms of the Sheriff's warrant.

Council
Minutes.

On 12th September, 1713, George Innes of Dunkinty, Provost of Elgin, was chosen delegate to proceed to Cullen to vote for a Member of Parliament for the Elgin District of Burghs. The election took place on the 17th of the same month, when the Honourable James Murray was chosen as representative.

1714.

Council
Minutes.

The Honourable James Murray being appointed to an office under Government, another election of a Member of Parliament became necessary. George Innes of Dunkinty was again elected delegate for Elgin, and Mr. Murray was chosen Member as formerly.

The Elgin Guildry Fund Society was established this year, James Charles being Dean of Guild. It was founded for support of decayed merchant burgesses and guild brothers, their wives and families, and has been wonderfully

conducted and managed in its whole course from the commencement to the present day. From very small beginnings it has now risen to be an opulent corporation, with every promise of farther progress.

The first meeting of the Society was held on 2d February, 1714—James Charles, merchant, as above stated, being then Dean of Guild ; and William Rose, Bailie ; John Gordon, Treasurer of the burgh ; James Innes, senior, and John Duff, merchants, being assessors of the Society. At this meeting the original laws and regulations were revised, approved, and ordered to be registered. James Anderson, writer, was clerk.

Queen Anne died on the 1st August this year. She had been for some time in a declining state of health. She had latterly been entirely under the influence of her Tory and Jacobite advisers, and, if her life had been prolonged, it is supposed she would have readily given her consent to an alteration of the Act of Succession, and the restoration of the male line of the House of Stuart to the throne, which would have caused a civil war. Her death was perhaps, therefore, a relief to the nation from a dreaded crisis. The latter part of her reign was clouded by the change of ministers and measures. The dismissal of the Whig ministers, who contributed so much to the glory of the commencement of her reign, was a fatal error.

1714.

The Queen took little interest in the affairs of Scotland, and, except for the Act of Union with England, which eventually has been attended with so many blessings to both countries, the measures pursued by her ministers tended to the depression of Scotland at that time. Still, she was the last monarch who bore the name of our ancient kings ; and it is with a feeling of regret that we look back upon the striking fact, that, of all her numerous children, not one was spared to succeed to the throne of their ancestors, which passed away to a comparative stranger.

King George I. was proclaimed at Edinburgh on the 4th August, with the usual ceremonies, amidst a large concourse of nobility and gentry ; and, on the whole, the succession at first promised to be a peaceful one, and, had the new king shown the tact and management of the Prince of Orange in

the year 1688, there might have been no disturbance in Scotland.

1714. On 28th September of this year, Archibald Dunbar of Thunderton was chosen Provost of the burgh. He had some years previously purchased Lord Duffus' estate, and the mansion-house in Elgin, and thereby had become a residenter in the town, and qualified by the sett of the burgh to become its Provost. He continued in office until September, 1717, and during these three eventful years discharged the duties of Chief Magistrate with great diligence and attention, and much to the satisfaction of the inhabitants of the town.

1715. On 14th February, 1715, the Council met to nominate a delegate to go to Kintore, being the returning burgh of the district for election of a Member of Parliament, consequent on the succession of King George I. There was a considerable division on the subject, Mr. Dunbar, the Provost, being proposed by one party, and Robert Dunbar of Grangehill by the other party. After much discussion and debate, both candidates were appointed delegates, and the Honourable James Murray was again elected Member at Kintore, on the 19th of this month, and continued in office until the year 1722.

In the month of September, the Earl of Mar, who was disappointed at not finding employment under the new Government, raised the standard of rebellion. He had considerable influence among the Highland chiefs, and with many of the noblemen and gentry of the North of Scotland; and, had he been possessed of the ability and energy of Montrose or Dundee, it might have been a very serious affair; but Mar was not sufficiently active, and threw away his resources. The country was at this time much disaffected, and, with the exception of the Earl of Sutherland, who was strongly attached to the Revolution Settlement, the Government had few reliable supporters in the North of Scotland. George Duke of Gordon, and the Honourable Francis Stewart, brother of Charles Earl of Moray, were both ordered to surrender themselves to Government, as disaffected, which they complied with. Alexander Marquis of Huntly attended at the meeting at Braemar, and afterwards joined the Pretender's army with a large body of horse and foot at

Perth on the 6th October, and was present at the Battle of Sheriffmuir on 13th November. Kenneth Lord Duffus, and his brother, the Honourable William Sutherland, also engaged in the rebellion, and carried a considerable body of men with them from Elgin and its vicinity. Sir Robert Gordon of Gordonstown followed the same course, and joined the rebel army, but after being present at the skirmish at Dunblane, despairing of the cause, he retired to the North and left them. William Duff of Dipple, then residing in Elgin, was much inclined to follow the Pretender, but, with proverbial caution, would not put his large estates in jeopardy, but looked on at a distance to observe the result. Mr. Dunbar of Thunderton, then Provost of Elgin, fell under the displeasure of the Earl of Sutherland, the King's Lieutenant in the North; whether under suspicion of being favourable to the Pretender, or from private pique, is not very apparent. He was seized, by the Earl's orders, and incarcerated in the Elgin jail, and kept there for several days under a strong guard, and ill-used by them, until Duncan Forbes, then Lord-Advocate, Sir Harry Innes of Innes, and some other friends, mediated with the Earl of Sutherland to liberate him on a bail bond, to present himself to the Earl at Inverness in January, 1716. The bail bond was written by the Lord-Advocate, and was for the sum of £5000 sterling. Sir Harry Innes and William Duff of Dipple were cautioners. All these gentlemen eventually escaped without trouble. The Marquis of Huntly and Sir Robert Gordon, through the powerful influence of their relative, the Earl of Sutherland, neither forfeited estates nor honours; but Lord Duffus and his brother were not so fortunate. They had little or no land to lose, but Lord Duffus lost his peerage, which was not restored to the family until the reign of George IV., in the year 1826. The Earl of Sutherland and Mr. Dunbar of Thunderton afterwards became reconciled, and in the year 1722, the Earl nominated him to be a Deputy-Lieutenant of the County of Elgin.*

Douglas' Peerage, vol. I., page 447.

Douglas' Baronage, p. 11.

Memoirs of the Family of Duff, page 66.

Social Life in Former Days, 1st Series, page 299.

* John Earl of Sutherland was the most potent man of his day in the North of Scotland. He was an ardent supporter of the Revolution Settlement and of the succession of the House of Hanover, and the Government had the most implicit confidence in his integrity. In public documents, granted by him, he is described under the following high sounding titles:—"John Earl of Sutherland, Lord Strathnaver, &c., Heritable Sheriff, Lord of Regality and Crowner of the County of Sutherland, Heritable Admiral of the Counties of Sutherland and Caithness, Vice-

1715. William King of Newmill died the 27th September, aged seventy-eight. He was Provost of the burgh from 1690 to 1700, and again from 1709 to 1711, and had discharged the duties of Chief Magistrate with great energy and usefulness, and much to the benefit of the community. An elegant monument was erected to his memory in his own burying-ground in the Greyfriars' Church, Elgin, which still remains entire. His wife, Margaret Cuming, a daughter of George Cuming, Provost of Elgin, whom we have previously noticed, died in 1714, and is interred in the same ground as her husband.

Memoirs of
Family of King
of Newmill.

Fasti Scoticanæ
Ecclesie, vol.
III., page 152.

The Rev. Alexander King, one of the ministers of Elgin, died on the 22d December, having been fourteen years in office. A successor was difficult to be found, and the vacancy was not filled up until May, 1717.

1716. In the month of February, a squadron of 500 dragoons being expected in the town, on account of the rebellious state of the country, the Magistrates seem to have been much put about as to finding stable room and provision for support of horses and men.

Mr. Dunbar of Thunderton, the Provost, was the Commissioner to the Convention of Burghs, and gave in his account for travelling expenses, amounting to £300 Scots, so expensive was travelling at that time.

Council
Minutes.

A poll election of the Town Council was held on the 17th September of this year, at which Archibald Dunbar of Thunderton was again elected Provost. The assessors for conducting the election were—Alexander Dunbar of Bishopmill; Duncan Forbes of Culloden, advocate; Colonel William Grant and Ludovick Grant of Knockando.

1717. It had been the practice of the burgh for a long period to have two Town-Clerks, the one to act in the absence of the other, but the work was generally done by one of them. James Anderson, afterwards of Linkwood, was at this time the principal acting Clerk. James Fraser, writer, was his

Council
Minutes.

“Admiral of the Stewartry of Orkney and Zetland, Lord-Lieutenant of the Counties of Elgin, Nairn, Inverness, Ross, Cromarty, Sutherland, and Caithness, and of the Stewartry of Orkney and Zetland, President of the Court of Police in Scotland, Lieutenant-General of His Majesty's Forces, and Knight of the most Ancient and most Honourable Order of the Thistle.” For his eminent services, he had a pension of £1200 per annum for life conferred on him by King George I. He was chosen one of the sixteen Representative Peers for Scotland after the Union in 1707, and was again re-elected in 1715, 1722, and 1727. He died in London, 27th June, 1733.

colleague. The Council, by minute of 27th March, 1717, “ Considering that James Fraser, conjunct Clerk of this burgh, “ hath deserted and abandoned his said office by his non- “ attendance on Courts or Councils these twelve months “ past and upwards, therefore they resolved and agreed that “ his said office is void and vacant by the said fault, and by “ his being engaged in the late rebellion ; and they agreed “ that another should be chosen in his place, and accordingly “ Hugh Crombie, notar publick, was, by pluralitie of votes, “ elected, nominat, and chosen conjunct Clerk of this burgh “ in place of the said James Fraser, until Michaelmas next, “ and he is appointed to swear *de fidei*, and qualify to the “ Government before the Magistrates in a Town Court.”

The Rev. Charles Primrose was translated from Forres, and was admitted minister of Elgin, on 7th May. He held office until 1729.

*Fasti Scoticanæ
Ecclesie, vol.
III., page 152.*

The former jail of Elgin having been burnt in 1701, some temporary arrangement had been made for holding courts and imprisoning debtors and delinquents. A new Court-House and Prison had been begun in 1709, but not finished until the years 1716 or 1717. The masons are stated to have been paid £4000 Scots and 48 bolls of victual. This probably also included carpenters. The burgh contributed £1438 2s. 10d. Scots, and borrowed further from Sutherland of Kinminitie £664 13s. 4d. Scots, and £561 Scots more were raised by subscription. To replace the money borrowed on this occasion, the Council was obliged to sell or feu part of the lands of Mosstowie. The weather-cock, not answering the wind well, was sent to Inverness to be rectified, on 18th March, 1718.

It was at this time that the square tower, the spire, the Court-House, Council Chamber, and other accommodation, were erected, and which continued in the High Street until the year 1843. The old weather-cock, which was made of wood, fell down in 1778, when it was replaced by a metal one, which long continued to show the direction of the wind to the inhabitants of the town, and was a subject of daily notice. Albert Gelly, whose name appears on the jail bell, founded the bells for both “ kirk and jail,” at the top of Mr. John Forsyth’s Close, in 1713 ; and the old Tolbooth bell

was then removed to do duty at the Grammar School. It is perhaps the same old bell which is still used at the Elgin Academy.

1717.
Council
Minutes.

At the election of Council this year, which took place on the 24th September, Archibald Dunbar of Thunderton, the Provost, having served three years in terms of the sett of the burgh, retired from office, and Bailie Robert Innes was unanimously elected in his place; James Anderson, although Town-Clerk, being chosen eldest Bailie. It does not seem to have been irregular in those days to be both Provost or Bailie and Town-Clerk.

On 21st October the contract with Alexander Roust, master of the Music School, was renewed. Tradition records that he was renowned in his day as precentor in the Church of St. Giles, and his memory still lingers in the burgh.*

On 7th November, James Anderson, eldest Bailie, was elected Commissioner to the Convention of Royal Burghs, to be held that month at Edinburgh, and a Commission was ordered to be prepared in his favour, and the Provost, Bailie Wiseman, and the Treasurer, &c., to give him his instructions.

The jail bell cost £276 Scots money, which was paid to Albert Gelly, founder in Aberdeen, and acknowledged to be due to James Anderson, Bailie, on the 23d December, he having advanced the money.

1718.
Council
Minutes.

On 3d February, the Council finding it necessary to guard the town at night, appointed twenty men to keep watch each night from nine o'clock in the evening until six o'clock in the morning.

It being confidently believed that coal would be found on the Town's Muir, an agreement was entered into between the Magistrates and James Ross, George Ogilvie, and John Laurie, masons, to make a search for coals by digging or otherwise, William Geddes, merchant, acting on behalf of the town, the Magistrates and Council binding themselves to keep him skaitless.

* Precentor Rust or Roust died about the middle of the century. His tombstone still exists in the Elgin Cathedral, but is almost illegible. It is said to have had the following lines upon it :—

“The famous Rust is gone from us,
“And mingled into dust;
“But now it is hoped his soul's above,
“Among the spirits just.
“In vocal music he excelled,” &c.

The effect of the Union with England had hitherto, and for many years after this time, been attended with bad effects to all the burghs on the north-east coast of Scotland; and on the 19th May it was reported by a committee of the Council, “anent the state of the burgh with respect to the “decay of trade, that they had drawn up a representation “to be laid before the Commissioners of the neighbouring “burghs, to meet in this place to-morrow; and accordingly “the same was presented and publicly read in Council, “whereof the Town Council approved.”

Provost Innes was elected Commissioner to the Convention of Royal Burghs this year.

On 29th October, Hugh Crombie, joint Town-Clerk of the burgh, having died on the 26th of the same month, Alexander Smith, notary public, was, by the Magistrates and Town Council, unanimously elected as one of the Clerks of the burgh during the Council's pleasure only, and he was ordained to give his oath *de fidei*, and also to take the oaths to Government. Mr. Anderson, the senior Clerk, continued, as appears by the minute book, to do the principal part of the duty.

1719.

Council
Minutes.

On the 2d November, the Bailies, Dean of Guild, and Clerk Anderson were appointed a committee to arrange accounts with contractors for repairs and other work at the Harbour of Lossiemouth.

On the 21st December, Bailie Charles Gordon was appointed Commissioner to the Convention of Burghs, to be held on the 31st day of this month, with the usual allowance for expenses, and horse-hire for travelling South and North, and also for daily fees.

January 18.—The Magistrates had before them a letter from Sir David Dalrymple, His Majesty's Advocate, bearing that he had a particular order from the king signified to him by His Majesty's Secretary, whereby it is appointed that the Magistrates do forthwith give directions for putting the laws in execution against all nonjuring clergy within their jurisdiction; and the Council, being credibly informed that Mr. Alexander Cumming, a nonjuring Episcopal minister, doth preach and administer the sacraments, and other acts of the ministerial function, in this burgh, without the quali-

1720.

fications requisite in law, unanimously resolved that the said Mr. Cumming be prosecuted and tried before the Magistrates with all speed for the said offences, and appointed a libel to be drawn out against him by their Fiscal for that end.

Council
Minutes.

March 28.—The Council having made trial of the qualifications of Alexander Smith, their temporary Clerk, now appointed him conjunct Clerk of the burgh, *ad vitam aut culpam*, with half of the casualties and emoluments of the office, from that day, during his lifetime.

On 27th June, John M'Komie, writer in Edinburgh, the agent for the Magistrates, was appointed their Commissioner to the Convention of Burghs this year.

September 27.—James Innes, eldest son of Robert Innes, late Provost, was, by plurality of votes, elected Provost for the ensuing year.

1721.

January 16.—“The Council, being informed by some of the burgesses that there appears to be a gang of villains in town, who are attempting every other night to break open the merchants' shops, do appoint that, every night, twelve of the town's men keep a nightly watch, and patrol in the streets, for preserving the inhabitants from house and shop breaking.”

On 19th June, Provost James Innes was elected Commissioner to the ensuing Convention of Burghs.

1722.

Council
Minutes.

April 7.—The Council of this date elected the Honourable Colonel John Campbell, Groom of the Bed-Chamber to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and a merchant burgess, as delegate for this burgh, for choosing a Member of Parliament for the District of Burghs, the election to take place at Inverurie, the returning burgh, on the 13th April of this current month. It appears that the Honourable Mr. Fraser was elected Member at Inverurie, but afterwards unseated by the House of Commons, and the above Honourable John Campbell declared duly elected.

An Act of Parliament was obtained by the burgh in the eighth year of the reign of King George I., empowering the Magistrates to lay on a duty of two pence, Scots money, on every Scots pint of ale or beer brewed, brought in, or bonded for sale within the town and privileges thereof, for nineteen years, from 25th March, 1722. Peter Russell, writer in

Elgin, was, on the 3d May, appointed collector of the duties and penalties leviabie under the statute, for three years, up to 25th March, 1725, his salary to be £20 sterling for the first year, and £15 for each of the two last years, to be retained by him out of the funds collected; and a contract was drawn out to that effect.

1722.

The Church of Scotland had been settled by King William at the Revolution on what he considered fair and liberal principles. This was done with the best possible intentions, and under the advice of able men; but it turned out an incongruous and ill-agreeing body. The old Covenanting ministers and the Episcopalian ministers who kept their places were totally at variance with one another, and the restoration of the Law of Patronage in 1712 had made matters worse. A body arose in the Church called the Moderate party, who early acquired a majority, and carried matters with a high hand. Before the year 1720 standing feuds had been ripening between the General Assembly where the Moderate party prevailed, and the majorities in various Synods and Presbyteries where the opposing side predominated. These disputes, of a subtle and irritating description, arose about the doctrines of the Church, and were driven to extremity. John Simson, Professor of Divinity at Glasgow, was accused of teaching his students erroneous doctrines. His views perhaps were something approaching the rationalism of the present day. His brethren denounced him as a Pelagian, perhaps as a Socinian. Simson aggravated the feelings against him by the contempt with which he treated the country clergy. In the year 1717, he was admonished by the Assembly, but matters were not concluded for twelve years thereafter. The evangelical party wished his immediate deposition, but did not succeed in their object. Simson was finally suspended from his office, and was never reponed, but the case was not concluded until the year 1729. The strife occasioned by this long agitated case was very great, and was considered a standing grievance.

Burton's
History, vol.
II., pages 314,
&c.

A still more serious discussion composed what has been called the "great Marrow Controversy." In the days of Puritanism in England, a book was published called the "Marrow of Modern Divinity." It is dated in the year

Burton's
History, vol.
II., page 317,
&c.

1722. 1645 ; the author, Edward Fisher. The work is reckoned by judges as a scholarly one, and professes to draw from the writings of Luther, and other fathers of the Reformation, their views on the questions of justification and sanctification. The book had been forgotten, or probably not known in Scotland, but a copy had been found in the house of an old Puritan soldier, recently dead in Berwickshire, by the Rev. Thomas Boston, author of "The Fourfold State," and, being fascinated with the volume, he communicated it to the Rev. James Hogg, minister of Carnock, and other devout friends, and they, in the sincere belief that it contained much precious instruction, resolved to publish it for the good of the Church and public. The volume was printed under the charge of Mr. Hogg, and immediately became very popular. It is very strange that so harmless a work should have created so much excitement. It has been stated that it might not have become the subject of public discussion in Church Courts, had not some personal pique existed between Principal Haddow of St. Andrew's, then a leader in the Church, and Mr. Hogg, who took charge of the publication of the book. The work, being considered a standard of authority by an important party in the Church, created a rancorous and dreary controversy, in which the supporters of the "Marrow" were denounced as Antinomians, and their antagonists as Legalists. The ruling party in the Assembly had the folly to believe that they could quench the dispute by authority, and in 1720 passed an Act prohibiting the clergy from recommending the book, and directing them to exhort the people not to read it. Such laws are never obeyed, and it just gave the work an increased popularity. Twelve of the most influential of the clergy gave in a representation to the General Assembly against this Act. Those who adhered to this document received the party title of "Marrowmen," and became a power in the State, which their opponents regretted they had raised. The General Assembly, in 1722, passed an Act declaratory of the law of the Church on the disputed doctrine—the injunction against its teaching was renewed, and the twelve Marrowmen were rebuked. They left behind them a protest, which seemed to challenge the Assembly to take farther

steps, but the majority, with a prudence which seldom occurs in Church controversy, took no further notice of the matter. The "Marrow of Modern Divinity" continued a very popular work, and between this time and the year 1759, no fewer than fifteen editions were published. I am not aware that any of our North country clergy took part in this controversy, but the sting left behind was one of the leading causes of the Secession in 1732, and which, within a few years thereafter, extended to Elgin.*

William Duff of Dipple died this year, 1722, aged sixty-nine. He had lived in Elgin for nineteen years, and at his death was the largest heritor in the parish. He was much respected and greatly regretted. He was succeeded by his only son, William Duff, afterwards Lord Braco and Earl of Fife. Dipple's body was probably interred at Mortlach beside his father and mother, but I have failed to discover with precision the place of his interment.

Baird's Memoirs
of the Family
of Duff, page
65.

June 5.—Robert Innes, late Provost, was elected Commissioner to the ensuing Convention of Burghs, to be held at Edinburgh on 3d July.

1722.

Council
Minutes.

September 25.—James Innes was re-elected Provost.

June 10.—Robert Innes was again elected Commissioner to the meeting of Convention of Burghs, to be held at Edinburgh on 2d July next.

1723.

September 24.—James Innes having fulfilled his period, retired from the office of Provost, and Robert Innes was elected in his room.

June 13.—James Innes, Bailie, was elected Commissioner for the Convention of Burghs, to be held at Edinburgh on the first Tuesday of July next.

1726.

The Rev. James Thomson, one of the ministers of Elgin, died on the 21st June this year, after a very successful ministry of about thirty years. We have already referred specially to his life and character. He was succeeded by the Rev. Joseph Sanderson, who was translated from Alves, and settled the 2d May, 1727.

Fasti Scoticanæ
Ecclesie, vol.
III., page 153.

* The twelve ministers who signed the representation against the finding of the Assembly in the Marrow Controversy, were—James Hogg of Carnock, Thomas Boston of Ettrick, John Bonar of Torphichen, John Williamson of Inveresk, James Kid of Queensferry, Gabriel Wilson of Maxton, Ebenezer Erskine of Portmoak, Ralph Erskine of Dunfermline, James Wardlaw of Dunfermline, Henry Davidson of Galashiels, James Bathgate of Orwell, and William Hunter of Lilliesleaf.

1726.
Council
Minutes.

September 27.—Robert Innes, Provost of Elgin, having died before the election this year, James Innes was elected Provost in his place.

1727.

February 6.—John Porteous, teacher of the Grammar School, dismissed from May next, for not attending to the school; the vacancy in the school to be advertised in the *Daily Courant*.

March 28.—Decreet-arbitral in submission between the Magistrates and John Sutherland, elder and younger of Greenhall, about boundaries, recorded in the books of Council and Session.

September 9.—Election for a Member of Parliament for this district of burghs was held at Elgin this day. Duncan Urquhart, younger of Burdsyards, was delegate for Elgin; the Honourable George Ogilvie, son of the Earl of Findlater, for Banff; John Lorimer, merchant in Cullen, for Cullen; Alexander Downie, merchant in Kintore, for Kintore; Alexander Gordon of Pithurg, for Inverurie. William Stuart, Esq., Remembrancer in Exchequer, was unanimously elected Member.

1728.

March 16.—Election for a Member of Parliament held at Elgin. James Innes, Provost, was delegate for Elgin; James Shand, merchant, delegate for Banff; John Lorimer, merchant, Cullen, delegate for Cullen. Inverurie and Kintore were not represented. Patrick Campbell, Esq., was elected Member.

Douglas'
Peerage, Wood's
Edition, vol. I.,
page 654.

Alexander, second Duke of Gordon, died the 28th November this year. He was in the prime of life at this time. He had strong Jacobite principles, and was a strict Roman Catholic. He married in 1706 Lady Henrietta Mordaunt, daughter of Charles Earl of Petersborough and Monmouth, by whom he had four sons and seven daughters. Her Grace brought up all the family as Protestants. She survived her husband thirty-two years, having died in the year 1760. The Duke was succeeded in his honours and estate by his eldest son, Cosmo George, third Duke of Gordon, who it is said was named after Cosmo Grand Duke of Tuscany, with whom his father had formed a friendship during his travels abroad. Two of the younger sons entered the army, and one entered the navy, and seem to have been gallant officers.

The Rev. Charles Primrose, who had been settled as one of the ministers of Elgin in the year 1717, was translated to Crichton on 11th March, and the Rev. James Winchester, from Auldearn, was called on 28th August, and admitted on 5th May, 1730.

1729.

Fasti, vol., III.,
page 152.

March 22.—Deed of Mortification of William Duff of Braco, for support of “ane honest decayed merchant, a residenter and burgess of Elgin,” was recorded in the minute book.

1729.

Council
Minutes.

April 26.—A committee was appointed to regulate the price of peats, the charges made by sellers being considered exorbitant.

May 8.—A visitation of Commissioners from the Convention of Burghs was held this day, and a report was made on the state of the burgh and harbour of Lossiemouth, to be handed to the next Commissioner to the General Convention.

June 2.—Bailie James Innes was elected Commissioner to next Convention of Burghs, to be held at Edinburgh on first Tuesday of July.

September 21.—James Anderson of Linkwood was elected Provost for the ensuing year.

November 29.—“The said day James Fraser, Sheriff-Clerk of Moray, gave in a petition to the Town Council, bearing that, whereas, in the month of September, 1714, he was settled conjunct Town-Clerk within this burgh, in place of David Stewart, and gave bond to the Town Treasurer for five hundred merks Scots for the price of said office, wherein James Innes of Inchstellie was his cautioner; that the said office has been vacat, and he deprived thereof in the beginning of the year 1717, he reaped little or no benefite be the office; that therefore he humbly demitted any title he could claim thereto, and therefore craved that the Town Councill would be pleased to discharge his bond. The Councill, haveing considered the petition, doe find that the rousing of the office of the Town-Clerkship was derogatory to the freedome of choice which the Town Councill ought to have in electing their clerks; and therefore give full power to the Magistrates and Treasurer to discharge the said James Fraser and his cautioner *ex gratia* of the said sum of five hundred merks

1729. “and bond granted therefor, and of the hail annual rents
“ due thereon. “ JAMES ANDERSON, Pr.”

James Fraser, it will be remembered, was deprived of the Town Clerkship for joining the rebellion in 1715, but this did not seem to have prevented him from continuing in the office of Sheriff-Clerk, which he did for upwards of forty years after that event. The curious fact is here disclosed that the office of Town-Clerk had been sold by public roup in 1714.

1730. Council Minutes. May 7.—William Gordon was elected master of the Grammar School for one year and a-half from 15th May then current, at the usual salary, and to receive all the school fees, and to be subject to the censure and removal by the Town Council, in case of negligence in his office.

June 17.—William Forbes, writer in Edinburgh, the town's agent, to be Commissioner to the ensuing Convention of Burghs, to be held at Edinburgh on 1st July next.

1731. August 28.—James Anderson of Linkwood, Provost, died this day. His death seems to have been sudden, as he had been present at the meeting of Council on 9th curt. He died at the early age of fifty-one. He had been a very prominent person in the affairs of the burgh for nearly thirty years, and the foremost man of business in the county. He had acted as Sheriff-Substitute, Town-Clerk, Commissary Clerk, and Commissioner for the Earl of Moray, and agent for the principal proprietors in the shire of Elgin. He purchased the estate of Linkwood in the year 1727. He married in 1706 Barbara King, daughter of William King, Provost of Elgin, by whom he had a family of twelve children. He was succeeded in his property and business by his eldest son, William Anderson, who became, like his father, conjunct Town-Clerk of the burgh.

September 28.—“ James Anderson, late Provost, being
“ removed by death, in his place James Innes, apothecary,
“ was chosen Provost of this burgh for the ensuing year.”

The same day, William Anderson was elected joint Town-Clerk of the burgh, as successor to his father, James Anderson, late Provost.

1732. January 31.—“ The Councill, takeing to their considera-
“ tion the irregular practices and behaviour of Mr. William

“Gordon, present master of the Grammar School of Elgin,
 “and particularly that the said Mr. William Gordon has
 “frequently sitten up nights drinking and rioting in taverns;
 “therefore, for these and several other enormities committed
 “by the said William Gordon, and that the contract between
 “him and the town is expyred, the Town Councill doe
 “declare the Grammar Schooll vacant at the term of Whit-
 “sunday next; intimation of which was made presently to
 “the said William Gordon in Councill, and certification
 “given that his sallary would be then stop’t.

1732.

“JA. INNES, PRO.”

April 10.—William Gordon, master of the Grammar School, having made submission to the Magistrates, was continued in office until the term of Whitsunday, 1733.

On 5th June, William Forbes, writer in Edinburgh, was nominated Commissioner to the Convention of Royal Burghs, to be held at Edinburgh on the first Tuesday of July. He was again elected in 1733.

The Rev. Mr. Sanderson, minister of the second charge, died on 15th July, and the Rev. Lachlan Shaw was translated from Calder, and admitted in his place on the 9th May following.

1733.

The Secession from the Church of Scotland by the Rev. Ebenezer Erskine and others, took place in the year 1732. The causes which led to this it is not our province to enter into. There were serious faults on both sides. On one side there was the domineering influence of a powerful majority which stopped all freedom of debate, and on the other side there was much pride and obstinacy which determined the Seceders to persist in the line they had adopted after every reasonable concession had been made to them. It is a painful and melancholy history, and the fruits of the Secession soon appeared in all parts of Scotland.*

1734.

The Rev. James Winchester, who had been settled as minister of the first charge of Elgin in the year 1730, was translated to Jedburgh on 10th April this year. The parishioners divided in making choice of his successor, one

Mackelvie's
 Annals of
 United Presby-
 terian Church,
 page 249, &c.

* The four first Seceding ministers were—Ebenezer Erskine, minister at Stirling, William Wilson, minister at Perth, Alexander Moncrieff, minister at Abernethy, and James Fisher, minister at Kinclaven. On 6th December, 1733, they formed themselves into an Associated Presbytery, and were soon joined by others.

1734. portion bringing out a call for the Rev. Mr. Irvine of Auldearn, and the other for the Rev. Mr. Howie of Methlick. The Presbytery appointed a committee to reconcile the parties, but failed in the attempt. The Synod of Moray, before whom the case came by appeal, set aside both calls. An appeal from this decision was made by both parties to the General Assembly, 1735, which preferred the case of Mr. Irvine, and ordered his induction to take place. Several of the parishioners would not submit to his ministry, and either travelled to other parishes or remained at home when it was his turn to preach. This eventually led, in the course of a few years, to the settlement of a Secession minister in Elgin. But we will not enlarge farther on the subject at present, as it will be more fully treated hereafter.

Council
Minutes.

On 16th May the Town Council nominated Provost James Innes as their delegate to proceed to Banff for election of a Member of Parliament for this District of Burghs, on the 18th of this current month, and granted a commission in his favour accordingly. On the above date the Honourable William Stuart was elected Member of Parliament, and continued in office until 1741.

On 3d June, William Forbes, writer in Edinburgh, was elected Commissioner to the Convention of Royal Burghs.

September 24.—John Robertson, merchant in Elgin, was elected Provost.

1737. September 27.—James Innes, apothecary, was chosen Provost of the burgh.

1738. The Council appointed a guard of sixteen men to keep watch on the town up to 1st April next. A reward of 100 merks offered to any person who would discover the persons who had broken up the shop of Robert Duff, merchant, and had stolen various goods out of the premises.

On 19th June this year, James Stephen, merchant in Elgin, one of the Bailies of the burgh, was elected Commissioner to the Convention of Royal Burghs, to be held at Edinburgh on the first Tuesday of July.

1739. May 21.—William Forbes, writer in Edinburgh, is chosen Commissioner to the Convention of Royal Burghs, to be held at Edinburgh on the first Tuesday of July.

1740. May 8.—The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

met. The Reverend George Logan, minister of the College Church, Edinburgh, was chosen Moderator. The Earl of Hyndford was Commissioner. On Saturday the 10th they entered upon the case of the Seceding ministers, eight in number, who, being cited, did not appear. On the 12th they were again called with the like effect. The affair was resumed on the 15th. The arguments on this occasion were much the same with those insisted on before the Assembly of 1739, and the question being put *depose* or *not*, it carried *depose* 140, *not* 30. Whereupon the Assembly passed an act or sentence dated at Edinburgh, the 15th May, 1740, by which they deposed Messrs. Ebenezer Erskine at Stirling, William Wilson at Perth, Alexander Moncrieff at Abernethy, James Fisher at Kinclaven, Ralph Erskine at Dunfermline, Thomas Mair at Orwell, Thomas Nairn at Abbotshall, and James Thomson at Burntisland, ministers, from the office of the holy ministry, prohibiting and discharging them, and every one of them, to exercise the same, or any part thereof, within this Church in all time coming. Against this sentence fifteen ministers and four elders gave in reasons of dissent. The only one of these from the North was John Squire, minister at Forres, a clergyman of eminence in his day. It had perhaps become necessary to bring this protracted case to a close, as there was no prospect of bringing the Seceding ministers to any terms of reconciliation. It was a lamentable affair, the first of many breaches in the Church, all arising out of the Law of Patronage. Neither of the parties could have foreseen that in the course of a century there would have been 1000 ministers and upwards dissenting from the Church for the same cause.

September 23.—William Anderson of Linkwood was elected Provost.

The harvest of 1740 was a very bad one, and there was much scarcity and distress in the country. On 13th April of this year the Magistrates purchased 150 bolls of bear and oats from Sir Robert Gordon of Gordonstown at the price of £1250 Scots, and 100 bolls of oatmeal from Sir Harry Innes of Innes at £8 Scots per boll, for the use of the starving poor. On the 23d April the price of bear had risen to £10 Scots per boll, and the Magistrates purchased from Robert

1740.

Annals of the
General
Assembly,
vol. I., pages
15, 16, 17.

Council
Minutes.

1741.

1741. Innes, merchant in Elgin, 150 bolls at that rate ; and on the 4th May, 150 bolls farther, at about a similar price.

Council
Minutes.

On 19th May, William Anderson, Provost, was chosen delegate to proceed to Cullen for election of a Member of Parliament on the 28th of the month, to serve for this District of Burghs. The election took place accordingly, and Sir James Grant of Grant, Baronet, was elected Member, who served until 1746.

On 4th August, the scarcity continuing, the Magistrates purchased an additional 100 bolls of meal for the poor.

1743. June 13.—John Laing, Dean of Guild, was elected Commissioner to the Convention of Royal Burghs, to meet at Edinburgh on the first Tuesday of July.

September 27.—James Stephen, merchant, was elected Provost for the ensuing year. He was the father of Dr. Thomas Stephen, and grandfather of the late Dr. James Stephen, physicians in Elgin.

The Convention of Burghs this year, passed a resolution complaining “ of the unhappy circumstances to which this “ part of the United Kingdom is reduced by the universal “ and *excessive use of tea* and foreign spirits, to which all “ ranks, even the very meanest, of the people are tempted “ by the low prices at which such commodities are afforded “ by the smuggler ; and observing with deep concern, that “ the unrestrained use of such foreign goods, for the purchase “ whereof the coin of the country has for year after year been “ exported, till at last the scarcity of bullion is very sensibly “ felt, has, in a great measure, supplanted *the consumption “ of malt liquors and spirits made of grain, the growth of the “ country*, whereby the value of barley and all grains fit for “ malting must necessarily be reduced, to the very great loss “ of all landlords and farmers over the kingdom.” Therefore recommended that instructions be given to their representatives in the House of Commons to make application to His Majesty and Parliament to have such regulations passed into a law as may prevent the said “ *universal and excessive use of tea and foreign spirits.*”

1744.

Council
Minutes.

This year, and last, the Town Council borrowed considerable sums of money for building houses and boats, and making other improvements at Lossiemouth, and also for

promoting the settlement of fishermen and other useful persons in the village, with the view of increasing the trade, as appears by many minutes of Council.

1744.

On the 6th June, the Town Council resolved to discourage to the utmost of their power for the future the smuggling of all foreign goods, particularly such as interfere with, or hinder, the consumption of the natural products of the country, and especially of *tea* and *brandy*, and exhorted the inhabitants of the burgh to adhere to this resolution, for the good of the nation.

June 22.—Provost James Stephen was chosen to represent the burgh in the ensuing Convention, to be held at Edinburgh on the first Tuesday of July.

William Anderson of Linkwood, late Provost of Elgin, died on the 13th June this year, at the early age of 37, cut off in the prime of his days, after giving the promise of a very useful life. He had succeeded to his father's very extensive business, and was Commissary-Clerk and conjunct Town-Clerk of the burgh, and, as already mentioned, was Provost from 1740 to 1743. He was, I believe, the youngest man, with one exception, ever elected Provost of Elgin, so far as can be found on record.

1745.

On the 19th July, Prince Charles Edward Stuart landed at Moidart, in Inverness-shire, from a small French frigate, on his romantic and ill-fated expedition, in which so many respectable gentlemen shipwrecked their fortunes. Had he not prevailed on Lochiel to join him, it is believed none of the other Highland chieftains would have embarked in so desperate a cause; but his example was contagious, and very soon a considerable army was raised, with which the Prince marched to the south. No person from Morayshire of any note joined the Prince, except Lord Lewis Gordon, brother of the Duke of Gordon. He had served in the Royal Navy, and had risen to the rank of Lieutenant. He was at this time a very young man, but became an ardent follower of the Prince. He raised two battalions of men on his own account, and was actively engaged during the whole expedition, but could not prevail on his brother, the Duke, who was a passive spectator, to give him any assistance. His Grace took a wiser course. The country owed much to Lord

President Forbes, who, by his personal influence, prevented many of the clans from joining in the Rebellion, particularly the Macdonalds, and Macleods of Skye. He incurred serious pecuniary liabilities for the Government, and, when all was over, had little reward for his trouble. On the contrary, he was left to fight out of his difficulties as he best could. We cannot follow the Prince in his movements to the south—the Battle of Prestonpans, the march to England, the retreat to Scotland, the fight at Falkirk, and the return to Inverness, all which are well recorded in the historical writers of the day, and more particularly by the late Robert Chambers, in his very interesting work on the Rebellion.

1746.

February 16.—Prince Charles arrived in Inverness from his expedition to the South on this date, with his army much diminished and considerably disheartened, but he still put a bold face upon matters, and hoped for the best. In the middle of March he was in Elgin, and spent eleven days there between that and Gordon Castle. It is presumed the Duke of Gordon was not there, and that it had been taken possession of for the time by his brother, Lord Lewis Gordon.* The Prince had no doubt many friends and adherents about Fochabers and Enzie, where Roman Catholics abounded, among others Gordon of Letterfourie, who appears to have joined his standard.

While in Elgin the Prince lived in Thunderton House, then occupied by Mrs. Anderson of Arradoul.† When on this visit he became very ill, and was in danger for two days. The usual remedy of the period (bleeding) was used, and the inflammatory cold was checked, which a writer of the day states “caused a joy in every heart not to be expressed.” We have no record how he spent his time when in Elgin. He returned to Inverness before the close of the month.

* Lord Lewis Gordon's romantic career has been celebrated by various writers. After the Battle of Culloden he escaped abroad, was attainted by Act of Parliament in 1746, and died at Montreuil, in France, on 15th June, 1754, unmarried, not much above thirty years of age.

† Mrs. Anderson of Arradoul (Rebecca Dunbar), invariably called Lady Arradoul, was the eldest daughter of Archibald Dunbar of Thunderton. She first married Robert Gordon, grandson of Sir Ludovick Gordon of Gordonstown, by whom she had several daughters; and, secondly, Alexander Anderson of Arradoul, in Enzie. She was a great Jacobite, and so much attached to the Prince that she carefully preserved the sheets in which he slept, and directed her own body to be wrapped in them at her death, a request which was carried out. Her female servant who then attended the Prince married John Batchen, auctioneer in Elgin, lived to the age of 106, and related these events to persons still alive.

The Duke of Cumberland left Aberdeen on the 8th April, and reached Banff on the 10th. On the 11th the army moved forward to Cullen, where the Earl of Findlater testified his loyalty by distributing 200 guineas among the troops. During this day's march, the army kept close by the shore, and were closely accompanied by the fleet.

On the 12th April they crossed the Spey in three divisions, one at Garmouth, another opposite Gordon Castle, and a third at the Church of Bellie. The river was waist deep. The Duke lodged at the Manse of Bellie, and the army encamped on the river bank. The next day (Sunday) they marched through Elgin, but did not halt until they reached the Moor of Alves.

On the 16th, the final Battle of Culloden was fought—a most unequal engagement. The Highlanders were only from 4000 to 5000 strong, exhausted with hunger and fatigue, while their opponents were at least twice as numerous, fresh, well appointed with cavalry and artillery, and all other warlike implements. It was an act of desperation to fight on such conditions. Had they avoided a battle, and carried on a desultory war, they might have made terms for themselves. Although the Highlanders performed prodigies of valour, they had no chance in such a contest, and were mown down like grass. Prince, chieftain, and peasant were scattered like autumn leaves, never to meet again, and the romantic history, with Highland clanship, comes to a final close.*

With what feelings the struggle made by Prince Charles in 1745 and 1746 was viewed in Elgin, we have little evidence. The Town Council minutes are totally silent on the subject, and there seems to have been no meeting of the Magistrates from 2d December, 1745, to 12th May, 1746, a period of more than five months. Perhaps this blank occurs owing to the disturbed state of the country. There is little doubt the community was much divided, and there was certainly a strong Jacobite party in the town. The Presbyterian ministers were, however, a great power for the Government, and contributed much to keep up a good feeling on that side, impressing upon their congregations the

* It is difficult to find out the exact number of Highlanders engaged in the Battle of Culloden, the authorities being very conflicting.

1746. propriety of loyalty to the Protestant succession. The rebel army, being in a state of starvation, was a great annoyance, particularly in the country parts, where they entered the farmers' houses, carrying off meal, sheep, and fowls, and the very victuals prepared for the use of their families. Sir Robert Gordon complains of the damage done at Gordonstown by the rebels, who came to Morayshire on the 16th February, and remained until 11th April. They carried away his horses, 1000 stones of hay, 20 loads of straw, 10 bolls of oats, a very large pease stack, and made free quarters upon his tenants. A number of officers, with thirty men, lodged in the Mansion-House of Gordonstown, turned out Lady Gordon and her family, and carried Sir Robert himself a prisoner to Elgin, where he was detained for ten days, and from thence conveyed him to Inverness. They also shot his pigeons at Gordonstown and Bellormie, and stole pork, hams, dry fish, &c., out of the house, besides threatening his servants with violence. These exactions no doubt cured Sir Robert of his early Jacobite propensities, and made him a loyal subject. He was not a popular person, and, being a troublesome neighbour, there was no regret for his losses.

Social Life in
Former Days,
1st Series,
page 357.

One thousand bolls of wheat, flour, oatmeal, and bear were ordered to be sent to Forres, for the use of the rebel army, from the lands of Roseisle, Duffus, Kinneddar, Westfield, Ardgay, &c. The rebels also gathered the Government taxes, and, failing payment, quartered troops on the recusants, burning their houses, and carrying off their cattle. Sir John Cope and the Duke of Cumberland were as exacting on the other side, but with this important difference, that what the Government took they paid for. It must have, therefore, been with some considerable degree of satisfaction that the community generally saw this civil warfare brought to a close.

Council
Minutes.

On 12th May, 1746, the Council resumed the ordinary business of the town, but take no notice of the troubles and tumults of the last nine months, and particularly of the spring of the present year.

June 20.—William Forbes, writer in Edinburgh, is appointed Commissioner to the Convention of Royal Burghs, to be held at Edinburgh on the first Tuesday of July.

Alexander Smith, Town-Clerk of Elgin, died in the month of July or August this year. He was a person of very convivial habits, of whom many anecdotes are told, but he seems to have discharged his duties to the town in a faithful and efficient manner, from the year 1720 to this time.

1746.

On 15th September, "the Town Council, taking into their " consideration the good offices and assistance given to the " Magistrates in the late troublesome times by William " Burnet, present Town-Clerk, and the great trouble he had " otherwise taken upon himself in performing of public " service, and having sufficient experience of his ability and " fidelity to discharge said office, they unanimously constitute " and ordain him conjunct Town-Clerk during life, and in " the same way and manner the deceased Alexander Smith, " late conjunct Clerk, held the said office." Mr. Burnet had acted as Clerk, during pleasure, from the death of William Anderson, on 13th June, 1745, and he was appointed now, by the above minute, conjunct Town-Clerk for life.

Council
Minutes.

On the same day a petition was given in to the Council by Robert Anderson of Linkwood, Robert Innes, Archibald Craig, George Charles, and John Smith, merchants, and Robert Anderson, writer, praying that the office of joint Town-Clerk, vacant by the death of Alexander Smith, should be exposed by public roup, which was refused by the Council, on the grounds that their doing so would deprive them of making choice of a Clerk to their own mind.

September 23.—John Duff, senior, merchant, was elected Provost for the ensuing year.

October 6.—James Munro was appointed master of the Grammar School in room of James Cruickshank, and ordered to appear before the next meeting of Presbytery, that they may make trial of his literature and qualifications for discharge of the duties of the office.

The same day, Patrick Duff, writer in Edinburgh, son of Robert Duff, late Bailie, was chosen conjunct Town-Clerk of the burgh during the Magistrates' pleasure; and until he could arrange his affairs to enable him to settle in Elgin, William Burnet, the other Clerk, was authorised to discharge the whole duties of the office and to receive the whole

1746. emoluments. Petitions were given in at the same time from Robert Anderson, writer, offering 400 merks Scots for the office, and from James Craig and James Leslie, writers, wishing also to purchase it, none of which were entertained.

November 17.—William Cruden was appointed master of the Music School until Whitsunday next, at a salary of 50 merks, and to receive the scholars' fees, and directed to appear before the next meeting of the Presbytery, that they may make trial of his piety and literature; and he was ordered to qualify before the Magistrates, by taking the oaths appointed by law.

1747.
Council
Minutes.

February 4.—A letter was produced by the Provost from William Grant, of Prestongrange, Lord Advocate, intimating the death of Sir James Grant, Member of Parliament for the Elgin District of Burghs, and offering his services as his successor. The Council authorised a letter to be sent in reply, assuring his Lordship of the interest the community of Elgin took in his election.

February 16.—Provost John Duff was elected delegate to go to Cullen to attend the election of a Member of Parliament there on the 18th current.

March 9.—The Provost reported that he had attended the election at Cullen, and that Mr. William Grant, the Lord Advocate, had been there unanimously elected Member of Parliament for the Elgin District of Burghs.

The only noblemen who were tried and condemned for complicity in the rebellion of 1745-6, were the Earl of Kilmarnock, Lord Balmerino, the Earl of Cromarty, and Lord Lovat. The Earl of Cromarty escaped with his life. The trial which attracted most attention was that of Lord Lovat. The crooked policy which he had followed during his life, and which was part of himself, at last reacted upon him, and he fell into his own pit. His trial and execution created an extraordinary sensation in London. He died like an old Roman hero, and certainly shone most in the hour of his death, professing himself a patriot, and passing into eternity with the words—"Dulce et decorum pro patria mori est." Although long professing to be a Presbyterian, he died a Roman Catholic. He was executed on the 9th April, 1747, just a year after the fatal field of Culloden.

That he deserved his fate more than any other there can be no doubt ; but it was scarcely worth the Government taking the life of an old man four score years of age.

1747.

Horace Walpole's Letters,
vol. I., page 161.

Hogarth's print of Lord Lovat, taken when confined in London, gives the best idea of the character of the man. His face is the very essence of cunning.

June 1.—Patrick Duff, Writer to the Signet, was elected Commissioner at the ensuing Convention of Royal Burghs.

July 18.—Robert Grant, one of the Bailies of Elgin, was chosen delegate to attend at Kintore on the 22d instant, for election of a Member of Parliament for the District of Burghs.

July 27.—Bailie Grant reported that he had attended the election at Kintore, and that Mr. William Grant, the Lord Advocate, had been again elected Member of Parliament for the Elgin District of Burghs. There were therefore two elections this year.

February 15.—An agreement was this day entered into between the Magistrates and the Presbytery, relative to the regulation of the Grammar School, whereby the Magistrates were to have the right of presentation and the power of censure, and the management of the teacher in all civil matters, and the Presbytery to have the right of discipline in ecclesiastical affairs, and of visitation of the School, and to give proper directions for promoting learning, piety, and virtue ; and the parties agree that the Court of Session be requested to interpose their authority to the above arrangement, so as to put an end to all disputes between them.

1748.

May 16.—Alexander Roust, who had retired from being master of the Music School, and succeeded by Mr. Cruden, was continued precentor during the pleasure of the Magistrates, and Mr. Cruden was ordained to pay Mr. Roust at the rate of £5 Scots monthly out of the emoluments of office.

Mr. Alexander Troup, who had been located as a missionary in connection with the Secession Church, in the County of Moray, in the year 1745, was ordained and settled as a regular minister of this body in the year 1748, where he ministered for fifteen years, being translated to Perth in 1763.

Mackelvie's
Annals of U.P.
Church, page
249, &c.

September 26.—At the election of Magistrates, Alexander Brodie of Windy Hills, was chosen Provost.

1749.

After great debates in the Lords and Commons, the Heritable Jurisdictions Bill for Scotland was passed, whereby all private judicatories were abolished, and compensation was allowed for them. The majority in the Commons was 233 against 102. The principal speakers in favour of the measure were Sir George Lyttleton; William Murray, Solicitor-General, afterwards Earl of Mansfield; William Grant of Prestongrange, Lord Advocate for Scotland; and Hume Campbell, brother to the Earl of Marchmont. It was a very wise measure, and of the greatest benefit to Scotland. The compensation allowed in this district was not great. The Earl of Moray, for the Sheriffship of Moray, was paid £3000; the Duke of Gordon, for the Regality of Spynie, £500, for the Regality of Urquhart, £300, and for the Regality of Kinloss, £182 19s. 6d.; Lord Braco, for the Regality of Pluscarden, £68 18s. 5d.; Sir Ludovick Grant, for the Regality of Grant, £900. Considering the immense power the above parties exercised under their rights of Regality, the allowances granted to compensate for their loss appear very miserable.

1752.

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland met on the 14th May. The Earl of Leven* was Commissioner, and made a strong speech on the necessity of supporting the authority of the Church, by which he meant the enforcing the Law of Patronage, and intrusion of ministers against the will of the people. The drift of his address points to the presentation of the patron being enforced in all cases, whether the congregation were satisfied or not, and that the Assembly should compel Presbyteries to do their duty. Dr. Patrick Cumin† of Relugas, one of the ministers of Edin-

Annals of Gen.
Assembly, vol.
I., page 296.

Douglas'
Peerage, vol.
II., page 118.

* Alexander, fifth Earl of Leven, was His Majesty's Commissioner to the General Assembly for thirteen successive years, viz., from 1741 to 1753. It was probably from his being the representative of an old Presbyterian family, that he took it upon him to give his opinion on the matters which came before the Assembly with more frequency and freedom than would now be tolerated. He was a member of the Faculty of Advocates, a Lord of Session, and a Representative Peer for Scotland. He died suddenly in the year 1754.

Annals
of General
Assembly, vol.
I., pages 319,
324.

† Dr. Patrick Cumin, to whom we have referred above, was proprietor of the estate of Relugas in Morayshire. He was leader of the General Assembly for upwards of twenty years, and was distinguished as a divine, and for great power in debate. He was three times Moderator, in 1749, 1752, and 1756. He died on 1st April, 1776, in the eighty-first year of his age and fifty-sixth of his ministry. His eldest son, Robert, succeeded him as Professor of Church History and Divinity in the University of Edinburgh. The family of Relugas were distinguished as divines and scholars. The granduncles of Dr. Cumin were particularly so. William was Professor of Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh; John was minister of Auldearn and Dean of Moray; David was minister of Edinkillie; Patrick, minister at Ormiston; Duncan, physician to King William III. at the

burgh, and Professor of Divinity and Church History in the University, was chosen Moderator. He had held the same office three years before (in 1749), and had been leader of the Assembly for many years. William Robertson, then minister of Gladsmuir, afterwards Principal of the University, was the rising star, and the future leader of the Moderate party.

1752.
Annals
of General
Assembly, vol.
I., pages 260 to
280.

The great business of the Assembly was the question of the settlement of Mr. Andrew Richardson, minister at Broughton, who had received a presentation to the parish of Inverkeithing in the year 1749, but had been strongly opposed by the people. The case had gone from one Church Court to another for several years, and now came up for final settlement. Mr. Robertson argued the cause, and a motion was made "that the Assembly do now appoint the "Presbytery of Dunfermline to meet at Inverkeithing on "Thursday next, at eleven o'clock, and admit Mr. Richardson; that all the members be ordered to attend; that "there be at least five ministers as a quorum to execute this "appointment; and that each minister of that Presbytery "be required to appear at the Assembly bar on Friday next, "at twelve o'clock, to give an account of his conduct." The motion passed, 102 to 56.

The Presbytery appeared at the bar on Friday the 22d May, except three who were excused from family sickness. Five ministers had not attended the settlement of Mr. Richardson, and gave in a humble representation, stating their conscientious reasons that they could not attend a forced settlement, nor be the unhappy instruments of scattering the flock of Christ. These ministers were—David Hunter of Saline, Thomas Gillespie of Carnock, Alexander Daling of Cleish, Thomas Fernie of Dunfermline, and John Spence of Orwell. Mr. Gillespie made a separate representation.

The Assembly resolved to depose one of the ministers for disobedience, in not attending the forced settlement; and

Battle of the Boyne. Dr. Cumin married Jean Lauder, daughter of Mr. David Lauder, third son of Sir John Lauder of Fountainhall; and besides Robert, above mentioned, and another son, had Patrick, Professor of Oriental Languages in the University of Glasgow; and George, a Writer to the Signet in Edinburgh. The only daughter of Mr. George Cumin was heiress of the estate of Relugas, and married her cousin, Sir Thomas Dick Lauder of Fountainhall, Baronet, author of the "Moray Floods," and other interesting works.

Douglas'
Baronage, pages
338, 339.

1752. after voting, it was resolved to depose Mr. Gillespie, to take effect from that date. The sentence was accordingly carried out instantly, and Mr. Gillespie ceased from that date to be a minister of the Church of Scotland. It is difficult to know the grounds on which this very tyrannical act took place. It is one of the most severe sentences ever passed by the Church. Mr. Gillespie was one of the best ministers of his day, zealous and indefatigable in the discharge of his duties. The late Sir Henry Moncreiff expresses an opinion that, while they wished to depose one minister as an example, they thought Mr. Gillespie was of inferior abilities, and would give them little trouble. If so, they much under-rated him. With no desire to be the founder of a sect, Mr. Gillespie became the originator of the Relief Church, which eventually increased to about 100 ministers, and became joined to the Associate Synod, under the name of the United Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Gillespie died on 19th January, 1774. Besides being a popular preacher, he was the author of several religious works. His "Treatise on Temptation," edited by the Rev. Dr. Erskine, was published a few months after his death. Mr. Gillespie is still affectionately remembered in Scotland; and we have stated this matter as one of the great public events of that day.

Douglas'
Peerage, Wood's
Edition, vol. I.,
pages 655, 656.

Cosmo George, third Duke of Gordon, died at Breteuil, near Amiens, in France, on 5th August this year. His body was carried to Elgin, and interred in the family tomb in the Cathedral. He was only in the 32d year of his age. He married at Dunkeld, 3d September, 1741, Lady Catherine Gordon, only daughter of William, second Earl of Aberdeen, by his second wife, Lady Susan Murray, daughter of John, first Duke of Athol. By her he had three sons and three daughters. The eldest son was Alexander, fourth Duke of Gordon; the second was Lord William Gordon, who entered the army. He was Member of Parliament for the County of Elgin in 1780, and for the County of Inverness in 1784. He was appointed Vice-Admiral of Scotland in 1782, which office he resigned in 1795. The third son, Lord George Gordon, born shortly before his father's death, was elected Member of Parliament for an English burgh in 1774, and took an

active part in supporting the petition to Parliament against Popery by the Protestant Association in 1780. In consequence of the riots which took place in London relative to that measure, Lord George was committed to the Tower, and tried for high treason. His defence was managed by the Honourable Thomas Erskine, and on his trial, which took place on 5th February, 1781, he was acquitted. He died in London, 1st November, 1793, unmarried, in the forty-second year of his age.

1752.

Patrick Duff, Writer to the Signet, was elected Commissioner to the Convention of Royal Burghs this year.

Council
Minutes.

September 26.—James Robertson of Bishopmill was elected Provost for the ensuing year.

October 9.—“ Alexander Brodie, late Provost, presented “ to the Council a letter from Provost Drummond of Edinburgh, as Preses of the Annual Committee of Royal Burghs, enclosing a copy of proposals for carrying on “ certain public works in the city of Edinburgh; which “ letter and proposals having been read in Council, they “ unanimously voted ten pounds sterling as a contribution “ from the town, to be paid out of the common good,” for the above purpose. This, no doubt, related to the draining of the North Loch, building the North Bridge, and other public improvements, carried out so energetically by Provost Drummond.

June 20.—Patrick Duff, Writer to the Signet, was again elected Commissioner to the Convention of Royal Burghs, to meet at Edinburgh on the first Tuesday of July.

1753.

The Church of St. Giles had not been plastered up to this time, and the Council had voted in the beginning of this year the sum of ten guineas to assist in defraying the cost; but that, and other sums raised by voluntary subscription, having been found insufficient for the purpose, they, on the 13th August, voted that the balance of the cost should be paid out of the common good.

May 2.—Alexander Brodie of Windyhills, late Provost, was elected delegate to proceed to Inverurie for election of a Member of Parliament for the Elgin District of Burghs, on the 9th May current, which he did, when William Grant of Prestongrange was again elected.

1754.

1754. December 20.—Mr. Grant of Prestongrange having been appointed one of the Lords of Session and Justiciary, it became necessary to elect another Member of Parliament in his room. Provost James Robertson was this day chosen delegate to attend the election at Inverurie, on the first January ensuing.

1755. January 1.—Andrew Mitchell* of Thainston was elected Member for the Elgin District of Burghs, and the Provost reported the result on the 6th at a meeting of the Council.

On the 24th March, the Provost produced a letter from Mr. Mitchell, the newly-elected Member, transmitting a gift of three hundred pounds sterling, to be expended in such manner as the Magistrates and Council may consider best for the benefit of the community. The letter was directed to be laid up in the cadget, and the thanks of the Magistrates and Council to be sent for the gift.

Council
Minutes.

July 28.—“Upon a petition from Mr. Stewart of Les-
“murdie, William Donaldson, and John Leslie, in Manbeen,
“and others, the Council appointed the Treasurer to pay the
“petitioners a guinea towards defraying the charges of
“building a bridge on Lossie, on the road leading from the
“town of Elgin to Manbeen, &c., described in the petition.”
This probably referred to the foot bridge of wood over the Lossie, immediately above the present stone bridge at Palmerscross, which stood until about the year 1814, but was then in a very ruinous state.

September 22.—The term of service of James Robertson of Bishopmill as Provost having expired, Alexander Brodie of Windyhills was elected in his room.

October 30.—A Head Court of the burgh was held on the subject of mill multures, when the Magistrates were authorised to enter into a submission to arbiters of all disputes with Lord Braco on the subject.

1756. April 12.—The Council elected Robert Allan, Bailie, as

* Andrew Mitchell was the only son of the Rev. William Mitchell, one of the ministers of the High Church, Edinburgh. He early entered the diplomatic service, and was Secretary to the Marquis of Tweeddale when Minister for Scotland. Mr. Mitchell was appointed Ambassador to Brussels in 1751. He was knighted in 1753, and was appointed Ambassador to Berlin, where he much distinguished himself, and was greatly esteemed by Frederick the Great. In 1765 he returned to England in bad health. The following year he resumed his duties at Berlin, where he died the 28th January, 1771. His funeral was honoured by the presence of the Court and the grief of the king. He bears the character of a very able diplomatist.

their Commissioner to the ensuing General Assembly, and recommended him to the Kirk-Session to be certified. 1756.

May 10.—The season being very threatening, cold, and late, the Magistrates purchased from Sir Harry Innes 200 bolls of oatmeal, for supply of the inhabitants, in the event of scarcity. The same day, Mr. William Forbes, City Clerk of Edinburgh, was appointed Commissioner to the ensuing Convention of Royal Burghs; but as he could not accept, on account of being also Clerk to the Convention, Bailie Robert Allan was elected in his room.

May 2.—William Forbes, City Clerk of Edinburgh, was elected Commissioner to the ensuing Convention of Burghs, and Robert Grant as Commissioner to the General Assembly. 1757. Council Minutes.

September 20.—James Robertson of Bishopmill was elected Provost, in room of Alexander Brodie of Windyhill, whose term of office had expired. 1758.

December 22.—The Rev. Alexander Irvine, one of the ministers of Elgin, died, having held office for twenty-four years.

January 29.—“ The Council, taking into their consideration that one of the ministerial charges of this town and parish is become vacant by the death of Mr. Alexander Irvine, which happened the 22d day of December last, and in regard it appears that there is a grant in favour of the Magistrates and Town Council of the right of patronage of the two ministers of the town and parish of Elgin, they agree that the town’s rights be maintained and supported; and the Council, taking into their consideration a proper person to supply said vacancy, Mr. David Rintoul, second minister of Kirkcaldy; Mr. John Touch, minister at Aberlour; and Mr. William Cruden, minister at Logie, being proposed, the majority of the Council declared in favour of the said Mr. David Rintoul; and John Laing, Bailie, declared in favour of Mr. Touch, and James Anderson, Dean of Guild, declared in favour of Mr. Cruden; and, in the meantime, the Council authorise the Magistrates to lay the whole affair before a proper lawyer to be consulted, and in the event of the town being found to have the right, declare that they will sign a presentation in favour of Mr. David Rintoul.” 1759.

1759. Although patronage was restored in 1712, it does not seem to have been acted upon in Elgin up to this time, so fearful were the patrons to interfere with the rights of the people. It was now to be acted upon in all cases, and the judicatories of the Church enforced it. The Magistrates found that the royal grant of the patronage made by King Charles I. to them in 1641, and ratified in Parliament 1645, was recalled by the Act Rescissory of 1661, and therefore was null and void. Mr. Rintoul was, however, presented by the Crown on the 10th March, but not admitted until the 28th September. It is probable, therefore, that in the meantime there had been some discussion between the Crown and the Magistrates on the subject of the right of patronage, although this does not appear in the Council minutes.

Fasti Scoticanæ
Ecclesie, vol.
III., page 152.

1760. January 14.—Alexander Brodie of Windyhill represented that he had received from Sir Ludovick Grant of Grant, Baronet, three thousand merks Scots in free gift and compliment for the community of the burgh, to be disposed of as the Magistrates and Mr. Brodie should think proper. The Magistrates were authorised to wait on Sir Ludovick, and return him the thanks of the community for this and the other favours and services he and his predecessors had done the town, and to assure him that they will always retain a grateful sense thereof; and they desired that this gift should be recorded in their minutes.

Council
Minutes.

April 21.—The Council agreed to a division of the Common Moor between them, the Earl of Fife, and Dr. Brodie of Main, and also to grant a charter to the Trades' Incorporations of the piece of moor enclosed by them, for payment of the feu-duty offered and accepted; and appointed the Convener to make out a scheme of the manner in which the moor is to be managed and disposed of, that the same may be revised, approved of by the Council, and engrossed in the charter.

June 2.—The Council gave instructions for repairing the west pier of Lossiemouth harbour, clearing out the loose stones in the mouth of the river, and making a road from the west pier to the houses of Lossiemouth.

June 20.—Mr. Cosmo Gordon, advocate, was appointed Commissioner to the Convention of Royal Burghs, to be held at Edinburgh, on the 2d July ensuing.

August 11.—The Magistrates reported that they had entered into a contract for building a quay at the harbour of Lossiemouth at the cost of £50 sterling, and had drawn on Messrs. Coutts for £25, to pay the first instalment.

1760.

August 18.—Of this date the Magistrates granted a feu charter to the Convener Meeting of the burgh in all time coming, of a part and portion of the Common Moor of Elgin, lying upon the south side of the burgh, and bounded and described as therein mentioned, at the feu-duty of £24 Scots, payable at the term of Martinmas yearly, and commencing the first payment at Martinmas, 1761, for the year preceding.

October 11.—Henrietta Mordaunt, Dowager Duchess of Gordon, daughter of Charles Earl of Peterborough and Monmouth, and widow of Alexander, second Duke of Gordon, died at Prestonhall this day, and was interred in Elgin. She left her estate of Prestonhall to her fourth son, Lord Adam Gordon. She was a person of eminent abilities, and discharged her duty to her family during her long widowhood of thirty-two years most conscientiously. A medallion with a bust was erected to her memory in the family burying-ground in St. Mary's Aisle in the Elgin Cathedral, which is still quite entire, although much in need of being cleaned and renovated. She managed her son's estate during his minority with great prudence.

Douglas' Peerage of Scotland, Wood's Edition, vol. I., page 654.

October 25.—King George II. died at the age of 77, after a reign of thirty-four years. His death was very sudden. He had risen at the usual hour in perfect health, and proposed to walk in the garden. In a few minutes, without any previous warning, he fell on the floor, having ruptured the right ventricle of the heart, and was almost instantly dead. His reign was very prosperous both in peace and war. He ruled constitutionally, and made no attempt at arbitrary government. His only fault was that he was a foreigner, and that his heart was in Germany and German politics more than in England. He was succeeded by his grandson, George III.

Smollett's History of England, vol. V., page 366.

December 1.—“The Council appoint the Provost and “Baillies to draw up an address of congratulation and condolence to the king on the death of King George II., and “the accession of King George III. to the throne, and

Council Minutes.

1760.
Council
Minutes.

“appoint the Provost to sign the address in name of the Council, and transmit the same to the Earl of Holderness.”

December 15.—“The Provost presented a letter he had received from Andrew Mitchell of Thainston, present Member of Parliament for this District of Burghs, desiring the favour of the votes and interest of the Town Council for his representing them in the next Parliament, which being considered by the Magistrates and Town Council, they unanimously resolve and agree that the said Andrew Mitchell shall have their votes and interest to represent this District of Burghs in the next Parliament; and the Council have instantly signed a letter to Mr. Mitchell signifying this their resolution.”

1761.

January 19.—A memorial laid before James Ferguson of Pitfour, advocate, with his opinion thereon, dated 7th April, 1759, was ordered to be recorded in the Council minute book, relative to the town's right of patronage of the Parish Church of Elgin. The opinion was unfavourable, the Crown Charter having been recalled by the Act of Parliament, 1661, above referred to.

The same day, a contract between the Magistrates and the Earl of Fife, relative to the Moors of Elgin, dated 15th and 30th September, 1760, was recorded in the minute book.

April 13.—Robert Grant was appointed Commissioner from the burgh to the next General Assembly.

Council
Minutes.

April 13.—James Robertson of Bishopmill, Provost, was chosen delegate for election of a Member of Parliament for this District of Burghs on the 20th current.

April 20.—This being the day for electing a Member for the Elgin District of Burghs, and Elgin being the returning burgh, the several delegates, viz., James Robertson of Bishopmill, Provost of Elgin, for Elgin; Alexander Grant, factor for the Earl of Findlater, the Commissioner for Cullen; James Shand, of Craigellie, Commissioner for Banff; Robert Grant, eldest Bailie of Kintore, Commissioner for Kintore; and George Burnett of Kemnay, Provost of Inverurie, Commissioner for that burgh—having convened within the Council Room of Elgin, James Robertson was chosen Preses; and the delegates having proceeded to the election, they unanimously made choice of Andrew Mitchell of Thainston

to be Member of Parliament for this District of Burghs in the ensuing Parliament of Great Britain. 1761.

July 6.—The Council elected Cosmo Gordon, advocate, to be their Commissioner to the Convention of Royal Burghs, to meet at Edinburgh on the 14th July current.

September 22.—Alexander Brodie of Windyhills was unanimously elected Provost in room of James Robertson of Bishopmill, whose term of office had expired.

September 28.—“The Council, considering that the profanation of the Lord’s day is become very frequent, to prevent which they enact and ordain that no person or persons shall presume to *walk in the streets or on the fields in time of divine service*; that no person shall presume to make any disturbance on the streets or under the forestairs after public worship is over, under the pains of three pounds Scots for each offence; that none shall presume to go into ale-houses and drink in time of divine service on the Lord’s day, under the penalty of six pounds Scots, each person that shall be found drinking in such houses in time of divine service on the Lord’s day, and the like sum of six pounds Scots each person who shall sell or give such ale or other liquor to them—the one half of which fines shall pertain to the informer, and the other half to the Fiscal of Court; and ordain this Act to be intimated by tuck of drum.” Council Minutes.

October 4.—The Council nominated William Edward, tailor, to be town’s drummer during their pleasure, with the usual perquisites, and a salary of six pounds Scots in the quarter, and he was appointed to beat the drum *at four in the morning*, and nine at night. 1762.

March 21.—The anchorage and shore-dues of Lossiemouth were let for three years, from the 7th March current, to Thomas Stephen, senior, merchant in Elgin, at the yearly rent of five pounds sterling. 1763.

March 25.—The Council appointed David Sampson, factor to the Earl of Hopetoun, to be their Commissioner at the ensuing General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, to meet in Edinburgh in May next. Council Minutes.

July 7.—They appointed Mr. Cosmo Gordon, advocate, to represent them in the Convention of Royal Burghs, to meet this month.

August 22.—The Magistrates settled the marches between

1763. the Burgh Lands and Dr. Brodie of Main, and visited and reported on the marches with Robert Anderson of Linkwood.

Douglas' Peerage, Wood's Edition, vol. I., page 577.

Baird's Memoirs of the Duffs, page 78.

September 8.—William Earl of Fife died at Rothiemay this day,* in a good old age, after a very prosperous life. He had spent his early life in Elgin with his father, William Duff of Dipple, who, as narrated before, was long a residenter in the town. His Lordship was a large purchaser of land, as his father had been before him, and added much to the family estates. He was a keen politician, and exerted great influence both in the Counties of Elgin and Banff. By his second wife, Jane Grant, daughter of Sir James Grant of Grant, Baronet, his Lordship had a family of seven sons and seven daughters. He was succeeded in his titles and estates by his second surviving son, James, a nobleman of great talents, who exerted in his time very great influence in the North of Scotland.

1764.

Council Minutes.

April 23.—Alexander Gordon of Cairnfield, having conveyed a part of the lands of Barflathills for the support of an Episcopal minister, the Magistrates of this date granted a charter in favour of the Rev. Francis Chalmers, minister of the Episcopal congregation of Elgin, for himself and as Trustee, for the ends and purposes mentioned in Mr. Gordon's deed of mortification.

September 25.—James Robertson of Bishopmill was again elected Provost, in room of Alexander Brodie of Windyhill, whose term of office had expired.

October 1.—There having been given in to the Council a petition by a very considerable number of the burgesses and inhabitants of the burgh, craving that the Council would build an east pier at Lossiemouth; and the Council, being very desirous to promote so good and useful a work, declare that they will advance out of the common good one hundred pounds sterling in the first instance, and, if subscriptions cannot be obtained sufficient for executing the work, that they will advance such farther sum as the common good can spare.

October 8.—The Magistrates and Council resolved of this date to raise a process of declarator for preserving their right to the Moss of Mosstowie.

* Mr. Baird states the death of William Earl of Fife to have taken place on 30th September, 1763, which is a slight difference from Sir Robert Douglas.

November 12.—Bailies Duff, Simpson, and Brander were appointed a committee to prepare plans for laying out regular streets at the harbour of Lossiemouth.

1764.

April 23.—Mr David Sampson, factor to the Earl of Hopetoun, was appointed Commissioner to the next General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, to meet at Edinburgh in May next.

1766.

Council
Minutes.

The General Assembly met at Edinburgh on Thursday, the 22d May—John Earl of Glasgow, His Majesty's Commissioner ; the Rev. John Hamilton, one of the ministers of Glasgow, Moderator. A party in the Church had become alarmed at the progress of the Dissenters, and desired to take steps to alleviate the evil, and an overture was introduced to the effect that "In respect of the dangerous consequences which are to be apprehended from the increase of Secession from the legal establishment of this Church ; and as it is reported that no fewer than *one hundred and twenty meeting houses* are already erected, although it never was, nor is, intended that any sort of severity should be used against any of those persons, it is overtured that it may be recommended to Presbyteries to enquire into the truth of this fact ; and farther, as *the abuse of the right of patronage* has been one chief occasion of the progress of Secession, it is also overtured that the General Assembly would be pleased to consider what methods may be employed to remedy so great an evil." The debate was opened in support of this overture by the Rev. Dr. Oswald of Methven, who had been Moderator of the preceding Assembly, and who spoke with great strength and dignity, dilating upon the numbers who had separated from the Church of Scotland, the unhappy consequences of it both in a spiritual and temporal view, the abuse of the Law of Patronage, and the obligation upon the General Assembly to endeavour to remedy it. The overture was opposed by Principal Robertson, the leader of the Moderate party, in a very lengthened speech, in which he held that the evil complained of was not an evil, but an advantage, and that the differences of opinion in religion, the various sects, and opposite modes of worship, constituted a remarkable beauty in the system. After a long debate, which lasted from ten

Annals
of General
Assembly, vol.
II., pages 311
and 329.

1766. in the morning until nine at night, the vote was put *approve* or *reject* the overture, and it carried *reject* by ninety-nine to eighty-five. Therefore the Assembly rejected the overture. The overture seems never to have been renewed again. The Moderate party continued to gain a greater ascendancy, and bore down all opposition to the Law of Patronage, until at last congregations had no liberty to reclaim against the intrusion of ministers; and the Secession Church continued year after year, with every disputed settlement, to increase over the land.

1767. September 22.—Alexander Brodie of Windyhills was again elected Provost of the burgh, in room of James Robertson of Bishopmill, who retired from office by rotation.

1768. April 2.—The Council elected Alexander Brodie, their Provost, as delegate to attend at Banff on 11th April current, to vote for a Member of Parliament for this District of Burghs.

May 23.—The Provost reported that in consequence of the delegation committed to him by the Council upon the second day of April last, he had repaired to Banff, and there had met with the delegates of the other Burghs of this District, when Sir Andrew Mitchell of Thainston was unanimously re-elected Member of Parliament.

The same day the Council granted a feu charter in favour of John Nicoll, merchant in Lossiemouth, his wife and son, of a piece of ground extending to thirty-six ells in length, along the new street by which it is bounded on the south, and the foot of the Coulard Brae at the North. Mr. Nicoll for a long period did a considerable business in Lossiemouth. He was the father of the late eminent and worthy Principal Nicoll of St. Andrew's University, who was Moderator of the General Assembly in the year 1809, and for some time leader of the Church of Scotland.

Old Statistical
Account, vol.
V., page 19.

In the year 1754, a ship loaded with coals came to Lossiemouth, the first cargo of the kind known to have been received at that port. The demand was then so small that the importer could not dispose of 100 barrels; but the country soon found out the value of the fuel. On 11th July, 1768, the Magistrates purchased from Thomas Stephen, senior, merchant in Elgin, 40 chalders of coals, deliverable at

Lossiemouth, for behoof of the inhabitants of Elgin, at the price of 21 shillings and sixpence Scots (1s. 9½d. sterling per barrel), a very considerable price for those days, and, adding the carriage to Elgin, not far from the price of the present day. On the 10th September they purchased 22 chalders additional, from Alexander Davidson, shipmaster in Aberdeen, at 1s. 10d. per barrel.

1768.
Council
Minutes.

March 6.—George Edward, tailor, was appointed drummer at this time, at a salary of £24 Scots yearly, to be paid quarterly, and to commence from Candlemas last. He held the office for about 60 years, rousing the inhabitants first at four o'clock and then at five o'clock in the morning, and going his rounds at nine at night with unvarying punctuality, and, as he used to say, had neither ache nor sickness the whole time, until disabled by old age. He was succeeded by his son, George the younger, who was as punctual as his father. They held the office, father and son, for nearly a century.

1769.

March 27.—Mr. David Sampson was appointed Ruling Elder for this burgh to next General Assembly.

July 3.—Mr. Cosmo Gordon,* advocate, was elected Commissioner to the Convention of Burghs, to be held at Edinburgh on the 11th July current.

September 25.—Thomas Stephen was elected Provost for the ensuing year, in room of Alexander Brodie of Windyhill, whose period of service had expired.

1770.

January 28.—Sir Andrew Mitchell of Thainston, Ambassador at Berlin, Member for this District of Burghs, died at Berlin on this date, one of the ablest diplomatists of the day, having been the representative of Great Britain at the Court of Frederick the Great during the trying period of the seven years' war. His death was much regretted both at home and abroad.

1771.

March 9.—The Council elected William Brodie, younger of Windyhill, as their delegate, to proceed to Banff on 20th March current to vote for a Member of Parliament, in room of Sir Andrew Mitchell, Knight of the Bath, deceased, their late Member.

* Mr. Cosmo Gordon was proprietor of the estate of Cluny, and was long a baron of the Court of Exchequer in Scotland.

1771. April 1.—Mr. William Brodie reported that, in consequence of the commission granted to him, he had gone to Banff upon the twentieth day of March last, in order to elect a Commissioner to represent this class of burghs, when Thomas Lockhart, Esquire, councillor-at-law, of Lincoln's Inn, London, was unanimously elected.

May 13.—The Magistrates and Council resolved, out of the common good, to advance the sum of two hundred pounds sterling for building the east pier at Lossiemouth, and appointed a committee to procure contributions from the inhabitants of the town, and from the gentlemen and farmers in the country.

Council
Minutes.

June 13.—Provost Stephen was nominated Commissioner to the Convention of Royal Burghs, and was requested to lodge a petition, prepared by the Town-Clerk, for aid in building the new pier at Lossiemouth.

August 19.—The Provost reported that he had attended the Convention, lodged the petition, and had obtained a remit to the burghs of Forres, Banff, and Cullen, to inquire into the state of the harbour of Lossiemouth, and to report to the next Convention as to the requisite repairs to be made. On the same day the Council resolved to employ Mr. Peter May, land-surveyor, factor to the Earl of Findlater, to make a plan of the harbour, and to converse with him as to the necessary repairs, and thereafter to employ practical masons to make an estimate of the expense.

September 24.—There had been much disputing in the Council during the bypast year, and it had been divided into factions, the causes of which are not apparent. Provost Stephen, who had been elected to office in the preceding year, was now left in a minority, and John Duff, merchant, and late Bailie, was, by the strength of the Brodie and Robertson party, unanimously elected Provost for the ensuing year.

October 7.—The Provost reported that the expense of the new works at the harbour of Lossiemouth, were estimated to cost £2175 sterling.

1772.

Council
Minutes.

September 19.—Thomas Stephen, late Provost; John Laing, late Bailie; and Alexander Brander, late Treasurer, having raised an action of reduction of the last year's election,

the Magistrates and Council authorised the Treasurer to borrow one thousand pounds sterling, to pay for defending them in the action, and declared the same a public debt, affecting the common good of the burgh. On 4th July this year, the Council appointed Alexander Duff, writer in Elgin, to be Depute Town-Clerk of the burgh during their pleasure, in consequence of Patrick Duff, his father, being absent in Edinburgh for several months attending to the Magistrates' defence in the process of reduction, and also in consequence of William Burnet, the other Town-Clerk, having declined to attend since the disputed election of Michaelmas last year. The same day the Council elected Provost Duff to be their Commissioner to the ensuing Convention of Burghs, and William Brodie, younger of Windyhills, to be his assessor.

1772.

February 9.—The Council, taking into consideration the present dearth of victual, and that the inhabitants have turned riotous, and threatened to raise mobs for want of meal, they therefore agreed to purchase from Archibald Duff, Sheriff-Clerk of Elgin, or any other person who can furnish the same, three hundred bolls, and authorised the Provost to enter into a contract at the rate of sixteen shillings the nine stone weight.

1773.

March 23.—The Treasurer reported that after judgment had been given by the Court of Session in the process, at the instance of the town, against Thomas Stephen, John Laing, and Alexander Brander, for delivery of the keys of the cadget and treasury accounts, the said Alexander Brander had given up the same to him, under the form of an instrument, which, being considered by the Council, they appointed the keys to be lodged in the hands of the Provost and Bailie Anderson, which was accordingly done.

Council
Minutes.

June 14.—The Council, being informed by the Member of Parliament that William Peterkin, master of the Grammar School of Elgin, had obtained a royal presentation to be assistant and successor to the Rev. Lachlan Shaw, one of the ministers of Elgin, without the knowledge of the Magistrates, Kirk-Session, or heritors of the parish, resolved to oppose the settlement by every means in their power, as far as the laws of Church and State will admit, and declared the Grammar School vacant from the first October next.

1773.

July 9.—Mr. Cosmo Gordon of Cluny, advocate, was appointed Commissioner to the Convention of Royal Burghs, to be held at Edinburgh this month.

Council
Minutes.

August 23.—The Treasurer reported that he had received a letter from Mr. Isaac Grant, W.S., the town's agent, intimating that Mr. Charles Gordon, the agent for Provost Stephen and Alexander Brander, had paid the expenses in the town's process against them.

The same day a letter was read from the town's agent intimating that £100 voted by the Convention of Royal Burghs last year for Lossiemouth was ready to be paid.

September 1.—The Magistrates and Town Council, taking into consideration the profanation of the Lord's day, and of the holy name of God, and other immoralities which continue to be practised in the town, resolved, with assistance of the Kirk-Session, to put a stop to these abounding vices and immoralities which so much prevail in this corner, and to endeavour to promote good order and the Christian and social duties which adorn human life.

The same day William Farquhar, master of the Music School, was appointed master of the Grammar School in room of Mr. William Peterkin, and with the same salary.

Henry's M.S.

Kenneth Leal robbed the post on the road between Elgin and Fochabers in December, 1772. He was tried at the Spring Circuit at Inverness in 1773, and hanged on the spot where the deed was committed in the month of July thereafter.

September 20.—The anchorage and shore dues of the harbour of Lossiemouth were let on lease for seven years from March last to John Nicoll, merchant in Lossiemouth, at the yearly rent of five pounds sterling.

October 7.—John Anderson, schoolmaster of Fyvie, was elected master of the Music School for three years, and the Magistrates were authorised to enter into a contract with him to that effect.

Council
Minutes.

The Magistrates and Council resolve to continue the opposition to the settlement of William Peterkin as assistant and successor to the Rev. Lachlan Shaw in the parish of Elgin, and to instruct the town's agent to employ Mr. George Ogilvie, advocate, and any other able advocate, to plead the case at the General Assembly.

March 21.—Mr. Brander of Pitgaveny having sent a terrestrial and celestial globe for the use of the Elgin Schools, the Magistrates accept the gift, and send their thanks for the same.

1774.
Council
Minutes.

July 4.—John Innes,* Writer to the Signet, was appointed Commissioner to the ensuing Convention of Royal Burghs, to be held at Edinburgh on the 11th July current.

The season being rainy, and, in consequence, peats being expected to be scarce, the Council resolved to purchase fifty tons of English coals, for the accommodation of the inhabitants.

September 19.—The Council, considering that William Burnet† has not attended the Council nor Courts for these three years past, without assigning any reason for his conduct, they, by plurality of votes, find that he has thereby forfeited his office as conjunct Clerk of this burgh, and therefore suspend him from the further exercise thereof.

September 27.—John Duff, having served in office as Provost for three years, retired at this date, and Alexander Brodie of Windyhills was elected in his room.

October 21.—William Brodie, younger of Windyhills, was elected delegate to attend at Cullen on 31st current, for election of a Member of Parliament for this District of Burghs.

November 28.—Mr. William Brodie reported that he had attended at Cullen on the 31st ultimo, for election of a Member of Parliament, when the delegates for Elgin and Cullen voted for Mr. Thomas Lockhart, the former Member, and the delegates for Banff, Inverurie, and Kintore voted for Colonel Staats Long Morris,‡ so that the latter was elected.

The Rev. Lachlan Shaw having resigned his charge as minister of Elgin, William Peterkin, notwithstanding all the efforts of the Magistrates to keep him out, was settled this

*Fasts Scoticanæ
Ecclesiæ, vol.
III., page 154.*

* John Innes, Writer to the Signet, was afterwards proprietor of the estate of Leuchars. He was son of Robert Innes, merchant in Elgin, and father of Mr. Cosmo Innes, advocate, late Sheriff of Elgin and Nairn.

† Mr. Burnet was a most respectable man of business, and no doubt had good reasons for avoiding the disputes which prevailed in the Council for some years back.

‡ Colonel, afterwards General, Staats Long Morris married Catherine Duchess Dowager of Gordon, widow of Cosmo George Duke of Gordon, to which connexion he owed this and his future elections as Member for this District of Burghs. Her Grace died 10th December, 1779.

*Douglas's
Peerage, Wood's
Edition vol. I.,
page 655.*

1774. year. He was a most unpopular minister, and is said to have been the first incumbent who ever read his sermon from a paper in Elgin. He owed his presentation to Mr. Shaw's influence with James Earl of Fife. On 31st December he married Mr. Shaw's daughter, Marjory, which accounts for the interest he took in his success.

1775. Council Minutes. September 26.—Provost Brodie having expressed a desire to be relieved of office, his request was complied with, thanks returned for his services, and the Council unanimously elected John Duff, merchant in Elgin, to be his successor for the ensuing year. Mr. Brodie had been Provost at intervals since 1749, and had devoted much time and attention to the affairs of the burgh.

Upon an application from the Kirk-Session of Elgin craving the use of the Little Church (which was the property of the town of Elgin) for the benefit of a minister to perform divine service in upon the Lord's day, in the time that public worship is performing in the Big or Parish Church, as that Church did not properly accommodate all the parish, the Council, having reasoned thereon, agreed to grant the request of the petition for such time as the Council should think proper, but resolved that if, upon trial, the granting such liberty did not answer the pious intention proposed, they reserved to themselves a power of withdrawing the said liberty at pleasure, at the expiry of two years after a minister should begin to perform divine service there.

October 30.—The Provost presented a letter from Mrs. Jean Cumming advising that she proposed to give up teaching the Female School the last day of this month, *as she was to change her manner of life*.*

The Council accepted of Mrs. Jean Cumming's demission, and having considered of a proper person to succeed her, and Janet Charles,† daughter of the deceased George Charles, merchant in Elgin, being recommended, as properly qualified, except on the point of music, and being acquainted

* She became the second wife of William Donaldson, tenant in Morristown, a well-known man in his time.

† Miss Charles for many years conducted a most respectable boarding school in Elgin, and was much esteemed by the inhabitants of the town. In her latter days, she occupied a house in the west end of the High Street. She was a pleasant, well-educated lady of the old school, and will still be remembered by some of the older members of the present generations. She was alive in 1825, and perhaps later.

with her moral character, they nominated and appointed her to be schoolmistress during the Council's pleasure, with a salary at the rate of seven pounds sterling in the year, from and after the first day of November next, provided she shall find a person to teach the music scholars, within six months hence.

1775.

Council
Minutes.

November 13.—The Council took into their consideration the propriety of having the streets lighted with oil lamps, and appointed the matter to be laid before the principal inhabitants and the Trades, to obtain their sentiments thereupon.

February 19.—Mr. William Robertson was authorised, when he went to London, to purchase twenty lamps, and also to buy caps for these lamps.

1776.

June 17.—The Council of this date appointed Patrick Duff, their Town-Clerk, and, in case of his non-attendance, John Innes, Writer to the Signet, to be their Commissioner at the Convention of Royal Burghs, to meet in the ensuing month of July.

August 12.—The Magistrates agreed with Archibald Mellis, mason in Elgin, to causeway the broken street up to the West Port for the sum of ten pounds sterling, and to carry all the materials to him.

At this time the horse market was held in the High Street; and there being many dunghills and sheep cots upon the street, to the hurt of the markets, and otherwise nauseous, the Magistrates appoint all these dunghills and huts to be pulled down and carried away by the proprietors; with certification that if they fail, the town officers are authorised to carry away the same within eight days after this date, and also to carry off any carts which might be left in the High Street at any time; and appointed this to be intimated by tuck of drum.

Since the peace of 1763, the power of the French in North America had been entirely broken, but disputes had arisen between the parent state and the colonies on the subject of taxation, the latter denying that there was any right to tax them without their own consent and without representation. In this view of the case the Colonists are now generally considered to have been correct, and the

Hughe's History
of England, vol.
II., page 238.

1776. Sovereign and Legislature of Great Britain wrong. George III., although possessed of many virtues, was of an obstinate and arbitrary turn of mind. He had early discarded the Constitutional advisers of his grandfather, and connected himself with a party in the State more in accordance with his own views. The dispute with the Colonists proceeded from words to blows; and on the 4th of July of this year the Congress of the United States of America promulgated their famous Declaration of Independence, in which they stigmatised the king as a tyrant, and unfit to be the ruler of a free people, and solemnly declared that the Colonies were free and independent States, absolved from allegiance to the British Crown; that all political connection between them and Great Britain was broken; and they, as free and independent States, had full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, and establish commerce. This declaration was prepared by Thomas Jefferson, aided by John Adam, Franklin, and others. Washington was not supposed to have been favourable to such extreme measures, but when once committed, he took his share of the responsibility. The Colonists must have been defeated and ruined had they not been assisted with the whole power of France and Spain; and Great Britain had to fight single-handed against a combination of powers unexampled. After a warfare of seven years, and a vast expenditure of blood and treasure, the United States of America, by assistance of their powerful allies, attained their independence. The North of Scotland had its full share of suffering, and contributed much of its best blood, both in officers and men, to this unhappy war.

Council
Minutes.

September 30.—It had been a practice in the burgh to thrash and winnow corn upon the streets, and to put heaps of dung and stones upon them, which the Magistrates now resolved to put an end to; and of this date they “appoint
“intimation to be made through the town, forbidding the
“thrashing or winnowing of corn, or leaving dung or stones
“on the High Street, and hereby *enact* that whatever person
“shall be found guilty of such thrashing or winnowing corn,
“or leaving dung or stones, shall incur a penalty of five
“pounds Scots, and hereby empower and authorise the

“ officer who keeps the keys to secure and detain whatever
 “ corn and straw may be found thrashing upon the street,
 “ and the dung or stones flung thereon, until trial.”

1776.

February 23.—Mr. Lachlan Shaw, minister of the town
 and parish, died this day, having been in office for forty-
 three years. He was much respected, both in the town and
 country, and held a good position among all classes. As we
 shall have occasion to refer to him hereafter, we will not
 dwell here upon his literary or pastoral labours. A difference
 of opinion has arisen about his age, some being of opinion
 that he was eighty-five at the time of his death ; others that
 he was upwards of ninety. As the parish registers of his
 birth are lost, the fact is not likely now to be ascertained.

1777.

Fasti Scoticanæ
 Ecclesiæ, vol.
 III., page 154.

September 29.—The Magistrates and Council of this date
 made arrangements for putting up twenty-eight oil lamps
 within the burgh, principally in the High Street, in con-
 venient public places, and appointed a committee for
 assessing the inhabitants, and directed a Head Court to be
 called, at which public thanks should be given to the parties
 who had conducted these arrangements, and in the mean-
 time agreed that lamps and standards should be purchased
 out of the common good, and authorised the same to be
 done, declaring the price a public debt.

Council
 Minutes.

On the same day, the Council, considering that the
 inhabitants are greatly annoyed *with the barking of dogs*
 upon the High Street, enjoined and required all inhabitants
 within the burgh who have dogs, to keep the same within
 their houses at night; with certification that the owners will
 be fined in five shillings sterling for each offence, and the
 dogs afterwards shot.

February 14.—General Hector Munro of Novar having
 applied for an Act to increase the dues at the port of
 Findhorn, a new pier being erected there ; and considering,
 along with the Magistrates of Forres, that the rates would
 be detrimental to the commercial interests of the county,
 the Council this day signed a petition to the House of
 Commons, praying to be heard against the proposed measure,
 it being understood that the Burgh of Forres would bear a
 part of the costs.

1778.

July 15.—The filth and nuisances in the burgh must at

1778.

Council
Minutes.

this period have been great, as appears by the following excerpt from the minutes, viz. :—

“ The Council, considering that there are many holes or
“ scuttles projecting from the side walls of houses in several
“ wynds or vennels in this burgh, which are public nuisances,
“ and by means of fulzie, &c., being thrown from them,
“ people’s clothes are apt to be spoiled, do therefore appoint
“ intimation to be made to the tenants and proprietors of
“ houses, where such spouts, scuttles, or holes are, that they
“ shut them within eight days after such intimation, other-
“ wise the Magistrates will appoint them to be condemned,
“ and fine the occupiers of them.”

This order was not attended to, and on the 10th August the following minute is recorded :—“ The Council, considering
“ that the Act of the last sederunt anent spouts, &c., has
“ not been complied with, although intimated by the officers,
“ they therefore authorise and empower James Hay, mason,
“ to take down and fill up the holes of said spouts, on the
“ town’s expense, and appoint intimation of this Act to be
“ again made.”

September 22.—John Duff, merchant, having served as Provost for three years, retired from office, and Alexander Brodie of Windyhill was elected in his room for the ensuing year.

Fasti Scoticanæ
Ecclesie, vol.
III., page 155.

Donald Mitchell, a native of Cromarty, was ordained by the Presbytery on 16th June this year, as assistant to the Rev. David Rintoul, and to officiate in the Little Kirk. He continued to supply after Mr. Rintoul’s death until the year 1781, when he was settled as minister of Ardclach.

Council
Minutes.

October 19.—The Council, considering the great loss the young people of this place have at repeated times sustained by the masters of the Grammar and English Schools entering on holy orders, whereby their time and study are diverted from their proper duty, and the education of those under their charge overlooked ; and considering also that Mr. George Daun, present schoolmaster of this town, is, notwithstanding of the injunction given him by the Magistrates at his entry to the said school, entering upon holy orders, and either has or is about to be licensed as a preacher of the gospel, they therefore, in duty to the rising generation, agree,

enact, and declare, that how soon the said Mr. George Daun shall be licensed as a preacher, that then his salary shall be withdrawn, and the school declared vacant the quarter immediately after, and that the same rule shall be observed with regard to all the masters both of the Grammar and English Schools for the future.

1778.

October 26.—Mr. David Rintoul, minister of Elgin, died this day in the sixty-fourth year of his age, having been in office for nineteen years. He was an able preacher, and much respected for his religious worth and zealous discharge of his duties, but is said to have been severe in discipline, and of considerable harshness of temper. He left £100, the interest to be applied to the Chapel of Ease, in which he took a deep concern. He married a daughter of Mr. Ludovick Brodie, who lived until 1791. She contributed £5 a-year to the chapel, and in 1787 made a farther grant of £100.

*Fasti Scoticanæ
Ecclesie, vol.
III., page 152.*

October 28.—The Council, having resumed consideration of a proper person to succeed Mr. David Rintoul, and having fully reasoned thereon, they unanimously (except Bailies Anderson and Brander) agreed to proceed immediately to the nomination and recommendation of one; but they (the said Bailies Anderson and Brander) proposed that the mind of the principal parishioners should be had previous thereto, which not being agreed to, all the members present unanimously agreed and declared in favour of Dr. James Hay, minister at Dyce, and resolved to recommend him to His Majesty, and authorised the Magistrates to write to the Secretary of State and Commissioner for the Burghs accordingly.

*Council
Minutes.*

The Magistrates were successful in their application for Dr. James Hay as their minister, who received a Crown presentation on 17th December, 1778.

January 28.—There being presented in Council a presentation from the Crown in favour of Dr. James Hay to be minister of this town and parish, in place of Mr. David Rintoul, with the said Dr. James Hay's letter of acceptance thereof, and letter of thanks from the Doctor for the recommendation given by the Council for him, the Council appointed Bailies Anderson, Brander, and Fenton, Provost Duff, and William Brodie, younger of Windyhill, or any

1779.

1779.
Council
Minutes.

three of them as a quorum, to attend the Presbytery next meeting, and to give in the same, which presentation bears date 17th December, 1778, written to the Privy Seal, and registered the 13th day of January current, and was returned to William Brodie.

April 3.—Mr. William Robertson was appointed Commissioner from the Town Council to attend the Presbytery of Aberdeen with the view of obtaining the translation of Dr. James Hay from the parish of Dyce to Elgin.

July 8.—Dr. Hay was settled as minister of Elgin on this date. He seems to have been an able and energetic preacher, and very zealous in the discharge of his duties. He was a member of the ancient family of Lochloy and Park, and both from his own high character and family connexions, was particularly acceptable to the parish. He was at this time only in the forty-third year of his age, and promised a long and useful ministry, which was doomed to disappointment.

July 12.—France and Spain having declared war against Britain, and the country being much pressed for men in consequence of that and the American war, a letter was received from the Lord Advocate by the Provost recommending that bounties should be offered for procuring soldiers and sailors to serve their country in this crisis. The Council, therefore, resolved to offer a bounty of three guineas to every able-bodied seaman within their bounds (under which it is to be presumed Lossiemouth was included), and to every ordinary seaman two guineas, not above fifty, nor under twenty years of age, who shall offer to serve as a volunteer in His Majesty's fleet, between this and the first October next—these volunteers being approved of by the regulating officer of the district.

September 28.—Alexander Brodie of Windyhill presented a letter to the Council declining to continue in the office of Provost, when John Duff, merchant, was unanimously elected in his room.

1780. January 17.—The Magistrates sold the superiority of the half of the town and lands of Over Barflathills and Haugh of Newmill for £60 sterling to William King of Newmill, and directed the Clerk at the sight of a committee to prepare a disposition in Mr. King's favour.

March 27.—The anchorage and harbour dues of Lossiemouth, the quarries, and common grass were let to George Gatherer, mason, for seven years, at a rent of £10 per annum.

1780.
Council
Minutes.

Mr. Francis Grant, preacher in Edinburgh, was elected Ruling Elder to the General Assembly this year.

June 26.—Elizabeth and Helen Duff were elected schoolmistresses of this burgh, to commence at Martinmas next, with a yearly salary of £5 sterling.

August 21.—The Magistrates made a new settlement of the marches of Lossiemouth this day with Alexander Brander of Kinneddar.* The deed of agreement is recorded in the minute book.

September 28.—Major-General James Grant of Ballindalloch was, by a majority of eleven to five, chosen delegate for this burgh, to proceed to Kintore on the 2d October, for election of a Member of Parliament for the District of Burghs. Against this decision Bailie Alexander Brander, and others with him, protested, on the ground that certain members of Council were coerced, and were not free agents, and to which protest Bailie Alexander Duff, for himself and others, gave in answers, to which Bailie Brander replied, all as recorded in the minute book.

October 2.—Notwithstanding the powerful influence of General Grant, the Duke of Gordon's party prevailed at the election, and Major-General Staats Long Morris was again elected Member of Parliament for this District of Burghs.

March 5.—The Council dismissed Mr. George Daun, teacher of the Grammar School, from office, for entering into holy orders, and preaching in country parishes and in the High Church of Elgin on the Lord's day, and declared the Grammar School vacant from the second August next, and appointed the Clerk to intimate this to Mr. George Daun.

1781.

The same day, liberty was granted for preaching in the Little Kirk for two years, reserving power to withdraw this at the end of that time.

* Mr. Alexander Brander was a native of Elgin, and made a fortune as a merchant in London, of which city he attained to the rank of High Sheriff. He purchased the estate of Kinneddar from the Earl of Fife in the year 1775, his Lordship having several years previously acquired it from Mr. Brodie of Brodie.

1781.
Council
Minutes.

April 9.—The vacancy in the Grammar School was ordered to be advertised in the *Edinburgh Courant* and *Aberdeen Journal*; certificates of character and qualifications to be lodged with the Town-Clerk, and intimation to be made to candidates that none need apply who are to enter into holy orders.

May 28.—John Innes, Writer to the Signet, was appointed Commissioner to the ensuing meeting of Convention of Royal Burghs.

July 16.—Mr. George Daun having brought a Bill of Suspension, in the Court of Session, against the act of the Town Council depriving him of his office as teacher of the Grammar School, the Council unanimously resolved to support their act, and to oppose the Bill of Suspension, and authorised the Magistrates to correspond with the town's agent at Edinburgh on the subject.

August 6.—The Magistrates had been very active this year with works at the Lossiemouth harbour, and the Committee reported of this date that there had been a 100 feet of building almost completed, and 126 feet more founded. The harbour was a very fruitful subject of expense to every successive Council, and attended with little or no return for the outlay.

September 25.—The annual meeting for election of the Council took place. Protests were recorded by Bailies Fenton, Brander, and Allan, against Mr. George Brown, factor for the Earl of Findlater, being a member of Council, for want of qualification, to which answers were given in by Bailie Duff. Politics ran high at this time between the Gordon and Grant families. A majority of the Council was in favour of the latter.

December 8.—A serious accident having happened at the ferry boat on the Findhorn, a letter was received from Mr. Brodie of Brodie requesting that a delegate might be sent from Elgin, to meet with delegates from Inverness, Forres, and Nairn, to consider the propriety of building bridges on the Findhorn and Burn of Dyke, and Provost Duff was appointed for the purpose.

Family Tree of
the Brodies.

Alexander Brodie of Windyhills died this year at the age of eighty, having being born in 1701. He had spent his

whole life in Elgin, engaged in mercantile business. In the year 1749 he succeeded to the estate of his brother, George Brodie, who was a captain of dragoons. He had discharged his duties as Provost of the burgh, and in subordinate offices in the Council, for the greater part of his life, and was a faithful and useful citizen. He was succeeded in the estate by his son, William Brodie, who also was a residenter in the burgh, and long a member of Council.

1781.

The Trinity Lodge of Masons this year erected a new hall for their meetings on the north side of the High Street, at the Little Cross. It was a handsome, commodious building for the time, and served for all purposes of masonry, assemblies, concerts, and other public purposes, down to the year 1821, when the present elegant rooms in North Street were erected.

April 15.—The Council, considering that the Court of Session had determined the dispute betwixt the town and Mr. Daun in the town's favour, and that Mr. Daun was willing to leave his charge at Rood-day next, provided the Council would pay him his salary to that time, and not put the town to the expense of extracting the decree, they authorise the Treasurer to pay Mr. Daun ten pounds sterling upon his receipt, and obtaining a renunciation and delivery of the keys and other things under his charge.

1782.

Council
Minutes.

April 29.—John Innes, Writer to the Signet, was elected Commissioner to the ensuing Convention of Royal Burghs.

May 2.—Alexander Wilson, late teacher at Banff, was chosen master of the Grammar School under a contract for three years, at a salary of £15 sterling, in room of Mr. George Daun, who had now removed.

July 1.—The Council, considering that the office of one of the conjunct Clerks of this burgh is vacant by the death of Alexander Duff, late Clerk, nominated and appointed Patrick Duff, junior, writer in Elgin, son of Patrick Duff, the present Clerk, to be conjunct Town-Clerk of this burgh, in place of the said deceased Alexander Duff.

September 24.—John Duff, Provost, having served three years, in terms of the sett of the burgh, was relieved of office, and George Brown, late Treasurer, factor for the

1782. Earl of Findlater, was, by plurality of votes, elected Provost in his place.

The harvest of this year was the worst that had been known in Scotland since the beginning of the century. The season was cold and backward, without heat to ripen the crops, and, in consequence, in the later districts the crops were totally lost. Even in Morayshire, which suffers less in bad seasons than any other district in the kingdom, the crop was very deficient, and there was much suffering from the scarcity which prevailed. An intelligent friend of mine, now dead for many years, informed me that he had occasion to go to Aberdeen in the month of December, 1782, to attend the money term, and remained there until the beginning of January, 1783. On his way home he went to visit some friends in the parish of Glass, and found they were only cutting the crop, the women standing with their sickles in their hands among the drifting snow. There was no grain in the ears of corn; only empty straw to be cut down. The misery from the famine was very great, and the country did not recover for many years from its effects.

1783.
Council
Minutes.

January 14.—John Forsyth, merchant in Elgin, sent a letter from the directors of the Bank of Scotland, offering to advance the Magistrates £500, in consideration of the calamitous state of the country, owing to the present scarcity and high price of corn, and which accommodation was accepted.

Provost Brown wrote a letter to Sir Alexander Dunbar of Duffus this month, desiring to purchase his farm meal, bear, and oats, for the support of the inhabitants of Elgin, as there was an appearance of scarcity in the country, and the Magistrates wished to secure a supply to guard against the prospect of want.

January 22.—A letter was received from Mr. Alexander Simpson, cashier of the Aberdeen Bank, offering to advance the Magistrates £500 for twelve months, free of interest, for purchasing corn for the supply of the inhabitants of Elgin, in such way as the Magistrates might think best, which liberal offer was gratefully accepted.

February 7.—The Council of this date appointed the Provost, Bailies, Dean of Guild, and others, three a quorum,

to superintend the buying and delivery of corn and meal, with power to the Committee, or quorum, to draw for such money as they required from the banks.

1783.
Council
Minutes.

April 28.—The scarcity continuing to be severely felt, the Provost was authorised to write to London and other places and ascertain at what price corn of different qualities might be purchased, that the Council might deliberate thereon.

June 25.—John Innes, Writer to the Signet, was appointed Commissioner to the ensuing Convention of Royal Burghs, and Patrick Duff, junior, conjunct Town-Clerk, to be Assessor.

The war with the North American Colonies, and with France and Spain, having been brought to a close this year, the military stores of grain and other provisions collected for the army abroad were carried home, and, being sold in the country at moderate prices, afforded a great relief to the starving inhabitants. In particular, it was noticed that much of the grain brought to the North consisted of white pease.

October 14.—The Council, considering that Messrs. Hay and Peterkin, ministers of Elgin, presented a letter from Mr. Alexander Chalmers, Sheriff-Substitute, advising that 162 bolls of mixed meal were ready to be delivered to them on receipt of the price, being eight shillings and eightpence per boll, part of the proportion falling to them of the meal sent by the Barons of Exchequer to be sold to the poor of this county, and craved that the Magistrates would join them in paying the price, defraying the expense, and naming a proper person to receive and sell the same, and to pay the one half of any loss that may be sustained thereon; which being considered by the Council, they agreed to the above proposal, to pay the one-half of the price of the meal, and to defray the one half of the expense; and nominated James Cruden, merchant, to receive and sell the same.

The West Port was pulled down, either on the previous night or early this morning. It stood right across the street opposite to West Park, and it being supposed that this was done by direction of Mr. Francis Russell of Westfield, advocate, who then occupied West Park, and that the

1783.
Council
Minutes.

materials were carried away to build his park walls, the Council ordered the Procurator-Fiscal to investigate the matter, and report the result.

October 18.—The report of the investigation as to breaking down the West Port having been considered, it was found that one of the witnesses had stated that he had received instructions from Mr. Francis Russell to pull it down, but none of the others had concurred in this statement; thereupon the Bailies called on Mr. Russell and asked him whether he had given such orders, which he declined to answer. The Council thereupon resolve to lay a memorial before an able advocate in Edinburgh, and obtain his opinion what they should do in the circumstances.

October 28.—The opinion of Mr. Islay Campbell having been obtained about the West Port, and he having stated that it was a highly unwarrantable act, and that the parties concerned were liable to be prosecuted, the Magistrates and Council resolved to take criminal proceedings against Mr. Francis Russell, and such of the workmen as were employed by him, before the Court of Justiciary in Edinburgh, and authorised Mr. Isaac Grant, the town's agent, to raise criminal letters, and follow forth the cause, for vindication of the rights of the burgh.

1784.

April 1.—Parliament having been dissolved, the Council unanimously resolved that William Adam, Esquire, advocate, should have their votes and interest to represent this District of Burghs in the next Parliament, and authorised the Magistrates to write Mr. Adam of this their resolution.

April 12.—The Council nominated William Robertson, eldest Bailie, as their delegate, to proceed to Inverurie on the 26th current, and there to vote at the election of a Member for this District of Burghs.

On 26th April, Mr. Adam was elected Member of Parliament for this District of Burghs. The Parliament continued until 1790.

June 28.—Bailie John Brander was appointed Commissioner to the ensuing Convention of Royal Burghs, and Bailie Alexander Young to be his Assessor.

Dr. James Hay, one of the ministers of Elgin, having died on 22d January this year, at the early age of 48, Mr.

William Gordon, from the Enzie, received a royal presentation as his successor, and was settled the 26th August. Dr. Hay was much regretted.*

1784.
Council
Minutes.

October 4.—The bell in the Church of St. Giles was broken by over-ringing on the king's birthday this year (the 4th of June), and of this date the following entry is made in the minute book :—

“The Council, considering that the big bell of the High Church is rent, and that it will be necessary to refund *her*, the Council recommend to Bailie Alexander Brander to correspond with a proper person at London anent the terms on which a new bell may be bought, or the present one refounded.”

December 30.—The Earl of Findlater, through Provost Brown, gave a donation of two hundred pounds to be expended on the harbour of Lossiemouth. The harbour continued to be a dead weight on the burgh, without any corresponding return for the heavy outlay. His Lordship no doubt gave this money for political purposes, and to keep up his interest in the burgh.

February 7.—The Council, by authority of a Head Court of the burgesses called for that purpose, agreed to sell the Moss of Strathcant to the Earl of Findlater for the sum of forty-two pounds sterling.

1785.

February 21.—The Council, considering that the profanation of the Lord's day is increasing in this place, they appoint the Act of Council of the 6th October, 1718, to be intimated, and declared that the same will be put in force.

April 7.—The Council by this time had made up their peace with Mr. Francis Russell of Westfield, in the matter of pulling down the West Port of the burgh in 1783, as before stated, for of this date they elected him as their

* Dr. Hay's death is said to have been sudden. I have heard from a person who was then alive, and present on the occasion, that he preached on the Sunday preceding his death, and, feeling some presentiment that his career was about to close, he wound up the service of the day by giving out the 33d Paraphrase, *old version* :—

My race is run, my warfare's o'er,
The solemn hour is nigh,
When offer'd up to God my soul
Shall wing its flight on high.
With heavenly weapons I have fought
The battles of the Lord ;
Finish'd my course and kept the faith,
And wait the sure reward.

1785.
Council
Minutes.

Ruling Elder to the ensuing General Assembly, to meet at Edinburgh in the month of May.

June 27.—They also appointed Mr. Russell their Commissioner to the Convention of Royal Burghs, and authorised him to receive from the Convention the sum of £100 promised in aid of the works at the harbour of Lossiemouth.

September 27.—Provost Brown's period of service having expired, John Duff, merchant, was unanimously elected Provost in his place.

October 17.—Authority was given to the Magistrates of the burgh to take down the big bell of St. Giles' Church, and send it to London by the first ship from Lossiemouth or Findhorn, to be refounded.

November 21.—The Council subscribed the sum of £20 for a pavement from the west gable of St. Giles' Church, extending towards the Jail, 106 feet long and 30 broad, to be used as an Exchange, and recommended that subscriptions should be procured for the purpose. This improvement was carried out, and the pavement, known by the name of the "Plainstones," is still in existence at the west end of the Parish Church.

1786.

October 30.—Mr. John Dick, of Covent Garden, London, a native of Elgin, having left £120, the interest to be used for the teacher of the Grammar School of Elgin, a discharge was ordered to be given in exchange for the money.

October 30.—The Magistrates resolved to support a plan for the conjunction of King's and Marischal Colleges of Aberdeen into one University, then projected. From many opposing circumstances and jealousies, this great improvement was not carried out until seventy years later.

John Innes, Writer to the Signet, desired to purchase the superiority of two eight parts of Barflathills, and the Council agreed to sell the same for thirty pounds sterling, the arrears of feu-duty to be paid up, and a half-year's rent for entry money. This was carried out.

1788.

September 23.—George Brown was again elected Provost in room of John Duff, merchant, whose term of office had expired.

1789.

March 7.—The Council elected William Scott, banker in Edinburgh, to be Ruling Elder from this burgh to next General Assembly, to be held in May ensuing.

June 15.—James M'Intosh, vintner, having been sentenced at last Justiciary Court to be imprisoned, and afterwards to be publicly whipped through the streets of the burgh, the Magistrates resolved to send to Inverness for the hangman there, to carry through the sentence; and the Magistrates of Inverness consented, on the condition that the executioner should be paid four pounds for his trouble, besides his expenses, and also to procure a military guard to conduct him out and home, and to grant bond, under a penalty of £100 sterling, to return him safe to Inverness on or before the 26th current.

1789.
Council
Minutes.

March 7.—The Council authorised and empowered the Magistrates, in the event of an executioner applying to act for this burgh, to admit and qualify him, and give him such yearly salary as can be agreed on.

July 3.—William Innes, gardener, having raised an action of damages for wrongous imprisonment against the Magistrates, decree was pronounced against them, which involved a cost of £50 for damages and expenses. The Council authorised their agent in Edinburgh to have the business settled.

January 16.—At the request of the Rev. John Grant, one of the town's ministers, the Council agreed to give four pounds sterling yearly for five years towards defraying the expense of a Sunday School, proposed to be instituted in this place, to be under the direction of the ministers, and Provost, and Bailies. This is the first notice of a Sabbath School within the burgh or parish.

1790.

April 19.—The arch of the stone bridge over the Lossie at Oldmills having been rebuilt in the year 1789, the Council of this date agreed to give ten guineas towards defraying the expense, and authorised the Treasurer to pay the same to the Collector of Land-tax for the county.

June 29.—The marches of Lossie Green were fixed between the Magistrates and the Earl of Findlater; and Mr. George Brown, on the part of the Earl, declared himself satisfied with the report as recorded in the minute book, and agreed to the terms thereof.

June 30.—The Council unanimously agreed and resolved that Alexander Brodie, Esquire, of Madras, should have their votes and interest to represent this District of Burghs

1790.
Council
Minutes.

in the next ensuing Parliament, and authorised the Magistrates to write Mr. Brodie of this their resolution.

July 6.—The Council elected Bailie Alexander Brander, the eldest Magistrate, as their delegate, to meet with the other delegates at Elgin, on the 12th current, and there to vote for a Commissioner or Member of Parliament for this District of Burghs, to meet at Westminster on the 10th August next.

July 12.—The election for a Member of Parliament was held at Elgin this day, and there were present—Bailie Alexander Brander, delegate for Elgin; John Wilson, factor for the Earl of Findlater and Seafield, delegate for Cullen; George Robinson, late Provost of Banff, delegate for Banff; Mr. Alexander Dauney, advocate in Aberdeen, delegate for Kintore; and William Thom of Craibstone, Provost of Inverurie, as delegate for Inverurie. Bailie Brander was chosen Preses; and the vote being taken, Alexander Brodie, Esquire, of Madras, was freely and unanimously elected Member for this District of Burghs in the ensuing Parliament.

August 24.—The Council agreed to give two guineas for erecting a new timber bridge over Lossie at Bishopmill, the old one being quite ruinous.

October 23.—The Council resolved to sell the two old schools belonging to the town, and to build a set of new schools, with three teachers, for furthering the interests of education; and directed a subscription paper to be drawn out, and communication to be made with noblemen and gentlemen of the district, and all friends who might concur in promoting so desirable an object.

1791. September 27.—John Duff, merchant in Elgin, was elected Provost in room of Mr. George Brown, whose term of office had expired.

1792. February 27.—There was laid before the Council a representation, dated the 11th day of February current, in the name of the Rev. John Skinner, Bishop and Preses of the Committee of the Scotch Episcopal Church, regarding the restraints which have existed upon the pastors and people of that Church, and for obtaining toleration in the exercise of their religious worship. The Council are unanimously of opinion that the request is reasonable, and

direct Bailie Brander to write Mr. Brodie, their Member in Parliament, to support their wishes, and promote the object of the representation, and at same time to transmit a copy thereof.

Eodem die.—The Council, having deliberately reasoned on and considered the plan presently in agitation, and intended to be submitted to the consideration of Parliament, anent the abolition of the African Slave Trade, are unanimously of opinion that the trade is inimical to the best and dearest interests of their fellow-men, and in opposition to the sacred laws of morality and religion, and therefore authorise Bailie Alexander Brander, as Senior Magistrate, to prepare, in their name, a petition to Parliament, sign and transmit the same to Mr. Brodie, to be by him presented, and, at the same time, to write Mr. Wilberforce, Member of Parliament, a strenuous supporter of the abolition, of the present resolution.

March 26.—William Scott, banker in Edinburgh, was elected Ruling Elder for the burgh to the General Assembly, to meet in May next.

June 18.—The Council appointed Patrick Duff, Town-Clerk, to write the town's agent in Edinburgh how far they might be warranted to take down the Town's Cross, as the same is become ruinous. They also unanimously agreed to take down the East and School Wynd Ports, and directed the Magistrates to see the same done, and two side pillars erected at each of them, and if any stones remained, to dispose of the same by public roup.

August 9.—The Little Kirk having become ruinous, the cost of rebuilding it was found to be £399 14s. 7d.; and the Managers having agreed to rebuild it at their own charges, providing they got a feu charter, or long lease, the Council agreed to give a lease of seventy years, from Whitsunday then next, at the yearly rent of £4 10s., providing the church shall be used only for a Presbyterian place of worship, with power to the Magistrates at the conclusion of the lease either to prorogate the same, or to take over the building by valuation of men mutually chosen. The Council further recognised the Managers of said church for the time being as a body, and enacted and declared that the said church shall be used only as a place of worship by those of the

1792.

Council
Minutes.

1732.
Council
Minutes.

Presbyterian persuasion, against which procedure Convener Barron protested in name of the Trades, and agreed to lodge his reasons.

September 25.—John Duff, late Provost, having been removed by death, Bailie Alexander Brander, merchant, Councillor, was unanimously elected Provost in his place.

November 12.—There was presented a subscription paper for the intended bridge over the Spey at Fochabers; and the Council, considering the utility that would result to this country from such an undertaking, agreed to give twenty-one pounds sterling, and authorised the Provost to subscribe the sum, payable in two years, one-half payable at the commencement of the work, and the other at twelve months after.

1733.

January 21.—The Clerk was directed to give notarial intimation to Alexander Wilson, master of the Grammar School, that he had forfeited his situation by entering into holy orders, and directed the Magistrates to advertise for another schoolmaster against the first May next.

February 11.—A petition was presented for Alexander Wilson, master of the Grammar School, representing against the minute of Council of the 21st ultimo, and stating his reasons for entering into holy orders, and agreeing to desist from preaching so long as he may officiate in the school. The Council, having considered the said petition, recall the Act anent the Magistrates advertising for another schoolmaster, and agree that Mr. Wilson shall continue in the school agreeable to the tacit relocation in his contract, on the express condition of his desisting from preaching, and that he shall every Lord's day convene the scholars, instruct them in the principles of religion, and attend divine worship with them, in the loft erected for their accommodation; and appoint a copy of this minute to be served on Mr. Wilson, and also a copy of his contract, so that he may know and abide by its tenor.

April 4.—William Scott, banker in Edinburgh, was again elected Ruling Elder for the burgh to the ensuing General Assembly.

The progress of the French Revolution had for some time been very alarming, and, notwithstanding every effort of the

Government, it was impossible that Britain could be long kept out of the struggle going on upon the Continent. Mr. Pitt, who was then Prime Minister, made every exertion, consistent with the honour of the nation, to avoid all interference with the affairs of France, but at same time augmented the army and navy to be prepared for all contingencies. His foresight was justified by the event, for on the first of February the National Convention of France, finding their plans ripe for execution, unanimously declared war against the King of Great Britain. This war was on the largest scale, and of the most protracted endurance of any in which the kingdom was ever engaged, having lasted, with a very short interval, for twenty years, and cost the country a wonderful expenditure of blood and treasure.

1793.

Hughe's History
of Reign of
George III., vol.
IV., page 97.

September 16.—The Council unanimously agreed to write Mr. Dundas, Secretary of State, expressive of the community's approbation of his conduct in procuring the repeal of the duty on coals, and authorised the Provost to sign and forward the letter to him.

Council
Minutes.

February 26.—The anchorage and shore dues of Lossiemouth harbour were let to John Nicoll, merchant, on a lease of three years from 14th March, 1794, at the yearly rent of £16, which shows what a miserable return there was for the immense expenditure made on the harbour works for nearly a century.

1794.

A precept of clare constat was of this date granted by the Magistrates in favour of Robert Duff, now in the East Indies, as heir to the late Provost John Duff, his father, in the Aughteen Part Land, and Moss Wards, which belonged to his father.

January 21.—Alexander Grant, Clerk to the Signet, was nominated law agent for the burgh, in the room of the late Mr. Isaac Grant, during the Council's pleasure.

1795.

Same day, the Council, considering that Bailie Alexander Cobban is about to enter into Colonel Baillie's Fencible Regiment, they, as a mark of respect to Mr. Cobban, agreed to give two guineas to each man in this county who may enlist with Mr. Cobban betwixt this date and the first April next, over and above all other bounties, and authorised the Treasurer to pay the same on an order from the Provost.

1795.

Council
Minutes.

March 30.—Mr. Francis Nicoll, preacher of the Gospel, residing at Lossiemouth, was unanimously chosen Ruling Elder to represent this burgh in the ensuing General Assembly, to meet at Edinburgh in May next. Mr. Nicoll must have been then only about twenty-five years of age; and it is very creditable to him that when only a preacher he should have been deemed worthy of such a distinction. He was a man of most kindly, amiable disposition, of sound judgment, and of the highest integrity of character. He became minister of the parish of Auchtertool, in Fife, in 1797; translated to Mains and Strathmartin, in the Presbytery of Dundee, in 1799; was made D.D. in 1807; Moderator of the General Assembly on 18th May, 1809; and Principal of the University of St. Andrew's in 1820. He was leader of his party in the General Assembly for many years until laid aside by bad health, and was a credit to the district of his birth. He was a native of Lossiemouth, as we have stated before.

Scott's Fasti,
vol. III., page
721.Council
Minutes.

April 13.—The Tacksman of Oldmills had brought an action in the Court of Session for abstracted multures, and the Council resolved to co-operate with the other heritors in defending the action.

May 11.—The stipend of the ministers having been augmented at this time, the Provost was directed to write the town's agent to attend particularly to the localling of the same, and to furnish him with all necessary information on the subject.

June 8.—The Council purchased from Mr. William Young at Oakenhead 100 bolls of meal, from the factor of General Grant of Ballindalloch 30 bolls, and requested Mr. Young to supply them with 250 bolls of meal farther, on the best terms he could. From these entries it would seem that a scarcity was apprehended this year, which turned out to be a false alarm.

July 23.—The School Port, on the south side of the town, was ordered to be taken down, as the same obstructs carriages, and carts loaded with wood, hay, &c.; and the materials of this Port and the one at the east side of the town, were directed to be applied towards the intended repairs on the Court-House.

The monument of St. Giles* to be placed in the niche on the south side of the Tolbooth.

1795.

Council
Minutes.

September 14.—A petition was given in to the Council by James Cock, weaver, for a feu of a small patch of ground on the north end of Gallow Green, consisting of twenty falls of land measure, the consideration of which was remitted to a committee to inspect the ground, and to report. This appears to be the same person who is known as the Elgin poet, who published in 1806 a small volume of poems called “Simple Strains, or the Home-spun Lays of an Untutored Muse.” He had not been successful in getting the small feu on Gallow Green,† for in April, 1797, he left Elgin, and settled in Aberdeen, where he spent the remainder of his life, although retaining an ardent affection for his native place.

September 22.—Alexander Brander, merchant, having been Provost for three years, retired from office, and George Brown, Linkwood, was unanimously elected Provost for the ensuing year.

November 23.—The country was in a very agitated state at this time, the principles of the French Revolution having taken hold of many of the people, and seditious meetings were held over the country. The king, while going to open Parliament on 29th October, was attacked in his carriage by a furious mob, and his life was nearly sacrificed; a bullet having been fired into the carriage, which almost took effect. The Council of this date unanimously agreed to address His Majesty on his late escape from the daring attempt on his person, in going to, and returning from, the House of Parliament; and a copy of an address being presented, the same was approved of, and the Provost appointed to sign and transmit the same.

Hughe's History
of England, vol.
IV., page 250.Council
Minutes.

February 1.—It appears that at this time there was no coach to carry the mails between Aberdeen and Edinburgh; and the Magistrates of Aberdeen, having proposed to establish a coach for that purpose, the Council approved

1796.

* We have not discovered where the image of the Patron Saint of the burgh had previously stood, or what was the fate of the venerable relic of antiquity.

† James Cock was offered by the Magistrates a lease of the ground he wanted for thirty-eight years, and the lifetime of the person then in possession, by minute of 21st March, 1796.

1796.
Council
Minutes.

of the proposal, and directed the Provost to write Mr. Brodie, Member of Parliament for this District of Burghs, to give the application all the support in his power.

February 29.—The Council obtained a loan of £500 from the Bank of Scotland, for ten or twelve months, for the purpose of buying meal for the inhabitants of the burgh, for which no interest was to be charged. There seems to have been a scarcity this season. Of the above loan, £200 was handed over to the Trades, on proper receipts from the deacons when authorised by their respective Corporations to grant such.

March 28.—The Rev. Francis Nicoll was again elected Ruling Elder for the burgh to the ensuing General Assembly, to be held in Edinburgh in May next.

May 2.—The Provost was directed to write the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, Secretary of State, in support of a more rapid despatch of the post, as necessary for the advancement of the commercial interests of the country; also, to solicit the Lord Advocate of Scotland, and the Postmaster-General at London, in behalf of such an arrangement.

May 10.—The Council took a lease of the Earl of Fife's part of Croft Croy, as an addition to the Cattle and Horse Market, at the yearly rent of five pounds sterling.

May 24.—The Council, considering that a dissolution of Parliament is soon expected, and being highly satisfied with the uniform steady attention of Alexander Brodie, Esquire, of Madras, their present Member, to the interest of this burgh, unanimously resolve and agree that Mr. Brodie shall have the Council's support in the ensuing general election, and appoint intimation of this resolution to be given Mr. Brodie.

June 2.—George Brown, Provost of Elgin, was chosen delegate for this burgh to proceed to Banff on the 20th June current, to vote for a Member of Parliament for this District of Burghs. Mr. Brodie was again elected Member.

July 23.—The Council authorised Bailie John Forteach to attend a meeting of the heritors of the parish of Elgin on the following day, for localling the ministers' stipend, in order to save the expense of a process.

October 18.—The Council resolved to lay out a sum of £250 in completing the east pier of the harbour of Lossiemouth, and, as the funds of the burgh were not sufficient for these operations, the Provost and Magistrates were empowered to apply to Mr. Brodie, the Member of Parliament, and any other persons they should think proper, for aid to carry on the work.

1796.
Council
Minutes.

November 28.—A bounty was offered to volunteers for serving in His Majesty's army and navy.

March 2.—An invasion of the country being threatened by the French, the Council resolved to raise one or two companies of volunteers, and to communicate with the Lord-Lieutenant of the County on the subject.

1797.

September 26.—It was unanimously agreed to furnish the volunteer companies of the town with a stand of colours for each company, and the Magistrates were authorised to furnish them at the town's expense, and to concert with the officers of volunteers as to the mode of executing the device to be put on the colours, and thereupon to draw on the Treasurer for the expense.

April 2.—Mr. William Blair, Clerk to the Signet, was elected Ruling Elder to the meeting of the General Assembly, to be held in May next.

1798.

April 5.—A letter was laid before the Council from the Duke of Buccleuch and Provost Elder of Edinburgh, requesting a subscription for the defence of the country in the present critical state of affairs; and, on the motion of Bailie Innes, it was resolved to subscribe the sum of fifty guineas out of the common good for this purpose, and they also recommended to the Magistrates to intimate, by tuck of drum, to the inhabitants to come forward and subscribe for the above object.

May 8.—An additional duty having been laid upon salt, which would bear hard on the labouring and poorer classes, a letter was directed to be sent to Mr. Brodie, Member of Parliament, requesting him to use his endeavour to have the duty mitigated.

September 24.—The Council agreed to give a donation of two guineas to assist in establishing a post-runner from Elgin to Lossiemouth.

1798. September 25.—Mr. George Brown having served as
Council Provost for three years, Alexander Brander, merchant, was
Minutes. elected Provost in his place.

1799 March 7.—The school buildings being ruinous, it was
resolved to make arrangements for erecting new schools in a
better situation, and to have an additional teacher appointed,
and the Council nominated a committee to make arrange-
ments for that purpose, and empowered them to open a
subscription that all patriotic and liberal persons may give
their support to this object, and the Council agreed to give
sixty guineas annually for the teachers' salaries.

April 1.—Mr. William Blair, Clerk to the Signet, was
again appointed Ruling Elder to the ensuing General
Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

September 24.—Mr. Alexander Brander having declined
to act as Provost on account of his advanced period of life,
George Brown was elected Provost in his place.

1800. May 5.—This was a year of scarcity, and grain was at a
high price; supplies were required for the inhabitants of
the burgh. An offer was given in by Messrs. William Young
and others to supply the Council with 350 bolls of bear and
oats, at the price of £1 16s. per boll, which was accepted.

Same day, the Council resolved to borrow the sum of
£200 for erection of the new schools, which was to be a debt
on the community, the money to be lodged in the Bank of
Scotland until required, the Bank having agreed to give
five per cent. interest for the school money.

May 12.—A site for the new schools having been
obtained from the Elgin Guildry Society, estimates were
procured for the buildings, which amounted to £505 12s. 2d.,
and the Council resolved to enter into contracts and proceed
with the work.

Hughe's History
of England, vol.
IV., page 445.

May 15.—Of this date two circumstances occurred
regarding King George III., which deeply interested the
feelings of the whole nation. The first took place in the
morning while he was reviewing the Grenadier Guards in
Hyde Park, when, during the firing, a ball struck and
severely wounded a gentleman attached to the Navy Pay-
Office, who was standing within a few yards of His
Majesty; the second in the evening, when he visited Drury

1800.

Lane Theatre, accompanied by the Queen and four of the Princesses. As the king entered the royal box, and advanced to salute the audience, a pistol was discharged at him by a person who sat in the second row from the orchestra; but a gentleman having observed the man's action, suddenly raised his arm so as to direct the contents of the weapon towards the roof of the box. The king showed great presence of mind on this occasion in calming the apprehensions of his family, and far from betraying any symptoms of fear, resolved to remain till the play was over. The audience testified the most rapturous applause, when, recovering from the mute agony of suspense, they were assured of His Majesty's safety. The assassin was instantly seized and examined, but it was found then, and on his subsequent trial, that he was deranged in intellect.

June 3.—The Council unanimously agreed to address His Majesty on his late Providential escape in the theatre, and an address having been drawn out, was approved of, and signed by the Provost, and appointed to be transmitted to Mr. Brodie, Member of Parliament for this District of Burghs.

Council
Minutes.

June 14.—The Council unanimously agreed to subscribe one hundred pounds sterling towards defraying the expense of a bridge to be erected over the river Spey, at the Boat of Bog, to be paid at three terms—one third when the work is begun, another when the main arch is cast, and the last payment when the work is finished, and authorised the Provost and Magistrates to subscribe accordingly.

July 14.—The scarcity continuing, it was resolved to lay in the full quantity of 350 bolls of grain, as fixed by the minute of 5th May last.

Same day, a letter was received from the Clerk of the Presbytery of Elgin requesting the Council to repair the Church of Elgin; but, as they considered they were only liable for their own share, they resolved to call upon all heritors concerned to pay their share, and, failing their attending to it, to raise a process against them before the Presbytery.

The Little Kirk of Elgin was the Chancel of St. Giles' Church, and had been used as a separate place of worship

1800.

Scott's Fasti,
vol. III., page
156.

since the Revolution, and had regular ministers since 1778 chosen by the members; but having become entirely ruinous, the congregation built a new church in Moss Street, to which they wished to bring their minister, the Rev. Ronald Bayne, but he was interdicted by the Presbytery in 1799, who refused to sanction the new charge. The case was carried to the Synod, and afterwards to the General Assembly, both of which Courts confirmed the sentence of the Presbytery, and the congregation was compelled, most unwillingly, to separate from the Established Church. Mr. Bayne, in these circumstances, declined to continue as their minister, and they gave a call to the Rev. Mr. Ballantyne, one of Mr. Haldane's coadjutors, but he having soon shown views opposed to Presbyterian Church government, they eventually united themselves to the Anti-Burgher Presbytery of Elgin, and through that body obtained a minister to their mind. The conduct of the Established Church, in casting off so large a congregation for no tenable reasons, has been much blamed ever since.

M'Kelvie's
Annals of U.P.
Church, pages
249, &c.

Council
Minutes.

October 16.—The scarcity of provisions still continuing to press heavily, of this date it was resolved to contribute £500 out of the common good for purchasing grain and meal, and Bailie Innes was appointed to meet with the ministers and Trades to carry out the arrangement. It was also agreed to contribute ten pounds to a public kitchen, if that should be carried into effect.

November 13.—The old schools were ordered to be sold.

December 4.—There was laid before the Council a petition from Alexander Johnston, junior, manufacturer in Elgin, to the Honourable the Board of Trustees for Manufactures, which petition stated that he had lately erected an engine for the scrubbing and carding of wool, with slobbing and spinning jennies, for the manufacture of woollen yarn, in the neighbourhood of Elgin, and craving public aid from the Board for enabling him to carry on this manufactory, and for defraying the expense of the machinery.

The Council, having reasoned on this business, are unanimously of opinion that the establishment of the manufactory of woollen yarn in this corner of the country would be highly beneficial to the public at large, and

therefore recommended Mr. Johnston's application to the Honourable Board of Trustees.

The eighteenth century was not generally one of much progress in Scotland, and, like the preceding century, it closed with a season of severe scarcity, almost approaching to a famine. In the burgh of Elgin the trade, which had been so brisk and prosperous before the Union with England, gradually declined, and by the middle of this century the foreign trade, which consisted of exports of corn, malt, cured meat, salmon, and other home articles, and the imports of wines, spirits, silk, hardware, &c., had entirely ceased, the fiscal laws of England having been extended to Scotland. This was succeeded by a demoralising contraband trade, which long prevailed on the coast, and in which many persons were largely engaged. There were few good houses erected in the burgh during this century. Many of the old families left the town, and for the last fifty years population seriously declined. In short, it was a time of inactivity and depression.

One of the important acts of this year was the sale of the fine old mansion, Thunderton House, by Sir Archibald Dunbar, to John Batchen, auctioneer in Elgin. This handsome old edifice had been successively the town residence of the Earl of Moray and Lord Duffus, and by the latter family had been highly improved and ornamented. It had been latterly occupied by Mr. Alexander Brodie, Member of Parliament for the Burghs, who had exercised great hospitality in it. The parting with such a fine property, which was an ornament to the town, is a matter much to be regretted, and has been by none more so than the respected family by whom it was last sold.

John Batchen planned a new street and made many alterations on the venerable fabric, far from improving or ornamental to the town.

CHAPTER III.

CONTINUATION OF THE HISTORY OF THE BURGH FROM THE YEAR 1800.

1801.

Council
Minutes.

JANUARY 23.—The Town-Clerk was authorised to collect the subscriptions for the new schools, and lodge the money in the bank.

March 11.—The old Grammar School was sold for £74, and the English School for £54.

March 23.—Mr. Alexander Wilson was continued master of the Latin School in the new Academy, Mr. John Anderson, teacher of English, grammar, writing, and church music; and an advertisement was to be issued for a teacher of arithmetic, book-keeping, mathematics, and French, and, if able to teach drawing, it would be an additional recommendation.

Same day, Mr. James Brunton, writer in Edinburgh, was elected Ruling Elder to represent this burgh in the ensuing General Assembly, to meet in May next.

September 22.—This being the day of election of Magistrates, George Brown, Linkwood, was continued Provost. John Forteath, Francis Taylor, John Forsyth, junior, and Robert Joss, Bailies; Alexander Innes, Dean of Guild; Alexander Johnston, Treasurer; and John Duncan, Hospital Master.

1802.

January 25.—Mr. Wilson, teacher of the Latin School, having become minister of Aberlour, Mr. John Anderson was appointed his successor; Mr. John Black, teacher of arithmetic and mathematics; and Mr. M'Comie, teacher of the English School.

April 1.—Mr. Brunton, writer, Edinburgh, was again elected Ruling Elder for the burgh to the ensuing General Assembly.

May 11.—Bailie Innes reported to the Council that on

Wednesday last, the 5th current, about six o'clock in the afternoon, he had been attacked in his shop by a gentleman in Elgin to the effusion of his blood ; and it was unanimously resolved that the matter should be put into the hands of the County Procurator-Fiscal for precognition, and if Bailie Innes' expenses were not allowed, that the community would pay the same.*

June 10.—The Provost presented a letter from Alexander Brodie, Esquire, Member of Parliament for this District of Burghs, intimating that he did not intend offering himself as a candidate at next election ; and it was resolved to support Colonel Francis William Grant, son of Sir James Grant of Grant, Baronet, as a candidate, and intimation to that effect was ordered to be made to Colonel Grant.

June 22.—The Parish Church had at this time fallen into a state of great disrepair. The Council agreed to subscribe £100 towards its repair, and to endeavour to get subscriptions to meet the whole expense, which would be about £500. It does not seem to have been understood at this time that the landward heritors were liable to pay the greater part of the cost, or any part of it, but that the burden lay on the burgh alone.

July 17.—George Brown, Provost of the burgh, was elected delegate to attend at Cullen on the 30th July current, to vote for a Member of Parliament for this District of Burghs. Colonel Francis William Grant was of that date elected Member.

September 28.—Joseph King of Newmill was elected Provost ; John Forteath, Alexander Innes, William Gauldie, and George Fenton, Bailies ; Francis Taylor, Dean of Guild ; George Brown, Treasurer ; John Duncan, Hospital Master. Mr. Fenton, being conjunct Town-Clerk of the burgh, declined to take office as a Magistrate, but expressed his willingness to give his counsel and advice at all times when necessary.

January 10.—A new bridge being contemplated to be built over the Lossie at the Brewery, the Council agreed to

1802.
Council
Minutes.

1803.

* We hear no more of this assault made on our worthy old friend Bailie Innes, better known under the name of "Phoenix;" and it is presumed he and his assailant had come to a private arrangement.

1803.

Council
Minutes.

subscribe £50 towards the expense of its erection, one half to be paid when the bridge is founded, and the other half when it shall be finished.

Hughe's History
vol. V., page 59.

February.—A trial took place in London this month of a Colonel Despard, who had entered on a treasonable conspiracy, discovered the previous November, for dethroning the king and compassing his death. After a trial of eighteen hours, he was found guilty, and with six of his associates was executed on the 21st of this month.

Council
Minutes.

April 5.—The Provost stated that he considered it would be proper in the Council to address His Majesty on the late Providential discovery and defeat of the horrid plot and conspiracy formed against His Majesty's sacred person, and all the constituted authorities of the kingdom; and, having presented an address, the same was unanimously approved of, signed by the Provost, and directed to be transmitted to the Member of Parliament, in order to be presented to His Majesty.

The same day, James Brunton, writer in Edinburgh, was again elected Ruling Elder to the ensuing General Assembly.

April 23 and May 10.—It was resolved of these dates to advertise for successors in the English and Mathematical Schools, in room of Messrs. M'Comie and Black, the present teachers.

August 4.—Mr. James Thomson was elected teacher of the Mathematical School, and Mr. Alexander Reid of the English School, in the Elgin Academy.

September 27.—Mr. Joseph King having declined to continue in office as Provost, on account of some pressing private business, George Brown was elected Provost in his room. Francis Taylor, Alexander Innes, Robert Joss, and William Gauldie, Bailies; John Forteach, Dean of Guild; Patrick Duff, Treasurer; and John Duncan, Hospital Master.

1804.

January 31.—The cost of the new Academy buildings amounted to £791 8s. 6d., and the subscriptions received at this date to £638 11s., and the Clerk was directed to endeavour to recover as much of the outstanding arrears as possible.

September 25.—George Brown was continued Provost; Peter Nicholson, Francis Taylor, Robert Joss, and George

Fenton, Bailies; William Gauldie, Dean of Guild; Patrick Duff, Treasurer; Thomas Christie, Hospital Master.

1801.
Council
Minutes.

November 28.—The Council agreed to subscribe £100 toward the public roads through the county, and empowered the Provost to sign the subscription paper; also to give three guineas as a donation for completing the road through Birnie to Knockando.

March 2.—The Council, having considered the memorials laid before them, regarding bringing the mail coach from Aberdeen to Inverness, are of opinion that this burgh is not materially interested, farther than that it is desirable, for the accommodation of the public, as early an arrival of the mail as possible be obtained.

1805.

August 31.—The Magistrates laid before the Council a letter from Colonel Francis William Grant, M.P., requesting their support in favour of John Connell, Esquire, as successor to Mr. Robertson, the present Procurator for the Church, in the event of his resigning that situation. They unanimously agree to support Mr. Connell; and in case Colonel Grant found it convenient, they will elect him representative to the next General Assembly, and appointed an extract of their resolution to be sent to Colonel Grant.

September 24.—At the election this year, George Brown was continued Provost; William Dunbar, John Forsyth, jun., William Gauldie, and Peter Nicholson, Bailies; Francis Taylor, Dean of Guild; George Fenton, Treasurer; Joseph Collie, Hospital Master.

September 28.—James Thomson, writer in Elgin, was appointed Fiscal for the Burgh Court.

September 23.—Joseph King of Newmill was elected Provost; Francis Taylor, William Gauldie, Robert Joss, and William Dunbar, Bailies; Peter Nicholson, Dean of Guild; George Fenton, Treasurer; James Murray, Hospital Master.

1806.

November 1.—Colonel Grant having intimated his intention to stand for the Inverness District of Burghs at the ensuing general election, the Council unanimously agreed to give their support to George Skene of Skene, and directed the Provost to communicate this resolution to Mr. Skene.

November 12.—Joseph King of Newmill, Provost of Elgin, was elected delegate to proceed to Kintore on the

1876. 24th November current, to vote for a Member of Parliament
 Council for this District of Burghs. Mr. Skene of Skene was elected
 Minutes. Member on that day.

December 30.—Sir Archibald Dunbar of Northfield, Baronet, stated that he was desirous to have some ground at Lossiemouth, for the purpose of cutting a canal from the Loch of Spynie, on the south of the feus already given off at that village. The Council empowered the Lossiemouth Committee to meet with Sir Archibald Dunbar, fix the ground he wants, and report their opinion on the whole merits of the matter.

1807. January 31.—Mr James Thomson, teacher of the Mathematical School in the Academy, accepted the office of itinerant preacher at Pluscarden, but agreed to teach his class for one year longer, at a salary of £21.

Same day, it was agreed to give the Turnpike Trustees a lease for twenty years of the ground at the west end of the burgh, set apart for the toll-house, at such rent as Mr. Brown should put thereon.

March 28.—The fees for the entries of merchants and Guild Brethren within the burgh were this day augmented, the entry of merchants being fixed at £12, and of Guild Brethren at £8.

April 8.—Alexander Grant, Clerk to the Signet, was elected Ruling Elder to the General Assembly, to meet at Edinburgh in May next.

Hughes' History, vol. V., page 185.

The Parliament elected in November did not last long. The King tired very shortly of the Whig Ministry, and had a new one formed, under charge of the Duke of Portland, assisted by Mr. Perceval, with Lord Castlereagh, Lord Hawkesbury, and Mr. Canning as Secretaries of State. The former Parliament was dissolved, and a new one summoned to meet on the 22d June.

Council Minutes.

May 11.—The Council of Elgin, who in last Parliament supported the Whig interest, now turned to the opposite side, and unanimously agreed to support Archibald Colquhoun, Lord Advocate, as Member, in room of Mr. Skene.

May 16.—Joseph King of Newmill, Provost, was appointed delegate to proceed to Inverurie on 30th May current to vote for a Member of Parliament for this District of Burghs.

The delegates met at Inverurie on 30th May, when Mr. Colquhoun, Lord Advocate, was elected Member, and continued until 1810.

1807.

June 20.—The toll-house at the west end of the town being found inconvenient, it was resolved to erect a new one at Sheriffmill, at the Magistrates' expense, they getting the old one in place of the new, the cost of the toll-house to be erected at Sheriffmill being £64.

Council Minutes.

June 22.—The Parliament met on 22d June, and, notwithstanding the powerful opposition, the Ministry had a large majority in both Houses, and were firmly seated in power.

Hughes' History, vol. V., page 191.

September 22.—At the annual election held this day Joseph King was continued Provost. Francis Taylor, Robert Joss, Peter Nicholson, and John Russel, Bailies; William Gauldie, Dean of Guild; George Brown, Treasurer; James Murray, Hospital Master.

February 2.—George Edward had been town's drummer since 1769. The Council agreed to augment his salary to one pound quarterly.

1808.

February 29.—At the request of the Morayshire Farmer Club, the Council appointed an additional public market for cattle, to be held in Elgin this year, and in future in the month of April, on the day of Peace Fair; and appointed notices to be given in the Aberdeen and Inverness journals, and for encouraging dealers, that no toll be charged for the first year, reserving consideration of the second year.

March 14.—The Council authorised the Town-Clerk to give Mr. James Thomson, writer, extracts of the minutes of election for the year 1805, but declared that the complying with this request shall not form an admission of the right of any one to demand such.

April 13.—The salaries of the teachers in the Academy were augmented as follows:—Mr. Anderson, five pounds yearly; Mr. Reid, five pounds; and Mr. Thomson, four pounds—to commence at November next.

September 27.—Mr. Joseph King was continued Provost; William Gauldie, Joseph Collie, Peter Nicholson, and John Russel, Bailies; Francis Taylor, Dean of Guild; George Brown, Treasurer; James Murray, Hospital Master.

1809.
Council
Minutes.

February 27.—Alexander Cook was appointed keeper of the Elgin Cathedral, and was directed to live in the cottage then erected on the west end of the building. This is the first notice we have of any care having been taken of the venerable building, and it was owing to the enlightened views of Mr. King, Provost, by whose exertions subscriptions had been obtained for enclosing the ruins, which had previously been open to the public, and used by the masons of the burgh as a quarry, and was a receptacle of filth.

Same day, the Council took into consideration the proposed Act of Parliament for regulating the public records of Scotland, which would have the effect of abolishing the Burgh and Commissary Court Books, as records for deeds. This alteration had been proposed by Mr. Thomas Thomson, the eminent antiquarian, then Deputy-Clerk Register. The Council, on 13th March, resolved to join with the other burghs in opposing the bill as contrary to the articles of Union with England, and a letter to the Lord Advocate on the subject, having been drawn up, was approved of, and ordered to be transmitted to his Lordship, and a copy of the letter was also directed to be sent to the Clerk of the Convention of Royal Burghs.

The Act was eventually passed into law, and, like other improvements in the records, proposed by that able lawyer, Mr. Thomas Thomson, has proved extremely beneficial in practice.

August 1.—Mr. John Waddel was engaged to be teacher of the mathematical class in the Elgin Academy for one year, at the yearly salary of £35.

September 25.—A letter was received from Provost Gilzean, of Inverness, containing resolutions from a committee of the shire of Inverness, relative to the delay in conducting the mails between Aberdeen and Inverness, of which the Council entirely approved, and agreed to make application to the Postmaster-General for redress, and, if necessary, to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury.

September 26.—Mr. King having served three years as Provost, retired from office, and Mr. George Brown was elected Provost; William Gauldie, Francis Taylor, Robert Joss, and Joseph Collie, Bailies; Peter Nicholson, Dean of

Guild ; George Fenton, Treasurer ; James Murray, Hospital Master.

1809.

Council
Minutes.

September 30.—The following entry appears in the minutes of this date :—

“ The Council cannot allow Mr. King retire from office, “ without expressing their unanimous approbation of his “ conduct during the period he filled the situation of Chief “ Magistrate. His manly dignity of character, his easy “ affability of manners, and his mildness and benevolence of “ disposition, have risen in our estimation in proportion as “ time has afforded us opportunities of ascertaining their “ value, and we are convinced the community at large “ entertain the same sentiments, and will ever retain a proper “ sense thereof.”

Mr. Joseph King only lived about two months after retiring from office, having died on the 4th December, 1809 ; his illness was therefore short. Having been born in 1744, he was 65 years of age. He was the last heir male of a family who had been resident in the burgh for 130 years, and who had done much good to the town in three successive generations. They were all men of superior talents—active and energetic, and of kindly and benevolent dispositions. His grandfather, William King of Newmill, had been Provost of the burgh from 1690 to 1700, and again from 1709 to 1711. His father had been for a good many years Sheriff of the County, and was so during the eventful years of the Rebellion 1745 and 1746 ; and his brother, William King of Newmill, took a great part in the County politics, being a staunch and constant supporter of the interest of the Duke of Gordon’s family.

MS. Account of
the Family of
Newmill.

October 26.—The Provost stated to the Council the propriety of addressing His Majesty on his entering the fiftieth year of his reign, and this motion having been seconded, a draft of an address was produced which the Council unanimously approved of, and the same having been extended and signed by the Provost, it was appointed to be transmitted to the Lord Advocate, the representative in Parliament for this District of Burghs, to be by him presented to His Majesty.

Same day the Council increased the salary of Mr. Reid,

1809. the teacher of the English School, by the sum of ten pounds
 Council yearly, in consequence of the arithmetic class being trans-
 Minutes. ferred from him to the teacher of the Mathematical School.

1810. January 8.—Miss Helen Duff intimated her retirement
 as teacher of the Ladies' School from Whitsunday next.

The town officers had been in the way of keeping
 tippling houses, and two of them had no licenses. They had
 been served with writs from the Court of Exchequer in
 consequence. The Provost was requested to write the Lord
 Advocate in their favour, and endeavour to get them
 relieved; but a resolution was passed that, if any of them
 kept tippling houses in future, they would be immediately
 dismissed from office.

March 5.—Misses Elizabeth and Mary Shand were
 appointed teachers of the Female School of the burgh, with
 a salary of fifty pounds per annum, payable half-yearly, to
 commence at Whitsunday then next. The Council also
 fixed the school fees to be charged.

April 3.—Mr. James Mackenzie, Clerk to the Signet,
 was appointed Ruling Elder to the ensuing General Assembly,
 to meet in May next.

June 28.—Mr. George Brown, Provost, was elected
 delegate to proceed to Inverurie on 13th July next, to
 vote for a Member of Parliament in room of Archibald
 Colquhoun, Esquire, Lord Advocate, who had retired from
 office.

July 13.—The Right Honourable William Dundas was
 this day, at Inverurie, elected Member for this District of
 Burghs.

August 6.—A donation of five guineas was voted to
 assist in erecting a bridge over the Lossie at Bishopmill.

September 25.—At the annual election this year, Mr.
 George Brown was continued Provost; Francis Taylor,
 Robert Joss, Peter Nicholson, and John Russel, Bailies;
 William Gauldie, Dean of Guild; George Fenton, Treasurer;
 James Murray, Hospital Master.

1811. April 2.—James Mackenzie, Clerk to the Signet, was again
 appointed Ruling Elder to the ensuing General Assembly.

June 29.—Bailie Francis Taylor was appointed Com-
 missioner to the Convention of Burghs, and was requested

to use his influence for obtaining aid to assist in repairing the harbour of Lossiemouth, and a committee was appointed to prepare a memorial to the Convention on the subject, to be delivered to Bailie Taylor.

1811.
Council
Minutes.

A report was considered relative to the state of the harbour of Lossiemouth, which was found to be in bad repair, partly from the effect of a severe storm in the preceding winter, and from other causes. Certain interim repairs were ordered to be made, and it was hoped some aid might be got from the Convention of Burghs.

September 24.—George Brown was continued Provost; William Gauldie, Joseph Collie, Peter Nicholson, and John Russel, Bailies; Francis Taylor, Dean of Guild; Patrick Duff, Treasurer; James Murray, Hospital Master.

March 26.—George Brown was elected delegate to proceed to Inverurie on 13th April next, for election of a Member of Parliament for this District of Burghs.

1812.

Archibald Campbell, Esquire of Blythswood, was chosen Member.

April 6.—James Mackenzie, W.S., was elected Ruling Elder for this burgh to the ensuing General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

September 14.—George Fenton gave in a letter of resignation as joint Town-Clerk of the burgh, on condition that Patrick Duff, junior, writer, should be appointed his successor, which being considered, the Council accepted Mr. Fenton's resignation, and found it unnecessary to have a conjunct nomination. They appointed Patrick Duff, senior, Town-Clerk of Elgin, *ad vitam aut culpam*, and Patrick Duff, junior, his son, assistant and successor to him. This appears the first time on record when the office of Town-Clerk of the burgh was not held by conjunct persons, and the first and only time when an assistant and successor was appointed.

September 22.—At the burgh election this day, George Fenton was chosen Provost; William Gauldie, Joseph Collie, Francis Taylor, and Robert Joss, Bailies; Peter Nicholson, Dean of Guild; Patrick Duff, Treasurer; and James Murray, Hospital Master.

October 15.—George Fenton, Provost, was nominated

1812.
Council
Minutes.

commissioner or delegate for election of a Member of Parliament for this District of Burghs, the meeting for which purpose was to be held at Elgin, the presiding burgh for the time, on the 30th October current.

October 30.—The meeting for election of a Member of Parliament was held at Elgin this day in the Council Room of the burgh. Only three delegates appeared, viz., George Fenton, Provost of Elgin, for that burgh; Alexander Wilson, factor for the Earl of Seafield, for Cullen; and Charles Bannerman, advocate in Aberdeen, for Kintore. The meeting unanimously elected Patrick Milne of Crimonogate to represent this District of Burghs in the ensuing Parliament, to meet at Westminster on 24th November then next. This was the Parliament called in the year of Mr. Perceval's assassination, and was the first of Lord Liverpool's long administration.

December 14.—Grain was very high in price this year, on account of the war which was now raging in all parts of Europe, and with the United States of America. The Council appointed a committee to purchase 500 bolls of oatmeal on the best terms they could procure it at.

1813.

February 10.—The Council, at request of the Convention of Royal Burghs, agreed to petition Parliament for the opening of the trade with India, and the countries to the eastward of the Cape of Good Hope. The petition to be transmitted by the Provost to Mr. Milne, the Member, for presentation.

March 18.—The price of grain and meal being daily increasing, the Council resolved to endeavour to raise subscriptions for the purchase of meal for support of the poor, and agreed to subscribe twenty guineas out of the common good for that purpose.

September 28.—George Fenton was continued Provost; Francis Taylor, Robert Joss, Peter Nicholson, and John Russel, Bailies; William Gaudie, Dean of Guild; George Brown, Treasurer; James Murray, Hospital Master.

1814.

October 22.—The Rev. John Grant, one of the ministers of Elgin, died this day, in the eighty-fourth year of his age.

October 24.—The Council met and resolved to petition the Crown to issue a presentation to the vacant charge in

favour of the Rev. Lewis Gordon, minister of the parish of Drainie, and the Provost was requested to write to the Home Secretary and to the Members of Parliament for the county and burghs in support of the petition.

1814.
Council
Minutes.

February 4.—The Provost reported that, in consequence of the town's application to Patrick Milne, Esquire of Crimonmogate, Member of Parliament for this District of Burghs, a presentation had been obtained for the Rev. Lewis Gordon, minister of Drainie, to be one of the ministers of this town.

1815.

The Rev. Lewis Gordon was made a D.D. by the University of Aberdeen on 11th February, and elected Moderator of the General Assembly on 18th May thereafter. On 31st July, a call was signed in his favour by the Provost, Bailies, Dean of Guild, Treasurer, and Convener and Deacons of Trades, and he was settled on the 5th September. Dr. Gordon was a pleasant, agreeable person, and very much liked in the town; but, considering that he was now nearly seventy years of age, and that his colleague, the Rev. William Gordon, was also well advanced in life, it was an unwise appointment for a town like Elgin, which required a young, active, and energetic minister.

*Fasti Scoticanæ
Ecclesie, vol.
III., page 155.*

July 4.—Mr. John Anderson, teacher of the Latin School in the Elgin Academy, died at this time. He had been a teacher in Elgin since the year 1773, first in the English and Music Schools, and thereafter in the Latin, and for the long period of forty-two years had discharged his duties most faithfully to his pupils, and was much respected by the community. His pupils erected a handsome stone over his grave in the Elgin Cathedral, which still remains in good preservation.

The Council, having met on the above date, resolved, in consequence of Mr. Anderson's death, to advertise for a successor in the Edinburgh, Inverness, and Aberdeen newspapers.

July 31.—The Council resolved they would admit no person as successor to Mr. Anderson in the Latin class, except one who would take the oaths to Government, and sign the Confession of Faith.

August 2.—Candidates having been examined for the

1815.
Council
Minutes.

Latin class in the Elgin Academy, Mr. James Thomson, teacher in the Fortrose Academy, was, on the recommendation of the Presbytery, chosen successor to Mr. Anderson, but on the condition that he would not preach at any time except during the summer vacation, and a contract was ordered to be made with him for three years. Mr. Thomson entered on his duties immediately.

September 26.—The annual election of Magistrates was held this day, when George Fenton, having served three years, was relieved, and George Brown, Linkwood, elected in his stead.

September 30.—A contract was entered into with James Thomson, teacher of the Elgin Academy Latin School, for three years, from the second August last, binding himself to abstain from preaching during the currency thereof, and prescribing rules for his conduct.

Same day, the Council resolved to consult with the Presbytery as to the best mode of putting a stop to public begging, and appointed a committee to confer with the Presbytery.

1816.

January 16.—The Council unanimously agreed to petition the Barons of Exchequer for aid to secure the ruins of the Cathedral of Elgin from going into total decay, and directed the Clerk to draw up a petition accordingly.

Mr. George Brown, Provost, died on 19th June this year. His death was unexpected. He had been connected with the Council since the year 1781. He was first chosen Provost in 1782, and had very frequently held that office since. He had been factor to the Earl of Findlater for about forty years, and had a large business as land-surveyor and valuator—perhaps the largest in the North of Scotland in his day. He was a hard-working, able man of business, and had conducted the burgh politics of Elgin with great prudence and sagacity, keeping a firm hold for his constituent. Mr. Brown was a member of a family who were gifted with great engineering abilities, his brother having, without any influence except his own steadiness and talents, risen to be Quartermaster-General of the British army. Mr. Brown was in the 70th year of his age. His brother, General Brown, who was ten years younger, died in the previous month of April.

September 24.—Colonel Francis William Grant of Grant, Member of Parliament, was unanimously elected Provost for the ensuing year.

1816.
Council
Minutes.

This season was late and cold, and the crop was very bad ; grain and meal scarce. The Council resolved to purchase from Mr. John Lawson, Oldmills, 200 bolls of meal, and the like quantity from Mr. Peter Brown, Linkwood, the price to be fixed before delivery, and none to be received before the month of February. The Magistrates were also directed to write to Colonel Grant of Grant, requesting that he would give them 200 bolls of meal, on the usual terms, and in such letter to mention the quantities secured from the above gentlemen.

Gray's Hospital was erected this year at a cost of about £6000. It has been, on the whole, a very useful institution, and a great relief to the humbler classes in the time of sickness and distress. The site for the building was chosen by Mr. Gillespie, architect, Edinburgh, who furnished the plans. It was a great improvement to the west end of the town, where previously there had only been a few miserable cottages. Several persons were attracted by the erection of the Hospital to the sites at the west end of the burgh. Among others, Miss Agnes Ross built a handsome house on the north side of the Forres turnpike road, known by the name of "The Cottage," and Mr. William Young, having purchased a piece of ground from the Guildry at Croft Croy, and obtained a feu from the Magistrates of the Marywell acre, built on the Croft Croy ground the villa called Maryhill, and laid out an excellent garden on the ground below. The Earl of Fife and the Magistrates also planted their portions of the hill, which had formerly been a barren, desolate waste of sand. Other improvements followed at the west end. The Guildry Society also began to feu their Croft land, and various houses having been erected near the Academy, a street was shortly after formed, now called Academy Street.

February 3.—The British Linen Company Bank agreed to advance the Council the sum of £400 for six months, free of interest, for the purpose of purchasing meal for the poor ; and Bailie Joss was authorised to draw upon this credit, and

1817.

1817.
Council
Minutes.

to take charge of the meal fund, the meal to be retailed out to poor persons at the rate of 32s. per boll.

February 6.—Colonel Grant, Provost of the burgh, being present at the Council this day, agreed to sell 200 bolls of meal to the Magistrates at the same price as Mr. Lawson and Mr. Peter Brown had sold their quantities.

The close of the war brought great domestic distress into the country. There seemed to be a collapse of trade and commerce, and a fall to an immense extent in the price of goods and agricultural produce. This, coupled with the bad harvest of 1816, brought on a crisis, with rioting in London and through the country. At the opening of the session of Parliament in the year 1817, the Prince Regent alluded to existing discontent, and to its causes, which he lamented were not of a nature to admit of immediate remedy; that there had been a deficiency in last year's revenue, but which he trusted had only proceeded from temporary causes; and he hoped the Government would find it practicable to provide for the public without adding to the burdens of the people. The Prince, on returning from Parliament through the Park, was attacked by a violent mob distressed by their sufferings, to which they believed his Royal Highness was insensible. Stones and other missiles were directed against his carriage, the windows of which were broken, and the Prince's life put in considerable danger, it being believed that bullets were fired with air guns at him. This outrage was communicated to the Peers by Lord Sidmouth, and all public business in Parliament suspended for the day. A conference was held between the Lords and Commons, and addresses voted congratulating the Regent on his escape. A reward of £1000 was offered for discovery of the offending parties, but they were never found out.

Hughes'
History, vol.
VI., page 328.

Council
Minutes.

February 6.—The Council of Elgin voted an address to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent on his escape from the daring attempt made on his person, and, a draft of it having been prepared, the same was read and signed by the Provost, and the seal of the burgh affixed thereto; and the Provost, Colonel Grant, was requested either to present the same himself, or transmit the address to any friend for that purpose, providing he did not go to London soon.

February 10.—A request being made by several respectable inhabitants in the town for calling a public meeting to devise measures for relieving the distresses of the poor labourers and householders, and to enter into subscriptions, the Council approved of the measure, and directed the Magistrates to subscribe five guineas in name of the town.

Same day, it was resolved to embank the Lossie at the Market Green, according to a plan and estimate, the town's share being £25 7s.—the work to be proceeded with if Lord Fife's Trustees and Mr. William Young would do their part. The work was done, and the present public walk on the south bank of the Lossie made, there being no walk or passage of any kind there before.

March 18.—Bailie Joss reported that the harbour dues of Lossiemouth had been let for three years to John Riach, vintner, at the yearly rent of £34.

One hundred bolls of meal were purchased for the town at 36s. per boll—an enormous price for that time, showing how great the scarcity was.

April 1.—James Mackenzie, Writer to the Signet, was again elected Ruling Elder from this burgh to the ensuing General Assembly.

Same day, an excambion was entered into between the curator for the Earl of Seafield and the ministers of Elgin, whereby the latter gave up the old glebe of 4 acres and 20 falls, near Grant Lodge, and received six acres at Burghbrigs in lieu therefor. The Council, having seen a report on the value by Messrs. William Young, John Lawson, Robert Young, and William Gill, approved of the excambion, and appointed Bailie Joss, on the part of the community, to attend the Presbytery and consent to the measure.

July 24.—A charter was this day granted in favour of the Trustees of Dr. Gray of the land called the Snuff Croft, where the Hospital was built, in fulfilment of an agreement entered into on 22d December, 1814.

November 18.—Francis Taylor, Dean of Guild, laid before the Council a letter addressed to him by Messrs. Alexander Brander, Isaac Forsyth, Alexander Innes, John Jack, John Forsyth, junior, Robert Young, John Forsythe, and David Cormie, burgesses, requiring him to call a meeting of the burgesses and Guild Brethren, with a view to the reform of

1817.
Council
Minutes.

the sett of the burgh, which he had declined to do. He also laid before them a schedule of protest, which had been served upon him on the 14th instant, in consequence of his refusal to call said meeting. The Council approved of the conduct of the Dean of Guild. The Provost also laid before the Council a letter he had received from the above-named gentlemen explaining their views, with his own reply; also a letter received by him this day requesting a personal interview with a deputation of the Council, with a view of settling amicably existing differences.

The Council, having deliberated on the matter, and having caused the sett of the burgh of the year 1706 to be read, were unanimously of opinion that it was very suitable for regulating the election of office-bearers, and should be adhered to; that the present sett had been found good in many severe trials before the Supreme Court in the political contests in 1771, 1772, 1784, and 1785; and that therefore any alteration or innovation would be extremely dangerous and inexpedient; and they declined any meeting with the above gentlemen.

The harvest of the year 1817, if not quite so bad as that of the previous year, was still very late, and the crop deficient; and much distress continued to be felt among the poorer classes.

December 8.—Colonel Grant, Provost, offered to furnish the Council 100 bolls of meal at 35s. per boll, and to lend them £500 for three months, free of interest, for purchase of meal. Mr. Alexander Johnston, Newmill, also offered to supply 100 bolls of meal at 36s. per boll. All these offers were accepted.

Hughes'
History, vol.
VI., page 346.

The Princess Charlotte of Wales died on the 6th November, after giving birth to a still-born child, to the great and universal grief of the nation. The day of her funeral, 18th November, was one of general and unaffected mourning throughout the kingdom. It was a day of voluntary humiliation, accompanied by a total cessation from business, and sorrowful meditation on the instability of human happiness.

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December 8.—The Council resolved to address His Royal Highness the Prince Regent on the melancholy event of the death of the Princess Charlotte Augusta, and a draft of an

address having been read, it was approved of, and directed to be signed and transmitted by the Provost.

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April 7.—In former times, and up to this date, all grain sold within the burgh of Elgin, known under the name of *omnia invecta et illata*, was liable to pay multure at the Mill of Oldmills. The Magistrates and Trades now resolved to get quit of these if possible, and a committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements for this purpose.

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May 23.—The scarcity continuing, the Council purchased an additional quantity of fifty bolls of meal from Wm. Rhind, corn merchant, at the price of 36s. per boll.

June 1.—The Council unanimously resolved to support Robert Grant, Esquire, second son of Charles Grant, Esquire, one of the Directors of the East India Company, as their representative in Parliament at the ensuing general election.

June 6.—A Head Court of the burgh was held this day, at which the Earl of Fife as proprietor, and Mr. John Lawson as tenant, of the Mill of Oldmills, subscribed a minute, desiring it to be understood by the Magistrates and inhabitants of the burgh that the restriction should cease from and after this date, and that the inhabitants, as far as regarded the *grana invecta et illata*, wheat excepted, should be at liberty from that day forth to grind their corns at whatever mill they pleased.

June 25.—The Honourable Colonel Francis William Grant, Provost of the burgh, was elected delegate, to proceed to Banff on the eleventh July next to vote for a Member to represent this District of Burghs, in the Parliament to assemble at Westminster on the 4th August next.

June 29.—Mr. Peter Brown, Town Treasurer, was elected Commissioner to the ensuing meeting of Convention of Royal Burghs, and was requested to use his influence to procure some aid for the harbour of Lossiemouth, and the Magistrates were directed to draw out instructions to him regarding various important matters expected to be agitated before the Convention.

July 11.—Mr. Robert Grant was this day elected at Banff Member of Parliament for this District of Burghs.*

* Mr. Robert Grant was the second son of Charles Grant, Esq., long Member of Parliament for Inverness-shire, and the eminent Director and Chairman of the East India Company, who raised himself from a humble position to a very high station in life. They were of the family of

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September 14.—The streets of the burgh were at this time in very bad repair—full of holes, no side pavement, and dangerous both to carriages and horses. The Turnpike Trustees offered to assist in making repairs and improvements, but the Council, in the then present state of the funds of the burgh, could only agree to go the length of taking in estimates for making partial repairs, in conjunction with the Turnpike Trustees.

September 22.—Colonel Francis William Grant was continued Provost for the ensuing year.

November 24.—By the verdict of a jury, the Earl of Fife received the sum of £635, as the value of the multures of *grana invecta et illata* within the bounds of the burgh (wheat excepted), to bear interest from the 6th June then last, until paid. The Town-Clerk was of this date directed to write letters to the different subscribers, requesting immediate payment of the various sums subscribed to this fund, and, when the money is received, to settle the claim with the proprietor of Oldmills, and his factor, and obtain a regular discharge to the town of that burden.*

A protest was taken this year by James Cattanach, Deacon of the Wrights, and a member of Council, against the election of Colonel Francis William Grant, Provost; Peter Brown, Treasurer; Patrick Duff and Robert Dick, merchant Councillors. This was followed by an action in the Court of Session for reducing the election.

November 24.—The Council resolved by a majority to defend the action, and remitted to the Provost and Magistrates to employ the town's agents for that purpose.

Queen Charlotte, wife of George III., died in the close of this year. She and her husband had now been married for the long period of fifty-seven years. Her Majesty had conducted herself with great prudence, and was much respected by the nation. She was a faithful and dutiful wife, and the mother of a large family.†

Sheuglie, in Glen-Urquhart. Mr. Robert Grant was a distinguished speaker in Parliament, was knighted, became a Privy Councillor, and Governor of Bombay. He married the only daughter of Sir David Davidson of Cantray, and died in 1838, much esteemed for his many virtues. He was a brother of the late Lord Glenelg.

* With the above sum of £635, the Earl of Fife purchased the fine fields at the west end of Elgin, on the south side of the Forres turnpike, near Gray's Hospital.

† Sophia Charlotte, the wife of King George III., was the second daughter of the Duke of Mecklenburgh-Strelitz, and their marriage took place on 8th September, 1761.

January 2.—At a Council meeting, held this day, the Provost stated that he had called them together for the purpose of addressing His Royal Highness the Prince Regent on the death of their lamented Queen, and presented the copy of an address, which was approved of, and directed to be forwarded by the Provost to the Prince Regent.

March 22.—Mr. Alexander Reid, teacher of the English School in the Academy, gave in his resignation of office, which was accepted, and the Magistrates were directed to advertise for a successor. The Council at same time requested the Magistrates to convey to Mr. Reid the high and grateful sense they entertained of the value of his past services and unwearied exertions in the discharge of his duty as a teacher.

Same day, a copy of the complainers' replies in the process of reduction of the last election was laid before the Council, and the Magistrates were instructed to supply information to enable counsel to prepare duplies.

April 6.—A subscription of ten guineas was granted from the burgh funds towards the erection of public meeting rooms in the town.

May 4.—Mr. Alexander Bransby was elected English teacher in the Elgin Academy, in room of Mr. Reid, under a similar contract as that entered into with Mr. Thomson in 1815.

June 16.—The question of Burgh Reform was much agitated at this time. Lord Archibald Hamilton was at the head of the movement. The matter was before the Council this day, with an order from the House of Commons to make replies to certain queries as to the constitution, revenue, &c., of the burghs. The Clerk, in obedience to said order, had prepared the necessary answers, which would be laid before next meeting.

Mr. William Innes, Writer to the Signet, was elected Commissioner to the ensuing Convention of Royal Burghs.

July 1.—The Magistrates stated to the Council that they attended a meeting of delegates from Banff, Nairn, and Forres, at Lossiemouth, to inspect the harbour. Sir Archibald Dunbar, delegate from Nairn, Mr. John Fraser from Forres, and Mr. William Robertson from Banff, made up a

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report, which was laid on the table. The report was ordered to be recorded, and the original, with relative plan, to be sent to their delegate at the Convention of the Burghs, to be laid before that body, with the view of obtaining liberal aid for the improvement of the harbour; and the Magistrates were instructed to send circulars to the burghs of Inverness, Nairn, Fortrose, Forres, Banff, Cullen, Aberdeen, and any others they should incline, soliciting their support at the Convention.

Same day, the Council subscribed £200 for making a turnpike road from Elgin to Lossiemouth, to be paid within two years by equal instalments.

September 20.—His Royal Highness Prince Leopold of Saxe-Cobourg, husband of the late Princess Charlotte of Wales, paid a visit to Elgin this month, in company with George Marquis of Huntly. It was of this date reported at the Council meeting that the Provost, the Honourable Colonel Grant, had invited the Prince to Grant Lodge, and had made arrangements there for receiving him in a manner suitable to his high rank. He also had invited the Lieutenancy of the County, the Magistrates and Town Council, and gentlemen in and near the town, to meet His Royal Highness, who, with the Incorporations, went in a body to the west end of the burgh, and walked in procession before the Prince to the Lodge, where a very elegant entertainment was prepared; that the freedom of the town, in a cover of rich velvet, was presented to His Royal Highness in a silver box, with a suitable inscription; and that His Royal Highness was pleased to express his sense of the welcome, reception, and kindness shown him on this occasion, and requested the Provost to communicate the same to the Corporation.

The Council felt much gratified by the Provost's attention, and the honour done to the town by the splendid and elegant entertainment given His Royal Highness, and thereby recorded their testimony thereof.

September 24.—A protest was this day given in by James Dick, blacksmith, and James Cattanach, cartwright, both members of Council, against the Magistrates proceeding with the election of the Council, as they had been illegally chosen themselves, and were not competent to elect their successors.

September 28.—At the election this year, the Honourable Colonel Grant, having served three years as Provost, was relieved from office, and Sir Archibald Dunbar of Northfield, Baronet, was elected Provost in his room; Robert Joss, Alexander Innes, Francis Taylor, and Joseph Collie, were elected Bailies; William Gauldie, Dean of Guild; John Russel, Treasurer; Peter Nicholson, Robert Dick, James Murray, Charles Fowler, Lewis Anderson, Colonel Francis William Grant, Peter Brown, Merchant Councillors; Alexander Dick, Convener; James Culbard and Alexander M'Iver, Trades Councillors.

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James Dick and James Cattnach adhered to their protests against the legality of the elections.

October 2.—The Council agreed to build an additional class-room for the English School in the Elgin Academy, in consequence of the very numerous attendance of boys.

November 22.—The Council voted an address to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent on the present agitated state of the country, expressing their abhorrence of the infidel and democratical principles which are attempted to be disseminated through the country, and their assurances of loyalty and attachment to the Throne; and the draft of an address, having been submitted, was approved of, and directed to be extended, and transmitted.

November.—A letter was received from the Honourable Colonel Grant, late Provost, conveying his good wishes to the community, with a gift of three hundred guineas in aid of the town's funds, to be used for public purposes, and particularly for the improvement of the Academy. A letter of thanks was drawn up, read and approved of, and the Provost was requested to sign and forward the same.

December 13.—The harbour dues of Lossiemouth were let for three years to John Riach, at the yearly rent of £34.

January 29.—King George III. died, in the 82d year of his age, and the 60th year of his reign. He had been for nine years clouded in mind, and quite incapable of attending to any public business. Still, it was with feelings of pain and regret that the nation contemplated the death of their sovereign, under whose long reign the greater portion of the people had been born. No sovereign could have been more

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1829. anxious for the welfare of his subjects, but his determined obstinacy of character had been the cause of many disasters to the country, bringing it in various instances almost to the verge of ruin.

On Thursday, the 9th March, a precept was served on Bailie Taylor, Acting Chief Magistrate in absence of the Provost, requesting the Council to meet to choose a delegate, to proceed to Cullen on the 31st March to elect a Member of Parliament for this District of Burghs; but Bailie Taylor, having been forcibly abducted on Saturday, the 11th March, was unable to give effect to the precept, in consequence of being carried off in a boat to Sutherland.

Robert Dick, a Merchant Councillor, was carried off to Sutherland the same day. They had both returned before the 25th of the month.

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March 25.—The Council met, but only eight members were present—viz., Sir Archibald Dunbar, Provost; Francis Taylor and Robert Joss, Bailies; William Gauldie, Dean of Guild; John Russel, Treasurer; Joseph Collie, Robert Dick, and Peter Brown, Merchant Councillors. These resolved, notwithstanding they had not a majority of the Council, to meet on the 28th current, and elect a delegate to proceed to Cullen to vote for the Member of Parliament.

These, it is believed, met and chose a delegate, but we have no record in the Council minutes of any further procedure until the 10th June—the town in the interval being in a very disturbed state. We shall therefore here give a short narrative of the proceedings at this very stormy election, which is, perhaps, without a parallel in the history of the burgh.

Captain Dunbar
Dunbar's
Social Life,
2d series, pages
166 to 173.

At the general election this year, Mr. Robert Grant, the previous Member, hearing that General Duff was likely to come forward as a candidate, declined to stand, preferring to take a quiet English borough provided for him by his friends. The Earl of Kintore thereupon brought forward Archibald Farquharson of Finzean, who was little known in the district, and not a popular person. The burghs of Banff and Inverurie were in the Fife interest, Cullen and Kintore in that of the Earls of Seafield and Kintore. Elgin, which had for a long period been in the interest of

the Seafield family, was somewhat more doubtful, and became a subject of contention.

As above stated, in the absence of the Provost, who was then in Edinburgh, the Sheriff's precept was issued to Bailie Francis Taylor, Acting Chief Magistrate, ordering him to call a meeting of Council on Wednesday, the 15th March, to elect a delegate to proceed to Cullen on the 31st of that month to vote for a Member of Parliament.

General Duff started against Mr. Farquharson; and the Earl of Fife, having come to Elgin, and called on the Magistrates and Councillors, prevailed on seven out of the seventeen members of Council to declare for his brother, General Duff. The Provost and Colonel Grant being absent, and Bailie Innes professing strict neutrality, the Council was equally divided, and the vote hinged on the Provost if he returned in time.

The Earl of Fife, by public stirring addresses, presenting dresses to the ladies, giving gowns, shawls, bonnets, rings, &c., to the wives and daughters of the tradesmen, scattering money amongst the lower classes, and acting courteously to all, became immensely popular in the town. The feelings of both parties became excited to the utmost degree, and the progress and issue of the election were looked forward to with the most intense anxiety. Squibs and songs, principally in the Duff interest, were freely circulated through the town, and produced a considerable effect.

The Council being so closely balanced, it became an object with both parties to have some of their opponents removed; and although neither of the heads would have lent themselves to any such project as to enter into forcible abduction, some of their followers had no such scruples. It is stated that attempts were made by the Grant party to kidnap Messrs. Lewis Anderson and James Culbard, two of the Duff supporters, but if made, they failed. This roused the Duff party, two of whom, on the morning of Saturday, the 11th March, seized Mr. Robert Dick, a Merchant Councillor in the Grant interest, at his own shop door, put him into a post-chaise, which was waiting, and in which, accompanied with his captors, he was driven to Burghead, and from thence, in a boat which was ready to receive him, transported to the

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opposite coast. There being several Morayshire gentlemen then resident in Sutherland to whom Mr. Dick was well known, he was immediately set at liberty, and was asked if he wished to return home ; but, being kindly entertained there, he said he was in no haste, that the lads, his captors, had treated him well, and that he had no desire to part with them. After a few days spent in Sutherland, they started leisurely for home, proceeding by land, and were too late for the election of a delegate, appointed for the 15th of the month.

On the same Saturday, Bailie Francis Taylor, Acting Chief Magistrate, when taking his morning walk, was also captured near his own garden gate, which opened on a retired lane, by a party supporting the Duff interest, carried to Bishop-mill, put there into a post-chaise, conveyed to the sea-side, where an open boat was procured to transport him and two of his captors to Sutherland ; but a storm having got up, they were seventeen hours on the passage, and in some danger of their lives. They, however, succeeded in gaining the harbour of Brora. The worthy Bailie received every attention in Sutherland, made his way home slowly by land, but could not reach Elgin in time for the election of a delegate on the 15th of the month.

In consequence of these transactions, Elgin got into a most excited state, and Lady Ann Grant, sister of the Earl of Seafield, who then resided at Grant Lodge, being alarmed for her personal safety, despatched an express to Strathspey on the morning of Sunday, the 12th March, requesting that a body of Highlanders might be sent to guard Grant Lodge, or to act otherwise as they might be required. The express reached Cromdale as the congregation were leaving the church, and about 300 men immediately started for Elgin, others being desired to follow. The first band reached Aberlour at a late hour in the night, when a tenant of the Earl of Fife, suspecting the cause of this gathering, despatched a messenger to alarm the Earl and the inhabitants of Elgin. The messenger with some difficulty passed the Grant retainers ; but, having managed to do so, and being well mounted, he reached Elgin long before them, and immediately roused the Earl and the principal gentlemen

interested in the Duff cause, who sent out drums, bugles, &c., to stir the townspeople long before the dawn of the spring morning. All those friendly to the Duff side armed themselves with bludgeons, old swords, or any other weapons at their command; and the Magistrates and members of Council favourable to that side, were lodged in Mackenzie's Inn, guarded by men, who were relieved at intervals, all public business being suspended.

The advanced guard of the Highlanders arrived near Elgin about three o'clock in the morning; but, finding the inhabitants roused and in a state of preparation, they did not enter the town, but marched to Grant Lodge. In course of the morning additional bands arrived, the townspeople looking on. Provisions were prepared at Grant Lodge for the party, which now amounted to about 700 men; and it must have been rather a difficult matter to feed such a multitude. The anxiety in the town continued very great, and all the able-bodied inhabitants were in readiness for whatever might occur. In the course of the forenoon the Earl of Fife's tenantry and their servants from the adjoining country districts came into the town, with men from the sea coast, so that there was a perfect host on both sides armed with bludgeons.

The danger was that, if the Highlanders remained through the night and got drunk, which was going freely in all quarters, a battle would certainly ensue. Sir George Abercromby, the Sheriff of the County, happening to be in town at the time, accompanied by the parochial clergy, waited on Lady Ann Grant and urged upon her the necessity of sending the Highlanders immediately home. Her Ladyship, after being assured by the Sheriff that special constables would be sworn in to preserve the peace on both sides, consented. The Highlanders went away in the afternoon by a different road from that by which they came, and special constables patrolled the streets. During the evening, however, suspicions arose that the Highlanders had not returned to Strathspey, but were lurking in the woods, ready to enter the town at night, in order to carry off the members of Council favourable to the Duff interest. The inhabitants therefore determined to watch all night, and to illuminate

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the town, so that no stranger could enter without being seen. An extensive illumination took place, and many of the Grant party lighted up their houses to prevent their windows being broken. Wednesday, the 15th March, was the day appointed for electing the delegate for voting in the Member of Parliament, but, in consequence of the abduction of Messrs. Taylor and Dick, neither party had a majority of the Council. The Duff party met that day with their seven supporters, and nominated a delegate to represent them at Cullen, but, being in a minority, and having neither Town-Clerk nor town seal to attest the commission, it was an illegal transaction.

We have stated that, on the return of the abducted Bailie and Councillor, a meeting of Council was held on the 25th March, and although they had not a majority of the Council present, yet, having the Town-Clerk and town seal, they resolved to meet on the 28th and elect a delegate to proceed to Cullen on the 31st to vote for the Member.

March 28.—Although there is no record of any meeting held this day, it is certain the Council did meet and elect their delegate, and granted him his commission in regular form.

March 31.—The delegates from the respective burghs met at Cullen, and there was a great preliminary discussion as to the commissions from the burgh of Elgin. Mr. James Ivory, advocate, appeared for General Duff, and Mr. J. H. Mackenzie* for Mr. Farquharson. There were many protests taken, and much learned argument on both sides; but the vote from Elgin in favour of the Grant party was finally sustained, and Mr. Farquharson of Finzean was elected Member for the District of Burghs, which was confirmed by the House of Commons, and no doubt it was a just decision.

Parliament met on 21st April. It was a stormy session, Queen Caroline's trial having taken place, and other important measures discussed; but Government had a good majority, and Mr. Farquharson continued Member until the year 1826.

* Mr. Ivory was an eminent counsel. He published in 1827 an edition of Erskine's Institutes, with learned notes, and was raised to the bench in 1840, as Lord Ivory. Mr. J. H. Mackenzie was a cousin of Lord Seafield's, and was raised to the bench in 1822 as Lord Mackenzie.

June 10.—The Council met after an interval of nearly three months. On the motion of Bailie Innes, a unanimous address of condolence was voted to the king on the death of his late father, King George III., and of congratulation on his accession to the throne of Great Britain; and the Provost was requested to subscribe and transmit the same to the Secretary of State.

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Same day, a state of the subscriptions for the new classroom at the Elgin Academy was laid before the Council, amounting, in whole, to £456. Bailie Innes was appointed to receive the money from the subscribers, and to pay the contractors for the work.

September.—The cases of the abduction of Bailie Taylor and Robert Dick, Councillor, were reported to the Lord Advocate, but only that of the former was proceeded with. Four Elgin men were tried at the Circuit Court of Justiciary at Inverness. They were defended by Mr. John Peter Grant of Rothiemurchus, Mr. John Archibald Murray, and Mr. James Ivory. A flaw in the indictment, or some other preliminary objection having been raised, was sustained, and the prosecution broke down. A great procession went out to meet the parties on their return to Elgin, where they were feasted by the supporters of the Duff cause.

In the course of the season, Robert Dick was prevailed on to join the Duff party, and Bailie Innes, who so long stood neutral, now took the same side, so that the Duff party by these accessions had acquired a majority of one in the Council, the respective sides standing nine to eight.

September 26.—At the election which was held of this date, a revolution occurred in the Council. Bailie Innes was chosen Provost in room of Sir Archibald Dunbar; John Forsyth, junior, Peter Nicholson, William Dunbar, and David Cormie, Bailies; Lewis Anderson, Dean of Guild; Robert Dick, Treasurer; Sir Archibald Dunbar, Francis Taylor, William Gauldie, James Murray, Robert Joss, John Russel, Charles Fowler, Merchant Councillors; Alexander Dick, James Cattnach, and James Dick, Trades Councillors. The Duff party had therefore now twelve votes in the Council to five for the Grant side.

J. Henry's MS.

The result of the election was received with much

1820. acclamation by the numerous friends on the Duff side. The town was illuminated, and there was a procession by torch light, with music, and bonfires, much feasting and drinking, and many of the Trades did not part company until the dawn of the following day.

October 7.—The ladies of Elgin favourable to the Duff party subscribed for a gold chain and medal to be worn by Provost Innes and his successors. The subscription was limited to one guinea. There were fifty-four subscribers, some being under a guinea. The cost of the chain and medal and incidental expenses connected therewith amounted to £54 6s. 6d. The presentation to the Provost was made by Miss Miln, Miss Agnes Ross, Miss Young, and Misses Forsyth, Nicholson, and Cormie. Miss Miln addressed the Provost, who made a suitable reply.

The Medallion bears the following inscription :—

PRESENTED
FROM THE LADIES OF ELGIN
TO
PROVOST A. INNES AND HIS SUCCESSORS IN OFFICE.
7TH OCTOBER, 1820.

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October 26.—A complaint was made to the Court of Session by Sir Archibald Dunbar and Mr. Peter Brown for reduction of the late election. In consequence, Mr. James Mackenzie, W.S., who was acting in the reduction, was deprived of office as agent for the burgh, and Mr. William Inglis, W.S., was appointed in his place, and Mr. Alexander Brown, writer in Elgin, was appointed assessor to the Magistrates during the pleasure of the Council. It was resolved to defend the action of reduction, and a committee was appointed to that effect.

We have entered very fully into the elections of this memorable year. It was a business which created great dissensions in the town. Families were divided ; in some instances the nearest relatives did not speak to each other ; and Elgin was agitated to a degree that now seems incomprehensible. These differences extended over a long period of time, and even after the lapse of forty years were not entirely extinguished.

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January 16.—The trial of Queen Caroline was concluded in the month of November, 1821, and the king and his Ministry, in consequence of these proceedings, were most unpopular. Parliament was to meet this month, and there was much distress in the country. A meeting of the Elgin Town Council was held to consider the propriety of voting a dutiful and loyal address to His Majesty on the present state of the nation. The Provost produced the draft of an address, which being read, was unanimously approved of. The Provost was directed to subscribe and transmit it to the Earl of Fife, to be by him sent to Lord Sidmouth, to be presented to His Majesty; and the address was ordered to be recorded in the minute book.

April 3.—Mr. James Ivory, advocate, was elected Ruling Elder to the ensuing General Assembly.

May 17.—Mr. John Waddel, teacher of mathematics in the Elgin Academy, died at this time. Mr. Peter Merson was elected his successor.

Same day, Mr. James Ivory was elected Commissioner to the ensuing meeting of Convention of Royal Burghs.

This was a year of considerable progress in the town. North Street was opened, several gentlemen in the burgh and elsewhere having purchased lots of the ground. The Trinity Lodge of Masons acquired the lot on the east side fronting High Street. The foundation of the Lodge was laid on the 10th April. George Alexander, builder, undertook for the whole mason and carpenter work at the contract price of £2235. The building was opened the following year. George Alexander also built a very good house at his own expense on the same side of the street, which was afterwards sold to Mr. Alexander Brown, writer, and now belongs to Mrs. Crosbie.

May 24.—Patrick Duff, senior, Town-Clerk, died, aged sixty-one. The last entry in the minute book in his handwriting is on the 28th February. He had experienced of late a good deal of family affliction; and the politics and disturbed state of the burgh during the last year had vexed him sadly, depriving him of that position and status which he had so long held. He had been Town-Clerk first jointly with his father, thereafter with Mr. George Fenton, and then

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jointly with his own son, in all, for about thirty-nine years ; and it is but justice to say that, from a perusal of the minute books, he seems to have given the greatest care and attention to the affairs of the burgh. He left a large family of sons and daughters. He had combined in his person more public situations than any person who ever lived in the burgh, being Sheriff-Clerk, Town-Clerk, and Commissary Clerk, keeper of the Register of Sasines, Clerk to the Turnpike Trustees, Collector of Cess and Taxes, Clerk of Supply, Justice of Peace Clerk and of Lieutenancy, with many other situations, and an extensive general business. He was succeeded by his son Arthur as Sheriff-Clerk and keeper of the Register of Sasines, and by his son Patrick as Town Clerk and Commissary Clerk, and in the most of his other public situations. It is sad to think that of all his large and flourishing family only one descendant now remains.

September 25.—At the election this year Provost Innes was continued in office, but there was a further reduction of the Councillors in the interest of the Grant family, only two of them being now left in office.

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April 20.—George Edward, drummer, died at this time. He had officiated since the year 1769—rising summer and winter between four and five o'clock in the morning with the utmost regularity. He was a man of most regular habits, and had enjoyed uninterrupted health to a green old age. He had many stories and anecdotes about the town and its inhabitants in the olden time. His son George was appointed to succeed him in office.

August 8.—King George IV. visited Scotland. No sovereign had paid a visit to the kingdom in a public way since the reign of Charles II., and although the king had been very unpopular in consequence of his treatment of Queen Caroline, and more particularly during her trial in the previous year, His Majesty was now most graciously received, and there was a unanimous burst of loyalty in the country.

The Council of Elgin voted a dutiful and loyal address on this occasion, which was signed by the Provost, and transmitted to General Alexander Duff, to be presented to His Majesty at Edinburgh.

Same day, a movement seems to have been made at this time in favour of Burgh Reform. Government ordered a return to be made from this burgh of the number of the Council, with the office each holds, and distinguishing who have property and reside within the burgh, which return the Provost was requested to get completed and transmitted.

September 24.—At the burgh election this year, the Council voted out the only two remaining members of the Grant party, and were all now entirely on the Duff side.

October 5.—The sum of five guineas was voted for a statue of King George IV. in Edinburgh. His visit to Scotland had made His Majesty quite popular.

The streets of Elgin previous to this time were in a very curious antiquated state; there were no side pavements. The centre of the street had a high ridge, in which there were placed large boulder stones called the crown of the causeway. This line of stones extended from the West Port to the Little Cross, and in rainy days the public walked upon this ridge of stepping stones, as forming the only dry part of the street. From this centre both sides of the street fell to a gutter-run which flowed from west to east. Near the Commercial Bank there ran across the street in a hollow a rivulet of dirty water called the common gutter. In the time of heavy rain this gutter was dangerous and impassable. From the street, it was conveyed in an open ditch to Burgh-brigs, and from thence to Lossie. This gutter-run was much dreaded by the drivers of coaches and post-chaises. Many accidents occurred from breaking springs and wheels. A gutter also ran across the street at the School Wynd, but it was of smaller size. These were great nuisances in the town. Provost Innes resolved to signalise his period of office by removing these inconveniences, and, by the exertion of himself and friends, obtained subscriptions to a large extent, by which he was enabled to place side pavements in the High Street, to level it, and get the causeway entirely renewed. The old crown stones, emblems of an earlier age, were entirely removed, and the gutter-runs placed in drains below ground. The Provost, in his own quaint, humorous way, used to say that "he had paved the streets with a thousand sovereigns," being about the cost of executing this great improvement.

1822.
Council
Minutes.

November 30.—The Provost reported to the Council that the repairs of the causeway of the streets had been completed, very much to his satisfaction, and he trusted they would be approved of both by the Council and the community at large, as contributing to the comfort and convenience of the inhabitants, but that the expenditure had exceeded the funds at their disposal by about £70.

The Council gave a unanimous vote of thanks to the Provost for the manner he had conducted this business, and his unwearied attention to it, and recommended to him and the committee to use their best exertions to raise farther subscriptions to meet the deficiency, in which, if they failed, it was to be paid out of the public funds of the burgh.

1823. March 8.—The harbour dues of Lossiemouth were let for one year, from 12th current, at the rent of £34.

April 1.—The Honourable General Alexander Duff was appointed Ruling Elder to the ensuing General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

June 22.—Mr. James Ivory, advocate, was appointed Commissioner to the Convention of Royal Burghs, to meet on 8th July.

September 23.—Alexander Innes having served his time as Provost for three years, was relieved, and Peter Nicholson, merchant, was unanimously elected in his place. On this occasion, a cordial and unanimous vote of thanks was, on the motion of Mr. Nicholson, presented to Provost Innes for the very able and efficient manner he had filled the chair during his period of office—in particular, for raising and relaying the causeway from one extremity of the town to the other, which had formerly been in a most dangerous state to travellers; in laying down very excellent foot pavements on both sides of the High Street, and in repairing and improving the cross streets and approaches to the town in a very superior manner; for his great attention to the promotion of education of youth, and the efficiency of the Academy, encouraging the teachers and exciting emulation among the scholars; and, lastly, for his care of the finances of the burgh, and particularly that, during the period in which he had held office, he had paid off the whole public debt, amounting to £700—all of which services

merited and were entitled to the cordial thanks of the Council.

February 26.—The harbour dues of Lossiemouth were let for three years, at the yearly rent of £84, to John Riach. This was the highest rent that had ever been obtained, and was a rise of £50 from the rent of the previous year.

1824.

Council
Minutes.

June 29.—The Rev. Dr. Lewis Gordon, one of the ministers of Elgin, died. He had gone to Burghead for the benefit of change of air, and was carried off by an apoplectic attack, in the seventy-sixth year of his age. He was a man of kindly and agreeable manners, and of a very amiable disposition. He had been minister of Elgin for about nine years, and for part of that time had been entirely laid aside.

Scott's Fasti,
vol. III., page
155.

July 1.—The Council met to propose to the Crown a successor to Dr. Gordon. The Council was much divided on the question, and there was considerable discussion. The Rev. Alexander Walker, minister of Urquhart, was proposed by one party, and the Rev. David Simpson of Burghead by another. Seven members voted for Mr. Walker, and six for Mr. Simpson. Three declined to vote, and one was absent. A petition was directed to be prepared to the Secretary of State in favour of Mr. Walker, and, according to the mode then followed by Sir Robert Peel, the Home Secretary, in dispensing the Crown patronage, a presentation was issued to Mr. Walker in October, 1824, and he was settled on 6th June, 1825.

It was resolved to lay out a considerable sum in repairing the harbour of Lossiemouth, making a new street, and other works, and a petition was ordered to be made out to the Convention of Royal Burghs for aid in carrying out these improvements.

April 5.—The Trustees of General Anderson applied for a site to erect the Institution appointed to be built by the settlement of the General, and intimated that they had fixed upon the ground on the south side of the public road leading to Fochabers, at the east end of the burgh. The Council appointed the Provost and Magistrates a committee to meet the Trustees, and to arrange as to terms consistent with the Crown Charter of the Town.

1825.

The Rev. James Thomson, teacher of the Latin School,

1825.
Council
Minutes.

being presented to the parish of Keith, gave in his letter of resignation from and after the end of June next. It was resolved to offer the situation to the Rev. Peter Merson, teacher of the mathematical class.

May 12.—Mr. Merson declined to accept the office of teacher of the Latin class, and the Presbytery recommended Mr. William Duguid of Old Aberdeen to fill that office.

June 18.—Mr. Duguid was appointed in room of Mr. Thomson in terms of the recommendation of the Presbytery, who examined him as to his qualifications.

August 6.—The Trustees of General Anderson offered £12 per acre of yearly feu-duty for six acres of the Lands of Maisondieu, and the Council agreed to expose the same by public roup at that rate of feu-duty, in terms of the Act of Parliament.

North Street was farther improved this year by the erection of a new Episcopal Church at the foot of it. The Duke of Gordon subscribed £100 to the building, and many other parties gave handsome donations—the respectable inhabitants of the town also subscribing liberally, without regard to sect. The late Mr. William Robertson, architect, supplied the design.

1826.

February 25.—A great discussion arose at this time in the country about a proposal made by Government to abolish the circulation of small notes in Scotland. The country got quite alarmed. Public meetings were held, and petitions poured in against the measure from every town and parish in Scotland. Sir Walter Scott wrote most powerfully against it, and contributed much to putting it down. The Council of Elgin directed petitions to be prepared on the subject, the one to the House of Lords to be transmitted to the Earl of Lauderdale, and the one to the Commons to be sent to the Earl of Fife for presentation. The whole country, both Whig and Tory, were against the change, and the Government were compelled to withdraw the obnoxious measure.

Council
Minutes.

June 13.—The Council elected William Inglis of Middleton, Writer to the Signet, their Commissioner to proceed to Kintore, the returning burgh for the time, on the third July next, to elect a Member of Parliament for this District of Burghs.

July 3.—The Commissioners met at Kintore this day, when Lieutenant-General the Honourable Alexander Duff was elected Member of Parliament. This Parliament lasted four years.

Immediately after the election, a grand dinner was given by General Duff in the Assembly Rooms, Elgin, at which the Earl of Fife and many of the family relatives were present, with the Provost, Magistrates, and members of Council, and the respectable inhabitants of the town favourable to the Duff side. It was a very large party. There was much speaking, and the company sat late. It was a superb entertainment, with all the delicacies of the season. The weather was extremely hot, and nothing was drunk but the finest French claret, then exceedingly expensive. The meeting was a most harmonious one.

September 18.—New weights and measures were adopted in terms of law, and the Provost laid before the Council copy of minute of deposition of the models in a chest prepared for that purpose, and lodged in the Court House, which was read and appointed to be recorded in the minutes. The deposit was made in presence of Sir Archibald Dunbar, Convener of the County, and Mr. Peter Nicholson, Provost.

Council
Minutes.

In this year the greatest drought prevailed which had ever been experienced within the memory of man. For a period of thirteen weeks during the summer not a drop of rain fell. The crop was sown, but no refreshing showers nourished it. The heat was intense; the pasture grass was entirely burnt up; and there was not a blade left for the cattle. Indeed, the fields had more the appearance of brown earth than of verdure. The crop, such as it was, came to maturity in July, and harvest was general that month. The crops of oats and barley were so miserable, that in many places they could not be cut, but had to be pulled out at the roots by the hands of the reapers. Wheat was somewhat better. Being sown the preceding autumn, it was pretty deeply rooted, and was somewhat advanced before the drought of summer set in. There being no artificial food in the country at that time, the farmers were much at a loss how to keep their horses and cattle in life. Whins were largely used, and mills were generally erected to bruise

1826.

them in. The great succulency of that shrub, and its wholesome nature, contributed much to the preservation of bestial during this very trying season.

Council
Minutes.

September 25.—Provost Nicholson having served three years, was in terms of the sett relieved, and Alexander Innes, merchant, was elected Provost in his place.

October 1.—The Sacrament was dispensed in old St. Giles' Church for the last time. On Monday, the 2d, the thanksgiving sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Richard Rose, minister of Drainie, from 1st Chronicles, 15th chapter, 1st verse—"And David made him houses in the city of David, and prepared a place for the Ark of God, and pitched for it a tent." He alluded to the Ark of God and the Tabernacle and their grandeur, where the solemn services had been performed for so many centuries, but that David, not satisfied with these, had resolved to erect a temple of surpassing splendour. He then referred to the solemn circumstances in which they were placed; that in this ancient Church where their fathers had worshipped and taken sweet counsel for so many generations, the voice of the gospel would be heard no more. He expressed his sorrow that it could not be preserved. It might have been repaired at small expense, and many future generations might have still assembled in it—there being memories connected with it which no new building, however splendid, could produce or foster. The writer of this had not the satisfaction to hear these sermons, but he has been informed they were particularly solemn and impressive, as few could better do than Dr. Rose. The preacher's words were all wasted, for no sooner had the congregation been dismissed than the contractor began to take off the slates from the roof, and in the course of two months it was levelled with the ground.

1827.

January 5.—Frederick Duke of York died at this date. Although irregular in private life, he had done much for the army as Commander-in-Chief, and was straightforward, easy of access, and affable, and his death was much regretted.

January 16.—The old Church of St. Giles, being now in a very decayed state, was pulled down, and a handsome new Church erected, according to a Grecian model. The plan

was prepared by Archibald Simpson, architect, Aberdeen. The foundation stone was laid by Sir Archibald Dunbar, Bart., of Northfield. The heritors of the parish and burgh paid the cost, which amounted to about £9000.

1827.

February 3.—The Council unanimously voted an address of condolence to His Majesty on the lamented death of his brother, the Duke of York, Commander-in-Chief of the army. The address was signed by the Provost and transmitted to General Duff, Member of Parliament, to be presented.

Council
Minutes.

When attending the Duke of York's funeral, the Right Honourable George Canning was seized with a bad cold, which laid him aside for some time; and although he partially recovered, the foundation of the disease was laid which carried him off in the course of this year.

Hughes'
History, vol.
VII., page 116.

About the same time, the Earl of Liverpool, Prime Minister, was seized with a fit of paralysis, from which he did not recover. He had been at the head of the Government since the year 1812, and, although not a brilliant man, had conducted the affairs of the nation with great prudence in very trying times, and had the entire confidence of the country for integrity and honourable conduct. These serious events caused much public anxiety.

April 12.—Mr. Canning succeeded the Earl of Liverpool as Prime Minister, and completed his Cabinet, to the general satisfaction of the country. He was in the full blaze of his popularity at this time, and, had health and life been spared, would have introduced many measures for the improvement of the country—his Government being supported by great part of the Tory side, and also by many of the Whigs. The Duke of Wellington, Mr. Peel, and others of the high Tories, declined to take office under him.

Hughes'
History, vol.
VII., pages 128,
129, 130.

April.—William Inglis, Writer to the Signet, was elected Ruling Elder to the ensuing Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Council
Minutes.

June 17.—Alexander Duke of Gordon died at London, having just completed his eighty-fourth year. He was born on 18th June (Old Style), 1743, and succeeded his father in 1752. He had thus been in possession for the long period of seventy-five years. His body was carried first to Aberdeen, of which county he had been for some time Lord-Lieutenant,

1827.

and where it lay in state for some days; it was thereafter removed to the family vault in St. Mary's Aisle in the Elgin Cathedral, and there interred beside his ancestors. His Grace married in 1767 Jane Maxwell, daughter of Sir William Maxwell of Monreith, Baronet, by whom he left surviving him George Marquis of Huntly, Charlotte Duchess of Richmond, and four other daughters. Jane Duchess of Gordon died 11th April, 1812, and was buried at Kinrara, her favourite residence, where a granite monument was erected to her memory.* The Duke always took a great interest in the burgh of Elgin, and particularly so in his earlier days, when he had many private friends in the town. He also, at that period of his life, engaged to a great extent in the burgh and county politics.

Mr. Canning was vehemently opposed in his Administration by the Duke of Wellington and Mr. Peel, on the alleged ground that they could support no Ministry whose leader favoured Catholic emancipation. Strange it is, and it shows the inconsistency of these two men, that in less than two

* The Duchess was long leader of the fashionable world in London, and continued so until the time of her death, which was unlooked for. She was possessed of much ability and tact, and is said to have had great influence with Mr. Pitt and other statesmen, and by means of her exertions many young men from the North of Scotland were provided with good situations in the army and in Government offices. The following beautiful verses by Mrs. Allardyce are worth insertion in any notice of her Grace :—

Fair in Kinrara blooms the rose,
And softly waves the drooping willow ;
Where beauty's faded charms repose,
And splendour rests on earth's cold pillow.
Her smile who sleeps in yonder bed,
Could once awake the soul to pleasure,
When fashion's airy train she led,
And formed the dance's frolic measure.

When war called forth our youth to arms,
Her eye inspired each martial spirit ;
Her mind, too, felt the muse's charms,
And gave the meed to modest merit.
But now, farewell, fair Northern Star,
Thy beams no more shall courts enlighten ;
No more lead forth our youth to war,
No more the rural pastures brighten.

Long, long, thy loss shall Scotia mourn !
Her vales which thou were wont to gladden,
Shall long look cheerless and forlorn,
And grief the minstrels' music sadden !
And oft amid the festive scene,
Where pleasure cheats the midnight pillow,
A sigh shall breathe for noble JANE,
Laid low beneath Kinrara's willow.

There is a fine portrait of her Grace by Sir Joshua Reynolds, from which prints have been taken, and I believe there are portraits by other artists.

years they introduced that very measure of Catholic Emancipation which they so much opposed when supported by Mr. Canning. The session was brought to a close on the 2d July, but was soon followed by a public calamity, which darkened the hopes of the nation. On 15th July, Mr. Canning became seriously indisposed, but after a few days' rest he determined to resume his official duties, notwithstanding the remonstrances of his medical attendants. On the 25th he went for change of air to Chiswick, the seat of the Duke of Devonshire; but the fatigues of office, and desertion of many of his former colleagues, and their hostility acting on a frame naturally irritable and enfeebled by illness, hastened his death. His disease terminated in a severe attack of inflammation of the bowels, and he died on the 8th August in the same room where Charles James Fox expired twenty-one years previous. He was buried in Westminster Abbey, at the foot of Mr. Pitt's grave, his kind friend and early patron. His funeral, although private, was attended by a large concourse of noble and estimable persons, to most of whom he was endeared by the ties of relationship or friendship, and who sincerely mourned his untimely death, and irreparable loss to his country.

Viscount Goderich succeeded as Prime Minister, with the same Cabinet as Mr. Canning, and the Duke of Wellington resumed office as Commander-in-Chief of the army, which he had declined under Mr. Canning, thereby showing that he was actuated by personal feeling entirely against the late Premier.

September 25.—The Magistracy elected this year were as follows:—Alexander Innes, Provost; Francis Cruikshank, Harry Milne, John Johnston, and Lewis Anderson, Bailies; James Petrie, Dean of Guild; David Cormie, Treasurer.

January 28.—A letter from Mr. Joseph Mitchell, Inverness, agreeing to come to Elgin and examine and report on the Lossiemouth harbour, was read, and the Provost and Magistrates were instructed to meet him, and lay all necessary papers before him.

Viscount Goderich, finding himself unable to carry on the Government, retired from office, and the Duke of Wellington formed a new Administration, with Mr. Peel for Home

1827.

Hughes' History, vol. VII., pages 147, 148.

1828.

Council Minutes.

Hughes' History, vol. VII., page 151.

1828.

Secretary, Lord Lyndhurst as Lord Chancellor, and Lord Hill as Commander-in-Chief.

Council
Minutes.

January 28.—The Council subscribed £50 for a clock to the new Church of Elgin, and resolved to endeavour to raise the remainder of the necessary funds by public subscription.

March 8.—Mr. Alexander Bransby, teacher of the English School in the Elgin Academy, having died, Mr. James Jenkins was elected in his place.

April 1.—Mr. Lawson of Chapeltown, factor to the Earl of Fife, appeared in the Council, and stated that he had received his Lordship's directions to employ Mr. Donald Alexander, artist, to paint a portrait of Alexander Innes, Esq., the present Provost of the burgh, and afterwards to present it to the Council to be disposed of by them. That Mr. Alexander had accordingly painted a very striking likeness of Provost Innes, which, having been put into an elegant frame, he had now the honour of presenting it to the Council, with his Lordship's best compliments, and earnest wishes for the prosperity of them and the community. The Council received with gratitude this very flattering mark of his Lordship's attention, in presenting to them the portrait of their worthy Provost, and requested Mr. Lawson to convey their unanimous thanks to his Lordship, and further ordered the picture to be immediately hung up in the Council Hall.*

August 29.—The new Parish Church of Elgin was finished, and the last stone placed on the tower. The dimensions of the building are as follows, viz. :—Thickness of walls, 2 feet 9 inches ; foundation below the street, 8 feet ; height of walls above street, 36 feet ; length over walls, 94 feet ; breadth, 62 feet. The tower extends eastward from the Church 16 feet ; portico, westward, 12 feet ; height of tower from street, 110 feet. The great bell is said to have been cast in 1593 ; the little bell, commonly called the ministers' bell, in 1402. The Church is seated for 1706 people, but, in a press, could accommodate 2000 hearers.

* The worthy Provost was very proud of this picture. He had some little vanity about him, and used to take his friends to the Council Room to inspect it, and made the remark, "that future generations would say, Old Phenix was a smart fellow." (Being agent for the Phenix Fire Office, he called himself, and others also designated him by the name of "Phenix.") The picture still hangs in the Council Room, but, like most of Mr. Alexander's works, has considerably faded.

October 28.—The Parish Church was opened for public worship. The Rev. Alexander Walker preached.

1828.

The Magistrates for this year were—Alexander Innes, Provost; Lewis Anderson, David Cormie, Alexander Young, and George Robertson, Bailies; James Petrie, Dean of Guild; and Francis Cruikshank, Treasurer.

February 17.—The sum of £300 was lodged with the Town Council, by the heritors of the parish, as a fund for keeping the Parish Church in repair.

1829.

Council
Minutes.

Same day, the sum of £200 was paid to the Council by the Trustees of the late Mr. James Macandrew, the interest to be used as prizes in the Academy.

February.—Ireland had for some time been in a very disturbed state on the subject of Catholic Emancipation, and the election of Daniel O'Connell as Member for Clare brought matters to a climax. It was evident that either emancipation must be granted, or Ireland must be coerced by force of arms.

Parliament met this month, and the Duke of Wellington and Mr. Peel, who then directed public affairs, advised the king that he must yield to the necessity of the times, and grant emancipation. The advice may have been sound, but it is clear that the conduct of the Duke and Mr. Peel was most inconsistent. They were not the men to propose and carry such a measure, and in doing so they were breaking all the pledges of their previous lives. It was their duty to resign office, and leave it to their political opponents to take the responsibility of the measure. They, however, did introduce it, and after most stormy debates in both Houses, and the greatest agitation in the country, the bill finally passed in the House of Lords on the 10th, and received the Royal assent on the 13th April.

August 4.—The greatest flood of water that ever occurred within the memory of man happened this day. The principal rainfall seems to have been on the range of mountains where the head waters of the Spey, Findhorn, and Dee take their rise; but all the rivers in the shires of Moray, Banff, Nairn, and partly in Aberdeenshire, were more or less affected. The bridge of Spey, at Fochabers, and the bridge of Findhorn, near Forres, both very expensive works, were carried

1829.

away—the latter to the very foundations. The bridge over the Lossie at Bishopmill, a very substantial work of two arches, was also destroyed. And the bridges at Palmerscross and Sheriffmill had a narrow escape, being much undermined. Many minor bridges were ruined, and the roads much cut up. Large quantities of arable ground on the sides of rivers were either carried off or destroyed by being covered with sand and gravel. Fine plantations on river banks were annihilated, and much picturesque scenery entirely altered. The river Lossie resumed its ancient course by flowing into the Loch of Spynie, and carried away the sluices and bulwarks which prevented the tide from flowing into the lake. The sea therefore ebbed and flowed through the canal daily, and much valuable ground which had been reclaimed was again submerged or turned into a marsh, a state of matters which was not remedied for many years. The old bridges, which were generally founded on rock, and consisted of single arches high above the streams, stood best against the effects of the flood.

The greatest rise of the waters recorded is what took place at Relugas, where the rivers Findhorn and Divie met on a high bank at about 50 feet perpendicular above the usual channel. The damage done to this picturesque estate was very great, its natural beauties being the principal attraction. The writer of this happened to be out at a friend's house a little to the eastward of Elgin on the night of the 3d August, and walked into town in company with a gentleman long since dead. The rain was then falling heavily, and the roads running water, through which they waded ankle deep; but still there was nothing to indicate the appearances of the following day, so it is evident the rainfall was principally on the hills, in the interior of the country. On the morning of the 4th, the Lossie presented the appearance of a mighty river, there being one sheet of flowing water on the wide area between the Marywell bank and the Morristown brae; and, on ascending Ladyhill, all the low fields in the country round seemed covered with water. The writer had an opportunity, within a day or two of this sad event, of examining the Findhorn from the bridge at Forres several miles upwards, and also the banks of the

Spey from Rothes to Orton, and the awful scenes of ruin and desolation are most vividly impressed on his memory. Even after the lapse of nearly half-a-century the marks of this great flood are not quite obliterated, although time has exercised its healing influences. This very wonderful event has been very faithfully depicted in the work of Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, on "the great floods in the Province of Moray and adjoining districts in August, 1829," which was published in the following year, and which will hand down to future generations the record of this calamitous visitation of Providence.

1829.

September 22.—Provost Innes having served three years, was relieved from his second term of office, which, as on the former occasion, he had faithfully and honourably fulfilled, with much credit to himself and the entire satisfaction of the community.

John Lawson, junior, agent for the Commercial Bank of Scotland, was elected Provost in his stead; David Cornie, James Petrie, George Robertson, and Harry Milne, Bailies; Lewis Anderson, Dean of Guild; Francis Cruikshank, Treasurer.

November 21.—The Council resolved to have a new road or street, of thirty feet wide, made along the Maisondieu Land and the Greyfriars, to join Moss Street.

January 4.—The Council resolved to subscribe the sum of £30 annually, for the space of five years, to promote the lighting of the burgh with gas.

1830.

Council
Minutes.

March 31.—The Hon. Lieutenant-General Alexander Duff was elected Ruling Elder to the ensuing General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Eo die.—The Magistrates reported that the Trustees of General Andrew Anderson had taken, by public roup, on perpetual feu, three acres and ten falls Scots measure of the Lands of Maisondieu, at the yearly feu-duty of £42 17s. 6d., on which they were to erect the building to be called Anderson's Institution.

June 11.—A feu-charter of the above lands was this day signed in favour of General Anderson's Trustees, and the handsome building, according to a plan of Archibald Simpson, architect in Aberdeen, was immediately proceeded with.

1830.

King George IV. had for some time been in a declining state of health, but no apprehensions arose until the 15th April, when a bulletin was issued that His Majesty was suffering from a bilious attack. The disorder was eventually ascertained to be an ossification of the valves of the heart. On 24th May a message was sent to both Houses that the king was unable to transact public business, and an Act was passed, authorising the sign manual to be attached by a stamp in the king's presence, and by his order, in presence of certain officers of State, all documents being indorsed, before being stamped, by three of the Privy Councillors. In a few days His Majesty's health somewhat improved, but this improvement did not continue. The lungs decayed, blood was mingled with the expectorations, and general debility rapidly ensued. The king died on the night of Friday, the 25th June, in the 68th year of his age.

William Henry Duke of Clarence was immediately proclaimed king, by the title of William IV.

Council
Minutes.

July 20.—The Council voted a loyal and dutiful address of condolence to His Majesty King William IV., on occasion of the death of his brother, George IV., and of congratulation on his own accession to the throne. The town's seal was appended to the address, which was ordered to be transmitted to General Duff, Member of Parliament, and by him to be presented in due form.

July 24.—Parliament was dissolved, and a new one ordered to assemble at Westminster on the 14th September.

The French Revolution took place this month. Charles X. was expelled from the throne, which was offered to and accepted by the Duke of Orleans. This was followed in a few days by a revolution at Brussels, and all Europe was in a flame. The excitement in Britain was very great, and it operated very favourably to the Whigs in the election now going on.

Council
Minutes.

August 4.—The Council unanimously elected Major Alexander Francis Taylor of Monaughty as their Commissioner, to proceed to Inverurie on the 23d August current, to elect a Member of Parliament for this District of Burghs.

August 23.—The Commissioners for the various burghs

met at Inverurie, when Lieutenant-General the Honourable Alexander Duff was again elected Member of Parliament.

Provost Innes died this year. He did not long outlive his last term of office. He may have been about seventy-five years of age. Of his early history not much is known. He was either a native of the town of Elgin or the neighbourhood, and had been bred to mercantile business. In the earlier part of his life, he had been for some time in London; and used to state that he had been in the House of Lords, and heard the great Earl of Chatham make his last speech in April, 1778, when his Lordship fell down in a fit and was carried out insensible. Provost Innes left the affairs of the burgh in excellent condition, as regards finances; and had, during his period of office, inaugurated those improvements in the town which have since been carried on with little interruption. He was a plain shrewd man, extremely judicious in his transactions, and his memory is deserving of being had in grateful recollection in the burgh. A print of Provost Innes was published in December, 1829, a few months before his death. It is engraved from Mr. Alexander's picture, and is a most correct likeness. The print has now become very rare.

October 26.—The first Parliament of King William IV. met under very gloomy auspices. The French Revolution had stirred up the minds of the people to insist on great changes in the Constitution, and many viewed the prospects of the times with great anxiety. The Ministry was most unpopular, and on the 15th November they were left in a minority on the question of the Civil List, which compelled them to tender their resignation of office. The Duke of Wellington, as Premier, had a few days previously expressed himself as opposed to all Reform in Parliament, and had stated that the Constitution, as it then stood, was perfect, and could not be improved. It is quite possible that, had he yielded to the pressure of the times, and proposed a moderate measure of Reform, the great Constitutional change which was now impending, might have been postponed for a considerable time. The Duke and Mr. Peel were without much support from the Tories, a great part of whom they had alienated by passing the Catholic Emancipation Bill in

1830. the previous year, and the Whigs, who had supported them on that occasion, were now entirely against them, and indulged the hope, now to be realised, that their long exclusion from office was to cease.

November.—Earl Grey was entrusted to form a new Administration, which he consented to do, on condition that Reform in Parliament should be held to be a Cabinet measure. Lord Brougham was appointed Chancellor; Lord Althorp, leader of the House of Commons, and Chancellor of Exchequer; Lords Melbourne, Palmerston, and Goderich, Secretaries of State; the Marquis of Lansdowne, President of the Council. The whole members of the Administration were either Whigs or followers of the late Mr. Canning, the Duke of Richmond, who was made Postmaster-General, being the only exception.

To some extent Parliamentary Reform was absolutely necessary. The rotten boroughs in England were a perfect anomaly, and the very close system of voting, both in the counties and burghs in Scotland, particularly in the burghs, required some modification. The change shortly brought about was a radical one. The creation of Parliamentary boroughs had originally rested with the Crown, and when the Royal prerogative had diminished, there was no longer power to create boroughs except with consent of both Houses of Parliament, which was difficult to procure; hence, while Old Sarum, and other decayed boroughs, continued to send Members to the House of Commons, large and rising towns like Manchester and Leeds had no representation. As early as the reign of Charles I., the Long Parliament entered on the subject of Reform, and gave additional representatives to the counties in England, to London, and Members to Manchester, Leeds, and Halifax. It also gave representatives to Scotland and Ireland. The civil war prevented these changes from being carried into effect; but the plan was subsequently adopted by Cromwell in summoning the Parliament of 1654, with the full consent of all parties. The reaction against Cromwell and the Long Parliament at the Restoration of Charles II. in 1660, prejudiced men's minds against all changes they had made, and matters fell back into the old state. The question of Reform did not

Molesworth's
History, vol. I.,
pages 3 to 11.

again emerge until the year 1745, the time of the Rebellion in Scotland, when it was brought forward by two leading Members of the House, but opposed by the elder William Pitt as untimely, and negatived without a division. The subject was brought forward again by the Earl of Chatham himself in the year 1770; by the younger William Pitt in 1782, 1783, and 1785; by Mr. Grey, afterwards Earl Grey, in 1793, 1795, and 1797; and by Sir Francis Burdett in 1819; but on all these occasions the question was negatived, and generally by very large majorities.

1830.

December 23.—Parliament was prorogued to the 3d February, the Ministry being busily preparing, in the short recess, for the important business of the ensuing year.

A great improvement was made in the burgh of Elgin this year by the establishment of a Gas Light Company, and having the streets, shops, and many private houses, lighted with gas, which has proved a blessing and boon to the community.

A change was also made in the public markets, at the recommendation of the Morayshire Farmer Club. There used to be six markets held in the burgh, viz., Fastern's Even, Whitsunday, Midsummer, St. James, Michaelmas, and Martinmas. These being found inconvenient for cattle-dealers, the Town Council, on the report of the Farmer Club, ordered that eleven monthly markets be held during the year, January being the excepted month. The system still continues, and has been found to work well in practice.

Council
Minutes.

Mr. Huskisson, the popular statesman, was this year killed at the opening of the Manchester and Liverpool Railway, to the general regret of the nation.

February 3.—Parliament met this day with the usual forms. On 1st March, Lord John Russell introduced the Reform Bill, which, on the whole, took the country much by surprise, as very few expected such an advanced measure. On the 21st, the second reading was moved, but only carried by a majority of one in a House of 600 Members—the Ministry having 302 votes against 301. On the 18th April, after a violent debate, the Ministry were left in a minority of eight on the motion of going into committee. In consequence, Parliament was dissolved, and a new one called, to meet on the 14th June.

1831.

1831.

The country was, in the meantime, violently agitated. Public meetings were held in every town; Reform Clubs instituted; speeches, some of the most violent description, made; and it appeared as if we were on the verge of a revolution. Elgin, like other towns, had its share of the agitation. A Reform Club was instituted, of which the late Mr. William Grigor was secretary. Sir Andrew Leith Hay of Rannes, then resident in the town, was an ardent supporter of the movement. Mr. Isaac Forsyth, Captain (afterwards Admiral) Archibald Duff, Dr. John Paul, and others, gave their anxious support. In the long summer evenings hustings were erected on the West End Green, and speeches made to assembled multitudes for hours together. These meetings were of frequent occurrence. A majority of the inhabitants was in favour of the movement, but a large party of the respectable classes stood aghast at the prospect of affairs. It was, indeed, a time of great agitation, almost inconceivable in the present day. The cry was, "The whole Bill, and nothing but the Bill."

Council
Minutes.

May 10.—The Council, having met in obedience to a precept from the Sheriff-Substitute of Elginshire, by a majority of fifteen to two votes, elected Mr. John Lawson, junior, Provost of Elgin, to be their delegate, to attend a meeting of delegates from the other burghs, within the Town House of Elgin, on the 23d May current, this being the presiding burgh for the time; and to elect a Member of Parliament for this District of Burghs.

May 23.—The delegates met in Elgin, and Sir William Gordon-Gordon Cumming of Altyre and Gordonstown, Baronet, was elected Member of Parliament. By a curious coincidence, Elgin was the presiding burgh at the first election after the Union with England in 1707, and it was the presiding burgh at the last election under the system then instituted. The Duff family abstained from all interference in this burgh election. Perhaps they did not wish prominently to oppose the Reform Bill, nor to commit themselves to the new order of things.

Sir William Gordon-Gordon Cumming, immediately after the election, entertained all the respectable inhabitants of the burgh, and also the representatives from other burghs,

to a grand dinner in the Assembly Rooms. The party was, on the whole, harmonious and pleasant, although, from the difference of opinion regarding the politics of the day, and the ferment in which the minds of men were at the time, the peace of the meeting was in danger of being disturbed.

1831.

The Honourable Colonel Francis William Grant was elected Member for the County, and he also gave a public dinner, to which persons of all shades of politics were invited. The company was very harmonious, and was entertained in a most magnificent manner, all party discussions being carefully avoided. Every delicacy of the season was laid upon the table; and there has been no public dinner in Elgin, to my knowledge, since, that could in any way compare with this.

June 14.—The new Parliament met, and on the 24th Lord John Russell again introduced the Reform Bill. The most eloquent speech in support of it was made by Mr. Macaulay, then a young man, lately elected Member for the burgh of Calne, which elicited much applause. The bill was strongly opposed by Sir Robert Peel and Sir George Murray. The second reading was postponed from 30th June to 4th July, when the discussion was resumed, and continued to the 5th, when the second reading was carried by a majority of 136, in a House of 598 Members. The bill went slowly through Committee, every factious opposition being brought forward against it, up to 21st September, when it finally passed the House of Commons by a majority of 109. The bill was carried to the House of Lords on the 3d October, and, after a vehement debate, was rejected by a majority of 41. Parliament was adjourned.

September 15.—The harbour of Lossiemouth was in a very ruinous state, and quite unfit to receive vessels, and the Council resolved to make extensive repairs, according to a plan formerly prepared by Mr. Joseph Mitchell of Inverness, with such additional improvements as might suggest themselves during the progress of the work; and, to meet the outlay, the money belonging to the Town in the hands of the County Road Trustees was ordered to be uplifted.

Council
Minutes.

1831.
Council
Minutes.

September 26.—At the annual election Mr. John Lawson, junior, was continued Provost for the ensuing year.

October 10.—In terms of the recommendation of the Michaelmas County Meeting, the Council resolved to apply to Parliament for an Act to enable Jails, Court-Houses, Record-Rooms, and Clerks' Apartments, to be erected in Elgin and Forres; and to take power to assess the heritors of the County in the proportion of two-thirds of the expense of the buildings, and the owners and occupiers of houses and premises within the burghs in the proportion of one-third.

December 6.—Parliament met, and the Reform Bill was again introduced. An adjournment took place till the 17th January, when the business proceeded amidst the most acrimonious debates. The bill passed the House of Commons on the 22d March by a majority of 116, in a House of 594 Members.

1832.

March 26.—The bill was carried to the House of Lords, and there violently opposed as before; attempts were made to throw it out; a change of Ministry threatened; and it was only the fear of a revolution that permitted the measure to be proceeded with, and the Peers to withdraw their opposition. On 4th June the third reading was carried, and it received the Royal assent on the 7th. The Scotch Reform Bill was introduced by the Lord Advocate on the 20th June, and received the Royal assent on the 3d August. The Irish Bill was introduced by Mr. Stanley, and carried with little trouble. The whole measure became law on the 7th August, 1832, and was celebrated by festivals and rejoicings throughout the empire.

Hughes' History, vol. VII., pages 326 and 327.

This great measure, instead of creating a revolution, as was prophesied by its opponents, has been the means of strengthening the Constitution, and promoting the welfare and progress of the country, with its trade, agriculture, and manufactures, in a remarkable degree, as will now be admitted by all parties.

Council
Minutes.

Mr. William Paul, accountant, Edinburgh, was elected Ruling Elder to the General Assembly.

September 25.—Mr. John Lawson, jun., having served for three years as Provost, retired from office; and James Petrie, merchant, was elected in his room. Francis Cruikshank,

Alexander Forteath, Alexander Young, and John Walker, Bailies ; John M'Kimmie, Dean of Guild ; Lewis Anderson, Treasurer.

1832.

Council
Minutes.

November 17.—The Council having requested Mr. Edward Grant, Royal Navy, to wait on Colonel James Brander of Pitgaveny, and to ascertain his views on the subject of erection of a new harbour at Stotfield Point, Colonel Brander expressed his willingness to consider the matter, and to pay half of the expense of employment of an engineer to report upon the eligibility of the site.

By the Act 2 and 3 William IV., cap. 65, entitled, “ An Act to amend the Representation of the People in Scotland,” the town of Peterhead was added to the Elgin District of Burghs, and the dimensions of the burgh of Elgin for election purposes was declared to be as follows, viz. :—

“ From the bridge on the Fochabers Road, over the
 “ Tayock Burn, up the Tayock Burn to the point at which
 “ the same would be cut by a straight line to be drawn
 “ thereto due east from Palmerscross Bridge ; thence in a
 “ straight line to Palmerscross Bridge ; thence in a straight
 “ line to the point at which the river Lossie would be cut
 “ by a straight line to be drawn from Palmerscross Bridge
 “ to Sheriffmill Bridge ; thence down the river Lossie to the
 “ bridge over the same, on the road from Oldmills to
 “ Quarrywood ; thence along the road from Oldmills to
 “ Quarrywood to the point at which the same joins the road
 “ by Morristown to Lossiemouth ; thence down the road by
 “ Morristown to Lossiemouth to the point at which the same
 “ meets, at the Cross of Bishopmill, another road to Lossie-
 “ mouth ; thence in a straight line to the bridge first
 “ described.”

By the above it will be seen that the Parliamentary bounds of the burgh were largely extended, and Elgin was declared to be the constant returning burgh of the district, although certainly not the most central one.

December 29.—There had been much canvassing for a Member of Parliament for the District of Burghs. The candidates were Sir Andrew Leith Hay of Rannes, the

1832. Right Hon. Holt Mackenzie, and Alexander Morrison of Bognie. After a very keen contest, Sir Andrew Leith Hay was elected Member by a majority of 120. The constituency of the burghs was about 838, of which Elgin had about 219.

1833. Council Minutes. March 27.—Francis George Souter was elected Ruling Elder to the ensuing General Assembly.

April 8.—The Provost stated at the Council meeting, that he, Mr. Lawson, and the Town-Clerk had met with Mr. Robert Stephenson, engineer, at the point on the Coularthill where the site for the new harbour was proposed to be, but that Mr. Stephenson did not at all recommend the project, but preferred making certain repairs on the old harbour of Lossiemouth. The Council resolved to confer farther with Mr. Stephenson, and his son, Mr. Allan Stephenson, on the subject of improvement of the old harbour, if it did not seem expedient to enter on erection of a new harbour.

Public Acts. August 28.—The Act 3 and 4 William IV. was passed, entitled, “An Act to alter and amend the laws for the “election of the Magistrates and Councils of the Royal “Burghs in Scotland.” By this Act, while the number of members of Council are the same as in the ancient sett of the burgh, they are, instead of the old self-election, in future to be chosen by the electors for a Member of Parliament, with this important alteration, that Provosts and Magistrates, instead of having a special limited period of holding office, may be re-elected as often as the electors and Council choose to keep them in. How far this is an improvement may be doubtful. Too lengthened a period of office seems neither useful nor desirable.

Council Minutes. August 31.—The report of Messrs. Stephenson, engineers, on the proposed new harbour at Stotfield Point, and repair of the old harbour at Lossiemouth, was laid before the Council, which, being considered, the same was ordered to lie in the Clerk’s office, as they did not deem it prudent to proceed farther, in the view of the impending change in the burgh management, under the new Municipal Act.

November 5.—The first election of the Council, under the Municipal Election Act, took place. The largest number of votes, 136, were for William Gauldie, merchant, which is

very curious, considering that he was a prominent member of the old Tory Town Council, and was put out when the Duff party gained a majority in 1821, and showed the uncertainty and fickleness of popular opinion.

November 8.—At the meeting of Council this day, William Gauldie was elected Provost; John M'Kimmie, James Wilson, William Anderson, and Francis Gordon, Bailies; Alexander Sivewright, Dean of Guild; James Petrie, Treasurer. The meeting resolved that in future no secrecy should be observed in conducting the affairs of the burgh, and that no restriction should be observed in withholding from the public such final resolutions as should be come to by the Council.

November 28.—The Council resolved to subscribe the sum of £3000 to the proposed new harbour at Stotfield Point, and a committee was appointed to further the business.

January 30.—It was resolved to apply to Parliament for an Act to erect the new harbour, and to borrow money on the security of the common good, to enable stock to be taken therein.

February 13.—It was determined also to apply to Parliament for leave to bring in a bill for erection of new Jails in the towns of Elgin and Forres.

March 3.—The sum of £3500 was approved of as the amount necessary to be raised for the new Jail in the burgh of Elgin.

Robert Bell, advocate, Edinburgh, was elected Ruling Elder at the ensuing General Assembly.

May 21.—The General Assembly met in session. On the 27th, the late Lord Moncreiff introduced the measure called the Veto Act, for bridling the Law of Patronage, which had long been considered a grievous burden. This unfortunate measure, which has caused so much trouble to the Church of Scotland, was brought in on the advice of Lord Moncreiff, supported by Messrs. Jeffrey and Cockburn, the Counsel for the Crown at the time. The clergy had great doubts of their power to pass such a measure, and would not have attempted it; but seeing they had the advice of such eminent counsel, they thought they must be right. After much debate, which lasted from eleven o'clock forenoon till

1833.

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Buchanan's Ten
Years' Conflict,
Edition 1854,
vol. I., pages 246
to 262.

1834.

eleven at night, Lord Moncreiff's motion was carried by 184 votes to 138—the great preponderance being from the Burgh Elders. However wise this measure was in itself—and a very popular one it was at the time—it no doubt was *ultra vires* of the Church, and an attempt to abrogate the effect of the Patronage Act of Queen Anne, by the mere authority of the General Assembly. It was the cause of much strife, which continued for many years, and eventually rent the National Church in twain.

June 7.—William Noble was executed at Elgin for the murder of a person of the name of Ritchie. There had been no execution in Elgin for seventy years previously, and there has been none since. The murder was committed on the public road leading to Fochabers, near Barmuckity. Noble was a young man, and had no possible motive for murdering Ritchie, who was a stranger to him, and he had nothing upon him worth robbing. It seems to have proceeded from an irresistible desire for mischief, and, in the circumstances, the man's sanity may be doubted. The Town Council seems to have had to pay the expense of the execution—about £50; and, although they remonstrated with Government, it appears doubtful whether they got any relief.

June 30.—Sir Andrew Leith Hay, having been appointed Clerk of the Ordnance, had to vacate his seat, and was again elected Member of Parliament for this District of Burghs.

Earl Grey, on account of some dissensions on the subject of Irish affairs, and other matters not working harmoniously in the Cabinet, resigned office as Premier, and Viscount Melbourne was placed at the head of affairs. Earl Grey was a very able man, who had long stood in the foremost rank of Liberal measures, and was greatly respected by all parties; but he was somewhat too delicately formed for the tear and wear of office.

July 25.—The bills for the harbour at Lossiemouth, and for the new Jail, passed, and received the Royal assent. By the Act it was proposed that the Jail and Court-House should be erected on the Guildry Crofts, near the top of Batchen Street, and, had this intention been carried out, it

would have proved a much more convenient and central situation than where these buildings are now placed.

1834.

September.—Lord-Chancellor Brougham, having paid a visit to the Duchess Countess of Sutherland at Dunrobin Castle this autumn, passed through Elgin, gave a short address in the Assembly Rooms, received the Freedom of the Town, and was entertained at a luncheon, subscribed for by the respectable inhabitants.

October 29.—The Aberdeen Assurance Company agreed to give a loan of £3000 to the Town Council, to enable them to pay the stock subscribed by them for the new Stotfield harbour, under the authority of the Act of Parliament, on the security of the feu-duties of the burgh, the loan to be for five years, at the rate of four per cent. interest. This was the first serious debt the town had contracted, and it has unfortunately turned out an unprofitable investment, although intended for the public benefit.

November 10.—Earl Spencer having died, his eldest son, Lord Althorp, the leader of the House of Commons, was called to the House of Lords. The king, in consequence of the new arrangements necessary on account of Lord Althorp's removal from the office of Chancellor of Exchequer, took the opportunity to dismiss the Ministry, and gave authority to the Duke of Wellington to form a new Administration. The Duke recommended Sir Robert Peel to be Prime Minister. Sir Robert was then at Rome, but expresses were despatched for him, and the Duke undertook to carry on the Government until his return.

November 29.—The Council met on the requisition of twelve members, when it was moved that a petition should be presented to His Majesty expressive of the feelings of regret of the Magistrates and Council, on the dismissal of the late Ministry from office, and a draft of a petition being submitted, was unanimously approved of, and directed to be signed by the Provost, and transmitted to Colonel Leith Hay, the Member of Parliament, for presentation in the proper quarter.

Council
Minutes.

December 9.—Sir Robert Peel having returned to England, a new Ministry was formed—Lord Lyndhurst, Chancellor; the Duke of Wellington, Mr. Goulburn, and

1834. the Earl of Aberdeen, Secretaries of State. Parliament was dissolved, and a new one summoned to meet on the 19th February following.

Council
Minutes.

December 22.—Newspaper reporters were allowed in the Town Council for the first time.

1835.

January 19.—Sir Andrew Leith Hay was again elected Member of Parliament for this District of Burghs.

February 19.—Parliament met, and the new Ministry were defeated, on the motion for election of Speaker, by ten votes—the division standing 306 to 316.

March 25.—Mr. Robert Bell was again elected Elder to the ensuing General Assembly of the Church.

April 8.—Sir Robert Peel's Ministry resigned office, finding it impossible to carry on the Government. Viscount Melbourne was again appointed Prime Minister; Lord Palmerston, Lord John Russell, and Mr. Charles Grant, Secretaries of State.

Council
Minutes.

April 27.—The Council agreed to address His Majesty, expressing satisfaction at the recent change of Ministry, and the restoration of Lord Melbourne to office.

Same day, a long report was drawn up by Mr. Robert Grigor, writer, a member of Council, relative to the bequests of Dr. Alexander Dougal of Elgin, and Dr. Alexander Gray of India, in reference to the management of Gray's Hospital, with a report also from a committee, of which Mr. Grigor was Convener, in reference thereto, which documents were ordered to be engrossed in the minutes. These documents claim for the Magistrates and Town Council a general superintendence over the affairs of the Hospital.

May 2.—Sir Andrew Leith Hay having had to vacate his seat, in consequence of being restored to his former office of Clerk to the Ordnance, was again re-elected Member of Parliament for this District of Burghs.

Council
Minutes.

May 25.—A communication was received from the Trustees of Gray's Hospital, intimating that their accounts and papers were open at all times to the members of the Town Council, and that they could visit and inspect the Hospital as often as they considered it necessary to do so. This communication was recorded in the minute book.

June 22.—The Council resolved to endeavour to procure

for the teachers of the Elgin Academy a share in the income of the Dick Bequest. In this they were not successful, as the Academy was not a parish school in the meaning of the Bequest.

1835.
Council
Minutes.

July 6.—The Council resolved unanimously to present a petition to Parliament praying for the abolition of the Convention of Burghs, as a useless and expensive Court; and they declined to elect a Commissioner to the Convention this year.

August 17.—The committee appointed to visit Gray's Hospital reported that they had found everything in good order, and the books and accounts kept in a business-like manner.

November 6.—A letter was read from Provost Gauldie, intimating that he did not find it convenient to continue any longer a member of the Town Council.

November 28.—John M'Kimmie, merchant, was unanimously chosen Provost in room of William Gauldie, resigned.

January 8.—A proposal was laid before the Council for erection of new markets for convenience of the burgh, with resolutions relative thereto, which were engrossed in the minute book.

1836.

February 1.—The prospectus for the new markets having been laid before the Council, it was agreed that twenty shares should be taken therein.

February 29.—The Provost reported that at a meeting of the new harbour directors, James Bremner, engineer, Wick, had exhibited a plan and specifications for the work, which it had been resolved to submit to Mr. John Gibb, of Aberdeen, for his opinion.

April 4.—Mr. Robert Bell, the last Ruling Elder to the General Assembly, having declined to pledge himself to vote for the abolition of patronage, no election was made this year.

April 25.—It was resolved that measures should be taken for giving religious instruction to the prisoners in the Jail.

May 28.—George Duke of Gordon died at London of this date. His body was carried by sea in one of the king's ships to the coast near Gordon Castle, and there landed. On 10th June, the body was buried in the family vault in the Elgin

1836. Cathedral, amidst a large concourse of nobility and gentry and general public from this and the neighbouring counties. The Duchess and several ladies attended. The Magistrates and Council went out and met the procession at the Bridge of Tyock, and accompanied the funeral to the place of interment. The Duke was sixty-six years of age, and the last male descendant of the ducal family. His death caused a great blank in the North of Scotland.

Council
Minutes.

July 28.—Bailie Miller reported that he had arranged and made an inventory of all the papers in the town's cadget, and that they had all been replaced therein, with the exception of a few retained by Mr. Robert Grigor for reference.

August 25.—Sir Andrew Leith Hay being expected to pay a visit to the burgh, it was resolved to have a public procession of the Magistrates and members of Council to meet him, and a committee was appointed to arrange with the Guildry, Trades, and other public bodies, the programme of proceedings on the occasion, so that the parties might take their respective places.

November 4.—It was unanimously resolved to present a piece of plate of the value of twenty guineas to Mr. James Petrie for his services in acting as Treasurer of the burgh gratuitously for several years back.

November 7.—The late Dr. John Allan, of the East India Company's service, a native of Elgin, by his will bequeathed the sum of £400 for prizes to the Elgin Academy.

1837. January 23.—It was agreed to transmit a memorial to the Commissioners of Northern Lights, praying them to erect a lighthouse on the Stotfield Skerries.

January 30.—It was agreed by a majority of the Council to accept the sum of £500 for the price of the old harbour of Lossiemouth, to be transferred to the new Harbour Company. This old harbour had been a constant source of expense and a drain upon the funds of the burgh for nearly 150 years.

February 27.—In consideration of the above price, the Magistrates and members of Council subscribed a disposition to the Stotfield Compay of the old harbour of Lossiemouth.

March 27.—Archibald Bonar, banker in Edinburgh, was elected Ruling Elder to the ensuing General Assembly.

Same day, Bailie John Miller, having removed to Forres, intimated his resignation as a member of Council. Bailie Miller had been a very active Councillor and Magistrate for several years, and, in particular, had distinguished himself by arranging the old documents of the burgh, and preparing an inventory of them, of which he afterwards printed some copies.

April 24.—Alexander Young, agent for the Aberdeen Bank, was elected a Councillor in room of Mr. John Miller, and William Anderson, merchant, a Bailie.

May 29.—The Council resolved unanimously to countenance with their presence the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the new harbour at Stotfield Point on the 15th June next.

June 20.—King William IV. was now in his seventy-second year. About the beginning of this month he had an attack of hay fever, which caused much anxiety; and it was feared his constitution was too feeble to contend with the disease. On 15th, his death appeared imminent; but for two or three days subsequent, he rallied a little. On Sunday, the 18th, symptoms again became urgent, and the Archbishop of Canterbury administered to him the last rites of the Church of England. He died during the night of the 19th or morning of the 20th. A historian of the day gives him this character, "That from his good sense and popular conduct at the commencement of his reign, he saved the country from a revolution, and, if not one of the wisest, was one of the best and most useful monarchs who have sat on the throne."

Molesworth's
History, vol. I.,
pages 418, 421.

June 24.—A special meeting of Council was called to consider the propriety of co-operating with the Sheriff in proclaiming the accession to the throne of Queen Victoria with all due solemnity. It was unanimously agreed to provide in the Assembly Rooms a refreshment of wine, fruit, &c., out of the funds of the town, and to invite to drink the young Queen's health the gentlemen who should appear at the proclamation of Her Majesty on Monday next. A committee was appointed to make arrangements, and to issue invitations accordingly.

June 26.—Her Majesty Queen Victoria was duly proclaimed, and the Sheriff, Magistrates, and many gentlemen

1837.
Council
Minutes.

1837. of the town thereafter met in the Assembly Rooms to drink Her Majesty's health.

It was resolved to take steps for the widening the top of the School Wynd, and a committee was appointed to arrange the matter with Mr. Robert Lamb, the proprietor of the old Grammar School, which stood at the top of the Wynd, who had offered for a small consideration to give off the necessary ground.

July 31.—An address of congratulation was voted to Her Majesty Queen Victoria, on her accession to the throne, and also an address of condolence to Her Majesty the Queen Dowager—both addresses to be signed by the Provost in name of the Council, and transmitted to Sir Andrew Leith Hay for presentation.

July.—A new Parliament being called in consequence of the king's death, Sir Andrew Leith Hay was again elected Member for this District of Burghs.

Scott's Fasti,
vol. 111., page
153.

September 19.—The Rev. William Gordon, one of the ministers of Elgin, died this afternoon. He had been in office for the long period of fifty-three years, having been admitted on 26th August, 1784. Although not an able nor popular preacher, he was much esteemed in the town and parish for his upright and honourable character, and his many virtues, both in public and private.

Council
Minutes.

The same day, the Council met, and being desirous of showing every possible mark of respect to the memory of their departed pastor, resolved unanimously to walk in procession at the funeral, and requested the Provost to intimate this desire to his relations, in the hope that this mark of respect may be acceptable to them.

It was resolved also to take such steps as might seem best calculated for securing the parishioners of Elgin a successor to their departed and much respected pastor, worthy of so important a charge. Thereafter it was resolved to recommend to Her Majesty, the patron of the parish, the Rev. Alexander Topp, preacher of the gospel, and assistant to the late Mr. Gordon, to fill the vacant charge; and a petition was directed to be prepared to Her Majesty to that effect, to be signed by the Provost in name of the Council, and to be transmitted to Sir Andrew Leith Hay, to be presented to Her Majesty's principal Secretary of State.

October 14.—The Provost laid before the Council a letter he had received from Sir Andrew Leith Hay, intimating that Lord John Russell, in compliance with the wishes of the inhabitants of Elgin, so unanimously expressed, had recommended the Rev. Alexander Topp to the charge rendered vacant by the death of one of the ministers of the town and parish of Elgin.

1837.
Council
Minutes.

The thanks of the Council were returned to Sir Andrew Leith Hay for his prompt attention in carrying out the wishes of the constituency in obtaining the appointment of Mr. Topp as their minister.

January 25.—The Rev. Alexander Topp, having received a Crown presentation to the parish of Elgin in December last, was ordained and settled as minister of this date.

1838.
Scott's Fasti,
vol. III., page
153.

February.—There was a most severe snow-storm this month. The roads were entirely blocked up, and there was little communication for many weeks, the mails being carried principally on horseback or light chaises. The storm continued with little interval for a period of six weeks.

February 13.—Sir Andrew Leith Hay having accepted a post as governor of one of the West India Islands, the Honourable Fox Maule, Under Secretary of State for the Home Department, was elected Member for this District of Burghs, and was presented with the Freedom of the Town. A farewell address was given to Sir Andrew Leith Hay on his departure, thanking him for his great attention to the interests of his constituents, and wishing him and his family every comfort and happiness in the foreign land to which they are proceeding.

February 26.—At the request of the ministers of Elgin, the Council granted the use of the English School in the Academy for teaching a school on the Sunday evenings.

Council
Minutes.

March 26.—Archibald Bonar, banker in Edinburgh, was again elected Ruling Elder to the ensuing General Assembly.

June 25.—It was moved that a humble and dutiful address be presented to Her Majesty, on the occasion of her coronation on the 28th instant, which, having been approved of, was ordered to be transmitted to the Honourable Fox Maule, Member of Parliament, for presentation.

April 29.—A demand having been made by the Presbytery on the funds of the burgh for erection of a new manse

1839.

1839. for the parish of Elgin, upon the ground that the Council is liable in the first place for the whole town proprietors ; and this being considered an unusual and illegal claim, it was resolved to resist it.

Molesworth's
History, vol.
II., page 24.

May 7.—The Government being likely to be defeated on a bill for suspending the Assembly of the Island of Jamaica, Lord Melbourne resigned office, and Sir Robert Peel agreed to form a new Administration, but insisted that many of the Court ladies should be dismissed, as inimical to his Government, which the Queen would not agree to ; and, in consequence, Lord Melbourne, at Her Majesty's request, agreed to continue in office.

May 17.—The Council agreed to send an address to Her Majesty, expressing their high satisfaction that she had been pleased to continue Lord Melbourne's Administration in office. The address was sent to the Honourable Fox Maule for presentation.

June 15.—The Council, having received a charge of horning, on a decree of the Presbytery, for recovery of the proportion of assessment payable for the new manse, by the whole burgh proprietors of Elgin, resolved to suspend the charge, and take the opinion of the Court of Session as to their liability.

July 29.—The new Court-House and Council-Rooms of the burgh being completed, the first meeting of the Magistrates and Council was held therein of this date, and the Provost congratulated his brethren on the comfortable accommodation which had been provided for them.

Council
Minutes.

November 8.—It was the practice of the burgh, and had always been, that one of the ministers of the parish should preach a sermon previous to the Municipal Election. The sermon, on this occasion, was preached by the Rev. Alexander Topp, being the first time he had officiated at the period of an election. Before proceeding to the business of the day, the Provost called the attention of the gentlemen present to the able and appropriate sermon which they had just heard from the Rev. Alexander Topp ; and, as this was the first occasion on which that gentleman had addressed them from the pulpit in their Corporate capacity, he (the Provost) moved that the best thanks of the Council be tendered to

Mr. Topp, accompanied by the hope that his impressive and earnest exhortations might have the good effect which he desired, which motion was unanimously and cordially agreed to, and the Clerk was directed to communicate the resolution to Mr. Topp.

1839.
Council
Minutes.

Same day, the report of the Municipal Election was laid before the meeting, and of the acceptance of office by the persons chosen, and ordered to be engrossed in the minute book, when Provost M'Kimmie intimated that with that act his term of office as Chief Magistrate ended; whereupon Bailie William Chalmers, as Senior Magistrate, moved the best thanks of the Council to Mr. M'Kimmie for the long, faithful, and conscientious services which he had rendered to the burgh, not only as Chief Magistrate, but in various other departments, and which was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Alexander Young, banker, was unanimously elected Provost.

December 4.—It was resolved to raise an action of relief against the burgh heritors for the proportion of the manse assessment they were severally bound to pay, and which was laid on the Town Council in the first place.

January 7.—There being an anxious movement at this time made for the formation of a public road from Elgin to Perth, by Castleton of Braemar, the Council this day subscribed a petition to Government for aid towards the projected undertaking, and directed that it be sent through the town for subscription by the inhabitants.*

1840.

January 27.—The marriage of the Queen to Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg Gotha being to take place next month, the Council resolved to recommend to the inhabitants of the town a general illumination on the evening of the marriage day, and to all shopkeepers and professional persons to close their shops and places of business.

February 10.—The marriage of Her Gracious Majesty took place this day, and was celebrated in Elgin by a public

* This proposed road was surveyed by Mr. Telford, the celebrated engineer, as early as the year 1811; and its formation was then supported by the Commissioners of Highland Roads and Bridges, who agreed to pay one-half of the expense. Had the Duke of Gordon contributed a sum of £2000 at that time, it would have been made; but his Grace's advisers declined to entertain it, which the Duke afterwards expressed his regret for. It would have brought Elgin fifty miles nearer Perth. The necessity for this road is now in some degree superseded by the formation of the Highland Railway.

1840. ball, attended by the most respectable inhabitants of the town and surrounding district. An unfortunate dispute arose between some of the parties at the ball and the mob, in the early part of the evening; and, a feeling of irritation having got up, an attack was made on the ball-room, and tar barrels having been brought round the building and set fire to, the house was in considerable danger of being consumed. It was not known until the following morning the risk that had been run. The cause of this tumult was never very precisely ascertained. Considerable damage was done to the Assembly Rooms.

Council
Minutes.

February 24.—The Council resolved to present to Her Majesty the Queen, and her Royal Consort Prince Albert, an address of congratulation on the occasion of their recent marriage, and an address having been prepared, was read, approved of, and ordered to be signed by the Provost in name of the Council, and transmitted to the Honourable Fox Maule for presentation.

March 4.—The Council, having considered the question of the damages done to the property of the Mason Lodge, on the evening of the 10th February last, by a tumultuous mob, and having reference to the Act 3 George IV., cap. 33, they found that power is thereby given to the Magistrates to assess on the occupiers of property within the burgh whatever amount of damages and expenses may be declared by the sentence of a judge to have been occasioned. It was, therefore, resolved unanimously to recover by assessment, under the provisions of the said Act, whatever amount of damages and expenses might be declared by the sentence of the Judge Ordinary to have been incurred.

March 30.—Mr. Archibald Bonar, banker in Edinburgh, was again unanimously elected Ruling Elder for this burgh to the ensuing General Assembly.

Molesworth's
History, vol.
II., page 39.

June 10.—An insane post-boy, named Oxford, attempted to assassinate the Queen by discharging two pistols at her, as she was driving out with Prince Albert, according to her frequent practice, unattended by any escort. The Queen and Prince Albert displayed great coolness and presence of mind. It was never ascertained, except by the untrustworthy admission of Oxford himself, whether the pistols were charged with bullets or not.

June 29.—The Provost called the attention of the Council to the propriety of presenting an address to Her Majesty and her Royal Consort, on their Providential escape from an attempt on their lives by a miserable assassin, and an address being submitted, was adopted, and directed to be subscribed by the Provost, in the name of the Council, and transmitted to the Honourable Fox Maule for presentation.

1840.
Council
Minutes.

Same day, the Council directed that on Wednesday next, the 1st July, in terms of the new Prison Act, the Jail of Elgin, with its furniture and appurtenances, be delivered over on inventory to the County Prison Board, and that the inventory be authenticated by the signature of the Provost.

November 6.—Alexander Young, bank agent, having resigned the office of Provost, John M'Kimmie, merchant, was elected in his room.

November 21.—Her Majesty the Queen gave birth to her eldest child, the present Crown Princess of Germany.

November 30.—The Provost moved that an address of congratulation should be presented to Her Majesty, on the happy occasion of her giving birth to a Princess, which was unanimously agreed to, and the address was ordered to be transmitted to the Honourable Fox Maule for presentation.

Council
Minutes.

Same day, Messrs. Grigor & Young, writers, were appointed Chamberlains of the burgh for the ensuing year.

January 25.—The old Jail, Meal-House, and Weigh-House, in the centre of the street, were ordered to be pulled down, with a view to street improvements.

1841.

March 29.—Mr. Archibald Bonar was elected Ruling Elder to the ensuing General Assembly.

May 13.—The Rev. Alexander Walker, one of the ministers of Elgin, having received a presentation to the parish of Urquhart, it was resolved to petition the Marquis of Normanby to keep the appointment open until the minds of the parishioners should be ascertained, and, in the meantime, to approach the Rev. George Shepherd, minister of Kingussie, with the view of his accepting the charge, if his mind inclined that way.

Same day, a petition was transmitted to the Commissioners of Northern Lights, praying them to proceed with the erection of a lighthouse on Stotfield Point.

1841.

June 10.—No Commissioner had been appointed to the Convention of Royal Burghs for some years. Bailie William Chalmers was appointed Commissioner to attend the Convention this year.

June 24.—Lord John Russell's Government was defeated on the subject of the Corn Laws and Sugar Duties, and thereafter on a vote of want of confidence, and Parliament was dissolved.

July 7.—Sir Andrew Leith Hay, who had returned from abroad, was elected Member of Parliament for this District of Burghs, in room of the Honourable Fox Maule, who did not again stand.

Molesworth's
History, vol.
II., page 60.

Parliament met in the autumn, and upon the division on the Address, the Whig Government was defeated by a majority of sixty-four against them, and they immediately resigned. Sir Robert Peel became Prime Minister; Sir James Graham, Home Secretary; the Earl of Aberdeen, Foreign Secretary; and Lord Stanley, Colonial Secretary.

Scott's Fasti,
vol. III., page
155.

August 4.—The Rev. Alexander Walker, one of the ministers of Elgin, was re-translated to the parish of Urquhart, and settled there on the 23d September.

Council
Minutes.

September 27.—The Council resolved to petition Government for the appointment of the Rev. James Stewart of Wallacetown, Ayr, as successor to the Rev. Alexander Walker—Mr. Alexander Brander and Mr. James Petrie dissenting.

October 25.—A letter was read from the Earl of Fife, agreeing, as principal heritor of the parish, to support the petition of the Council for appointment of the Rev. James Stewart as minister of Elgin. The thanks of the Council were returned to his Lordship.

November 15.—His Royal Highness Albert Edward Prince of Wales was born on the 9th of this month. Addresses were on this date voted by the Council to the Queen and Prince Albert, congratulating them on the birth of an heir to the throne.

1842.

January 31.—A communication was read from the Secretary of the Board for Northern Lights, intimating that the Board had resolved to proceed in the erection of a lighthouse on Craighead, and a beacon of masonry on the Stotfield Skerries.

March 17.—The Rev. Francis Wylie received a Crown presentation, as one of the collegiate ministers of Elgin, and was ordained and admitted of this date—the petition in favour of the Rev. James Stewart by the Council, heritors, elders, and communicants, being rejected by the Government.

March 20.—William Young of Burghead died this day. He had spent his early and later life in the vicinity of Elgin, and for upwards of fifty years had proved a benefactor to the Burgh and County. He was at the head of the movement in the beginning of the century for getting the turnpike roads made in the County, the division of the Aughteen Part Lands of the Burgh, the drainage of the Lochs of Spynie and Cotts, the erection of the harbours of Burghead and Hopeman, and laying off these villages, the promotion of the herring fishery, the introduction of steam navigation into the Moray Firth, the gigantic improvements in the County of Sutherland, and used every exertion to promote and complete the works at the Caledonian Canal, and farther the general advancement of the North of Scotland. He took a warm interest in young men, and procured many situations for those who were deserving, both at home and abroad. Up to the close of a long life he continued his patriotic career.

March 28.—Mr. Archibald Bonar was again elected Ruling Elder to the ensuing General Assembly.

Council
Minutes.

Same date, Mr. William Duguid gave in his resignation as teacher of the Latin School in the Elgin Academy, from and after the 1st May next.

April 20.—The Rev. John Allan was appointed classical teacher in the Elgin Academy, in room of Mr. Duguid

June 27.—The Provost submitted two addresses, one to Her Majesty, and the other to Prince Albert, on Her Majesty's late Providential escape from the hands of an assassin, which, having been read, were unanimously adopted, and the Provost was authorised to transmit the same to Sir Andrew Leith Hay, Member of Parliament for the Burghs, to be presented in due form.

July 26.—The Magistrates and Council having raised an action against Sir George Macpherson Grant of Ballindalloch,

1842.
Council
Minutes.

for payment of a year's rent, as their vassal in the land of Kirdels, it was intimated that Lord Jeffrey (Ordinary) had decided the case against the burgh.

August 29.—A loyal address was voted to the Queen and Prince Albert, in the prospect of their visit to Her Majesty's ancient kingdom of Scotland.

November 11.—Bailie James Wilson was unanimously elected Provost.

November 29.—A committee was appointed to consider as to the forming of common sewers within the burgh.

1843.

January 30.—A water company having been proposed to be formed in the town, it was resolved by the Council and Police Commissioners to employ Mr. John Gibb, civil engineer, Aberdeen, or any other engineer of character, to make a survey and report, whose expenses should be paid equally by the Water Company, the Town Council, and the Police Commissioners.

The Council, after discussing the proposal, and considering the great importance of the matter to the community, agreed to pay one-third of the expenses of the proposed survey.

February 27.—An agreement was entered into with Mr. George Robertson to take on feu from him a piece of ground on the south side of the Bishopmill Road, at the foot of North Street, for a slaughter-house, at the yearly ground rent, or feu-duty, of £7 sterling, and to take off the dykes and old buildings at valuation.

March 27.—Mr. Archibald Bonar was again elected Ruling Elder for the burgh, to the ensuing General Assembly. This was the last occasion on which Mr. Bonar was elected, a Disruption in the Church being now impending.

May 18.—Since the passing of the Veto Act by the General Assembly in the year 1834, the Church of Scotland had been involved in much trouble with its own office-bearers, and with a large minority of its members. The Veto Act had been pronounced illegal by a majority of the judges of the Court of Session, and which judgment had been affirmed on appeal by the House of Lords. The Church would have repealed the Veto Act and fallen back upon the old law of Non-intrusion ; but they found that the decision

of the House of Lords confined the Church to such slender limits that they had no free action in the settlement of ministers. They therefore applied to Government for relief, but having got no assistance from that quarter, they brought their case before Parliament, where it was also rejected. There was, therefore, now no alternative but submit to the decisions of the Civil Court, or leave the Church ; and 474 ministers did sign the deed of demission, and left the Church of Scotland. This deplorable conclusion might well have been averted, if it had not been for the heated frame of mens' minds at the time. It was the duty of the Government to have settled the matter on fair and equitable terms, and to have stepped in between the conflicting parties in the Church. The blame of the Disruption lies at the door of the Earl of Aberdeen, and Sir James Graham, the Home Secretary, who allowed themselves to be led in the matter by well-known Scotch advisers. It is a blot on the character of these statesmen, which will never be forgotten ; and in after life they both acknowledged and grieved over their fatal mistake. It is impossible, at the present distance of time, to describe the intensity and bitterness of feeling which prevailed between contending parties. If good has eventually come out of evil, it must be remembered that great differences still prevail on this subject. Whether the scattered members of the Presbyterian Church in Scotland will ever be brought into one fold again, lies in the womb of futurity. Such a consummation is earnestly to be desired, for the peace and prosperity of the country.

The ministers and elders who left the Church of Scotland formed themselves into a new ecclesiastical body by the name of the "Free Church," composed of Presbyteries, Synods, and a General Assembly, and made vigorous exertions to meet their altered circumstances. Large sums of money were raised ; the country was covered with new churches ; a flourishing Sustentation Fund was called into existence ; and all the schemes of the Church at home and abroad were energetically pursued. There is, perhaps, no ecclesiastical event in the history of the world where such self-sacrifice was made, and such pecuniary efforts carried

1843.

out for religious purposes; and, comparing the poverty of Scotland in the year 1843 with the wealth which now prevails, it is truly marvellous that so much could have been done. It was thought by some that, after the first fervour of the time was over, the love of many would wax cold, but it has been proved, after the lapse of the third part of a century, and with a new generation sprung up, that the ecclesiastical fabric still goes on with increased vigour. Since that period a new middle class has come into existence, possessed of intelligence and wealth, which has contributed to the strength of self-supporting Churches.

In Elgin, the Rev. Alexander Topp left the Established Church, and carried with him a large and influential body of the people—the exact number it is difficult to say; but during the summer and autumn of 1843, a large church was erected on a site obtained at the top of Batchen Street, from the Elgin Guildry Fund Society, capable of holding 1200 sitters, and it was crowded to the doors. Mr. Topp continued his pastoral labours in Elgin with ever-increasing assiduity, until the year 1852, when he was translated to Roxburgh Free Church, Edinburgh, and from thence, in 1858, to Knox's Church, Toronto, Canada. He had the degree of D.D. from the University of Aberdeen in 1870. Dr. Topp has a large congregation in Toronto, where he is very popular. His labours in Canada have been eminently blessed, being one of the principal promoters in uniting the different bodies of Presbyterians into one Church, of which, in this year 1876, he is the unanimously chosen Moderator. Dr. Topp is a native of Elgin, and a credit to the place of his birth.

Scott's Fasti,
vol. III., page
153.

Council
Minutes.

May 29.—The old Jail and Court-House, which had stood in the centre of the street for nearly 140 years, were now ordered to be removed as no longer required, and the materials to be sold. The bell, clock, and weather cock, were ordered to be properly taken care of. This building, although very unsuitable to modern ideas, was a picturesque object, and a venerable relic of former times. Its removal made a great change on the appearance of the High Street.

A contract was entered into for building a new Shambles

at the foot of North Street. The cost of the works was £347 16s. 6d. The architect was James M'Bride.

June 26.—The Council having before them the plan of a uniform rate of penny postage proposed by Mr. Rowland Hill, unanimously approved of the same as a highly desirable measure, and one that would be conducive to the advantage of the country.

Same day, the Bibles in the Parish Church belonging to the Magistrates were removed from their pew in the north gallery and deposited in a press in the Council Room, and the key placed in the hands of the Town Clerk. These consisted of seven Bibles, fifteen Psalm Books, and eighteen Paraphrase Books, of the old translation.

June 29.—The Council resolved to transmit a memorial to the Chairman of the Convention of Royal Burghs, recommending the dissolution of that ancient institution as now useless, and only creating unnecessary expense.

The Rev. Philip Jervis Mackie was ordained and settled as collegiate minister of Elgin, in room of the Rev. Alexander Topp, on the 14th September. Mr. Mackie was presented by the Crown, on a petition from the congregation, the Government of the day finding it would not do to stand out against the wishes of the people, although, previous to the Disruption of the Church in May last, their policy was to avoid popular elections.

December 25.—The new Shambles, at the foot of North Street, was declared opened by public proclamation of drum and bell.

March 25.—The Council resolved to send no Ruling Elder from the burgh to the General Assembly this year.

July 29.—It was resolved, by a majority, to contribute £20 for sewerage purposes for the current year. This grant was afterwards increased to £30.

September 18.—Mr. John Allan, teacher of the Classical School in the Elgin Academy, having given in his resignation, it was resolved to advertise for candidates to fill the vacant office.

October 23.—Mr. Donald Morrison was unanimously elected classical teacher in the Elgin Academy, in room of Mr. Allan.

1843.

Council
Minutes.

1844.

Council
Minutes.

1844.
Council
Minutes.

November 25.—A letter was received from the Rev. George Gordon, Moderator of the Presbytery, enclosing articles of agreement between the Magistrates of Elgin and the Presbytery in the year 1748, relative to the Grammar School, which inferred that, as Mr. Morrison was not a member of the Established Church, his appointment was not within the power of the Council. This was the beginning of a dispute, which led to very important results in Scotland.

November 25.—The Council gave their consent to the borrowing of a sum of £7000 for extension of the north pier head of the Stotfield and Lossiemouth harbour and for paying off the present debt.

A communication was received from Mr. James Grant, banker, for forming a railway from Stotfield harbour to Elgin, and from Elgin to Rothes.

Mr. John Miller sent printed copies of inventories of the town's papers to every member of the Council, and two copies to be deposited in the cadget. The thanks of the Council were voted to Mr. Miller.

December 17.—The Council determined that the alleged agreement with the Presbytery in the year 1748 had never been properly completed nor acted upon.

December 30.—A vote of £10 was granted to assist in defraying the expense of a survey for the proposed railway between Stotfield harbour and Elgin and Rothes.

1845.

April 23.—The Poor Law Amendment Bill for Scotland was laid before the Council, and ordered to be circulated and considered at a future meeting.

April 30.—The Poor Law Bill was farther considered, and resolutions entered into regarding same, which were ordered to be transmitted to the Member of Parliament.

A plan of a water fountain proposed to be erected on the site of the old Jail was agreed to and sanctioned.

September 24.—The Poor Law Amendment Bill having passed into law, it was recommended that the assessment should be laid entirely on rental of property.

November 24.—It was resolved to erect a new Bead House for the poor trades' burgesses in place of the old one, which had become ruinous and incapable of being repaired.

December 29.—The Council agreed to petition Parliament in favour of the proposed railway from Aberdeen to Inverness, with branches to Lossiemouth, Burghead, &c.

1845.
Council
Minutes.

January 13.—It was agreed to send an address to the Queen in favour of the abolition of the Corn Laws.

1846.

March 21.—Contracts were entered into for erection of a new Bead House.

March 30.—A petition was signed and transmitted to the House of Commons in favour of the Morayshire Railway.

April 27.—It was agreed to petition Parliament in favour of a bill for compulsory grants of Church sites in Scotland.

The crop of 1845 was very bad in England, and prices rose to a high rate. This encouraged the Anti-Corn Law League, who made most strenuous exertions, by meetings, addresses, and agitation, to carry the total repeal of the Corn Laws. Sir Robert Peel and the Duke of Wellington would have fain thrown this measure on their political opponents, and resigned the Government into their hands; but it was evident Lord John Russell could not have carried the measure, and the pressure of the times was so great that they were obliged to undertake it themselves. It was a bitter task for Sir Robert Peel to introduce a measure, to which his whole previous political life was opposed. Parliament was opened on 14th January by the Queen in person. The Speech from the Throne dwelt on the success which had attended the removal of restrictive duties, and suggested that the same policy should be carried farther, but did not directly touch on the vexed question of the Corn Laws. After the Address was moved and seconded, Sir Robert Peel made a speech on the necessity of abating restrictive duties, particularly on corn, and stated that the time was come when it must be carried out. He was followed by Lord John Russell, who gave a full explanation of the course he had adopted during the late crisis, and of the cause of his failure to form a Ministry. It was on this occasion that Mr. Disraeli, as the mouthpiece of the Protectionists, first came to the front and made his famous bitter attack against Sir Robert Peel. On the 27th January, Sir Robert Peel introduced the measure for gradual abolition of the Corn Laws, which was discussed till midnight.

Molesworth's
History, vol.
III., pp. 218, 226.

1846.

On 9th February, the measure went into committee, and was debated for twelve nights. It was carried by Ministers, on a division, by ninety-seven votes, and in the House of Lords by forty-seven votes. This measure, which was so much dreaded by the agriculturists and Protectionist party, as ruinous to their interests, has not had that effect. On the contrary, agriculture has flourished, and rents of land have risen higher than ever they were before. On the 9th of June the Ministry were defeated on a measure relating to the repression of crime in Ireland, by a majority of seventy-three—the Protectionist party, headed by Lord George Bentinck and Mr. Disraeli, voting against them from pure ill-will, and with the acknowledged wish to turn them out. The Ministry on this vote immediately resigned office, and Lord John Russell was requested to form a new Administration, which he carried out—himself as Prime Minister ; Sir George Grey, Home Secretary ; Lord Palmerston, Foreign Secretary ; and Earl Grey, Colonial Secretary. The Conservative party was utterly broken at the time by the loss of their leaders, and there was no regularly organised Opposition to the new Government.

The crop of 1846 was a fair one as regarded grain, but that of potatoes entirely failed. In the month of August, a series of heavy fogs set in over Scotland, and the potatoes thereafter began to rot. The disease proceeded gradually until the whole crop was lost. Indeed, it was supposed at one time that seed would not have been preserved for another year, and that this most valuable root would entirely disappear. There can be no doubt that the disease arises from the atmosphere. It has never since entirely disappeared, although it has not prevailed to the same extent as in 1846.

1847.

February.—In consequence of the failure of the potato crop, the price of grain rose to an enormous rate. Wheat was sold as high as £5 per quarter. A great alarm got up through the country, and in different parts of the North of Scotland rioting took place, and strenuous attempts were made by mobs to stop the shipments of grain. This more particularly occurred at the shipping ports. A serious riot occurred at Burghead this month, a mob of about 500 men,

inhabitants of Burghead and Hopeman, having assembled to stop the shipment of a cargo of grain. The Sheriff of the County, having heard of this unlawful assembly, gathered a body of men from Elgin with the view of enforcing the law; but, on arriving at Burghead, a collision took place with the rioters, who attacked the Sheriff's party with stones, and, having entirely defeated them, drove them from the town. Several persons were severely injured, and never recovered from the effects of the blows received. In consequence of the agitated state of the country, a body of regular troops was quartered at Elgin, which had a very wholesome effect; and, with the appearance of a favourable season, grain fell rapidly in price. The Burghead rioters were tried at the Circuit Court at Inverness, and several of them condemned to five or seven years' penal servitude.

February 6.—A meeting of Council was held this day, and resolved to subscribe £20 to a fund for purchasing meal for the poor.

A public meeting of the inhabitants was thereafter held, who responded liberally to the call for raising funds for purchase of meal.

June 22.—At the annual examination of the Academy, Mr. Merson, teacher of the Mathematical School, refused to acknowledge the right of the Magistrates and Council to examine his class, as he considered himself only amenable to the Presbytery, and therefore that the examination was not legally conducted. In consequence, no examination took place. The Magistrates, viewing Mr. Merson's conduct as a mark of contempt, resolved to take legal steps against him for vindicating their rights, and instructed their agents to prepare a memorial and lay the same before counsel for advice.

Council
Minutes.

July 19.—A memorial having been prepared relative to Mr. Merson's proceedings, was approved of, and ordered to be sent to Edinburgh for the opinion of Mr. Duncan M'Neill, Dean of Faculty, and of such junior counsel as the agents might approve of.

Same day, the Council granted a disposition of the old Shambles to Mr. James Winchester, merchant, Elgin.

July 23.—Parliament, having subsisted for six years, was

1847. dissolved, and a new one ordered to assemble on the 18th November. Sir Andrew Leith Hay, who had been for thirteen years Member for the Burghs, was opposed by Mr. George Skene Duff of Milton, and defeated. It is but justice to Sir Andrew to record, that he was one of the best and most useful Members we ever had. He knew the wants of the inhabitants of the burghs thoroughly, and had been particularly useful in obtaining situations for young men.

Council
Minutes.

July 26.—The Council resolved to support any measure which might be introduced for the abolition or amelioration of the law of entail.

Same day, it was resolved to consider and obtain information from other burghs as to the best mode of regulating horse markets, so as to prevent accidents.

September 27.—The memorial relative to Mr. Merson, and the opinions thereon by Messrs. Duncan M'Neill and George Moir, were ordered to be engrossed in the sederunt book, and thereafter lodged in the town's cadget.

November.—The Magistrates this year were—James Wilson, Provost; William Chalmers, John Walker, Alexander Sivewright, and William Stephen Ferguson, Bailies; George Gordon, Dean of Guild; and William Anderson, Treasurer.

1848.

July 5.—At the examination of the Academy this year, Mr. Merson read a protest against the authority of the Magistrates, and stated that he would take no orders from them, but only from the Presbytery. In consequence, his class was not examined. It was resolved, one member of the Council dissenting, to dismiss him from office.

July 31.—Mr. Merson having brought a suspension and interdict from the Court of Session, the Council resolved to defend their rights as patrons.

August 28.—The Provost stated that the case of Mr. Merson had been remitted by the Lord Ordinary to the Inner House.

October 30.—Provost Wilson intimated his desire to be relieved of the duties of Chief Magistrate on account of his advanced time of life, and stated that he had now acted as a Magistrate for a period of fifteen years. A unanimous vote of thanks was made to the Provost for his conduct in

office, and his unwearied attention to the interest of the burgh and promotion of its improvement.

November 1.—It was resolved to reduce the entry money of Merchant Burgesses within the burgh to £2, and of Guild Brethren to £2.

November 10.—On the motion of Provost Wilson, seconded by Bailie Walker, Mr. James Grant, solicitor, was elected Provost.

December 19.—The Rev. James Jenkins resigned his office as teacher of the English School in the Elgin Academy, which was accepted. Mr. Morrison, teacher of the Latin School, was requested to arrange for keeping the school open, until an appointment could be made for filling up the vacancy.

January 12.—Mr. George Wisely was elected interim teacher of the English School in the Academy.

February 9.—Mr. Merson, having assured the Court that, pending the present litigation between the Magistrates and Presbytery about the Elgin Academy, he would carefully refrain from doing anything whatever bearing upon the subject matter of the suit, except under the advice of his counsel, and in particular from repeating protests at the public examinations, legal proceedings between the Council and him were for the present suspended.

May 28.—There was much discussion between the Presbytery and the Town Council for several months at this time, relative to their respective rights connected with the management of the Academy.

September 24.—Mr. James Macdonald was elected teacher of the English School in the Academy for the time, and under the special conditions, stated in an agreement entered into with him.

November 26.—It was unanimously agreed, with the view of facilitating the formation of a railway between Elgin and the harbour of Stotfield and Lossiemouth, that the Town Council should agree to accept from the Railway Company a yearly payment, in the name of feu-duty, upon the value of the land belonging to them, to be acquired by the Railway Company, to be fixed by valuers mutually chosen; such feu-duty not to exceed four per cent. interest per annum on the value of the land taken.

1848.

Council
Minutes.

1849.

1850.
Council
Minutes.

January 28.—The Council agreed, by a majority of seven to three, to take twenty shares in the stock of the New Market Company.

Same day, they agreed to send a memorial to Her Majesty, praying that the Post-office might be entirely closed on the Sabbath-day, and a similar petition to the House of Commons.

April 27.—The great Charter of the town of 8th October, 1633, having gone amissing, and, as it could not be found, the Clerk was directed to procure an extract from the Great Seal Register.

May 27.—In the view of the Great International Exhibition, to be held in London in the year 1851, the Council authorised the Provost to subscribe the sum of £5 5s. to the general fund for that purpose.

June 10.—The Elgin Guildry Fund Society, which had been formed in the year 1714, finding its property largely increased, and that it could not be well conducted longer without some defined rules and regulations, applied to Parliament for an Act of Incorporation, which was readily obtained, and the Royal assent was given to it of this date. By this Act the Society was formed “into one body politic and corporate, under the name and style of the Elgin Guildry Fund Society.” The Act empowers the Society to frame bye-laws, and to sue and be sued in the name of its Treasurer or Clerk, and has hitherto been found to work well in practice.

July 2.—Sir Robert Peel, Baronet, died this day at London from the effect of a fall from his horse on the 29th June previous, to the great and universal regret of the nation. He had attained his sixty-second year, and might have still been of the greatest service to the country from his matured experience.*

July 29.—Bailie Chalmers intimated his intention to resign office at the next election, in consequence of the state of his health. His resignation was accepted, and a vote of thanks tendered to him for his services.

* Sir Robert Peel paid a visit to Elgin, when on a tour in the North of Scotland, the year previous to his death, and inspected the ruins of the Cathedral with Provost Grant. On that occasion he alluded, with considerable feeling, to the national calamity of the Disruption of the Church.

The Council agreed to join in a procession for laying the foundation-stone of the New Markets on the 14th August next.

1850.

Council
Minutes.

November 8.—On the motion of Mr. James Petrie, it was agreed that the Bibles and other religious works which had been removed from the Parish Church, by order of Council, on 26th June, 1843, should be restored to the Magistrates' Pew, so that any members of the Council who wished to attend there might do so and use the books.

December 30.—A committee of the Council was appointed to take into consideration the propriety of the town obtaining a transfer of the whole stock of the Elgin Water Company, with a view to a reduction of the expense to the community.

Same day, it was agreed to subscribe the sum of £5 for procuring a barometer for the Lossiemouth harbour, providing the Harbour Company take up the matter vigorously, and lend a helping hand.

January 3.—The Presbytery of Elgin, having raised an action of declarator against the Magistrates and Town Council, and against the teachers of the Latin and English Schools in the Elgin Academy, asserting the Presbytery's right of superintendence of the Academy, and for dismissal of the above teachers, as not having subscribed the formula of the Church of Scotland, it was unanimously resolved, on the report of a committee, to defend that action both for the Council and the teachers.

1851.

February 1.—The defences in the Academy case were laid before the Council, and having been read over and considered, and several minor alterations and suggestions having been made, they were returned to the Chamberlains, to be transmitted by them to Edinburgh, to be completed and lodged in process.

February 22.—The Council agreed to dissent from a resolution of some of the shareholders of the Morayshire Railway to wind up that Company.

March 31.—Mr. James Young, brewer, was elected Ruling Elder for this burgh to the ensuing General Assembly. This was the first appointment of a representative Elder since the Disruption, in the year 1843.

1851.
Council
Minutes.

June 30.—A letter was read in the Council from Mr. Cosmo Innes, dated 6th current, suggesting that the monument of Bishop Douglas, which then stood near the gate of the Cathedral, should be removed to some other spot more suitable, as it spoiled the entrance gate. This suggestion was approved of, and a committee appointed for the purpose—the Provost Convener. The monument was eventually removed to the north enclosing wall, a much better site than where it stood before.

July 15.—Mr. George M'William, land-surveyor, was appointed to value the ground and intersectional damage done thereto by the Morayshire Railway.

August 25.—The Council, by a majority of six to three, agreed to take stock in the Morayshire Railway to the extent of £1000, including what was then held by them.

September 29.—Mr. Joseph Hume, M.P., being now at Inverness, the Council resolved to offer him the Freedom of the Burgh of Elgin, and the Clerk was instructed to write Mr. Hume to that effect.

October 27.—A letter was received from Mr. Hume accepting the offer of being created a burghess of Elgin, and expressing his thanks for the appreciation of his services in Parliament, but that it was impossible for him to be in Elgin at that time. He, however, would take the first opportunity of visiting the ancient burgh, and of then personally expressing his gratitude for the honour bestowed. The Clerk was instructed to prepare a burghess ticket, and transmit the same to Mr. Hume.

November 24.—Mr. James Grant, having served three years in office, was unanimously re-elected Provost.

Same day, by a majority of fourteen to two, it was resolved immediately to borrow £1000 to pay the stock taken by the Council in the Morayshire Railway. After a discussion, four members of Council dissented from this resolution.

1852. January 26.—A proclamation was ordered to be made, prohibiting, after the first Friday of April next, the sale of flesh on the High Street of Elgin.

February 16.—Differences had lately arisen in the Ministry, and Lord Palmerston had been dismissed from

office. In consequence of an adverse vote of the House of Commons on the Militia Bill, Lord John Russell and his Ministry resigned, and the Earl of Derby was requested by the Queen to form a new Administration, which he did ; Mr. Disraeli being appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer ; Mr. Walpole, Home Secretary ; the Earl of Malmesbury, Foreign Secretary ; and Sir John Pakington, Colonial Secretary.

1852.

February 23.—The Council having agreed to shut up the old footpath called the “Furling Yetts,” in order that it might be incorporated with the grounds of Grant Lodge—they receiving in return about two acres of the land of Burghbrigs for a recreation ground to the inhabitants of the town, a committee, consisting of the Provost, Magistrates, and others, was appointed to see that the rights and interests of the public were properly preserved.

Council
Minutes.

March 29.—Mr. James Petrie, bank agent, was elected Ruling Elder to the ensuing General Assembly.

Same day, the Council resolved, by a majority of nine to three, to take £200 additional stock in the Stotfield and Lossiemouth Harbour Company.

April 26.—It was resolved to petition Parliament in favour of the Lord Advocate Moncrieff’s bill for the abolition of tolls.

July 1.—Parliament was dissolved, and a new one ordered to meet on 4th November. George Skene Duff of Milton was again elected Member for this District of Burghs.

September 14.—The Duke of Wellington died at Walmer Castle. A national public funeral followed, one of the most imposing and solemn spectacles ever seen in this country, which took place on 18th November.

Molesworth's
History, vol.
II., page 384.

October 25.—A plan of the Leper Lands as now adjusted was laid before the Council, and authority given to advertise the lands in terms thereof.

Council
Minutes.

November 4.—Parliament re-assembled after the general election, but no business was done until the 11th, when it was opened by the Queen in person. On the first division the Ministry were defeated, and resigned office. The Earl of Aberdeen was appointed Prime Minister ; Mr. Gladstone, Chancellor of the Exchequer ; Lord Palmerston, Lord John Russell, and the Duke of Newcastle, Secretaries of State. This was the Ministry who drifted into the Crimean War.

Molesworth's
History, vol.
II., page 382.

1852.
Council
Minutes.

November 17.—A special Council meeting was called to consider what steps should be taken so as to give the inhabitants of Elgin an opportunity of joining in the national expression of regret on the occasion of the death of the Duke of Wellington, to-morrow being the day fixed for the funeral of that illustrious nobleman. The meeting was unanimously of opinion that the bells should be tolled from the hours of ten till twelve o'clock noon, and that it should be announced to the inhabitants by tuck of drum, along with a recommendation to the merchants and others to shut their respective places of business during these hours.

1853.

February 28.—Two fishing boats having been lost at Lossiemouth, with severe loss of lives, and various families in consequence left destitute, the Council resolved to give a donation of £10 for their relief, and collections recommended to be made in the different Churches to promote this object. A committee was appointed to carry out these good intentions.

March 28.—Mr. James Young, brewer, was elected Ruling Elder to the ensuing General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Same day, the Council agreed to send a petition to Parliament in favour of the bill for the abolition of University Tests, and also in favour of the bill for the reform of Sheriff Courts.

May 20.—It was remitted to a committee to inquire as to the expense of procuring a fire-engine and a staff of men to work it, and how the funds could be raised for the purpose.

November 28.—A plan of the town of Elgin being about to be published by Thomas Hutcheon, land-surveyor, the Council approved of the same, and voted a sum of £3 3s. in aid of the work.

December 26.—It was resolved to petition the Queen in favour of the appointment of a Secretary of State for Scotland, and the draft of a petition being prepared, was ordered to be engrossed, signed by all the members of Council, and transmitted for presentation to Her Majesty.

1854.

February 27.—The Lord Ordinary having decided the Academy case in favour of the Presbytery, the case was appealed to the Inner House.

March 27.—Dr. John Paul was elected Ruling Elder to the ensuing General Assembly.

1854.

Council
Minutes.

April 10.—The Council having resolved to procure a fire-engine for the burgh, it was remitted to a committee to endeavour to raise subscriptions for the purpose.

July 31.—At the request of the Secretary of the Morayshire Farmer Club, it was resolved to establish cattle markets in the months of November and January, being the only months in which cattle markets are not held in Elgin.

Same day, it was recommended to the inhabitants of Elgin to hold a holiday on the 10th August ensuing, being the anniversary of opening of the Morayshire Railway. This is the first notice we have of holidays, now so common.

The war with Russia having occurred this year, the minds of the public were entirely engrossed with this very serious affair. The British and French armies invaded the Crimea, and the siege of Sebastopol was commenced. It might have been easily taken by assault at first, and the British commander, Lord Raglan, proposed that step, but as the French Marshal would not concur, it was unfortunately postponed; and hence the Russians had time to fortify their position by earthworks and sinking ships in the entrance channel of the harbour, which occasioned a long and protracted siege, and much suffering to the besiegers, as well as to the Russians.

Molesworth's
History, vol.
III., page 8.

October 30.—It was resolved to causeway with stone blocks of hardest materials that part of the High Street extending from the Court-House to the School Wynd, being the part in the worst state of repair.

Council
Minutes.

Same day, there was laid before the Council an Act passed in the last session of Parliament "for the better registration of births, deaths, and marriages in Scotland;" and their attention being called to the clause which provides that the existing Session-Clerks shall be registrars under the Act, unless they are found to be incapable, Mr. James Petrie was accordingly, in terms of the Act, appointed keeper of the register for the burgh of Elgin, and to be entitled to the emoluments as thereby prescribed.

November 7.—Mr. James Grant's second term of office having expired, he was again unanimously elected Provost.

1854.
Council
Minutes.

November 20.—The Provost stated the objects of a Royal Commission which had been issued for raising a patriotic fund for support of widows and families of soldiers, sailors, and marines who have fallen, or may yet fall, or be disabled in the present war, and he proposed that the town should be divided into districts, and persons sent out to obtain subscriptions for this object. Mr. Grant, accountant, was appointed Secretary and Treasurer, and the Town-Clerk to be Clerk to the several committees.

Same day, it was resolved to feu out the lands of Maisondieu and the Order Pot field for building purposes, at the rate of £12 per acre, and the Clerk was directed to advertise the same, in terms of the statute.

1855.

January 16.—The Council resolved to purchase a fire-engine now to be sold at Inverness, for the price of £50, it having been reported as in good working order by Mr. William Reid, architect, and by Mr. Taylor, engineer of the Morayshire Railway.

January 29.—It was reported that arrangements had been entered into with the Police Commissioners, who had agreed to take charge of the fire-engine, to see that it is put in good working order, and to take steps for organising a fire brigade.

March 3.—The Rev. Mr. Macneil, minister of the Congregational Church, died at this time. He had officiated in Elgin for forty-eight years, and was greatly esteemed for his pastoral services and unwearied activity in the discharge of his duties. It was unanimously agreed that the members of Council should join the funeral in procession, and, in order to do so the more regularly, they proposed to meet in the Council Room on Tuesday next, at twelve o'clock noon, and proceed to the chapel in Batchen Lane, where the funeral services were to be conducted; and the Provost was requested to intimate this resolution to the relatives of the deceased, and the Clerk had instructions to give notice to the members of Council absent from the meeting.

March 26.—The Council had not elected a Commissioner to the Convention of Royal Burghs for many years. Provost Grant was elected Commissioner this year, and Mr. William

Leslie, S.S.C., Assessor. Mr. Alexander Russell was elected Ruling Elder to the ensuing General Assembly. Provost Grant was appointed to represent the Council in the Prison Board for the County.

1855.

Council
Minutes.

Same day, it was agreed to petition Parliament in favour of uniting the two Colleges at Aberdeen into one University.

The British army had suffered many privations at the siege of Sebastopol during the winter, and on the meeting of Parliament, Mr. Roebuck gave notice of his intention to move for a Select Committee "to inquire into the condition of our army before Sebastopol, and into the conduct of those departments of the Government whose duty it has been to minister to the wants of that army." Lord John Russell at once wrote to Lord Aberdeen stating that he did not see how Mr. Roebuck's motion was to be resisted, but that as it involved a censure on the War Department, he considered that the only course open to him was to tender his resignation, which was accepted. The retirement of Lord John Russell, the leader of the House of Commons, at this crisis paralysed the resistance which the Government might have otherwise offered to Mr. Roebuck's motion; and, after a debate of two nights, Ministers were defeated, the majority against them being 157. The Duke of Newcastle, the War Minister, was the person principally blamed for the maladministration of the army. He was somewhat hardly dealt with; and, although errors had been committed, as might have been expected after so long a peace, and in so remote a seat of war, these were in the way of being overcome. Lord Aberdeen's Ministry after this defeat resigned office, and Lord John Russell and Lord Derby were successively called upon to form Administrations, but both failed in the attempt. Lord Palmerston then took the helm of affairs, with Lord Panmure for Secretary at War, Mr. Gladstone Chancellor of the Exchequer, and other able assistance; and the conducting of the war was thereafter of a more satisfactory nature.

Molesworth's
History, vol.
III., pp. 35 to 38.

April 16.—The Council agreed by a large majority to petition both Houses of Parliament in favour of the Lord Advocate's Education Bill.

Council
Minutes.

September.—General Sir George Brown, having returned

1855. from the Crimean war, was entertained to a public dinner in the Assembly Rooms, Elgin. There was a brilliant party of about 300. The chair was ably filled by Provost Grant. Among the company were the Provosts of Banff and Forres, the late Duke of Richmond, the Earl of March, Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, Major Cumming Bruce, M.P., Sir Alexander Gordon Cumming, &c. It was a most enthusiastic and successful entertainment, which was heightened by news reaching the company that Sebastopol had fallen by the evacuation of the south side of the town by the Russians, which virtually terminated the war.

1856. March 31.—Mr. Alexander Russell was again elected Ruling Elder for this burgh to the ensuing General Assembly.

Molesworth's
History, vol.
III., page 70.

April 27.—Peace was settled with Russia, which was a great relief to the country. There was mixed with this, however, a feeling of regret that the Russians were not farther humiliated. The French were wearied of the war, while the British were only coming to their full strength. If it had been necessary, Lord Palmerston was prepared to have carried on the war alone, even if the French had retired.

Council
Minutes.

August 25.—Mr. Peter Merson, mathematical teacher in the Elgin Academy, intimated his desire to retire from office, providing the Council would give him a retiring allowance of £50 per annum during his life, which was agreed to. It was resolved to advertise for a successor, and also to make some alterations in the Academy, consequent on Mr. Merson's retirement.

October 27.—William Macdonald was elected mathematical teacher in the Elgin Academy, in room of Mr. Merson, for a period of three years.

November 24.—After corresponding with the Secretary of the Morayshire Farmer Club, the Council resolved to change the days of holding Christmas and New-Year's Day from the Old to the New Style, and instructed the Clerk to put in advertisements into the Elgin newspapers to that effect. This arrangement was no doubt very proper in itself; but at same time it must be felt as a matter of regret that the ancient practices of the burgh were dying out, and the days of high festival abolished.

1857.

March 9.—James, fourth Earl of Fife, died, aged eighty. He had for many years been a constant friend and benefactor to the burgh of Elgin, and had taken a most warm interest in its affairs. He was extremely popular in the town, and deservedly so, for since the year 1820 he had contributed more than any other person to its improvement. At his own expense his Lordship had made many miles of delightful walks through his woods and along the river side, for the benefit of the inhabitants of the town, which afford recreation to the public beyond what is enjoyed by any other town in the North of Scotland ; and wherever he could be useful, he was always ready and anxious to promote the public good by his influence and money. And the burgh owes more to him than any other individual for the rapid advance it had made during the previous period of thirty years.

Council
Minutes.

March 17.—The Provost stated, at a special meeting of Council held this day, that he had called them together for the purpose of considering how they might best testify their respect and regard for the memory of James Earl of Fife, now deceased; and, after addressing the meeting, he proposed that the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Elgin, impressed with a conviction that it is their duty to manifest, in a becoming manner, the feelings which they, along with their fellow-citizens, cherished for the late Earl while in life, and to testify their affectionate remembrance of him when departed, unanimously resolve to appoint a deputation of their number to attend his funeral upon Thursday, the 19th current. That this deputation consist of the Provost and Magistrates, with instructions to take the places assigned them in the mournful procession, and respectfully to offer their condolence with the relatives of the departed.

March 21.—Lord Palmerston's Government having been defeated in the House of Commons, on a motion of Mr. Cobden's, condemnatory of their conduct in entering into hostilities with China, Parliament was dissolved this day, and a new one ordered to assemble on 30th April. Mr. George Skene Duff was again elected Member for this District of Burghs. The appeal to the country made by Lord Palmerston was successful—his great opponents, Messrs. Cobden,

1857.

Bright, and Milner Gibson, having all lost their seats in Parliament.

Council
Minutes.

March 30.—Lord Panmure, Secretary at War, having presented to the Magistrates two pieces of iron ordnance taken from the Russians in the late war, to be exhibited as military trophies, the thanks of the Council were returned to his Lordship, and a committee was appointed to make arrangements for having the guns conveyed from Woolwich and placed in proper sites.

April 30.—A proposal being made to widen the School Wynd, the cost of which was estimated to be £930, the Council agreed to give a subscription of £100, the payment to extend over a period of three years, providing the rest of the necessary funds were raised by the promoters of the improvement.

May 25.—George Edward, drummer, tendered his resignation, after a service of thirty-five years. He had been a most faithful servant of the burgh for that long period, rising before five o'clock in the morning, and rousing the inhabitants to their daily labours. Although not a strong man, he had enjoyed uninterrupted health, no doubt owing to his very regular life, and breathing the fresh air of the early morning. His father, as we have stated before, was appointed drummer in the year 1769, so that the father and son together had been in office for eighty-eight years. The Council, in respect of his faithful services, resolved to pay him his salary for life.

November 6.—Mr. James Grant's third term of office having expired, he was again elected Provost of the burgh; Robert Jeans, Alexander Thompson, Alexander Urquhart, and George Morrison, Bailies.

December.—In this year occurred the terrible Indian mutiny, the general revolt of the Indian army, the fearful murders of British subjects at Cawnpore, and the heroic conduct of General Havelock and other commanders, the siege and capture of Delhi, and final expulsion of the representative of the old Mogul Emperors. There was much anxiety in Elgin as well as other places, there being many members of families connected with our district of country settled in that part of India where the mutiny occurred.

January 20.—The marriage of the Princess-Royal to the Crown Prince of Prussia being to take place, it was resolved by the Council to take steps for celebrating the happy event, and a committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements. The marriage took place on the 25th January.

1858.

Council
Minutes.

January 22.—Lord Palmerston's Government having been defeated, on a vote about French affairs, the Ministry resigned, and the Earl of Derby was called on to form a new Administration.

Molesworth's
History, vol.
III., page 121.

January 23.—The Council unanimously resolved, enacted, and declared that, from and after that date, and in all time thenceforth, the ancient style and title of "The City of Elgin," should be strictly observed; and that in all public and private acts done in name of and for behoof of the community, or under the signature of the Provost, Bailies, or Councillors as such, or passing under the Civic Seal, Elgin shall be styled "The City of Elgin."

Council
Minutes.

February 22.—It was agreed to subscribe the sum of £5 5s. to the City Instrumental Band.

March 29.—Mr. Alexander Russell was appointed Commissioner to the ensuing Convention of Royal Burghs, and Mr. William Leslie, S.S.C., Assessor.

April 26.—It was resolved to send a petition to Parliament in favour of the appointment of a Secretary of State for Scotland.

May 31.—In consequence of the opening of the Inverness and Aberdeen Junction Railway, it was agreed to apply to the Elgin Guildry Fund Society, the proprietors of the ground, to continue South Guildry Street for a public communication with the Railway Station.

June 28.—Steps were ordered to be taken to urge upon the community, the Railway Company, and all parties concerned, the necessity of having telegraphic wires between Inverness and Keith.

August 25.—It was resolved by the Council to have a public holiday in Elgin on Monday, the 30th current, in consequence of railway communication being now opened from Inverness to London; and also on account of the Morayshire Railway being completed to Rothes.

September 10.—The extensive premises of Mr. Sellar,

1858.
Council
Minutes.

ironmonger, were entirely consumed by fire on the morning of the 7th current. In consequence, he made application to the Council for liberty to erect a booth for selling his goods in the High Street, at the east end of the Parish Church, which was granted.

December 27.—The Council agreed to subscribe the sum of £10 for forming telegraphic wires between Keith and Inverness.

1859.

January 12.—The Council, having taken into consideration that the 25th current is the centenary of our national poet, Robert Burns, recommended to the merchants, traders, and others, to keep their shops, and respective places of business, shut after twelve o'clock noon, and instructed the Clerk to insert an advertisement in both the Elgin newspapers to that effect.

January 25.—The centenary of Robert Burns, the great poet of Scotland, was held this day in all parts of the world where Scotsmen are to be found, with the greatest enthusiasm. In England, America, India, and China, parties met in the most social manner to drink to the memory of the deceased poet, and his verses were recited in the most rapturous manner. Perhaps there never was such a demonstration in the world's history to any individual. More particularly was this tribute paid in his native land of Scotland, where meetings and dinner parties were held in every city, town, and village—nay, almost in every parish. In Elgin there was a public dinner—Sheriff Cameron in the chair—and separate meetings of the Trades and others. A picture was drawn of the High Street of Elgin that day, with processions and bands of music, which will hand down to posterity the appearance of the town on that memorable occasion.

May 17.—Mr. Isaac Forsyth, the oldest citizen of the burgh, died this day, aged ninety. He had been in business as a bookseller as early as the year 1789, and had been long a landmark in the North of Scotland, not only diffusing a wholesome literature all around him, but also distinguished in promoting every good work and improvement. He was remarkable for his benevolence and hospitality, and, whenever a good object was to be carried out, he was sure to be at the

head of it. He died after a short illness, full of years and honours, and universally regretted.

1859.

May 21.—It was unanimously agreed, at a Council meeting held this day, that the Provost, Magistrates, and Councillors should walk in procession at Mr. Isaac Forsyth's funeral, which was to take place on the 25th current, and that the knells should be rung from the bell on the occasion; and, on the suggestion of several citizens, it was recommended to the merchants and traders to shut their respective places of business during the time of the funeral procession. A committee was appointed to carry out the necessary arrangements, and the Council was directed to assemble in their room half-an-hour before the funeral.

Council
Minutes.

Same day, Mr. Cosmo Innes, having applied for the use of any charters pertaining to the burgh of Elgin to assist him in publishing an account of the family of Innes, it was agreed to give him the use of these documents for the space of one month.

In consequence of an adverse vote of the House of Commons on the 21st March, upon the subject of the Electoral Franchise, whereby the Ministry were left in a minority of 39, Parliament was dissolved on the 23d April. Mr. M. E. Grant Duff was elected Member for the Elgin District of Burghs.

Molesworth's
History, vol.
III., pages 137
to 142.

May 31.—Parliament re-assembled again, but the Earl of Derby had not gained strength by the new election.

June 10.—The Ministry were defeated on a motion for an amendment upon the Address, after a long debate of three nights, and Lord Derby immediately resigned office. The Queen sent for Earl Granville to form a new Administration, but he having failed to do so, Lord Palmerston was again called to the head of affairs, with Mr. Gladstone for Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Sir George Cornewall Lewis, Lord John Russell, and the Duke of Newcastle, for Secretaries of State.

June 21.—Mr. Donald Morrison gave in his letter of resignation as classical teacher in the Elgin Academy, and a committee was appointed to consider and report as to the steps necessary to be taken for procuring a successor.

Council
Minutes.

July 4.—The Clerk was authorised to advertise for

1859. applications to fill up the vacancy in the classical department of the Elgin Academy.

Council
Minutes.

August 8.—By arrangement of the Town Council, this was held as a public holiday in the town.

1860. July 6.—The case between the Presbytery of Elgin and the Magistrates was before the First Division of the Court of Session, when the Lord President M'Neill, and Lords Curriehill, Ivory, and Deas, delivered their opinions at length. Their Lordships appointed cases to be given in by both parties, on the question whether the right of superintendence over schools vested by law in Presbyteries, extends to burgh schools, or public schools within burgh.

Jurist, 1860.

November 9.—Mr. James Grant's fourth term of office having expired, he was again unanimously elected Provost of the burgh.

1861. January 18.—A final decision was this day given in the Academy case by the Lords of the First Division of the Court of Session, to the following effect:—"The Lords, "having considered the mutual cases for both parties: Find "and declare, in terms of the conclusions of the libel, and "decern: Find the pursuers entitled to expenses, in so far "as not already found due." Lord Deas delivered the opinion of the Court.

Jurist, 1860-61.
Grant's History
of Burgh
Schools, page 92.

Council
Minutes.

January 28.—The Council agreed by a majority to authorise Provost Grant to enter an appeal in the Academy case to the House of Lords, and to send a particular state of the case to the other burghs in Scotland, with the view of securing their co-operation in an application to the Lord Advocate, to introduce a bill during the ensuing session of Parliament for abolishing tests in public schools other than parochial schools.

February 11.—It was resolved to borrow £500 from the Union Bank of Scotland to meet the present exigencies of the city, consequent upon the adverse decision in the Academy case.

February 18.—Dr. John Paul, physician in Elgin, having lately gone to London to consult about his health, and having died there, his body was brought to Elgin for interment, and it was unanimously resolved by the Council to attend his funeral in procession, and a committee was

appointed to make the necessary arrangements. The members were directed to assemble in the Council Room a quarter of an-hour before the funeral, on Saturday next, the 23d current. It was further recommended that the shops and places of business should be closed, and the knells tolled during the time of the funeral, and the Clerk was instructed to advertise this notice in both the Elgin newspapers.

Same day, Provost Grant reported that he had visited a number of the burghs of Scotland with the view of getting them to co-operate with this city in petitioning the Lord Advocate to introduce a bill into Parliament, during the present session, for the abolition of the Test Acts; and also to aid in appealing the Academy case to the House of Lords, and that his success had exceeded his most sanguine expectations—the greater number of the burghs having signified their willingness to subscribe, should an appeal be found necessary.

February 18.—It was resolved to petition Parliament against the bill for the Inverness and Perth Railway, as it would tend to divert the traffic which naturally belongs to Lossiemouth.

March 25.—Dr. Geddes having moved a resolution in Council, that the case for vindicating the rights of the inhabitants of Elgin to the Lossie Banks be proceeded with, it was moved by Bailie Urquhart that the town's responsibility should be confined to a subscription of £100; and Dr. Geddes' motion being carried by a majority of nine to six, Provost Grant for himself, and as a member of Council, protested against the resolution, and held himself relieved of all responsibility in the matter, to which protest three Bailies and two Councillors adhered.

April 2.—Mr. Patrick Duff, Town-Clerk, died. He had officiated for the long period of forty-six years—for the first six years jointly with his father, and for forty years by himself. His grandfather was appointed Town-Clerk in the year 1746, so that this public appointment had been held by the family for 115 years. In addition to this office, Mr. Duff was also Commissary Clerk, County Clerk, and Clerk to the Lieutenancy, Lossiemouth Harbour, Gray's Hospital, and other public appointments. He was a person of

1861. considerable literary acquirements, an antiquary, geologist, and naturalist, and had, besides, devoted considerable attention to agriculture. In the year 1842, he published a work on the geology of Moray; and he had a taste for the improvement and embellishment of the country. Had his health, which was feeble, permitted him to concentrate his mind on any subject, he had the ability to attain to eminence in it.

Council
Minutes.

April 22.—The Town Council this day entered in their minute book the following notice of Mr. Duff's death:—

“The Council desire to record their high sense of the
“valuable services performed to them and the public by the
“late Mr. Duff during the long period of years he officiated
“as their Clerk and Assessor, of his unremitting attention
“to the proper discharge of his duties, and of the great
“desire manifested by him on all occasions to act honourably
“and agreeably to all, a course of public duty which secured
“the esteem and respect not only of the Council and those
“with whom he held intercourse on their account, but also
“of all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. The
“Council farther direct their Clerk to transmit a certified
“copy of this minute to Mr. Duff's surviving relatives.”

Same day, Mr. Fife Duff Robertson, writer, who had been assistant to the late Mr. Patrick Duff, was appointed Town-Clerk, *ad vitam aut culpam*, in his room.

May 27.—The Council unanimously appointed Provost Grant, along with any other member or members who may choose to accompany him, to attend as a deputation at the laying the foundation stone of the Wallace Monument on the Abbey Craig, near Stirling.

Grant's History
of Burgh and
Parish Schools,
vol. I., page 93.

August.—In consequence of the decision of the Court of Session, obtained by the Presbytery last January, by which it was found that the Elgin Burgh Schools were under the superintendence of the Presbytery, an Act of Parliament was passed, 24th and 25th Victoria, chapter 107, which entirely severed all burgh schools from the Church, by providing that no master of any burgh school shall be subject to the government or discipline of the Established Church, or to the trial, judgment, or censure, of the Presbytery for his sufficiency, qualifications, or deportment in his office.

November 8.—Dr. William Geddes, a prominent member of the Town Council for some time back, died very suddenly of this date. He was a person of very considerable literary attainments, both in medicine and archæology, and had also come forward of late years in the public business of the burgh.

1861.

December.—The close of this year was attended by an event which caused universal sorrow over the land. On the 8th of this month, the *Court Circular* stated that the Prince Consort had been confined by a feverish cold. On Wednesday the 11th, a bulletin was issued informing the public that his Royal Highness was suffering from fever, which was likely to continue for some time, but that the symptoms were not unfavourable. It was therefore a terrible surprise, when on Sunday morning the 15th December, just after midnight, the great bell of St. Paul's Cathedral, booming through the silence of the night, spread far and wide the sad tidings that the Royal Consort was dead, and Her Majesty left a widow. The grief of the nation was profound. The Prince was forty-one years of age, and, from his temperate and regular habits, promised long life. The funeral, although conducted with all ceremonial, was strictly private. The sorrow of the bereaved Queen was too deep to bear the trial of a public demonstration.

Molesworth's
History, vol.
III., pp. 187, 188.

December 30.—The Town Council of Elgin, at their meeting of this date, voted a dutiful and loyal address of condolence to the Queen, on Her Majesty's late great sorrow and bereavement.

February 3.—The right of way case, in so far as Blackfriars' Haugh was concerned, was abandoned by the Council, and decree of absolvitor consented to, on the terms stated in a signed agreement between the pursuers and the defender.

1862.

Council
Minutes.

March 31.—It was reported to the Council that the right of way case, in so far as the North College was concerned, had also been settled.

April 28.—It was intimated to the Council that Dr. William Geddes had left a legacy of £250 to purchase shoes for the poor, but the interest was not to be used for that purpose until the sum accumulated to £500.

September 17.—Mr. James Macdonald lodged a letter of

1862. resignation as teacher of the English School in the Elgin Academy, having been appointed Rector of the Ayr Academy. The Council requested the Academy Committee to endeavour to arrange with Mr. Macdonald to continue in office for six months longer.

1863. January 26.—The Prince of Wales being shortly to be married to the Princess Alexandra of Denmark, it was moved by Provost Grant, and unanimously agreed to, that it be recommended to the community to celebrate the day on which the ceremony is to take place, by holding a general holiday throughout the city, and a committee was appointed to meet with several of the influential inhabitants, so that all necessary measures may be adopted for having suitable demonstrations of rejoicing upon the occasion.

March 10.—This being the day of the marriage of the Prince of Wales was held as a holiday. There was a public dinner, a bonfire on Ladyhill, and a general illumination in the town and Bishopmill, with a display of fireworks. Everything was conducted with the greatest order and propriety, and the rejoicings were continued to a late hour. The Chairman at the dinner alluded with happiest effect to the ancient alliances between the kings of Scotland and the Princesses of Denmark, and how pleasant to the Scottish nation was the marriage of the Prince of Wales to a Princess of that family, as a renewal of the goodwill which had so long subsisted between the two kingdoms.

Council
Minutes.

March 19.—The Council agreed to petition Parliament in favour of the extension of the Morayshire Railway.

March 30.—The late Major-General John Alves, a native of Elgin, having by his deed of settlement left the sum of £500, three per cent. consols, under charge of the Magistrates and Town Council, the interest to be distributed yearly among five poor persons, the Council agreed to accept the administration of the fund.

October 13.—Mr. John Garden was appointed classical teacher in the Elgin Academy, and an agreement was entered into between him and the Town Council, to that effect, and by which he was to perform the duties of rector.

Same day, Provost Grant intimated his resolution to retire from office at the ensuing election in November. The

Council expressed their great regret at the prospect of losing his valuable services, which had been so conducive to the improvement of the town, during the fifteen years he had held office. Bailie Jeans also intimated his intention to retire from the Council.

1863.
Council
Minutes.

November 6.—Mr. James Grant having retired from office, after his long period of service, Mr. Alexander Russell was elected Provost in his place.

January 24.—The Princess of Wales having been safely delivered of a son, who was baptized by the name of Albert Victor, after his illustrious grandfather and grandmother, it was resolved by the Council that a congratulatory address should be forwarded to Her Majesty, and also to the Prince and Princess of Wales, on the happy event.

1864.

January 31.—This evening (Sunday) Elizabeth, last Duchess of Gordon, died at Huntly Lodge. She had reached her seventieth year. Her Grace was a native of Elgin (a daughter of Alexander Brodie of Arnhall, M.P. for the Elgin Burghs), having been born in Thunderton House, of which her father was then tenant, in the year 1794. Her mother was Elizabeth Wemyss, of that family in Fife. She was an only child and possessed of a large fortune. She married George Duke of Gordon, then Marquis of Huntly, in 1813. She was one of the excellent of the earth, distinguished for exalted piety, benevolence, and every Christian virtue. Her Grace was universally regretted by rich and poor, and added a new lustre to the ancient and noble house of Gordon, to which she was so closely allied. The funeral took place in the Elgin Cathedral, and it is remarked by the author of her memoirs that “the coffin was placed beside her husband’s, in the last space that remained untenanted by the deceased wearers of the Ducal Coronet.” She was interred in the midst of deep silence and universal regard.

Another old friend is gone,
Another familiar face ;
Another has laid her burden down,
And finished the weary race.

Moody Stewart's
Memoir, pages
390, 391, 396.

Peace, with her gentle hand,
Has quieted one more breast ;
There's another soul in the spirit land,
There's another spirit at rest.

1864.

February 29.—A letter was read from the Postmaster-General to the Provost of Edinburgh, intimating that it was his opinion that the public service would be best promoted by employing the direct Highland Railway to carry the northern mails.

March 28.—Provost Russell was appointed Ruling Elder for the ensuing General Assembly, and also Commissioner to the Convention of Royal Burghs. Mr. Henry Inglis was named Assessor.

1865.
Council
Minutes.

January 20.—It was resolved by the Council, in terms of the Act of Parliament, to take over the roads within the burgh, and place the same under their own control and management, and a meeting was this day held by a committee of the Council and a committee of the County Road Trustees, to settle the terms of the transfer.

February 16.—It was agreed to petition Parliament against the amalgamation of the Inverness and Aberdeen Junction Railway with the Inverness and Perth Railway, unless provision should be made in the Bill for traffic passing from these railways over the other lines in the neighbourhood upon equal terms.

February 27.—The Clerk was instructed to prepare a petition to Parliament, to be signed by the Provost, for having the Lossiemouth harbour made a harbour of refuge.

March 27.—The subject of opening a new street at the end of the Court-House having been brought before the Council, they agree to request the Commissioners of Supply to apply to the Lords of the Treasury to give off gratuitously the small strip of ground belonging to them, to be added to the street.

Same day, Mr. Mackay, land-surveyor, was appointed Inspector of Roads within the burgh, under the new arrangement.

July 6.—Parliament having now sat upwards of six years, was dissolved, and a new one summoned to meet in February next. Mr. Grant Duff was again elected Member for this District of Burghs without opposition.

Richard Cobden, the eminent advocate of Free Trade, died in the spring of this year. Eloquent tributes of respect to his memory were paid, both by Lord Palmerston and Mr.

Disraeli, and also by Mr. Bright, whose feelings on the occasion quite overpowered him.

August 27.—General Sir George Brown died at Linkwood. He had been for some time in a very declining state of health, and died very calmly.

August 28.—The Council voted an address of condolence to Lady Brown, and the other afflicted relatives, on their severe bereavement, and resolved to send a deputation to Linkwood to ascertain if it would be agreeable to the family that the Magistrates and Council should attend the funeral officially. The offer of the Council was respectfully declined by Sir George Brown's relatives, the funeral being a private one.

October.—Lord Palmerston, the veteran Prime Minister, was now in his eighty-first year, and, although suffering occasionally from illness, was still able to fulfil all the duties of his office, undergoing an amount of labour which at his age seemed almost miraculous. During the autumn of this year he had shown some symptoms of failing health, but they were not of a nature to cause serious uneasiness. On Thursday, 19th October, he was confined to his bed by what seemed a slight cold. On Monday, 23d, it was rumoured that his indisposition had taken a serious turn, but the report was contradicted. Next day a bulletin was issued that he was improving steadily; but in the afternoon of the same day it was reported that he had become worse. On Wednesday, the 25th, he was gradually sinking, and about eleven o'clock of that day he expired. The historian of the day well expresses the services of the departed statesman, that for nearly forty years he had "occupied a very prominent and important position in this country, and had presided over its destinies after having passed the fourscore years allotted by the Psalmist to man." Arrangements were made for his interment in the vault belonging to the family in Romsey Abbey Church, but they were set aside by the special desire of the Queen, in order that his remains might rest among the great and noble in Westminster Abbey.

Lord Palmerston, perhaps, more than any other statesman, devoted his whole long life to the service of his country;

1865.

Council
Minutes.Molesworth's
History, vol.
III., pp. 266, 267.

1865. and all parties were in the end so satisfied of his devotedness and sincerity of purpose, that he was latterly left to do as might seem best to himself in the direction of public affairs. Almost every public man in the country took some opportunity of eulogising the deceased Prime Minister. Lord Palmerston was succeeded in office by Earl Russell, and Mr. Gladstone became the leader in the House of Commons.

Council
Minutes.

October 12.—In consequence of the prevalence of the cattle plague in the neighbouring counties, the Magistrates resolved to suspend cattle markets in Elgin for six weeks, and ordered notices to be inserted in the newspapers to that effect.

1866.

January 8.—It was resolved to suspend the cattle markets farther, providing the Farmer Club would agree to pay the expenses incurred in consequence of the suspension.

Molesworth's
History, vol.
III., pages 285
to 287.

June 18.—Earl Russell's Ministry being defeated by a combination of parties against them, on the question of a new Reform Bill, they resolved to resign office, and did resign on the 26th of the month. The Earl of Derby formed a new Administration, with Mr. Disraeli as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

August 27.—There was laid on the Council table by the Clerk, a printed volume of the Records of the Convention of Royal Burghs, from the year 1295 to 1597, along with a letter from Mr. Marwick, Clerk to the Convention, forwarding the volume, for presentation to the Town Council. The Clerk was instructed to acknowledge receipt, and to express to Mr. Marwick their thanks for the book.

Council
Minutes.

September 24.—The Prince and Princess of Wales passed through Elgin this afternoon, on their way to visit the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland, at Dunrobin Castle. The thanks of the Magistrates and Council were conveyed to the officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates of the 2d and 3d Rifle Volunteer Companies of Elginshire, for the readiness with which they turned out to do honour to the Prince and Princess on this occasion.

Same day, Mr. Mitchell was appointed English teacher in the Elgin Academy, and Mr. Pattison mathematical teacher, and a committee was appointed to arrange with the teachers the terms of their appointments.

October 30.—It was arranged by the Council and Commissioners of Supply, that the old jail bell should be hung up between the old and new Court-Houses, at the joint expense of the burgh and county, and be used by both parties as they might severally require it.

October 30.—The Council consented to Mr. Anderson of Maryhill erecting an ornamental arch over the lane leading to Marywell, according to a plan prepared by Mr. Alexander Reid, architect. They also consented to the enclosing and planting of the site of the Hospital of Maisondieu, providing funds could be raised for the purpose.

November 9.—Mr. Alexander Russell was unanimously re-elected Provost of the burgh.

January 28.—An agreement was entered into with Mr. Brownlow North, whereby he was permitted to erect a bridge over the Lossie opposite his house and grounds of the Knoll, at Bishopmill, and to rest the same on the south bank of the river, upon the burgh of Elgin's property—he paying yearly a ground rent of two pounds ten shillings, at the term of Martinmas, commencing at Martinmas, 1867, and performance of the other conditions incumbent on him therein mentioned.

April 1.—The Little Cross, at the east end of the town, being in a ruinous and dilapidated state, and threatening to fall, arrangements were made for having it repaired.

June 24.—A plan of the Lands of Maisondieu was submitted to the Council, laid off in feuing lots, which having been considered, it was resolved to advertise the lots to be given off by public roup, on the 3d August next.

July 29.—Mr. John Nicol, Councillor, reported that the Little Cross was now substantially repaired—Mr. Chalmers, builder, having done the work gratuitously, so far as the mason work was concerned, and that he had defrayed the remaining expense himself. The thanks of the Council were voted to Messrs. Nicol and Chalmers.

February 24.—The Government having introduced a new Reform Bill, a motion was made in the Council praying that additional Members should be given to Scotland.

Same day, Mr. Robert Brander, banker, having presented seven iron chairs for the use of the community of Elgin—

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Council
Minutes.

two to be placed on Ladyhill, two on Lossie Green, one in the High Street, at the west end of the Fountain, and two at the east end of the Parish Church—a cordial vote of thanks of the Council was given to Mr. Brander for his handsome and generous gifts to the city.

March 13.—The Ordnance Plan of the burgh being now in progress of completion, it was resolved to have the March Stones, showing the boundaries, which, in several parts, were out of position, put to rights, in order to prevent mistakes.

April 27.—The Sacramental fast-days being found to take place at inconvenient seasons, interfering often with the meeting of the Commissioners of Supply in April, and with the burgh election in November, it was agreed to apply to the various Kirk-Sessions in the town to have a new arrangement made, and which was eventually carried out and made more suitable.

Molesworth's
History, vol.
III., page 343.

April 30.—Mr. Disraeli's Ministry was defeated on a resolution of Mr. Gladstone's by 65 votes, and, after a few days' interval, it was intimated that Parliament would be dissolved as soon as public business would admit of it.

Council
Minutes.

August 31.—It was resolved to confer the Freedom of the City on Mr. John Bright, and Mr. M. T. Bass, M.P., for their eminent public services, and the Clerk was instructed to communicate this resolution to these gentlemen.

September 28.—A letter was received from Mr. Bright expressing his thanks for the honour proposed to be conferred upon him, but stating his inability to avail himself of the kind invitation from the Town Council, owing to his brief stay in Scotland. A similar reply had previously been received from Mr. Bass.

November 11.—Parliament was dissolved, and a new one ordered to assemble on the 10th December. Mr. Grant Duff was re-elected Member for this District of Burghs.

Molesworth's
History,
pages 357, 358.

December 10.—The new Parliament met, before which time the Conservative Government, finding itself largely in the minority, resigned office, and Mr. Gladstone formed a new Administration, with Mr. Lowe for Chancellor of the Exchequer; Mr. Bruce, the Earl of Clarendon, and Earl Granville, Secretaries of State; Mr. Bright, President of the Board of Trade. After the usual formalities, the Houses rose, to meet on the 16th February next.

January.—It was recommended that the list of voters in the burgh should be printed in the form of a book.

1869.

Council
Minutes.

February 16.—Parliament met, when important business was proceeded with.

March 1.—Mr. Gladstone introduced his celebrated measure for the Disestablishment and partial Disendowment of the Irish Church, in a speech of three hours' duration.

Molesworth's
History, vol.
III., pp. 358, 359.

March 15.—The Council resolved to petition in favour of the Scotch Education Bill, now brought into Parliament.

Council
Minutes.

October 25.—The £500, three per cent. consols, left by General Alves for charitable purposes, were invested in the name of Messrs. Alexander Russell, Provost; John Taylor, Bailie; John Nicol, Dean of Guild; and Alexander Laing Ramsay, Treasurer, to hold the same in trust for the charity.

Same day, Provost Russell intimated his intention to retire from office at the ensuing election, having served six years. The thanks of the Council were unanimously voted to him for the diligence, attention, and time he had given for the benefit of the community for the last six years.

“In intimating his retirement, the Provost stated that a sum of fifty pounds had to-day been placed in his hands, by Mr. Robert Brander, banker, for the erection of a new “bridge over the Lossie at Marywell.” The meeting expressed their great satisfaction with this handsome and generous gift.

November 5.—Mr. Alexander Cameron of Mainhouse was unanimously elected Provost; Messrs. John Taylor, William Culbard, Robert Batchen, and John Nicol, Bailies.

January 31.—The Provost stated that, if the Council authorised him, he would undertake to have the clock of the Parish Church illuminated, and to obtain sufficient funds for the purpose, which proposal was unanimously and cordially agreed to, and a committee appointed to act along with the Provost, and see the work properly carried out.

1870.

March 28.—Provost Cameron was elected Commissioner to the ensuing Meeting of Convention of Royal Burghs, and Mr. Henry Inglis, W.S., Assessor.

Same day, it was complained in the Council that the present accommodation in the Post Office of the town was insufficient, and it was resolved to transmit a memorial to

1870.
Council
Minutes.

the Postmaster-General on the subject, with the view of having the grievance remedied.

April 25.—The Provost stated that the illumination of the clock of the Parish Church undertaken by him had now been completed, and he hoped would be found satisfactory. On the motion of Bailie Culbard, the unanimous thanks of the Council were returned to the Provost for the promptitude with which this important improvement had been carried out without any cost to the ratepayers.

September 9.—It was agreed, on the motion of the Provost, to offer the Freedom of the City to the Right Hon. Robert Lowe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and, in the event of his acceptance, that he should be invited to a *dejeuner*, to be given in the Assembly Rooms on the occasion of the presentation, and that a committee should be appointed to make the necessary arrangements.

September 16.—The Right Honourable Robert Lowe was admitted and received a burghess of the City and Royal Burgh of Elgin, in recognition of his distinguished services as a statesman.

Same day, at a large meeting in the Assembly Rooms, at which the Provost, Magistrates, and Council, and a numerous assembly of gentlemen, were present—among others, Mr. Bass, M.P., and Mr. Whiteside, Chief Justice of Ireland—Mr. Lowe was addressed by the Provost, and, in presence of the numerous company, presented with the Freedom of the City. He made a very eloquent and suitable reply, which was fully reported in all the leading newspapers of the day. Addresses were also given by Mr. Bass, Mr. Whiteside, and others, and the meeting passed over in the most pleasing and effective manner, so as to make it an important incident in the history of the burgh.

1871. February 27.—The Provost adverted to the approaching marriage of the Princess Louise to the Marquis of Lorne, and on his suggestion it was remitted to an open committee of the Provost, Magistrates, and Council, to take such steps as they may find necessary to ascertain the wishes of the citizens, and make all necessary arrangements.

Arrangements were considered as to taking up the census in April next.

July 20.—It was intimated to the Council, that Mr. Robertson, Town-Clerk, was unable, from increasing illness, to attend to the public business, or even to sign his name to official documents.

1871.
Council
Minutes.

July 26.—In consequence of Mr. Robertson's illness, the Council, with consent of Mr. Robertson, agreed to appoint Mr. David Forsyth, solicitor, joint Town-Clerk of the burgh, on the conditions stated in the minutes of this date. The arrangements were carried through on the part of Mr. Robertson, by Mr. James Anderson, solicitor in Inverness, his commissioner.

September 4.—Mr. Forsyth, the new joint Town-Clerk, reported that, in terms of the minute of the special meeting, held on 26th July last, he had applied to the Court of Session for authority to complete the registration of deeds and instruments which had been presented for registration in the Register of Sasines for the burgh, during the period of the inability of Mr. Robertson to attend to business, and that he had obtained the necessary authority, and completed the registration of the deeds, and he produced the extract decree of the Lord Ordinary on the Bills in his favour. The meeting instructed the Clerk to engross the extract decree, and the application on which the same proceeded, in the minute book of the Council.

December 19.—The Prince of Wales having been attacked with typhoid fever, supposed to have arisen from having been exposed to poisonous effluvia, proceeding from a badly trapped drain, when on a visit to Lord Londesborough, at his seat near Scarborough, was for some time in great danger of his life, and the anxiety of the country was excited to an extreme point, proving the loyalty of British subjects to the Throne. The sympathy and anxiety reached their culminating point on the 14th December, the anniversary of the death of the Prince Consort, and when it was found that it had passed over with a change for the better rather than for the worse, the nation breathed more freely, and hoped more sanguinely. On the 19th December, the Prince was so far restored to health that the Queen and other members of the Royal Family felt themselves at liberty to leave their attendance, and from that time his recovery, although slow, was steady.

Molesworth's
History, vol.
III., pp. 406, 407.

1871.
Council
Minutes.

December 26.—On the motion of the Provost, it was unanimously resolved that addresses be presented to Her Majesty, and Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, expressive of the sympathy felt for them, during the illness of the Prince of Wales, and gratification for his recovery. The Provost and Magistrates were appointed a committee to draw up and forward the addresses.

1872.

January 29.—Replies were submitted to the addresses which had, in accordance with the above resolution, been presented to the Queen and Princess of Wales, on the occasion of the illness of the Prince of Wales.

March 26.—It was arranged that Dr. Donaldson, rector of the High School of Edinburgh, should examine the Elgin Academy this year, and that the examination should take place in the latter end of the ensuing month of April.

April 29.—At the meeting of Council, the Provost intimated that the examination of the Academy had taken place on the 23d, 24th, and 25th current, but Dr. Donaldson's report had not yet been received.

May 23.—Mr. James Grant, late Provost of the burgh, died this day. He had been for more than a year in a very unsatisfactory state of health, and it was evident that his powerful frame was gradually breaking up. He had now reached his seventy-first year, having been born at Shenval, Strathavon, on 25th July, 1801. Having spent his early years among his native hills, he had, somewhat late in life, resolved to study law, and it was not until about the year 1821 that he had come to Elgin for that purpose. He was several years in the office of the late Mr. Alexander Brown, writer, and from thence he went to Edinburgh to complete his studies. He began business in Elgin as a solicitor in the year 1829, when twenty-eight years of age, and gradually took a prominent part in his profession. His energetic mind, however, could not be limited to the ordinary routine of business, and he also turned his attention to agriculture, distillation, and finally to railways and other kindred works of great magnitude. He was the sole projector of the Morayshire Railway, to which he devoted his whole energies and attention, sometimes contending with difficulties and opposition under which any ordinary person would have

1872.

succumbed. If this undertaking has not hitherto been remunerative to its shareholders, there is hope that, by the development of the resources of the country, it may in time become so. In the meantime it has been most useful to the town of Elgin and all the surrounding country, connecting the lower district with Rothess, Strathspey, Mortlach, and Glenlivet. Mr. Grant, as we have stated before, became Provost of the burgh in the year 1848, and continued in office until 1863, thus occupying the municipal chair for a period of fifteen years, a longer time than any one had done, in succession, for two centuries. Mr. Grant was very strong, both in mind and body. Until within a year or so of his death, he never had any bodily ailment, and his mind was equally powerful. No opposition would divert him from his purpose, and he was calm, collected, and determined amidst all difficulties. He was of a cheerful, social disposition, and a better chairman at a public meeting or social entertainment could rarely be found.

May 25.—A special meeting of Council was held, when the Provost intimated Mr. Grant's death, stated his long connection with municipal affairs, and the propriety of the Magistrates and Council attending his funeral on the 28th instant, and that the relatives should be requested to permit the Council to join in the funeral procession. It was farther resolved to recommend that the funeral should be a public one, and that the shops and places of business should be closed and the knells tolled during the time of the funeral. The Provost and Magistrates were authorised to make all necessary arrangements.

Council
Minutes.

May 28.—The funeral of Provost Grant took place at the New Cemetery, Elgin, this day.

June 3.—The report of Dr. Donaldson on the Academy was received, read, and ordered to be engrossed in the minute book. It was considered very satisfactory and searching, fair to teachers and pupils.

July 6.—It was resolved, at a special meeting of the Council, to petition the House of Lords in favour of the Scotch Education Bill.

August 24.—The Provost stated, at a special meeting of Council held this day, that, having understood Her Majesty

1872.
Council
Minutes.

was to pass through Elgin on her way to Dunrobin Castle next month, he had addressed a letter to Dr. Robertson, Her Majesty's Commissioner, stating that it would afford the greatest gratification to the inhabitants of Elgin if Her Majesty would condescend to stop for half an-hour in passing and view the ruins of the Cathedral; that he had heard from Dr. Robertson that morning, stating that Colonel Ponsonby wished to be informed whether it was the desire of the Magistrates to present an address to Her Majesty; and he now proposed that the Council should request the gracious permission of Her Majesty to present a loyal and dutiful address on the occasion of her passing through Elgin on the 6th September ensuing. The Provost, Bailie Culbard, and Mr. Forsyth, Town-Clerk, were appointed a deputation to proceed to Balmoral Castle to make arrangements with Colonel Ponsonby, Her Majesty's Private Secretary.

August 30.—The deputation, having returned from Balmoral Castle, reported that Her Majesty had graciously condescended to signify her willingness to receive an address from the Magistrates and Town Council when passing through Elgin; and an address being submitted by the Town-Clerk, the same was approved of, and ordered to be engrossed in usual form for presentation to Her Majesty.

September 2.—The Provost reported the arrangements which had been made for the forthcoming visit of Her Majesty the Queen; and it was resolved that the Council should meet in the Burgh Court-House on Friday first, the 6th current, at one o'clock afternoon.

September 6.—The Provost, Magistrates, and whole other office-bearers met in the Council Room as appointed, this afternoon, and being there joined by his Grace the Duke of Richmond and the Earl of March, proceeded to the Highland Railway Station to await Her Majesty's arrival, where there was a dense crowd of the respectable classes of the town and surrounding country assembled. All was in the greatest order, triumphal arches being erected, with banners and other emblems of loyalty. Her Majesty's special train arrived about two o'clock, with Earl Granville, Secretary of State, in attendance. On reaching the landing platform, Her Majesty's state carriage was opened, and the Queen appeared

at the door. She seemed in excellent spirits, and much pleased with the appearance of the large assemblage met to do her honour. The loyal address of the Elgin Town Council was duly presented by the Provost, and graciously received. Her Majesty entered into conversation with the Duke of Richmond, which permitted her being better seen; and every person present had an excellent view of the whole ceremonial. The day was remarkably warm and pleasant, and the whole affair passed over to the entire satisfaction of the large assembly, who were much gratified with seeing their gracious sovereign among them. An excellent photographic view was taken by Mr. Anderson, photographer, which will preserve to future generations the interesting scene, and the faces of many of the persons present. After remaining about a quarter of an-hour, the Royal train departed for the North amidst the plaudits of the numerous spectators. It is believed that no sovereign had passed through Elgin since the time of the unfortunate Queen Mary in the year 1562.

After the departure of Her Majesty, the Provost, Magistrates, and members of Council, with his Grace the Duke of Richmond, Lord March, Sir Archibald Dunbar of Northfield, Baronet, Convener of the County, Sir George Macpherson Grant of Ballindalloch, Mr. Bell, Sheriff of the County, and a large party of ladies and gentlemen, met in the Assembly Rooms, where refreshments were prepared. The Provost having taken the chair, Her Majesty's health and other loyal toasts were proposed; also, the health of the Duke of Richmond, with the thanks of the Council for his courtesy and countenance on this occasion, to which his Grace made a suitable reply, and, in his turn, proposed the health of the Provost, which terminated the interesting ceremonial of a day long to be remembered in the annals of the burgh.

September 8.—Mr. William Grigor, Joint-Chamberlain of the burgh, died. He had been in his usual health up to Wednesday, the 4th current, and was looking forward with much interest to being present at the visit of the Queen; but on the above day he was seized with sudden illness, which prostrated him at once, and although there was no serious alarm up to the morning of Sunday, the 8th,

1872.

there was considerable anxiety among his friends about him. On the last mentioned day he became suddenly worse, and his medical attendants during the forenoon gave up all hopes of his recovery. About eight o'clock in the evening he passed away very quietly to his rest. He had just entered his sixty-ninth year. Mr. Grigor had, for nearly twenty years previous to his death, been struggling with bad health, to which a less energetic spirit would have succumbed. By strict regimen and care, he had resisted the attacks of the insidious disease under which he had so long laboured, until he had nearly reached the Psalmist's allotted period.

Mr. Grigor was a native of Elgin. He received his education at the Elgin Academy, where he took a high place, and thereafter attended the University of King's College. He served an apprenticeship with the late Mr. Robert Bain, writer, and, after completing his time, was for several years in Edinburgh in various law offices, and in attendance on the law classes. He had at one time intended to go to the bar, and, if that resolution had been carried out, he might have risen to the highest honours of the profession; but, after due consideration, he determined to return to his native town, which he did in the spring of 1828, and then commenced business as a solicitor, and soon attained eminence in his profession—a position which he maintained for upwards of forty years. During the latter part of his life, in particular, there was no man better known in the North of Scotland. Besides a large private business, Mr. Grigor held many public situations, and it was wonderful what extent of labour he went through when accompanied with an exercise of hospitality which knew no bounds, for his house was open to all strangers, so that his name was a household word over the country. His death was greatly regretted, and his funeral, which took place in the Elgin Cathedral Churchyard on Friday, the 13th September, although no special invitations were issued, was attended by persons from all parts of the North of Scotland. His memory will be long held in remembrance by his numerous friends.

September 30.—At the Council meeting held this day,

the Provost read a letter addressed to him by Colonel Ponsonby, C.B., Her Majesty's Private Secretary, dated Dunrobin Castle, 8th September, stating that Her Majesty was much pleased with the arrangements for her reception at Elgin, and had expressed herself as being extremely gratified with the loyal and hearty manner in which Her Majesty had been received.

November 5.—The election of Councillors was conducted by ballot this year for the first time, and in a very orderly and regular manner, showing that the system worked well in practice. Provost Cameron, having been brought in at the head of the poll, was again re-elected Provost.

November 8.—At the election of office-bearers, the Provost referred to the loss which the town, and they, as a Council, had sustained through the death of Mr. William Grigor, who had held the office of Joint-Chamberlain for a period of upwards of twenty years.* He referred to several matters, in which Mr. Grigor had rendered important services to the town, during the period he was in office, and moved that the Council take this opportunity of placing on their minutes an expression of their very high appreciation of Mr. Grigor's many and valuable services to the town, and of the deep sense of the loss sustained by his death, and that an extract of this minute be sent to his relations, which was unanimously agreed to.

November 11.—The expense of the late ballot election was ordered to be levied by assessment.

November 25.—A letter was received from his Grace the Duke of Richmond, expressing his and Lord March's gratification at being permitted to join with the Magistrates and Town Council on the late occasion of the Queen's visit to Elgin.

December 31.—This year, 1872, was attended with many important events in the burgh, and the death of parties whose valuable services could ill be spared.

February 10.—The Council appointed Tuesday, the 18th March, for election of a School Board for the burgh, in terms of the new Education Act for Scotland.

1873.

* Mr. Grigor, at the time of his death, had been Joint-Chamberlain of the burgh nearly thirty-two years, having been elected in November, 1840.

1873.

March 18.—The School Board was elected amidst a scene of excitement, which had not been witnessed in the town for many years. No election of a Member of Parliament could have stirred up the feelings of the inhabitants to a greater degree. There was much religious feeling and sectarian views involved in the keenness of the contest.

Council
Minutes.

March 24.—Provost Cameron was elected Commissioner to the ensuing Convention of Royal Burghs, and Mr. Henry Inglis, W.S., Assessor.

The iron bridge over the Lossie at Bishopmill, which had been erected shortly after the great flood of 1829, having become decayed, and from its extreme narrowness quite unsuited for the more extended traffic of the present day, the Council, as representing the Road Trustees of the burgh, had resolved during the by-past year to erect a new bridge, to meet the demands of the time. There was very considerable opposition to this proposal on the part of the County Road Trustees, who objected to the great expense to be incurred; but by the energy of the Provost the opposition was eventually overcome, and a new and suitable bridge of metal, supported on each side upon stone abutments on the south and north ends, and having two substantial pillars in the centre sunk deep in the stream, was now completed, to the great satisfaction of the inhabitants of the burgh. This bridge is of most substantial construction, is thirty feet in width, and has a paved footpath on the west side for foot passengers. Connecting, as it does, both sides of the Parliamentary Burgh, it has the largest traffic of any bridge in the County, and its construction is entirely owing to the exertions of Provost Cameron, a fact which deserves to be recorded in the annals of the time. The bridge promises to stand for centuries.

October 13.—Baillie John Taylor intimated that he intended to retire from the Council at the ensuing election, whereupon the Provost moved that the Council desire to record their sincere regret at the loss of Baillie Taylor, who had sat for upwards of thirty years at the Council Board, whose indefatigable industry and unwearied exertions during that long period had been invariably exercised for the public good, and whose advice, whether as

a Councillor or a Magistrate, was not only always at the service of his brethren, but was as sound and judicious as it was readily and cordially given. The motion was seconded by Bailie Culbard, and carried by acclamation.

1873.
Council
Minutes.

January.—The Parliament elected in 1868 was now getting into an advanced stage. Mr. Gladstone's Ministry had a large majority, and effected many changes, the most prominent of which were the Ballot Act and the Disestablishment of the Irish Church. It had been a popular Administration for some years, but popularity is universally found to be very fading; and the Ministry, in their various attempts for improvements, had made many opponents. Mr. Gladstone at this time issued a manifesto of farther changes he intended to make, more particularly on the subject of taxation, and somewhat suddenly, and perhaps rashly, on the faith of this statement of his views, resolved to dissolve Parliament and try the effect of a new election. His resolution took the country by surprise.

1874.

January 19.—It was resolved by the Council to have a banquet in the Assembly Rooms on Friday next, the 23d current, on the occasion of the marriage of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh to Her Imperial Highness the Grand Duchess Marie of Russia.

January 23.—A banquet took place on the occasion of the above Royal marriage, with suitable and loyal toasts as befitted the occasion.

January 26.—Parliament was dissolved, and a new one appointed to assemble on the 5th March.

Mr. Grant Duff was again elected Member for this District of Burghs without any opposition.

It was resolved by the Council to give the Freedom of the City to Mr. Grant Duff, on his re-election as Member of Parliament.

February 3.—A meeting was held in the Assembly Rooms of the respectable classes of the town. The burgess ticket in favour of Mr. Grant Duff was read by the Town-Clerk, after which the Provost addressed the meeting and Mr. Grant Duff. Mr. Grant Duff made a suitable reply, returned thanks for the honour conferred upon him, and for the confidence so long reposed in him, in returning him as Member of Parliament for so many years.

1874.

The general election, which took place by ballot, turned out very unfavourable to the Liberal interest, which was matter of surprise to many, as it was expected the passing of that measure would have promoted the cause of the party of progress. There were causes at work, however, which had an opposite tendency. The Church of England was much irritated with the Disestablishment of the Irish Church, and the powerful body of licensed victuallers in England were of opinion that the Liberals had unduly interfered with their interests in introducing measures for closing their houses of entertainment at earlier hours than formerly, and thus diminishing their profits. In Scotland there was no great change, but even there the advantage was in favour of Conservative interests. The only important exception was that Viscount Macduff wrested the counties of Elgin and Nairn from the Seafield family, which had been enjoyed by the latter for the greater part of a century. On the whole, the Conservatives had a large majority at the close of the election, and Mr. Gladstone resigned office without meeting a new Parliament. Mr. Disraeli formed a new Administration, the most powerful one the Conservatives had obtained since Sir Robert Peel's Government of the year 1841.

1875.

Council
Minutes.

April 26.—It was resolved by the Council to purchase an official robe for the Provost.

September 27.—Provost Cameron intimated his intention to retire from office at the ensuing election, and, although a unanimous desire was expressed by the Council that he should continue in office, he declared that his resolution was final.

November 5.—Mr. Cameron resigned office, having held the civic chair since November, 1869, a period of six years. Mr. William Culbard was unanimously elected Provost in his room.

1876.

The Elgin Water Company having sold their stock to the Police Commissioners of the burgh, active steps were adopted by the Provost and others to have the water supply of the town increased, and new pipes laid.

March.—The triennial election of the Burgh School Board took place with considerable excitement. Some changes occurred, but a majority of the former members were re-elected.

1876.

Council
Minutes.

August 28.—The Provost informed the Council that, having received an invitation, as representing the Corporation, to attend at the inauguration of the statue of the late Prince Consort in Edinburgh, by Her Majesty, he had accepted the invitation, and was present on the interesting occasion.

September 25.—The Council resolved to expose the Shambles buildings in Elgin to public sale, in terms of the statute, at the upset price of £2500, it being understood that the Police Commissioners were to be the purchasers, and to take the future management.

October.—The Shambles, having been exposed to public sale, was purchased by the Police Commissioners at the price stated in the minute of 25th September.

November.—Five vacancies occurred in the Council this year, and there were nine competitors to fill up the places. The contest was very keen, and upwards of 600 electors recorded their votes. Three of the former Councillors were returned, and two new ones. The Magistrates this year are—Messrs. William Culbard, Provost; John Nicol, James Black, William King, and George Whyte, M.D., Bailies.

December 31.—This year has been one of considerable progress in the burgh. A branch office of the Bank of Scotland has been erected, and one for the Royal Bank is in progress, both very handsome buildings, besides several private houses—all which will much ornament the town. Part of the causeway, from Commerce Street to Batchen Street, is also being taken up, and replaced with granite blocks, which will prove a great public benefit, making the roadways smooth and comfortable both for carriages and foot passengers. The change in the High Street within the last fifty years is very wonderful. Through the energy and exertions of Provost Culbard, the water supply of the town is being increased, and the pipes and water courses remodelled, which will prove a comfort to rich and poor, and tend to improve the health of the inhabitants. The water is of the purest quality.

This season has been a very variable one. The spring was cold and late, and crops were long of being sown. The summer proved hot, and, while the grain crop at first made

1876.

considerable progress, the grass faded, and the hay was very light and scanty. By the continuance of drought, the grain crops were also affected, but it was hoped the quality would make up for the loss of quantity. In this, also, the farmer was doomed to disappointment, for during the progress of harvest the rain set in and poured on without stopping for several weeks, so that much of the crop sprouted and became rotten, and even what was in the stackyard heated and spoiled. Perhaps the lowlands of Moray have suffered less than later districts, but even here the loss is great. The turnip crop, however, was benefited by the later rains of the autumn, and will be good and remunerative. The agricultural prospects of the season are, however, rather gloomy, and, if it had not been for the free import of corn, it would have proved a hard season for the poor. There have also been rumours of wars, and the uncertainty of the Eastern question with the prospect of the British nation being involved in the struggle, has caused a great depression in trade, and created an unwillingness in capitalists to embark in foreign business. If prospects have somewhat brightened, the louring cloud has not yet passed away; but it is fervently hoped, under the protection of Providence, the country may soon regain its former prosperity, and that the next year, and many following ones, may be the best we have yet seen.

CHAPTER IV.

ANCIENT AND MODERN BUILDINGS IN THE BURGHS.

PREVIOUS to the year 1815, the burgh retained much of its ancient appearance, and was confined within the limits it had occupied for several centuries. After this date new buildings began to be erected, and much progress has since been made, so that if a stranger returned after the absence of half a-century, he would hardly know the home of his fathers. We would therefore propose to make a rapid sketch of the old houses and buildings, most of which have been obliterated within half a-century, and then take a note of the modern edifices which have risen in their room.

The oldest building in connection with the town, of any historical note, is the Castle, erected on the eminence called the Ladyhill. Some persons have been of opinion that this hill is artificial, but it is evidently not so, but a continuation of the ridge called the Marywell Brae. At an early period it had been levelled for erection of the defences placed upon it, and it seems certain that it was fortified at a very early date, and a place of importance in the time of the Celtic Maormars of Moray. It is probable that these early works were composed of earth and wood, somewhat in the style of those at Burghead, for we have no evidence of stone and lime forts in the North of Scotland before the twelfth century, and the dry stone towers so common in the more northern counties never had existence in Moray. The fort of which we have the ruins still remaining, appears not to be older than the reign of King David I., or William the Lyon, and bears considerable resemblance to the Castle of Duffus, in form and architecture. It was the practice of the Scotch kings for a century and a-half previous to the wars of independence, to have Royal Forts at all the principal towns, and that there were such at Elgin, Forres, Nairn, and Inverness, there

can be no doubt. The fort on Ladyhill had been built in the usual style of the times, rough ashlar stones externally, and cased inside with rubbish, grouted with hot lime. The mortar, having been carefully prepared, becomes as hard as rock. The plain on the top of the hill is 85 yards in length, and 45 in breadth. The exact form of the buildings it is impossible now to define, but the probability is that they consisted of a strong outer wall of great thickness, with a keep or tower internally, and a variety of wooden buildings attached to the wall, for the accommodation of the troops. Although the building at its best was not large, it seems to have afforded accommodation to the kings of Scotland, and their more immediate retinue, in their frequent visits to Elgin. William the Lyon, Alexander II., and Alexander III., were no doubt accommodated in this building. The entrance to the Castle would seem to have been from the south-west, where the ascent is more easy than from any other quarter. On the north the Castle was defended by the marshy ground of Burghbrigs, perhaps a lake in early times, and the south and east sides were both very precipitous—the lanes and closes now standing on the south side being all of recent construction. Within the walls there was either a draw-well or a deep tank for catching rain water, the site of which is still apparent, and also a chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary, from whence is derived the name of Ladyhill. When Edward I. invaded Scotland in 1296, he was accommodated in the Castle, and it is stated to have been then in perfect repair. An English Governor was placed in it (Henry de Rye), who also had the charge of the Castle of Forres. In the second and more protracted English invasion in 1303, the Castle was found to be somewhat dilapidated, and King Edward, during his short residence in Elgin, did not occupy it.

Registrum
Moraviense,
pages 343, 344.

In the charter granted by King Robert Bruce to Thomas Randolph, his nephew, he gives to him, along with the Earldom of Moray, the Manor of Elgin, with all other manors, burghs, towns, thanages, and other lands within the Earldom, which extended from the mouth of the Spey to the borders of Argyle on the Atlantic Ocean, but under the condition that the burghs and burgesses of Elgin, Forres,

and Inverness should have and exercise the same liberties as in the time of Alexander King of Scotland. From and after this date, and for about a century and a-half subsequent thereto, the Earls of Moray were feudal lords over the burgh of Elgin, and the Castle ceased to be a Royal Fort. After the conclusion of the great English wars the Castle, like other Royal Forts in Scotland, was neglected, and probably became ruinous, but there is evidence of its being more or less used by the Earls of Moray as superiors of the town, to the close of the fourteenth century. After the great Douglas Rebellion in the middle of the fifteenth century, in which Archibald Earl of Moray prominently joined, and for which he suffered forfeiture, the Earls of Moray ceased to be feudal lords over the burgh, and the Castle, being entirely neglected, fell rapidly into a state of decay. The chapel, however, no doubt, continued to be used for religious purposes up to the period of the Reformation. When King James IV. granted the Earldom of Moray to his illegitimate son, James, in the year 1501, the Castle Hill with its ruins was restored to the Earl, but he having no male issue, it reverted to the Crown in 1544, and was again granted, by Queen Mary, to James Stewart, illegitimate son of King James V., afterwards the celebrated Regent, in 1561. From that time the Castle Hill has belonged in property to the Earls of Moray. During part of the seventeenth century the Castle Hill was held in wadset by Robert Martin of Morayston, and it was at this period that closes and buildings began to be erected on the south side of the hill, which so disfigured its proportions. When it descended without any break to the street, it must have formed a grand object.

In Slezer's View of Elgin, published in 1693, but probably painted twenty years earlier, the Castle still makes a considerable appearance, and the ruins are extensive, particularly on the north-west side, where it is probable the chapel stood. Since that time the building has gradually lessened in size, and, being exposed to the attacks of youth of the town, who seem to take a pleasure in throwing pieces of the ruins down the hill, it has now assumed very small proportions, and, except for the strength of the cement, which is as hard as the natural rock, would have long since entirely disappeared.

The hill continues a pleasant resort to the inhabitants of the town and to strangers. From the top there is an extensive view of the surrounding country, and the air is pure and bracing. The spot also is hallowed by pleasant memories and traditions of the olden time.

About forty years ago an elegant column was erected on the hill, to the memory of George, last Duke of Gordon. Although of handsome design, it does not appear suitable to the place of erection, and does not add to the beauty of the ground, nor fit in with the associations connected with the ancient Castle.

The hill is composed entirely of soft sand, and it may seem strange that our ancestors should have chosen such a spot for the erection of a strong Castle, which a body of men with spades and barrows, without the intervention of weapons of war, could so easily sap and undermine.

We have mentioned before that Robert Martin of Morayston acquired from the Earl of Moray, about the middle of the seventeenth century, a wadset right to the Ladyhill, and on the south side of it, fronting the street, he erected a mansion-house for his own private residence, a warm sunny spot, well sheltered from the northern blasts. The ground was of considerable extent, running from Lady Lane to Murdoch's Wynd, and, with gardens and grounds, must have been a very pleasant residence. Mr. Martin was a native of Elgin, but early settled in Edinburgh as a writer, and took a deep interest in the political struggles of the day, being an ardent supporter of the Presbyterian cause. He was the friend of Johnston of Warriston, the Marquis of Argyle, Lord Brodie, and other eminent men of the day, and by them was promoted to the office of principal Clerk of Justiciary. Up to the year 1660 he was very prosperous, but with the restoration of the Royal Family he became a suspected person. After this date he was frequently in the North looking after his extensive landed property, and he was much in the confidence of the leading men of his party, both in England and Scotland. Being supposed to be connected with the Rebellion in 1679, and other designs against the Government, whether justly or unjustly, and expecting to share the fate of Russell, Sidney, Baillie, and

Argyle, he fled to Holland, where he died in May, 1685. His estates were forfeited for alleged treason the same month, but his widow, Jean Porterfield, a member of a respectable family in the West of Scotland, had the influence to procure a Royal grant of the estate of Morayston in 1686. By the eighteenth Act of the first Parliament of William and Mary, the forfeiture was rescinded, and Mr. Martin's family were restored to their estates. By the year 1750 they had fallen into complete decay, and the remainder of the property then existing was judicially sold. In the latter part of last century the burgh subjects here referred to came into the possession of Francis Russell of Westfield, advocate, who sold them in lots to various parties, as the titles show, and on which a variety of shabby houses and dirty lanes was erected. There are still some foundations of Mr. Martin's house remaining, or were so lately, and the subjects, like other parts of the burgh, have now considerably improved in appearance.

Fountainhall's
Diary, page 131.

Wodrow's His-
tory, vol. IV.,
pages 276, 277.

Acts of
Parliament of
Scotland, vol.
III., page 300.

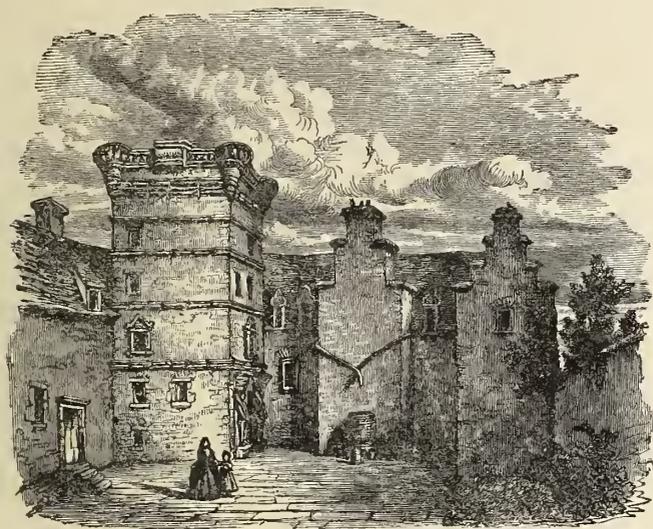
Across this part of the street stood the West Port of the burgh, forming the western entrance to the town; and immediately adjoining the street, but detached therefrom, there was a venerable mansion-house, lately removed, known as West Park. It was situated within a park of considerable size, and had a fine old garden adjoining, in which grew all manner of fruits, among which were apricots of the best quality. This old mansion was erected by Robert Innes, merchant in Elgin, brother of John Innes of Dunkinty and Leuchars, who carried on a large business, principally in the export of corn, malt, &c., and import of wines. In this house was born, on 13th October, 1747, his son, John Innes of Leuchars, the father of our late learned Sheriff, Mr. Cosmo Innes. Mr. John Innes succeeded his uncle, and became proprietor of his estates, which he sold to the Earl of Fife in the end of last century. Mr. Robert Innes married Mary Gordon, daughter of William Gordon of Farsken, and his son John married Euphemia Russell, daughter of Mr. Russell, Commissioner to the Earl of Moray, better known by the name of "Chamberlain Russell." After the death of Robert Innes, the house of West Park was purchased by Mr. Francis Russell of Westfield, advocate, a brother of Mrs. John Innes.

Account of
Family of Innes,
page 255.

Mr. Russell made an addition to the old house of some handsome public rooms, and lived here in considerable style. In the course of his improvements, he found he was impeded by the old West Port of the city, and, without consulting the Magistrates, he caused it to be pulled down during the night of the 14th October, 1783, which created a violent dispute with the public authorities, who threatened a civil and criminal prosecution. Matters were, however, eventually got hushed up, and the ancient Port was never restored. Mr. Russell having left West Park, it was sold to Sir James Grant, and the older part of the house was occupied by the late Mr. Thomas Sellar, writer in Elgin, who had his writing offices in a more modern erection fronting the street. This part was thereafter tenanted by various friends of the Grant family; while the modern buildings erected by Mr. Russell were long possessed by Major-General William Stewart. Finally, the whole park, with old and modern buildings, was left by the late Francis William Earl of Seafield to his youngest son, the Honourable Lewis Alexander Grant, to whom they still belong.

On the south side of the High Street, on the present site of the Caledonian Bank, stood a fine old building, one of the best specimens of the old architecture in the burgh. It was built on piazzas, according to the ancient style, supposed to be borrowed from the Continent, and which was very prevalent in Elgin in the olden time. This house was either erected by George Cuming of Lochtervandich, Provost of Elgin, who died in 1689, or by William Cuming of Auchry and Pittulie, his eldest son, and is supposed to have been as old as the year 1670. A drawing of it is preserved in Rhind's Sketches of Moray, published in 1839. From the family of Cuming the house descended to William King of Newmill, Provost of Elgin, who married Margaret, daughter of George Cuming; and it was occupied as a residence by the King family until the close of last century, when it was sold to Robert Grant of Elchies, who added a handsome dining-room and drawing-room, and used it as a town residence for his family. About the year 1812 it was acquired by the Misses Shand, who established a ladies' boarding school in it, carried on for many years with great

success; and when they retired it was purchased by the Caledonian Bank, who, about the year 1845, erected a branch office with agent's house upon the ground of the old mansion. While it is desirable to see modern improvements carried on, the removal of this fine specimen of old burghal architecture created a blank in the burgh which can never be replaced.



THUNDERTON HOUSE—ABOUT 1660.

A little to the eastward of Auchry's House are the remains of Thunderton House. A handsome mansion it was in its time, its original appearance being only remembered by a few of the older inhabitants of the burgh. The ground on which it stood consisted of seven roods of burgh land, and it extended in breadth from the High Street at the north, to the back passage at the south. This house with its grounds was probably originally a Royal residence, and in the titles is known by the name of the "Great Lodging." It may have been the manor referred to in the charter granted by King Robert Bruce to his nephew, Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray (although this may be doubtful); and it likely was the residence of the Earls of Moray when they came to administer justice in the town, up to the

forfeiture of Archibald Douglas in 1455. The mansion thereafter passed to the Dunbars of Westfield. When Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield, or his son, Sir James, were created hereditary Sheriffs, they occupied this house as their town residence, and it continued in that family until the year 1603, at which period the direct male line of Westfield failed by the death of Sir Alexander Dunbar without issue, when it fell to his three sisters, Dorothea, Janet, and Marjory, which is proved by the service of Janet Dunbar in the year 1603, "as ane of the thrie lawfull aires of umqle James Dunbar of Westfield, her father, to the third of the house and yeard in Elgin, called the Sheriff's House."

Shortly after this date we find the house again in the possession of the Earl of Moray, no doubt by purchase from the heirs portioners of the Westfield family, and James Earl of Moray either sold or conveyed gratuitously the mansion to Alexander Lord Duffus in the year 1650, who had married his daughter, Lady Margaret Stewart. Lord Duffus largely added to it, and built the tower. He died in 1674. The part of the building which still stands seems to have been the oldest, and may have been erected by the Westfield family or the Earl of Moray—the western part and the tower by Lord Duffus. It was a fine mansion, and a great ornament to the town. At the entry door of the court, a statue stood on each side, denoting savages, the supporters of the Duffus arms. These are now lying at the Priory of Pluscarden. The railing of the bartizan on the tower was composed of large letters, denoting the word "Sutherland"—the family surname. The house had a fine bowling-green, with gardens and coach-houses. The rooms were large and elegant, and the cornices and ceilings much ornamented. James, the second Lord Duffus, lived here in great style, and the house was handsomely furnished. An inventory of his furniture is still preserved. He was an extravagant and unfortunate man, strongly attached to Jacobite principles. He exercised considerable influence over the affairs of the burgh of Elgin, and was Provost for five years preceding his death, which happened on the 24th September, 1705. He died in a state of bankruptcy, and the most of his lands were immediately sold. His furniture was sold by public

roup. His eldest son, Kenneth Lord Duffus, and his youngest son, William Sutherland of Roscommon, who was for some years Provost of Elgin, both joined in the Rebellion of 1715, and in that unfortunate cause lost the wreck of their property. The mansion-house in Elgin was adjudged in the beginning of last century from Kenneth Lord Duffus, by William Gordon of Farsken, who conveyed the decree of adjudication to Archibald Dunbar of Newton, who was infeft therein in 1743. In 1746 it was occupied by Mrs. Anderson of Arradoul (usually called Lady Arradoul), cousin and sister-in-law of Mr. Dunbar of Newton, a noted Jacobite, who, in the early spring of that year, entertained Prince Charles Stuart for some time in this mansion, on the occasion of his visit to Elgin a few weeks previous to the Battle of Culloden. From Mr. Dunbar of Newton, the house and grounds passed successively to his son and grandson, Sir Alexander and Sir Archibald Dunbar. At the close of last century, the old mansion was tenanted by Mr. Alexander Brodie of Arnhall, Member of Parliament for the Elgin District of Burghs, and here, in 1794, his only child, Elizabeth, afterwards Duchess of Gordon, was born. Mr. Brodie lived in great style, exercised much hospitality, and had a large establishment of servants, horses, and hounds. But the venerable fabric was doomed to destruction. In 1800, Sir Archibald Dunbar sold the house and grounds to John Batchen, auctioneer in Elgin, who immediately thereafter feued the eastern part of the grounds, and formed a narrow street, now called Batchen Street. He gave off the south frontage to the late Mr. Robert Haldane, of Airthrey, who erected a church upon it, which, after passing through a most eventful history, was in the year 1859 converted into a furniture wareroom, and shortly thereafter totally consumed with fire. The portion next the High Street was sold to various parties, who erected dwelling-houses and shops along the whole front. The lower part of the mansion was for some time used as a preaching station, and on the bartizan there was a windmill. Mr. Batchen quaintly remarked to Sir Archibald Dunbar that he had converted his great house into "a kirk and a mill." The building was afterwards successively used as a

printing office, and part of it as a law office. In 1822, the fine tower, the most picturesque part of the fabric, was removed, and a narrow lane formed through it, called Batchen Lane, on the west side of which a small Congregational Church was erected.

During the last fifty years there has been little farther change. The remaining portion of the building, still venerable in its decay, a shred of former greatness, is occupied as private dwellings, and kept in tolerable repair. The destruction of this fine old manor house is a subject of regret to every lover of the City of Elgin.



CALDER HOUSE—ERECTED 1669, REMOVED 1821.

Where North Street opens from High Street, stood the mansion-house of the family of Calder of Muirton, who, in the seventeenth century, held a prominent position in the burgh. The house was a fine specimen of old architecture, having a broad frontage to the High Street, with a tower. The first of this family who settled in Elgin was James Calder, a younger son of Robert Calder of Assuanlie, in Aberdeenshire, a cadet of Calder of that Ilk. He was a merchant in Elgin about the end of the sixteenth or commencement of the seventeenth century. His son, Thomas, was a Bailie of the

burgh in 1647, and Provost in 1665 and 1669. He was proprietor of the lands of Sheriffmill. He was succeeded by his son, James, who purchased the estate of Muirton in Kinloss, and was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia, 5th November, 1686. Either he or his father built the Elgin mansion. He was largely engaged in commercial pursuits, and was a partner of William Duff of Muirton, Provost of Inverness, William Duff of Dipple, and William King of Newmill—all very careful men of business. Sir James, however, did not, like his partners, make a fortune. He may have been of extravagant habits; at all events, he died in embarrassed circumstances, and left his estate much encumbered. He married Grizel Innes, daughter of Sir Robert Innes of Innes, Baronet, by whom he had several children. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Thomas Calder, born in 1662, who married Christian, daughter of Sir John Scott of Ancrum, by whom he had a son, James. He made considerable exertions to redeem his father's estate, but found it impossible, and was obliged to part with Muirton and Sheriffmill. The former estate the family seem to have retained some hold of until the year 1723. Eventually, he or his son James settled in England, and a grandson, Robert, attained high rank as an Admiral, and was made a Baronet for his distinguished services. From the Calder family, the Elgin mansion passed to the Sutherlands of Myreside and Greenhall, a branch of the house of Duffus, and from them to Dr. Alexander Dougal, a well-known physician in Elgin, who died here in the end of the last century. About the year 1820, the house and spacious garden behind were acquired by some enterprising gentlemen connected with the town, who removed the whole mansion, now very much decayed, and formed the street called North Street, on the east side of which the Assembly Rooms were built by the Trinity Lodge of Masons; and gradually many commodious houses were erected, which a few years later were succeeded by the Episcopal Chapel, completing the street on the north-west side. This street is one of the greatest improvements ever made in Elgin, and forms a very convenient entry to the town from the north.

*Social Life in
Former Days,
1st series, p. 145.*

*Baird's Memoirs
of the Duffs,
page 61.*

Immediately to the eastward of the mansion of the Calders, was a large house long called "Drummuir House." It was three storeys in height, of dressed ashlar stone, and had originally stood upon piazzas. This handsome house was probably erected about the close of the seventeenth, or beginning of the eighteenth centuries. It was acquired by William King of Newmill, Provost of Elgin, from a family of the name of Dunbar, and Mr. King was likely the builder of the mansion-house. He died in 1715, and his family, by disposition, dated 27th December, 1723, conveyed the property to Sir Archibald Campbell of Clunes, a member of the Cawdor family. Sir Archibald, on the 22d January, 1736, disposed it to his daughter, Isabella Campbell, wife of Robert Duff of Drummuir, and it was included in the deed of entail of the estate of Drummuir. The house continued to be the town residence of the Duffs of Drummuir until the year 1803, when it was sold by John Duff of Drummuir, under authority of the Act of Parliament for redemption of the land tax, to the six Incorporated Trades of Elgin, who filled up the piazzas, converted the lower part of the building into shops, and the second storey was made into a public hall for Trades' meetings, and all other public assemblies, and frequently used as a theatre. The third flat was occupied as warerooms for stowage of goods. About the year 1848 the house was sold to the North of Scotland Banking Company, who, some years later, removed the old buildings, and have erected a handsome office for their business, and an elegant dwelling for their agent.

Adjoining the above to the eastward, there stood, until very lately, the house of John Ritchie, late merchant in Elgin. The titles extend as far back as the year 1619, which may have been the date of erection of the quaint old house. In 1651 it belonged to Robert Donaldson, a Bailie of Elgin, perhaps a relation of the Donaldsons of Kinnairdie. His initials, and those of his wife, Helen Culbock, were placed over the windows, and those of his son, John Donaldson, and Catharine Urquhart, his wife, upon the mantelpiece of the house. It continued in their family up to the year 1717, when it was sold by James Donaldson to Kenneth Mackenzie, surgeon-apothecary in Elgin, a

well-known public man in his day, and a member of the Town Council. He, on the 1st May, 1721, sold it to John Dunbar, merchant in Elgin, by whom, and his son, William Dunbar, it was disposed to John Duff, merchant in Elgin, and Janet Gordon, his spouse, by disposition, dated 24th January, 1753, and from them it passed, towards the close of the last century, to Mr. John Ritchie. The property continued with the descendants of the Ritchie family until about three or four years ago, when the last member of it (a female heir) left it to the Magistrates of Elgin to endow a fund for poor persons, called the Ritchie Fund. The Magistrates sold the front house and close to Messrs. Hugh and Alexander Mackenzie, architects and engineers, and the garden behind to the North of Scotland Bank. The Messrs. Mackenzie have removed the ancient building, and have in its place erected a very handsome house in somewhat the same style of architecture, and have, with much taste, preserved the old mantelpiece of the Donaldsons in one of the apartments. An excellent picture of the venerable building now removed has been made by Mr. Anderson, photographer, thus preserving its appearance to future generations.

In the centre of the street, where the Water Fountain now is, was the old Jail of the burgh, with Court-House and Council Room. Although a most incommodious building, according to modern ideas, it had a very picturesque appearance, with its stone steeple, and high crow-stepped gables. It was erected in the year 1717, in room of a previous one, burnt in 1701 by Robert Gibson of Linkwood, a lunatic confined in it. The cost of this building, as we have stated before, was £4000 Scots, and 40 bolls of victual. The accommodation in the building was not much. It consisted of the Sheriff's Court-House, and, immediately opposite to it, entering from the same passage, was the room for imprisonment of debtors, above which was a room for criminals, and adjoining to it a horrible chamber called the pit, where delinquents of the worst description were placed for security. There was no fire-place in it. Light came through an open slit in the wall, in which there was no glass, and the poor criminal in a winter night was exposed

in this stone chamber to the cold biting winds ; it was truly *squalor carceris*. On the west end of the building was the Council Room, which, for the space of 125 years, was used as a place of meeting by the Magistrates, and where they held their quiet debates and elections, the old Council electing the new, without disturbance from the outward world, and not exposed to newspaper reporters, like their less fortunate successors of the present day. On the north side, fronting the High Street, was a dungeon called the Black Hole, somewhat underground, where disturbers of the peace on market days, and petty delinquents, were confined for twelve or twenty-four hours, according to circumstances, often without light or food, in a very summary manner, much at the pleasure of the famous police officer of the day, and frequently without any warrant. It was a very filthy place, without a ray of light, and no air except what came through the key-hole, and much infested with rats. The poor prisoners had therefore a miserable time of it, and were thankful to promise good conduct for the time to come, to be relieved from their wretched prison-house. Within the Jail there was a winding turret stair on the south side, which led to a bartizan on the roof, the only airing place for the prisoners. The debtors seem to have been the only parties who enjoyed the privilege of walking here ; the criminals had no such relaxation. In a summer evening the poor debtors—and in these days they were very numerous—were seen moving about, and breathing the cool evening air, after the confinement in their miserable apartment during the day, where they had their meals, and slept all together, a state of affairs now happily for ever passed away. In the steeple there was a clock and bell—the latter founded by the famous Albert Gelly, in the year 1713. The clock had only one hand to indicate both hours and minutes. The metal weather-cock was placed on the top of the steeple in the year 1778.

There were several small shops under the prison, particularly one at the west end, long occupied by a cooper, who hammered and fired casks in the front of his shop, and made such disturbance by the heavy blows of his tools from dawn to dusk, as would not now be permitted for one hour

by the more tender inhabitants of the present day. On the east end of the Jail and attached to it was a building of wood, but slated, called the Meal House, in which the Council sold meal to the inhabitants, it being then the duty of the Magistrates to furnish meal to the indwellers of the burgh at a very reasonable price, in particular, during seasons of scarcity, which, in these days of free trade, and more abundant supplies, is not required. The Jail, Court-House, and other accommodation being found quite inadequate for modern requirements, were removed in the year 1843, and the old bell is now placed in the new Court-House, but its sounds are not so often heard as in former days. In conjunction with the bell of the Parish Church, it roused the inhabitants to the labours of the day at six o'clock in the morning, and it rang its curfew tolls at eight, in the evening. A very good, although somewhat rough print of the Court-House and Jail is still preserved, published about fifty years ago, and a finer one is contained in Mr. Rhind's Sketches of Moray, in 1839.

Opposite the Parish Church on the north side, in former times were "the Vicar's Manse Ground, and Garden," which had been possessed by the Vicar who officiated in St. Giles' Church in Roman Catholic times. There is a tradition that a manse did once stand here, and was consumed with fire, but this has never been proved, and the fact has been violently disputed on several occasions. The ground extended from the High Street of the burgh at the south, to the stank of Burghbrigs at the north. I find the following notices on the subject:—

"19th November, 1650.—The said day, Mr. John Douglas, Provost, delivered to the Council, to be put into the cadget, the principal charter of the gift of the patronage, with the ratification of Parliament, their representation, &c., and the Lords of the Commission of Parliament, their representation, with certain old acts for provision of the Kirk of Elgin, and the advocates' resolution of some questions proponed thereanent."

"Last day of February, 1659.—The said day, ane warrant direct from General Monck, for threttie pund

“sterling, for buying of ane gleib and manse, furth of the
 “vacant stipend, crop 1658, dated the 15th of January,
 “1659, which is given to the Clerk.”

“4th April, 1659.—Sicklike it is ordained that John
 “Chalmer (the Town-Clerk) prosecute the business of the
 “threttie pundis for the gleib and manse, against Pluscarden
 “for Levinghaugh, Laird of Pittendrich for Dively Green,
 “James Hepburn for Little Inverlochty, and the tenants of
 “Langmorn, before the Commissary with all diligence.”

The sum of £30 seems never to have been recovered, and consequently no manse was erected.

In the year 1702, the Court added largely to the ministers' stipends, on the ground that there was no manse.

In the process, 1765-69, Messrs. Shaw and Rintoul against the heritors, a proof was led as to there having been a manse, when John Rhind, a witness for the ministers, deponed that there were forty manses in the Town and College, or tofts and tails, which had belonged to the canons and chaplains under the Catholic establishment, although no houses now stood thereon; and Mr. James Robertson of the College deponed, that, although he owned six of these manses, he could point to one only in which he dwelt himself.

The Court of Session found in the year 1769, under this process, that neither of the ministers of Elgin was entitled to a manse.

Whether, therefore, a manse ever existed on this ground has never been discovered; but in the year 1781, “the Vicar's Manse Ground, and Garden” belonged to Messrs. Hay and Peterkin, ministers of Elgin, and, with consent of the Presbytery and Magistrates, were by them excambed with Dr. Thomas Stephen, physician in Elgin, for croft land of equal value, by contract of excambion, dated 2d, 4th, and 8th January, 1781. Dr. Thomas Stephen died in the year 1818, and was succeeded by his son, Dr. James Stephen, who, in the year 1823, disposed the western and largest portion of “the Manse Ground, and Garden” to John Forsythe, ironmonger in Elgin, and the eastern or smaller portion, along with some other ground, to Peter Nicholson, merchant in Elgin. Mr. Forsythe built a handsome house and shop on the western part, which he sold to the late Dr. John

Paul, physician in Elgin, in 1841; and it now belongs to Dr. John Liston Paul, his son. The eastern part was built upon by Mr. Nicholson, and he shortly after sold the ground and building to the British Linen Company, on which are now their branch banking office and the agent's dwelling-house.

Next, and immediately adjoining the Manse Ground, and Garden, are the burgh subjects formerly belonging to the late worthy citizen, Mr. Isaac Forsyth, and after his death sold by his trustees to Dr. Mackay. The most prominent portion of these subjects is the eastern part, in which there is the old tower, of which a representation is given by Mr. Billings in his *Antiquities of Scotland*, volume II., and Rhind's *Sketches of Moray*, page 54. The ancient titles have unfortunately been lost, but they no doubt extended very far back. By one of our best local antiquaries, these subjects are conjectured to have belonged to the Abbey of Arbroath, and are described in the *Black Book of Arbroath* as follows:—“Unam particatam seu rudam terræ jacentem in dicto “Burgo (Elgin) ex parte boreali ejusdem in *opposito crucis* “fori;” and in the year 1524, “John Anderson, Procurator, “is appointed to appear before the Bailies of the burgh of “Elgin, to demand the annual returns of the lands belonging “to the Abbey.” There is also a tradition that these premises belonged to the Knights of Rhodes, or Malta, but this is not supported by any facts whatever. The eastern part of the building, of which the tower is the only portion now existing, bears the initials A. L., and its own date, 1634, which no doubt is the true period of erection. There is also a stone on a prominent part containing a coat of arms, but extremely indistinct, having been spoilt with paint and whitewash. These are said to be the Leslie arms. All these facts tend to prove that this house was erected by Andrew Leslie, of the Glen of Rothies, then a merchant and trader in the town, and one of the Magistrates of the burgh at this period. Andrew Leslie was the son of William Leslie, merchant in Elgin, who was of the family of Leslie of Bucharn, a branch of the Barons of Balquhain, in Aberdeenshire. His father, William Leslie, purchased the Glen of Rothies, to be held in feu from the Earls of Rothies. Andrew

Registrum
Nigrum de
Aberbrothoc,
page 437.

Rhind's
Sketches, page
55.

Mr. Cosmo
Innes' *Antiqui-
ties of Moray*,
page 30.

Colonel Leslie's
Records of the
Family of
Leslie, vol. III.,
pages 321, 322.

Leslie, who was at one period very prosperous, appears in his latter days not to have been so fortunate. He had a daughter married to Robert Cumming of Logie, who, through her, acquired the Glen of Rothies, and it continued until a few years ago in possession of the Logie family, when it was sold to, and is now the property of, Captain and Mrs. Dunbar Dunbar of Seapark. Andrew Leslie died about, or shortly after, the year 1660; and the house some time thereafter passed into the hands of David Stewart, Provost of Elgin, and descended to his son, James Stewart of Castlehill, a merchant in Elgin, and Magistrate of the burgh. Mr. Stewart was a man of considerable importance in Elgin, and was representative for it in the Scotch Parliament of 1699. He or his family seem to have fallen low in the world; and, in the early part of last century, these subjects and Mr. Stewart's lands in the parish of Birnie were adjudged by William King of Newmill, and the Elgin property was sold at a judicial sale in Edinburgh, in 1743, and purchased by William Forbes, City Clerk of Edinburgh, for Alexander Brodie, merchant in Elgin. He sold it on 23d February, 1744, to Alexander Forsyth, merchant in Elgin, the father of the late Mr. Isaac Forsyth, who, the same year, erected the large house and shop on the western part of it, bearing the initials A. F., M. R., 1744. Mr. Forsyth died in 1779,* and left the property to his son, John Forsyth, merchant in Elgin, who carried on a considerable business as a merchant, and as agent for the Bank of Scotland in the town. He died about the year 1808, and left the subjects to his only child, Ann Forsyth, afterwards wife of Mr. Adam Longmore, of the Exchequer, Edinburgh, who, in 1811, sold the premises to her uncle, the late Mr. Isaac Forsyth. Mr. Isaac Forsyth died on 17th May, 1859, and in 1865 this property was sold by Mr. Forsyth's trustees to Dr. Mackay, physician in Elgin, by whom the eastern division of it is now in course of renovation, the old tower being, with excellent taste, preserved as a part of the building, which is made in conformity with it. In these

* Alexander Forsyth was the friend of the celebrated Nonconformist divine, Dr. Isaac Watts, and his son Isaac was named after that eminent man. His first wife was Margaret Ross, a name which agrees with the initials on the house. By his second wife, Ann Harrold, he had the late Mr. Isaac Forsyth and his brother Joseph, the distinguished author of the work on Italy.

premises the late Mr. Isaac Forsyth for many years carried on a large bookselling business, and instituted a circulating library as early as the year 1789, which was the first of the kind in the North of Scotland, and contributed to the diffusion of useful knowledge over a wide range of country.

Lower down the High Street, and in the immediate proximity of Mr. Isaac Forsyth's property, stood a venerable mansion, formerly on a piazza, of which there is also a plate in Billings' *Antiquities*, volume II. The window tops were highly ornamented, and bore the date 1680, and the initials I. M. The titles unfortunately do not extend so far back as the date of the building, and its original owner is now unknown. The titles bear that in 1706 it belonged to James Cramond, merchant, who was a Magistrate of the burgh; in 1718, to Alexander Mill, merchant; in 1761, to Captain Peter Innes of the Royal Artillery; in 1768, to George Charles, merchant, in whose descendants' names it remained until 1826, when it was sold to Alexander Hay of Edintore, and by his trustees, some years ago, to Mr. John Anderson, merchant in Elgin, who has removed the old building, and erected an excellent house and shop on the site.

A little east of the above, on the same side of the High Street, there is a large house covered with gray slates. It may be a century and a-half old. It has an extensive frontage to the street. Upwards of a century ago it was the property of Thomas Stephen, merchant in Elgin, Provost of the burgh in the year 1770, and well known in the politics of that and several succeeding years. He was a member of an old Elgin family, and carried on a considerable trade in the burgh. He was also the first agent of the Aberdeen Bank. He married Elizabeth Forsyth, daughter of Alexander Forsyth, merchant in Elgin, and by her had a son and daughter. His daughter, Elizabeth Stephen, married James Miln of Milnfield, and carried this property and other burgh subjects to him. Mr. and Mrs. Miln died nearly fifty years ago, and were succeeded by their only son, Mr. Thomas Miln, of the Island of Java, who, about twenty years ago, sold this property to Mr. Davidson, of Rio Janeiro, who made great improvements on it, and by his settlement

left it to the daughters of his relative, Mr. James Falconer. The titles extend as far back as the year 1652, but the front house may be a century later in date. It is a good specimen of an old Elgin house, few of which now remain in existence.

On the south side of the High Street, and directly opposite the Church of St. Giles, was erected, in the year 1776, the largest house ever built in the burgh. It had the Grant arms, and the initials of the owner and his wife placed in the front of it. The builder was designed in the titles as James Grant of Logie. It entered from the street by a handsome gateway, which conducted into a paved court, within which was a large garden. There were two excellent shops fronting the High Street, and the large building within the court was converted into two dwelling-houses, entering on each side of the gateway. It must have been a costly erection, and in a style to which the burgh was not then accustomed. It is stated that it was not a profitable speculation, and some fifteen or twenty years after it was built it was sold to Mr. James Miln, a native of Elgin, who had made a considerable fortune in London, and retired to spend the remainder of his days in the place of his birth. Mr. Miln, as we have stated before, married Elizabeth, daughter of Provost Thomas Stephen, by whom he had a son, the late Mr. Thomas Miln, and two daughters. Mr. Miln succeeded his father-in-law, Provost Stephen, as agent of the Aberdeen Bank, and lived to a good old age, having died in the year 1828. He was a person of retired habits, modest, and quiet in his manners. He was possessed of considerable literary taste, a good scholar, and much given to study; fond of books, pictures, and prints—of the latter he had a large collection. He was particularly skilled in the use of his pen; and he executed some sketches with the crow-quill equal to the finest engravings, particularly heads of Roman Emperors, some of which are still preserved.* Mr. Miln was succeeded by his son, the late Mr. Thomas Miln, who spent much of his early life in India and the Island of Java. For the last thirty years of his life he lived in Elgin,

* Mrs. Miln was of a very different temperament from her husband. Frank, and open in her manners, she entered much into the society of the town, and was very kind to the poor, and particularly to young people, some of whom in their old age still remember her kindness.

and during the latter part of it in this property. He died on 7th May, 1870, and left the large house to his cousins, the Misses Stephen, who, after making considerable improvements, sold it in the year 1875 to the City of Glasgow Bank. Since the sale, the Bank has entirely renovated the building, by covering the whole front with the finest dressed ashlar stones, and large ornamental windows, making extensive alterations in the interior, with a large back wing, thus adapting it for a banking office, and an elegant residence for their agent. It forms an immense improvement to the High Street of the burgh.

The house and premises on the south side of the High Street, belonging to Mr. Williamson, hat manufacturer, bear the name of St. Duthac's Manse, thus indicating that it was once a religious house, dedicated to St. Duthac, Bishop of Ross, the patron saint of Tain. He was a person of the highest sanctity, and is said to have been of a noble family. He held the Bishopric of Ross about the middle of the thirteenth century, in the reign of King Alexander II., and is said to have died in 1249. He was enrolled among the saints, and his festival day was held on the 8th March. Sir Robert Gordon states that St. Duthac (or Duffus, as he calls him), was "a verie godlie man, patron of Sanct Duffus "his Chappell, besyd the toun of Tayn; unto the which "chapple a great confluence of people, yea some of our "kings, did resort in pilgrimage in former ages." The Chapel of St. Duthac in Tain is a very ancient building, as the style of masonry shows. The walls are still pretty entire. It was reckoned one of the most sacred sanctuaries in Scotland, but the fierce chieftains round it frequently violated it. In the year 1306, the wife of King Robert Bruce and his daughter Marjory fled for refuge to this sanctuary, but it was violated by the Earl of Ross, who delivered them up to the English; and it was frequently visited by King James IV., on his many pilgrimages in the end of the fifteenth and beginning of the sixteenth centuries. The ruins of the chapel are with laudable care anxiously preserved by the inhabitants of Tain, who have enclosed the building and formed a neat cemetery about it. It may be that the manse in Elgin was either a resting-place

Keith's Bishops,
Russell's
Edition, page
186.

Sir Robert
Gordon's Gene-
alogy of Earls of
Sutherland,
page 32

Hailes' Annals,
vol. II., page 10.

for pilgrims on their way to the saint's shrine, or the residence of a chaplain for some religious purpose connected with it. On the back of the present front house is the date 1707, but it may be doubted if it be quite so old, and the stone may belong either to an older building, or to the house farther up the court, which is occupied as an inn, and seems older than the front building. The old titles are unfortunately lost.* In the year 1782, it belonged to the Earl of Findlater, who, on the 7th of June of that year, sold it, through Provost George Brown, to George Simpson, vintner in Elgin, from whose heirs it was adjudged by John Sime, of the Island of Antigua, on 7th July, 1795. His son, Mr. William Sime, tenant at Drummond, made up a title as heir to his father in the year 1808, which was confirmed to him by the heirs of George Simpson by disposition, dated the 15th and 17th November, 1808, on which he was infefted, and he conveyed the subjects to the late Mr. William Gill, on 2d July, 1812, and by Mr. Gill's trustees they were disposed to Mr. Williamson in 1867. It is unfortunate that the early history of the tenement and its occupants should be entirely lost, but it is a fate which has happened to other interesting subjects in the burgh as well as this.

A little below the last mentioned tenement, and also upon the south side of the street, where the house of Mr. John Cooper is now built, tenanted by Mr. Asher, draper, and Messrs. Milne & Walker, ironmongers, stood the old Episcopal Chapel. It is believed part of the old walls are incorporated with the back of the new building. Few of the inhabitants of the town will remember the chapel. Although very plain in its architecture, it had a venerable appearance, and a good deal of an ecclesiastical look about it. Of its early history little is known. It belonged to the party who acknowledged the House of Hanover, and took the oaths to the Government of the day. The Nonjurors had, after the Rebellion of 1745, been almost entirely put down, being disaffected to the State. The Rev. Francis Chalmers was minister of the congregation in 1765, and the

Abbreviatio Retornatarum, Caput Elgin and Forres. * I find that Robert Innes, son of John Innes, burgess of Elgin, was served heir to his father in the rood of land and Manse of St. Duchat, a chaplainry founded within the Parish Church of Elgin, 9th January, 1629.

Rev. William Allardyce in 1780. After the death of Prince Charles Stuart, the Scotch Episcopalians, having no farther expectations from the family of Stuart, resolved to recognise the reigning House of Hanover as their lawful sovereigns; and, on the 24th April, 1788, the Bishops, having met at Aberdeen "to take into their serious consideration the state "of the Church under their inspection, did, upon mature "deliberation with their clergy, unanimously agree to comply "with, and submit to, the present Government of this king- "dom, as vested in the person of His Majesty King George "the Third. They also resolve to testify this compliance by "uniformly praying for him by name in their public worship, "in hopes of removing all suspicion of disaffection, and of "obtaining relief from those penal laws under which this "Church has so long suffered." The Rev. Hugh Buchan had been settled in 1785 as the minister of a Nonjuring Episcopal congregation, and occupied a small chapel on the south side of the town, with a congregation few in numbers. On his party taking the oaths to Government, and the subsequent removal of the penal laws, which occurred within a few years thereafter, there was little farther difference in the sentiments of the two Episcopalian parties in Elgin, and, on the death or removal of Mr. Allardyce, in the early part of the present century, Mr. Buchan became pastor of the united congregation, and removed with his people to this chapel, where they continued to worship, until they entered the new chapel in North Street in 1825, after which time the old building was sold, and converted into a dwelling house and shops. It has since passed through various changes, but for a considerable time back Mr. Cooper has been its proprietor, and it is now entirely tenanted as shops and warerooms, being well suited, from its central position and proximity to the market place, for that purpose.

The Cross, called the Muckle Cross, occupied the centre of the street immediately to the eastward of the Parish Church, and its site is still marked by cross flat stones. It is stated that a wooden cross was placed here as early as the middle of the fourteenth century. According to the best authority, the stone erection called the Muckle Cross was not of earlier date than the reign of King Charles I., and it

Skinner's
Ecclesiastical
History, vol. II.,
page 688.

consisted of a pile of dressed ashlar stone of a hexagonal form, about twelve feet in height ; and around the base was a stone seat, raised about two feet from the ground. A stone stair within the building rose to the top, on which was placed a perpendicular stone pillar, surmounted by the figure of a lion rampant, having an iron Cross on its crown, and characters C. R. The interior of the upper part of the Cross was often used by the boys of the town to hold the collected materials for a bonfire on the king's birthday, and was guarded by a strong oaken door, and secured with a lock. The 4th of June, the birthday of King George III., was most religiously kept within the burgh, for the long period of sixty years, the loyalty of these days being much more fervent than of our degenerate times. The Cross was removed about eighty-five years ago as an encumbrance to the High Street, and the lion rampant which surmounted it was carried to the College ground, and placed on the wall near the Panns Port.

About fifty-five years ago, there was a fine specimen of an old Elgin house standing at the east side of Lossie Wynd, and fronting the High Street. It had a bartizan on the top of it, was very lofty, and called "Donaldson's House." It is described in the titles as "Burrow-biggied land and yards "lying on the north side of the burgh of Elgin, betwixt the "lands sometime belonging to the deceased Thomas Calder* "and John Ogilvie at the east, the wynd called the Lossie "Wynd at the west, the King's High Street at the south, "and the lands pertaining to James Young, sometime glover "in Elgin, at the north." The subjects extended from the High Street at the south, to the back part of the burgh, and had a fine garden at the north, which still exists in excellent condition. The titles extend far back, and show that the subjects belonged to John Annand of Morristown, burghess of Elgin, and were disposed by him to William Hardie, burghess of Elgin, conform to charter and sasine, dated 21st November, 1591 ; disposed by William Hardie to Alexander Innes of Coxtou, by charter and sasine, dated 10th November, 1598. The sasine is under the hand of Thomas Hay, notary public,

* Thomas Calder was proprietor of Sheriffmill, and was Provost of Elgin in 1666. The Calder family lived in the subjects, a little to the eastward of Lossie Wynd, until they erected their large mansion at the point where North Street now enters from High Street.

Town-Clerk of Elgin. Disposed by Sir Alexander Innes of Coxton, with consent of George Innes, minister at Premnay, to James Donaldson, merchant in Elgin, and Jean Mackean, his wife, 28th April and 20th May, 1669. Sasine follows under the hand of James Chalmer, Town-Clerk of Elgin, 28th May, 1669. The large house was erected by James Donaldson, then a leading merchant in the town, and a carved stone till preserved bears the initials J. D. and J. M., and the date 1669. James Donaldson was born at Elgin, and baptised 14th February, 1637, and died 13th November, 1698. His wife, Jean Mackean, was also born at Elgin, baptised 27th November, 1640, and died 20th August, 1702. Their son, Thomas Donaldson, purchased the estate of Kinnairdie, in the parish of Marnoch, and married Elizabeth Duff, daughter of William Duff of Dipple, and sister of William Earl of Fife. He was served heir to his father in the Elgin subjects, conform to special service expedite before the Magistrates of Elgin, 18th January, 1699, on which sasine followed, under the hand of James Anderson, notary public, Town-Clerk of Elgin, 9th December, 1702, recorded in Burgh Register of Sasines 6th January, 1703.* The subjects were sold by Thomas Donaldson of Kinnairdie, to John Saunders, merchant in Elgin, 20th February, 1717. John Saunders, linen manufacturer in Edinburgh, was served heir to his father, the above John Saunders, on 8th May, 1750. After this date, the subjects were divided, and sold in lots to John Robertson, merchant in Fochabers, and John Simpson, merchant in Elgin—the front part being retained by John Saunders, which, after passing through several hands, came into possession of James Elder, glover in Elgin, the well-known Convener of the Incorporated Trades, at whose death, about the year 1818, it passed to the late James Henry, merchant in Elgin, and thereafter was acquired by Bailie Alexander Sivewright, who pulled down the venerable old mansion, and erected a large new house and shops. It still belongs to Mr Sivewright's heirs.

Family Bible of Donaldsons.

Douglas' Baronage, vol. I., page 140.

* Thomas Donaldson was succeeded in the estate of Kinnairdie by his son, Alexander Donaldson, who married Jean Gordon, daughter of Gordon of Carnousie. He was succeeded by his son, James Donaldson, who married, 28th September, 1777, Anne Innes, daughter of Sir James Innes of Coxton. Of her I have a very distinct recollection, as one of the finest specimens of a lady of the old school that could have been met with. Her daughter, Jane Donaldson, married the late Mr Young Leslie of Kininvie, and was mother of the present Mr Young Leslie.

Within a court, a little way down Lossie Wynd, there is an old house, still in wonderful preservation, in which there is a very large mantelpiece bearing a monogram with the initial letters J. D., J. M., and the date 1689, denoting that this house was also built by the above James Donaldson, and that it belonged to him and his wife Jean Mackean.

The Mackeans were a very old, and long a most respectable family in the burgh, but are now believed to be extinct. They had at one time much property in the town.

On the same side of the High Street, and a little to the east, upon the site of the large house recently erected by Mr. Hay, cabinetmaker, was the town mansion of the family of Innes of Coxton. It bore the date of 1677, with a star (the family ensign) above. It was probably erected by Alexander Innes of Coxton, who was created a Baronet in 1686, and was Provost of Elgin in 1688. The family resided in the town, and took a considerable interest in its affairs. The windows of the house also had the initials A. D. and E. D., which, perhaps, refer to their successors, the Duffs. These stones are now in my possession, a gift from Mr. Hay, the present proprietor. From the Coxton family this mansion fell by purchase to William Duff of Dipple, father of William, first Earl of Fife, who lived in Elgin during the last nineteen years of his life, and is said to have occupied this house for a great part of the time. He died in 1722. The house was sold by William Lord Braco in 1747 to Robert Anderson, Sheriff-Substitute of Elginshire, who had married his Lordship's niece, Elizabeth Mackintosh, daughter of Alexander Mackintosh of Blervie. Mr. Anderson died here in 1766, and the subjects were sold by William Anderson, physician in Edinburgh, his eldest son. The house has since passed through many hands, always getting more and more dilapidated. About twenty years ago it was purchased by the late Dr. James Stephen, and, since his death, has been sold by his son, the Rev. Thomas Stephen, minister of Kinloss, to Mr. Robert Hay, who has erected a large shop and warerooms for his extensive cabinetmaking business on the site. The Laird of Coxton sold his estates to Mr. Duff of Dipple about the year 1710, and shortly afterwards the family left Morayshire.

Our Lady High House, an ancient religious building, was situated on the north side of the High Street, opposite the Court-House. In Slezer's View of Elgin, published in 1693, it certainly appears a lofty building tolerably entire, and some of the vaults were in existence until thirty-five years ago. The particular objects for which this house was erected are not known, but that it was dedicated to the Virgin Mary is quite apparent from the name, and that it was used either for religious purposes, or as a residence for chaplains connected with the Cathedral or Saint Giles' Church, is very probable. In the autumn of 1860, I had some communication with the late Mr. Cosmo Innes about this house, and procured an interesting paper from Provost Russell, the proprietor, who had made extensive research into the subject. Mr. Russell was of opinion that it was used by the chaplains, and that some time during the sixteenth century Sir Thomas Ragg, one of them, taught a classical school in the Lady High House, which was, however, suppressed by the Town Council of that period, and "the bairns" were desired to go to "the principall grammar school" appointed by the Magistrates. On the 8th November, 1546, "the Baillies" commanded Sir Thomas Ragg to desist from any farther "instructing of bairns, few or many, in any place in time to come, but that all he had may come to the principall grand school to be taught by the master admitted by the Provost and Baillies." Sir Thomas Ragg, above referred to, was one of the chaplains in the Parish Kirk of Elgin "for the upholding of the service of God for life." His salary was fixed at "six merks Scots in the year," one half payable at Whitsunday and the other half at Martinmas, together with "honest board" in eight neighbours' houses, or in fourteen at the most, for the term foresaid. These chaplains seem to have been persons of learning, not only cultivating letters, but also having some skill in the fine arts. This building of Lady High House was secularised before the Reformation. On 16th February, 1861, I had a letter from Mr. Cosmo Innes enclosing excerpt from a conveyance dated at Edinburgh, 19th July, 1546, by which it appears that the buildings then belonged to Robert Murray, and were disposed by him that year to Mr. Innes' ancestor, James Innes of Crombie. The tenor of the deed is as follows:—

“ Be it kend all men, be thir present lettres, me, Robert
 “ Murray, fater brudir and air to umquhile Alexander
 “ Murray of Fochaberis, the sone and air of umquhile
 “ Alexander Murray of Fochaberis, my bruthuir, ffor certane
 “ sowmes of money, and proffitts payit and deliverit to me
 “ be ane honorable man, James Innes of Cromye, to have
 “ constitute and ordand, and be thir present lettres makis,
 “ constitutis, and ordanis the said James, and his airis, my
 “ verry lauetful, irrevocable, and undouted cessionaris and
 “ assignais, in and to the lettres of reversion maid to the
 “ said umquhile Alexander my bruther, his airis and assignais,
 “ be Robert Murray in Fyndorne, and Elizabeth Modrak, his
 “ spous, uponn the redemption and outquyting fra thame,
 “ their airs and assignais, of all and hail the Heich house
 “ callit Oure Lady Houss, lyand within the burgh of Elgin
 “ upoun the north syde of the samyn, betwixt the land of
 “ Alexander Tailzeour at the eist and the land of Alexander
 “ Winchestir at the west, with all maner of pertinentis
 “ thairof, sellaris, buthis, over chalmeris, hall, and yard, as
 “ the samin lysis now in lenth and breid, extending linialie
 “ fra the kingis commoun streit at the south to the deid
 “ dreich of Herviss* Haucht at the north, ffor the soume of
 “ forty pundis usuale money of Scotland, with ane yeiris
 “ tak of the said houss and tenement eftir the redemptioun
 “ thairof.” Dated at Edinburgh, 19th July, 1546.

How long the house remained with the family of Innes of Crombie I do not find, as the titles are all of a modern date, but it is certain it belonged to the family of Anderson of Linkwood in the early part of last century, perhaps as a pendicle of their mansion on the opposite side of the High Street. In the year 1770, when the progress commences, it was in possession of Robert Anderson of Linkwood, whose grandson, Charles Anderson, sold it in 1812 to Alexander Brodie of Arnhall, along with the family mansion above mentioned, which became the residence of his sisters, the Misses Brodie of Spynie. On the death of the last survivor of these ladies, the ruins of Lady High House, consisting of

* Hervey, or Harvey, was Vicar of Elgin, and officiated in St. Giles' Church before the Reformation. In his time a glebe had been allocated to the vicar, which, very curiously, bears his name to this day. The old glebe is now enclosed in the Grant Lodge Park.

some old vaults, became the property of Elizabeth Duchess of Gordon, Mr. Brodie's only child. In 1835 her Grace sold the subjects to the late Provost Grant, who, in 1840, sold them to Mr. Alexander Russell. On the site, Mr. Russell erected the large commodious buildings in which the *Elgin Courant* newspaper was published for many years.

Immediately opposite Lady High House, on the south side of the street, was the mansion of the Andersons of Linkwood, an old Elgin family. The first of them I find mentioned is Robert Anderson, born about the year 1640. He was trained to the legal profession by John Chalmers, Town-Clerk of Elgin; and in the year 1665 I find him designed in a burgess ticket, granted in his favour by the Magistrates of Forres, as servitor to Mr. Chalmers. He became eventually associated with his employer as joint Town-Clerk, and was also Commissary Clerk, and long a Magistrate and a leading man in the burgh. He died in the year 1715. His eldest son, James Anderson, succeeded him as Town-Clerk and Commissary Clerk about the year 1703, and had a very extensive business, being much in the confidence of the county proprietors, as well as the principal residenters in the town. He married Barbara King, daughter of William King of Newmill, Provost of Elgin. Either he or his father erected this house, which was a very good one of the old style. It fronted the south, with its back to the street, and had a good garden with grounds attached. James Anderson purchased the estate of Linkwood from the Dunbars of Burgie, in 1728, and died in 1731, at the early age of fifty-one. He was Provost of Elgin at the time of his death. He was succeeded by his son, William Anderson, both in his estate and profession. He was Provost of Elgin from 1740 to 1743. He died in 1745, at the age of thirty-eight, much regretted, and was succeeded in his estate by his brother, Robert Anderson, who died in 1777. The mansion-house in Elgin belonged to the Linkwood family up to the year 1812, or thereby, at or about which time it was purchased by Mr. Brodie of Arnhall, as a residence for his sisters, the Misses Brodie of Spynie. On the death of the last survivor of these ladies, about the year 1834, it fell to the Duchess of Gordon, Mr. Brodie's daughter, who sold

the house to the Magistrates of Elgin, for the purpose of erecting a new Court-House, shortly after which time the old building was pulled down, and the present Burgh Court-room, Council Chamber, and Town-Clerk's apartments, with the Jail, were erected on the site. The situation is not central; a much better one might have been easily procured, and at less cost.

On the north side of the High Street, a little to the east of Lady High House, is a good block of property, consisting of two houses fronting the street, with a spacious court and gardens, belonging to the heirs of the late Mr. William Monro. The titles extend as far back as 1692. This property about a century ago belonged to Mrs. Harriet Stewart, widow of John Leith of Leithhall, who resided here. After her death, it was conveyed to the Reverend Dr. James Hay, one of the ministers of Elgin, of the family of Lochloy. From Dr. Hay's heirs it passed to William Robertson, merchant in Elgin; from Mr. Robertson to Mr. James Macandrew, of London; and thereafter, by progress, to Mr. William Monro. The subjects now belong to Mr. Monro's heirs. While in possession of the late proprietor, the old buildings were remodelled at very considerable expense, Mr. Monro being wishful to restore and not destroy.

Mr. Cooper's house, Dunfermline Cottage, with its grounds and garden, occupies the site of the old Greyfriars' Monastery. This religious building is said to have been erected in the reign of Alexander II., that great benefactor of the burgh of Elgin, and was a large and lofty house. William Earl of Ross, in a charter without date, but supposed to be about the middle of the thirteenth century, for the good of his own soul, and the souls of his wife, children, predecessors, and successors, and as a compensation for certain injuries done to the churches of Petty and Brachly, granted to Archibald Bishop of Moray and his successors, in perpetuity, two davochs of land in Ross called Kattepoll (Cadboll), and one quarter of land called Petkenny, for the sustentation, *fratrum minorum*, who for the time shall dwell in their house near the Cathedral Church of Elgin. This grant evidently applies to the house of the Greyfriars, then standing upon this spot. The buildings, probably having

become ruinous, are stated to have been removed by Bishop John Innes, who held the Episcopal See between the years 1406 and 1414, at which period the new Greyfriars' Monastery is supposed to have been erected. It is stated that in the year 1538 the buildings belonged to Thomas Young, burghess of Elgin, nothing seemingly remaining but a stone dovecot, which he disposed to Alexander Sutherland, Dean of Caithness, who shortly thereafter conveyed the same as a foundation to the choir of the Cathedral, for prayers for the souls of his parents, Alexander Sutherland of Duffus, and Janet Innes, his spouse, and of Adam Gordon, Dean of Caithness, and the founder's own soul. This dovecot and buildings were said to be in existence within the memory of parties not long since dead, and were used for building the substantial walls round Mr. Cooper's garden.

Within my recollection the ground was covered with old vaults and ruins, which were acquired, with the adjoining garden, about fifty years ago, by Mr. George Fenton, then Sheriff-Substitute, who erected the present house. After a few years he sold the subjects to Mr. William Innes, who gave the place the name of Dunfermline Cottage, and, on Mr. Innes' death, it was purchased from his trustees by Mr. Cooper.

The ruins of the second Monastery of the Greyfriars lie upon the south side of the back street of the burgh, now called Greyfriars' Street. This building, as is stated in the preceding paragraph, was erected by Bishop John Innes in the beginning of the fifteenth century. The year 1409 is stated to be the correct date. The Monks were of the order of Franciscans called Observantines, and were introduced into Scotland by King James I., from Cologne, and had nine convents in Scotland, Elgin being the eighth on the list. The early papers relating to this monastery are all lost, and we know absolutely nothing of its history, constitution, clergy, or mode of worship. In the preface to the Chartulary of Moray, under date of the year 1555, when all the religious orders were in a declining state, the monastery is stated to have drawn certain revenues out of the lands of Kirdels, Over and Nether Manbeen, and the Barony of Aberchirder. At the

Spottiswood's
Religious
Houses, p. 453.

Preface
Registrum
Moraviense,
page 22.

Reformation the buildings fell to the Crown. The exact extent of them cannot be ascertained, as all that now remains is the church, the residence of the friars being all removed. The church appears to have been long used as the place of meeting for criminal courts, when the Lords of Justiciary visited Elgin, perhaps, also by the Sheriffs for courts of law, there being little accommodation for that purpose within the burgh. The extent of the Greyfriars' ground was then small, only occupying a narrow strip extending from South Back Street at the north, to the Institution Road at the south.

In the early part of the seventeenth century the building and grounds belonged to the family of Innes, and about the middle of the same century were acquired by John Paterson, Bishop of Ross, and his son, John* Bishop of Galloway, afterwards Bishop of Edinburgh. In the year 1676, the Bishop of Ross, "heretable proprietar of that mannor place, "with the pertinents therof, lyand on the south syde of the "burgh of Elgin, comonlie called the 'Grayffriars,' granted the "libertie, use, and attolerance of the old kirk pertaining to "the said mannor, called the Grayfriar Kirk, to the Crafts of "the burgh, with power to the said Crafts to build and "repair the same, or anie part thereof, as they shall find "niedfull, and to make use of the same for their counsell "and meeting place, to all intents and purposes relating to "civill affaires onlie; and because the said reverend ffather "has, out of his Lordship's meere kyndnes, favor, and guid- "will, granted the foresaid attolerance to the forsaid Crafts, "therefore they obleise them and their successors to remove "from, and leave void and redd the foresaid kirk, called the "Grayfrier Kirk, in else guid case as the same is at present, "and that at anie tyme or terme it shall please the said "reverend father, or his Lordship's aires, assinees, and "successors, to require them to that effect, upon ffourtie "dayes' premonitione." In the year 1684, John Bishop of Edinburgh disponed to William King, afterwards Provost

Captain Dunbar
Dunbar's
Social Life
in Former Days,
1st series, pages
177, 178.

*John Paterson, son of John Bishop of Ross, was first minister at Ellon, in the shire of Aberdeen, and afterwards minister of the Tron Church, and Dean of the City of Edinburgh; and was preferred, by the interest of the Duke of Lauderdale, to the See of Galloway, 23d October, 1674. He was translated to the See of Edinburgh, 29th March, 1679. In 1687 he became Archbishop of Glasgow, but was deprived by the Revolution of the following year. He died at Edinburgh the 8th December, 1708, in the seventy-sixth year of his age.

Keith's Bishops,
page 64.

of Elgin, the lands of Newmill, Panns, the Greyfriars, and others, by disposition, dated 9th December that year. The description of the Greyfriars in the titles is as follows:—“The houses and yards called Greyfriars, with the manor place, houses, biggings, yards, orchyards, cloisters, or crypts, dovecots, and universal pertinents of the same.” The Trades of the burgh do not seem to have been immediately dispossessed of their place of meeting in consequence of this sale, but are said to have occupied the building until 1691,* when it is probable Mr. King took possession and erected the present mansion. The kitchen, which immediately adjoins the church, from the great thickness of its walls, appears to be a part of the old monastery.

After the Revolution in 1688, and removal of the Trades from it, the church continued as an occasional place of worship, and was used by a Nonjuring Episcopal minister, Mr. King being attached to that mode of Church government. Mr. King's wife, Margaret Cuning, daughter of George Cuning of Lochtervandich, Provost of Elgin, died in 1714, and was interred in the Greyfriars' Church; and he himself died in 1715, and was also interred there. Monuments were erected to the memory of both, which still exist in good preservation. William King, their son, succeeded. He married Ann Tulloch, daughter of Thomas Tulloch of Tannachy, who died 1st September, 1716, at the age of twenty-one. A sermon was preached in the Greyfriars' Church the day after her death, by the Episcopal minister, the manuscript of which I have seen. It is very lengthy, and is in possession of Captain Dunbar Dunbar of Seapark. The building must have then been pretty entire. Mrs. King was interred here; also her husband, who died in 1764, and monuments were erected to both. William King, the oldest son of Mr. King's second marriage, succeeded. He did not live at the Greyfriars. Having never married, he lived with his mother in the house in High Street called Auchry's House (the site of the Caledonian Bank), and died 21st July, 1800. His brother, Joseph King, then merchant

* After their removal from the Greyfriars' Church, the Trades held their meetings in a house in Lossie Wynd up to the year 1701, and are said for thirty years after that date to have met in the Chapter House of the Cathedral.

in London, succeeded. He was Provost of Elgin from 1806 to 1809, and died the 4th December, 1809, at the Greyfriars, in the church of which both he and his brother were interred, and monuments were erected to their memory. Mrs. Margaret King or Munro, the only sister, continued to live in the Greyfriars until her death in 1818, when she was also interred in the old church. Major-General Francis Stewart King of Lesmurdie, the nephew of Mr. King, became heir to the estates, and for some time lived in the house of the Greyfriars. He died in 1824, and was interred in the Lesmurdie Tomb in the Elgin Cathedral. His eldest son, Captain James Stewart, never resided at the Greyfriars. He disliked the gloom of the place, and the monastic ruin so near the house, and built an airy residence on his ground at Barflathills. He died in December, 1874. The house of the Greyfriars has, since his succession, been occupied by tenants, but is still kept in good preservation. At what time the roof of the church fell is not exactly known. It probably was about the middle of last century, since which time it has only been used as a mausoleum for the King family. The walls of the church are, however, strong and entire, and the roof could be restored at very small expense. A good engraving of the building is preserved in Rhind's Sketches, page 79. We have stated before that the Greyfriars' buildings were erected on a narrow piece of ground extending from South Back Street to the Institution Road, and the place was very confined; but when Mr. Joseph King succeeded his brother in 1800, he acquired a large piece of ground adjoining, from the Earl of Findlater, and bought a great many adjoining houses and gardens at very considerable expense, forming the whole into a large park, which he enclosed with a good stone wall. It is to be regretted that this park was broken up. Captain Stewart formed a street at the east end of the park called Queen Street, and another at the west end called Abbey Street; and he also feued the most of the frontage towards Institution Road, so that the ground is reduced now very much to its original dimensions. The Greyfriars, although surrounded by burgage property, itself holds directly from the Crown, under a Royal charter. It is hoped that this relic

of antiquity may be carefully preserved by the representatives of the family who have long held it in possession.

Nearly opposite Mr. Cooper's residence is an old house bearing the date 1694, and the initials J. D. above the windows. It was originally, like other buildings in Elgin of its date, erected on piazzas. There is a good sketch of it in Mr. Rhind's work, page 57. The house is still in good preservation. Tradition states that it was occupied as a place of business by William Duff of Dipple, father of William, first Earl of Fife, during the period of his residence in Elgin from 1703 to 1722, at which latter date he died. Whether this be correct or not cannot be positively ascertained, but it is a fact that Mr. Duff had a mortgage upon it for 800 merks between the year 1709 and 1716, and probably then had it in possession, which agrees so far with the tradition. It afterwards passed to the family of Anderson of Linkwood, and from them, in 1769, to Patrick Duff, Town-Clerk of Elgin, grandfather of the late Mr. Patrick Duff. He was known by the name of Little Clerk Duff. During a time of political excitement, a bullet was fired in at the middle window, and struck the wall of the apartment near the bed where the Little Clerk and his wife lay. From the Duffs it was transferred to Sir James Grant of Grant.

Rhind's
Sketches, p. 57.

The Little Cross stands in the centre of the High Street, at the point where North and South College Streets diverge. It is supposed that a Cross was erected here in the year 1402, out of the compensation money paid by Alexander Macdonald, third son of the Lord of the Isles, for his raid on the burgh that year. In the burgh records of the year 1542 there is a reference to a Cross, at the east end of the town, but, as it is there called a tree, it was probably of wood. The style of the architecture of the present Little Cross does not point to great antiquity, and, if I might venture to offer a conjecture, I would say it is not of an older date than the beginning of last century.

The fine mansion of Grant Lodge, and its extensive grounds, embrace the houses of the Laird of Pluscarden, the Marquis of Huntly, the Bishop's town residence, and Dunkinty House, with their parks and gardens, and forms

a very extensive domain. The Marquis of Huntly's house is referred to in the burgh records as far back as the year 1540, but it may have been much older. It stood upon the north side of North College Street, and the house of the Laird of Pluscarden was near it. Both these mansions are apparent in Slezer's View of Elgin, published in 1693. It is probable Pluscarden House was erected by the Mackenzies when they were proprietors of that estate. Janet Brodie, wife of Ludovick Grant of Grant, bought the estate of Pluscarden in 1677 for her son James, afterwards Sir James Grant, and perhaps at same time the house in Elgin. Sir James sold the estate in 1710 to William Duff of Dipple, but retained the house in Elgin. At what time the Grant family acquired the Marquis of Huntly's house I have not discovered. In the year 1661, the Marchioness of Huntly lived in this house, and had a Roman Catholic priest residing with her—the Rev. William Ballantyne—who, it is recorded, died here, and was interred in the Marquis of Huntly's Tomb in Saint Mary's Aisle, in the Elgin Cathedral. At what precise period Pluscarden and Huntly Houses were removed there is no record, but it is likely the Grant family occupied one or other of them for a residence during the winter for some considerable time. No part of the house of Grant Lodge has the appearance of an older date than the middle of last century. The Findlater and Grant families both took an interest in the affairs of the burgh of Elgin after the Union, and several members of both families represented the district in Parliament up to the year 1821. The House of Dunkinty, with its park and gardens, was situated on the north side of Grant Lodge in a very low position. It was a building of considerable size facing the west, and had its principal entrance from the foot of Lossie Wynd, at the back of Mr. Culbard's works, from whence there was a road or avenue to a gateway with handsome pillars. A sketch of the back part of the house is given in Mr. Rhind's Sketches, page 118. It was erected in the year 1688, by David Stuart of Newton, Commissary of Moray, who was Commissioner to, and a relative of, the Earl of Moray. From the Stuarts it passed to the family of Innes of Dunkinty and Leuchars, and was long called Dunkinty

House. It was occupied as the family mansion by John Innes of Dunkinty, grand-uncle of the late Mr. Cosmo Innes, who, in his small work on the Antiquities of Moray, published in 1860, refers very lovingly to this mansion. Mr. John Innes, the father of Mr. Cosmo Innes, succeeded to this house and grounds, along with the estates of Leuchars and Dunkinty, and sold the town property to Sir James Grant about the latter part of last century. The grounds, garden, and park, extending to the banks of the Lossie, were all incorporated with Grant Lodge; and about thirty years ago the house was pulled down as an encumbrance; and there are no remains except a few carved stones, which, I believe, were carefully preserved and removed to Cullen House. It had nothing to recommend it in the way of beauty.

The Bishop's Town House stands in the north-east corner of the Grant Lodge Gardens, and is supposed to have been erected by Bishop John Innes about the year 1406. It had originally been of very small size, the north part being the oldest portion, containing only a few rooms for the Bishop's refreshment on his visits to the Cathedral. The entry was from the north by an ancient gate through a high wall. This oldest part bears the initials of Bishop Innes, and the Royal Arms of Scotland, which are probably intended for James, David, or Andrew Stewart, all Bishops of Moray during the fifteenth century. The south wing was built by Bishop Patrick Hepburn, and bears the date 1557; and within a stone tablet are his initials. Shortly after the Reformation, it was granted by the Crown to Alexander Seton, along with the Priory Lands of Pluscarden and the Lordship of Urquhart, and he was created Earl of Dunfermline in the year 1606. His Lordship lived a good deal about Elgin—perhaps the climate suited him—and he added to the accommodation of the house. He took an interest in the affairs of the burgh, and was Provost in the early part of the seventeenth century. I have a charter now before me subscribed by the Earl as Provost, but unfortunately without date. He is there designed as “Alexander Comes “de Dunfermling, Dominus de Fyvie et Urquhart, Præ-“positus Burgi de Elgin,” and his signature is plain and

Douglas' Peerage, vol. I., page 481.
Lord Hailes' Senators of the College of Justice, p. 198.

distinct "Al. Dunfermling, Præpositus."* It must have been granted about or after the year 1606, as he was only created an Earl that year. He died at his house of Pinkie, near Musselburgh, on the 16th June, 1622, and held the office of Chancellor of Scotland to the period of his death. He was succeeded by his only son, Charles, who took an active part in favour of the Covenanters, and was much engaged in the transaction of public affairs during that stirring period. After the death of King Charles I., he took the side of King Charles II., and on his restoration was appointed an extraordinary Lord of Session, and afterwards Keeper of the Privy Seal. He died about the beginning of the year 1673, and probably during his active life had never much leisure to be in Elgin. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Alexander, who did not long survive his father. The succession devolved on his only brother James, who became fourth Earl of Dunfermline. He married Lady Jane Gordon, third daughter of Lewis, third Marquis of Huntly, and sister of George, first Duke of Gordon; and, having adopted the Jacobite principles of the Gordon family, he joined Viscount Dundee, and fought at Killiecrankie in 1689, for which he was outlawed, and his estates forfeited by Act of Parliament in 1690. He died at St. Germain's in 1694, and left no issue. James, the last Earl of Dunfermline, and his Countess, seem to have occasionally lived in their Elgin mansion, and

Hailes' Senators
of the College
of Justice,
page 394.

Douglas'
Peerage, vol.
I., page 482.

* The curious charter above referred to is in favour of James Thomson, burghess of Elgin, of Two Aughteen Parts of the Grieshop Lands of Elgin, with peat moss wards effeiring thereto. The signatures are as follows :—

AL. DUNFERMLING, Præpositus.

WM. YOUNG, ane of the Bailzies of Elgin.

JAMES HENDRY, ane of ye Bailzies of Elgin.

GEO. BRODIE, ane of ye Bailzies.

ROBERT INNES, ane of ye Bailzies above written, and JAMES LESLY, ane of ye Counsell yairof, wt. our handis at ye pen led be Thomas Hay, Notar Public, and Town-Clerk of Elgin, at our commandis specialie requirit heirto, becaus they culd noth wreitt.

Ita est Thomas Hay, Notarius Publicus, de speciali mandato supra scriptorum ROBERTI INNES et JACOBI LESLY scribere nescientium, per fidem præmissorum requisitus manu propria.

T. HAY, N. P.

JAMES DOUGLAS, ane of the Counsell.

THOMAS SMYTH, ane of ye Counsell.

J. ANNAND, ane of the Cncll. of Elgin.

ROBERT SUYRLAND, ane of ye Counsell.

THOMAS HAY, Scriba, ac unus consulum
Burgi de Elgin, manu propria.

T. HAY.

DAVID COZZIE.

perhaps added to the western wing. There was some years ago a stone in the western wall, with an Earl's coronet upon it, and the date 1688 ; also the letters J. E. D. and J. C. D., denoting James Earl of Dunfermline, and Jane Countess of Dunfermline. The Lordship of Urquhart, and the Bishop's House in Elgin, no doubt fell to the Crown on the forfeiture of the Earl of Dunfermline. Both were purchased by the Duke of Gordon in the year 1730 ; and the Elgin mansion continued in possession of the Gordon family until the year 1838, when it was sold, along with the adjoining large garden, by the trustees of Alexander Duke of Gordon to the late Mr. William Innes. He removed the ancient enclosing wall, which had become ruinous, and built a very substantial new wall around the house and garden, also carefully preserving the ruins. On Mr. Innes' death, the house and garden were sold to the Earl of Seafield ; and his Lordship intended to remove the ruins of the Bishop's House, and had actually pulled down a great part of the western wing, when, on a petition of some of the respectable inhabitants of the town, the act of demolition was stopped, and the more ancient and picturesque part of the building preserved. I have heard from persons who were alive within the last forty years, that in their early days the Bishop's House was entire and inhabited. Perhaps the roof being neglected had given way, and become decayed, which is always the first step in the progress of ruin.

Grant Lodge, with its gardens, grounds, and park, has now within its walls forty-five acres, and has absorbed the Marquis of Huntly's, the Laird of Pluscarden's, the Laird of Dunkinty's, and the Bishop's Houses and gardens ; also, the lands of Harvey's Haugh, or Vicar's Glebe. The mansion-house was enlarged, at very considerable expense, by the late Francis William Earl of Seafield, as a residence for his second wife, Louisa, now Countess Dowager of Seafield, and a new gate, with porter's lodge, erected at the south-east corner—an avenue being made through the Bishop's garden. Although the situation is somewhat low and retired, it is a handsome and commodious residence, with large garden, and pleasant grounds.

The Precinct of the College was enclosed with a wall

about twelve feet in height, and 900 yards in circuit. The exact line of the wall, towards the north, is not very apparent, nor is it known whether the river bank, which is partly the eastern boundary, was enclosed. A great part of the ancient wall was in existence until a late date; it is now almost entirely removed. The East Gate, called the Water Gate, or Panns Port, had a portcullis, and the other gates were similarly defended. There were twenty-two canons, who had residences or manses within the Cathedral grounds—viz., the ministers of Auldearn, Forres, Alves, Inveravon, Kinneddar, Dallas, Rafford, Kingussie, Duthil, Advie, Aberlour, Dipple, Botarie, Inverkeithny, Kinnore, Petty, Duffus, Spynie, Rhynie, Moy, Croy, and the Vicar of Elgin. There were also vicars or inferior clergy dependent on the canons, who had also residences of some kind within the Precinct. Without the walls there were crofts allocated to the canons, extending from two to four acres, embracing, perhaps, in whole, from fifty to sixty acres, and running as far east as the present farm of Panns, which, as far as the rivulet of the Tyock, was Church lands. Within my recollection there were only four of these manses remaining—viz., Duffus Manse, which was situated at the north end of King Street; a building called Unthank* Manse, which stood immediately opposite, but with a frontage to North College Street; the Dean's Manse, now called the North College; and the Archdean's Manse, the South College. Duffus Manse, a small picturesque building, as old as the fifteenth century, was in tolerable preservation, and might have been easily renovated and repaired. A sketch of it is preserved in Mr. Rhind's work, page 85. It was long the property of the family of King of Newmill, and, when the late Captain Stewart opened King Street, he sold the manse and site to the late Mr. Peter Brown, Linkwood, who pulled down the old house, and erected on the site a neat dwelling-house, now occupied by Mr. John Allan, to whom he afterwards sold it. The house called Unthank Manse was not nearly so picturesque as Duffus Manse. An etching of it

Registrum
Moraviense,
preface, page 18.

* The chapelry of the Blessed Virgin, in the Castle of Duffus, was erected into the Prebend of Unthank, 1542, in the time of Bishop Patrick Hepburn, and the Manse may have been erected about the same period.

is given in Mr. Rhind's Sketches, page 56. It seems to have been occupied, as late as the year 1670, by a person of some taste, who erected in one of the sitting-rooms a quaint and elegant mantelpiece, dated that year. This stone, with its supporters, is now placed at one of the garden gates at Gordonstown House. The manse was in a very dilapidated state, and much cracked, and had no beauty of architecture to recommend its preservation. It also was acquired by Mr. Peter Brown, and removed by him, and upon its site he erected the commodious house, now possessed by Mrs. M'William.

The North College, belonging to Mr. Alexander Robertson, contains within its bounds six manses, with their gardens and grounds—viz., Botarie, Inverkeithny, Croy, the Treasurer's, the Chancellor's, and the Dean's Manses. These have all disappeared, except the Dean's Manse, which is as old as the end of the fifteenth or beginning of the sixteenth century. In the year 1577, it was occupied by Alexander Dunbar, Dean of Moray, and it was here that he was attacked by a party of the Clan of Innes, his servants beaten and his daughter murdered, as we have detailed in a former part of this work. The house and grounds continued in the Dunbar family for many successive generations. It is stated to have been in possession of the Dunbars of Burgie as late as the year 1742; it was shortly thereafter sold to James Robertson of Bishopmill, Provost of Elgin, then a leading person in the burgh, who made it his residence. He married Barbara Brodie, daughter of Joseph Brodie of Milltown, by whom he had a family of several sons and daughters. He was succeeded in his property by his eldest son, Joseph Robertson, by whose representatives the North College was conveyed to Mr. James Robertson, a younger brother, on 29th March, 1784. Mr. James Robertson was long resident in the island of Jamaica, where he had large estates; but, in his later years, he returned to his native town, and took up his residence in the College, where he exercised much hospitality, and was greatly respected. He built the west wing containing the dining-room, and planted the orchard, with many trees along the river side and upon the lawn. Mr. James Robertson died in the year 1816. His son, Mr.

Tree of Family
of Brodie.

Alexander Robertson, late manager of the National Provincial Bank of England, has recently erected a south wing, containing kitchen and servants' accommodation, with several bed-rooms; and has built a porter's lodge at the entrance gate. He has also put the grounds and gardens into complete order, and they now are in the most productive condition.

From the extent of the grounds, its proximity to the river, the accommodation in the house, which consists of both ancient and modern architecture, and many memories of former days, this residence is perhaps, on the whole, the most agreeable in the neighbourhood of the burgh, combining both town and country. The North College is supposed, at an early period, to have embraced within its bounds the lands of Deanshaugh and Deanscrock, with the ancient dovecot which stood upon a piece of elevated ground on Deanscrock, and which was only removed a few years ago, the Lossie then running by the foot of the bank near Lesmurdie Cottage, and then returning to its present channel. The appearance of the ground indicates an old run of the river, but at what period the bed of the stream was altered I have never seen any record of.

The South College consists of five different lots of ground—1. The Archdean's Manse; 2. The Subdean's Manse; 3. The Subchanter's Croft; 4. A lot of ground acquired from William King of Newmill; 5. Sanderson's land.

The Archdean was minister of Forres. The manse was conveyed by Gavin Dunbar, then Archdean of Moray, to Patrick and Christian Pollock, by charter dated 14th November, 1574, and, after many steps of progress, fell to Alexander Cook, and was conveyed by James Cook and Janet Clark to the Honourable George Duff of Milton, fifth son of William Earl of Fife, by disposition, dated 18th May, 1768.

The Subdean was minister of Dollas. The existing titles of the manse commence in 1689, when the subjects were in possession of a person of the name of Stevenson, from whom they passed to Jonathan Forbes, father of William Forbes, Town-Clerk of Edinburgh. Mr. William Forbes was a person of considerable eminence in his profession in his day.

He was served heir to his father on 12th May, 1761, and conveyed the property to the Honourable George Duff by disposition, dated 29th May and 4th June, 1765.

The Subchanter was minister of Rafford. The titles of this lot only extend to the middle of the last century. The subjects were acquired by the Honourable George Duff from John Wiseman by disposition, dated 31st August, 1768.

The fourth lot was acquired from William King of Newmill by Mr. Duff by disposition, dated 27th January, 1768.

The fifth lot—Sanderson's land—was disposed by Margaret Sanderson and others to the Honourable George Duff by disposition, dated 25th May, 1794.

These lots being all enclosed in one park, it is impossible now to distinguish them. Part of the mansion-house is probably as old as the time of the Archdean, and may have been his residence.

Mr. Duff was a most estimable person, greatly respected in the district, and held for many years the office of Convener of the County of Elgin. He executed a deed of entail on 30th December, 1802, recorded 11th March, 1803. He died in the year 1818, at a very advanced age. In his time the house was comparatively small. In these days gentlemen of the highest rank were satisfied with moderate accommodation. He was succeeded by his only son, Major George Duff, who added largely to the house by erecting new public rooms of ample size. On his death the property descended to his cousin, the Honourable George Skene Duff, who never occupied the house himself. It was then let to tenants. For some years it was occupied by the great naturalist, the late Charles St. John, who has contributed by his works so much information on the natural history of this county. Mr. Skene Duff, some seven or eight years ago, sold the house and grounds to the late Mr. Archibald Inglis, who made various alterations and improvements on the house, and formed a new avenue from the south, with a porter's lodge fronting the turnpike. He also removed the old Precinct wall, using the materials for building purposes, a matter of regret, being a relic of the Cathedral times. Thereafter, Mr. Inglis removed from the house, and it was again let to tenants, and, previous to his death, he sold it to

Dr. Cooper, of Old Deer, to whom it now belongs. With its large garden, lawn, and fine old trees, it forms a handsome residence, and the grounds contain within their enclosure about seven acres. Thirty years ago there was a beech tree on the south side of the garden wall of very large dimensions. With its fine foliage and far-spreading branches, it was a great ornament, and was much admired. It must have been of great age, and probably had witnessed the Cathedral in its glory. It somewhat suddenly faded and died, the cause of which it is not easy to ascertain. The trunk has been left on the ground, exhibiting the giant in his decayed state. If covered with ivy and other creeping plants, it might still ornament the grounds for another century, for the wood is as hard as stone.

Although the Precinct of the Cathedral was enclosed with a strong wall, there is no evidence that the burgh itself was a walled town. When wood was abundant it may have been protected by palisades. It had, however, four gates, all which were in existence within the last century. The West Port, as we have stated before, was removed in October, 1783, by Francis Russell of Westfield, then proprietor of West Park, without consent or knowledge of the Magistrates, who were much incensed at his conduct, and threatened him with legal proceedings. The Port stood near the kitchen gate of West Park. Lossie Wynd Port was situated about the middle of the wynd, where Mr. James Anderson's property stands. Having become ruinous, and the inner part of the arch fallen down, it was ordered to be removed on the 30th July, 1787. The East Port was placed about the east end of the Bead-House, and the School Wynd Port at the top of that wynd immediately adjoining the old Grammar School, where the shop of Mr. Hunter, plumber, is now situated. They were both removed by order of the Council, 18th June, 1792. None of these gates were probably older than the beginning of the fifteenth century, when, after the burning of the town by the Wolfe of Badenoch, the burgh and its approaches were re-modelled. No sketches of the Ports have been preserved, but they, no doubt, resembled the Panns Port, and each had a portcullis, which was pulled down every night. These had been

removed long before the archways were pulled down. The narrow entrances were quite unsuited for modern traffic, and the Magistrates no doubt exercised a wise discretion in removing them. I know of no town in which they now exist, except in the ancient city of St. Andrew's in Fife, where a very handsome gateway still exists at the top of South Street, and, as it affords ample room for access to the town, it will be doubtless preserved as a relic of former ages.

MODERN BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

The earliest improvement made in the burgh was in the first year of the present century, when Batchen Street was formed by John Batchen, auctioneer in Elgin, out of the east end of the grounds of Thunderton House, purchased by him the previous year. Before this time there was no access to the south from the High Street except by the School Wynd, which was then very narrow and inconvenient. Batchen Street is itself but of very narrow dimensions, and, although one must have a feeling of regret for breaking up the grounds of the fine old mansion, still it was an improvement to the town to have this street formed. The greater part of the houses on the west side were built by John Batchen himself, as a speculation, and probably an advantageous one. On the east side the ground was disposed of for building lots.

The first good house erected in the suburbs was that of Ladyhill, which was built by the late Mr. Robert Young, in the year 1811. The site was acquired from various parties. Mr. Young resided here for ten years, when he sold the subjects to the late Major Robert Duff, who, with his family, occupied the premises for many years. It was sold by his representatives to the late Mr. Thomas Mackenzie, architect, who made considerable improvements on the house. It is still occupied by Mrs. Mackenzie and her family. The building is three storeys in height, and contains some handsome public rooms, and a variety of other accommodation.

Previous to the year 1815 the west end was covered with

a number of mean thatched buildings ; and on the Infirmary ground there was a cot and a flock of sheep kept, where they wandered in winter over the whole fields, then not enclosed. The erection of Gray's Hospital in the year 1815 gave a new impetus to the west end of the town. This building, which cost about £6000, was the legacy of Dr. Alexander Gray, a native of Elgin, to the place of his birth. It had evidently been intended at first to have been of larger size than it now is, for the dome is too large and out of all proportion to the building. Perhaps the architect, Mr. Gillespie of Edinburgh, had been under the necessity of altering his plan for economising the funds. The building contains three storeys, and has a very imposing frontage. The site is the best in Elgin, and has been most judiciously chosen, being dry, airy, and healthy ; and the Hospital has been of much benefit to the town and surrounding country. Within a few years many good houses were erected in the neighbourhood of the Hospital—The Cottage, by the late Miss Agnes Ross, now belonging to Miss Robertson ; Maryhill, by the late Mr. William Young, now belonging to Mr. William Anderson ; West House, West Lodge, and Park Place. It was expected the whole west end ground would soon have been built upon, but a pause ensued, and improvements took a different direction. At this time the late Sir Archibald Dunbar of Northfield erected, on the piece of ground called the Cherry Gardens, on the south side of the High Street, the fine mansion called Northfield, now Highfield, House, and which he occupied up to the period of his death.

In the year 1821, North Street was formed out of the old mansion-house and garden of the Calders of Muirton, latterly belonging to Dr. Alexander Dougal. The principal promoters of this improvement were the late Mr. William Young of Burghead ; Mr. Patrick Duff, Town-Clerk ; Mr. James Ivory, advocate, who had been much in Elgin during the time of the Fife politics ; Mr. William Innes, Writer to the Signet, a native of the parish of Elgin ; and perhaps others. These all purchased lots of the ground, and after a time sold them to other parties. The Assembly Rooms were erected in 1821, according to a plan of George Alexander, architect, who also became the contractor for the work. On the first

floor there is a kitchen and several other rooms, with two shops fronting High Street, and cellarage below. On the second floor is the ball-room, said to be 59 feet in length, 27 feet in breadth, and 21 feet high, with a very elegant supper-room adjoining, connected with the ball-room by folding doors—the whole forming a length of 105 feet. The ball-room and supper-room are very beautiful apartments, and, when lighted up at a festive meeting, have a very brilliant appearance. The staircase is, however, too confined, and the landing place at the top not at all in conformity with the size of the rooms. On the whole, there is nothing to the north of Aberdeen superior to them. The building lots in North Street were gradually filled up; and, in the year 1825, the Episcopal Chapel, being then erected, made a graceful termination at the north-west corner of it.

In the year 1822, the late Colonel Alexander Hay of Westertown acquired from the Elgin Guildry Fund Society about four acres of croft land, upon which he formed a street, which he called Hay Street. He paid the Guildry Society a feu-duty of £10 per acre for the ground. On the north end he erected a dwelling-house for himself, which is now known by the name of Weston House. He occupied this house up to the period of his death, nearly thirty years ago, since which time it has been tenanted as a boarding school for boys, and latterly for young ladies, which, from its large size, it is well adapted for. This speculation of Hay Street was for many years not a remunerative one, but gradually it has filled up, and some excellent houses have been erected. In particular, we may notice View Park, belonging to Miss Jane Forsyth, and Darliston, belonging to Mr. MacBey. A great part of the street has been built upon since Colonel Hay's death. The ground still belongs to his representatives.

Previous to the year 1818, the whole grounds on the south side of the burgh were used for agricultural purposes, and the Academy was the most southerly building. About that time the Elgin Guildry Fund Society began to give off building lots, and they have since been the greatest improvers in the town. In 1821, or thereby, they laid off Academy Street, which has been entirely built up; also the west side of Moss Street, on which has been erected the

elegant mansion of South Villa, forming, with its garden and grounds, a great attraction to the south side of the town. The whole of these streets have been finished. In 1843, the Guildry Society laid off North Guildry Street, the first building in which was the Free High Church; and in 1853, they laid off South Guildry Street, the first building in which was the Free South Church. North Guildry Street has been entirely finished, and South Guildry Street is in a fair way of being so also, many excellent houses having been erected on both sides of it. The Earl of Seafield, following the Guildry Society, formed Reidhaven Street about thirty years ago. His Lordship is proprietor of the east side of the street only. He limited the purchasers of the lots to the erection of cottages of one storey and attics above, and the whole street has been formed in that fashion. Within the last six years the Elgin Guildry Fund Society have acquired from the trustees of the late Mr. Thomas Miln the west side of this street, and are in process of giving off the ground for buildings. Some very good houses have already been erected, and at no distant period it is expected the whole west side will be built upon. The Society has increased the breadth of the street to forty feet, and it is decidedly the best and most pleasant and airy street in the burgh.

King Street, leading from the Cathedral to South College Street, was formed by the late Captain James Stewart of Lesmurdie and Newmill, in the year 1830. It is entirely made out of Church land, composing the Manse of Duffus and other canon manses and gardens. There are various good houses erected in this street—on the east side, the houses of Mr. John Allan, the late Captain Norie, and others; and on the west side, the large house built by the late Mr. Peter Brown, and now belonging to Mrs. M'William, with the range of houses built by the late Provost Wilson. The street, with gardens attached, has long been completed.

About the year 1846, Captain Stewart formed, out of the Park of the Greyfriars, a street running from South College Street to the Institution Road, which he called Queen Street. On the east side there is a very good house, with garden, now belonging to Mrs. John Macdonald, and, on the same

side, a very commodious mansion, erected by the late Mr. Alexander Urquhart, builder, purchased from him by the late Mr. Benjamin Wickham, by whom the house was much enlarged and embellished, and after his death it was sold to, and is now occupied by, Mr. Alexander Russell. On the west side of the street is Friars' Park, which was built about thirty years ago by the late Mr. Archibald Dick, of Jamaica, by his trustees sold to and occupied by the late Captain Stewart, and on Captain Stewart's death, in 1874, sold to Mr. Smith, Sheriff-Substitute, by whom it is now occupied.

Captain Stewart, who had a fancy for new streets, about twenty-five years ago laid off another street, on the west side of the Greyfriars' Park, which he called Abbey Street. The buildings are not of a superior character, and do not call for any particular notice. While useful as a thoroughfare, it does not add in any way to the beauty of the town, and it has much curtailed the dimensions of Greyfriars' Park.

The erection of General Anderson's Institution, in 1830, made a great revolution in the east end of the burgh. The building is a very handsome one, in the Grecian style, with a fine front to the north, and also much ornamented on the west side. It has accommodation for fifty children and ten old persons. The most useful portion is the Free School, where there is a large attendance of boys and girls. The cost of the building was about £12,000, and, with the exception of the Free School, which has really proved very useful, it may be doubted whether such a large expenditure has answered the purposes intended by the benevolent founder; indeed, a feeling has arisen in the country that these semi-monastic buildings do not tend to the happiness of their inmates, nor is the education given adapted to modern requirements. The recent School Act, whereby education is procured over the whole country at a cheap rate, and of the best quality, will have the effect of putting down, or placing on a more liberal footing, these institutions of private benevolence, which are generally hampered by rules and regulations which much detract from their usefulness. From the Institution to Moss Street a very useful and convenient road has been formed, along which many good houses have been built, and others are in the course of erection. The situation is good

and healthy, sloping to the south, and has a fine view of the hills and surrounding country, and is, of all others, perhaps the most desirable building ground within the burgh.

The most wonderful change which has occurred in Elgin in modern times is in the High Street of the burgh. This commenced in 1828 by the erection of the new Parish Church. Then followed the removal of the old Jail in 1843, which relieved the street of a great encumbrance. Since that time the buildings erected have been elegant and costly. Among others we note the Caledonian Bank, erected about 1845; the Commercial Bank, which had its present highly ornamental front added in 1852; Mr. David Macbean's buildings, called Dalmeny Place, where there are two of the best shops in the town; the Market Company's buildings, also fronting the High Street; the North of Scotland Bank, erected in 1857; the Union Bank, about the same time; the Bank of Scotland, erected in 1875; and the City of Glasgow Bank and Royal Bank, both now in progress. From the erection of so many banks, it may be supposed that the wealth of Elgin has of late years considerably increased, and that the circulation of money within the burgh and surrounding country is great. There is no doubt it must be so, if we may judge from the higher style of living, and the large expenditure made by private individuals, resident in the town and suburbs. The erection of the Museum* about thirty-five years ago; the Court-House and Jail, about the year 1843; with the new Court-House, since built—have also tended to ornament the High Street; and the numerous churches, chapels, and manses, which have been erected in the burgh within a period of less than fifty years, and to which we shall have occasion to refer hereafter, have not only much beautified the town, but exhibit in a very favourable light the benevolence and liberality of its inhabitants. In short, it is believed that no town in the North of Scotland has made greater progress than Elgin within the last half century.

* The Museum, which was built on the site of an old ruinous tenement, is a handsome edifice, and an ornament to the High Street. Its internal arrangements are very good, and its shelves are stored with curiosities brought from all parts of the world, and is an object of interest to all strangers, as well as of pride to the inhabitants of the town.

THE VILLAGE OF BISHOPMILL.

Bishopmill is not in the parish of Elgin, and was formerly entirely cut off from Elgin by the Lossie, which, having no bridge, was in time of floods quite impassable. It now forms part of the Parliamentary Burgh, and is a suburb of the town, so that it falls to be noticed. The village is quite modern. There was a mill here as early as the year 1309, which is referred to in the Chartulary of Moray, and in the year 1565, it is stated to have had four houses in it, called the "Foure Cott Houssis." In Slezer's View of Elgin, published in 1693, there is a mill drawn, a very wretched looking building, somewhat to the eastward of the present mill, and its surroundings are of the most bare and barren description, not a tree or shrub being visible. The small fulling mill, which was removed some years ago, appears also on the scene. In the year 1716, a dye-house was erected, as an appendage to the fulling mill, by Alexander Black, which is still in existence, and bears the initials of himself and his wife. The lands of Bishopmill long pertained to a branch of the Dunbar family, and from them passed to James Robertson, Provost of Elgin. About the middle of last century the property was acquired by the Earl of Findlater and Seafield, who erected a large and substantial granary for receiving and storing his victual rents. No other houses were erected until about the close of last century, when the late Provost George Brown, then factor for the Earl, prepared a plan for the village, containing a street leading to the north, and two cross streets from east to west. The houses began to be erected in the year 1796, and were almost entirely thatched, and of a very poor description, the only exception being a house erected by Provost Brown himself, fronting the river, now occupied by Miss Barbara Brown, his daughter, and another house erected by the Rev. Alexander Brown, minister of the parish of Spynie, and a miller's house, long since removed.

Account of
Parish of Spynie,
page 146.

In the early part of this century new meal and flour mills of substantial materials were erected, and in 1814, a stone bridge of two arches was built over the Lossie to connect the

village with Elgin. In 1821, a new turnpike road was made from Elgin to Lossiemouth, which passed through the village in a deep cutting, and disfigured it very much, so that the principal street had to be connected by a bridge. In a short time houses began to be erected along the new road, and the effects of the deep cutting gradually disappeared, but for some time no material improvement on the style of the houses was made. In the year 1829, the stone bridge was swept away by the great flood of that year, and was replaced by a metal bridge of rather narrow dimensions. For some time no farther improvement took place, but in 1846 a considerable start was made, and various neat villas were erected in that and subsequent years, embracing nearly the whole frontage looking towards Elgin. Among others we may notice the villa of Hythehill, erected by Mr. Maclean of Westfield, with its terraced gardens, hot houses, and green houses; the Knoll, now belonging to Miss Maitland, with its lawn, pond, and foot-bridge, the work of the late Mr. North; Millbank, and East Neuk. Mr. North also purchased the old granary, and has converted it into a substantial mission-hall, capable of holding 200 persons, well fitted up, and which, previous to his death, he conveyed to trustees for evangelical purposes. A new street has been formed on the line of the Lossiemouth road, called North Street, containing many substantial houses and shops, with a pretty terrace at the north end, diverging to the west, called Balmoral Terrace, containing a range of very neat cottages.

At the end of North Street, and fronting to the south, the Morayshire Union Poor-House has been built, a large airy substantial building. Its situation is particularly dry and healthy, and a large garden is attached. It has accommodation for 150 inmates, but is not above half occupied. It has an excellent kitchen, a large dining-hall, which is also used for a chapel, drawing-rooms for men and women separate, large bed-room accommodation, besides Governor's rooms and business apartment—all very clean and comfortable. The grounds are enclosed with a good stone wall, and are approached by an iron gate, with porter's lodge. The establishment is supported at very considerable expense,

and the comfort of the inmates is carefully attended to, forming a great contrast to the state in which the poor subsisted before the passing of the Poor-law Act. It is doubtful, however, whether they have the same enjoyment, as when they wandered through the country asking alms and victuals, and returning to their own miserable homes at night.

In the year 1857, an excellent School was erected in Balmoral Terrace, principally by the exertions of the late Dr. Kyd, minister of the parish of Spynie. It cost upwards of £500, of which Government paid one half. It is largely attended, and has proved a great blessing to the village; a teacher's house is attached. The establishment is now under charge of the Burgh School Board, which insures its being well attended to.

Previous to the year 1872, the bridge over the Lossie showed considerable symptoms of decay, and besides, from its extreme narrowness, it had become unsuitable for the extensive traffic upon it. The Burgh Road Trustees therefore had it removed. A new iron bridge upon stone abutments at each end, supported by strong iron pillars in the centre, has been erected, at a cost of about £1600. It is thirty feet in width, and has a stone pavement for foot passengers at the west side. It is a strong and substantial structure, and, with care, may stand for centuries. This bridge is a great convenience to the burgh, as well as the village of Bishopmill, and has certainly the largest traffic passing over it of any bridge in the county, carts, carriages, and all other kind of vehicles, constantly passing and repassing at all hours of the day.

The old thatched houses in the village are fast giving way to a better class of buildings, and in a very few years it may be confidently anticipated that Bishopmill will form one of the neatest portions of the Parliamentary Burgh of Elgin.

CHAPTER V.

ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS.

THE first religion of which we have any trace in North Britain was the Druidical, or worship of Baal, which extended over a great part of the world. It seems to have been the earliest aberration from the worship of the true God. Commencing in the plains of Assyria, where the planets shine with a clear light, it gradually extended over the earth, by the progress of population, towards the West. In Scotland it no doubt was celebrated in a very rude form, occasionally accompanied by human sacrifices. This religion long struggled with the Christian; and it is remarkable how tenacious its grasp has been. The Druidical circles and monumental stones, still numerous over the country, are supposed to have been connected with the old religion. The Parish Church of Birnie, held so sacred over this district, was, no doubt, at first a seat of Pagan worship, then of the Culdees, and latterly the Cathedral Church of the Bishoprick. There is an ancient stone, a granite boulder, now placed at the northern entrance of the churchyard of that parish, containing sculptured figures, which is probably connected with the earliest period of worship. Fire, as the emblem of light, has always been used in celebrating the rites of this ancient form of religion. After the change in 1560, the Reformed clergy strove hard to abolish fire worship. And we find evidence in the records of the Presbytery of Elgin, in the middle and latter end of the seventeenth century, of the fines and punishments imposed on the fishermen in the parishes of Duffus and Drainie for burning clavies in the end of the year. This practice was not confined to the coast, but was general over the country. Mr. Shaw, in his History of the Province of Moray, gives many interesting particulars of fire worship as practised in his time, in the beginning and middle of last century. In

Spalding Club,
Sculptured
Stones, vol. I.,
page 8, Plate 17.

Proceedings of
Society of
Antiquaries,
vol. X., pages
647, 660.

Shaw's History,
Edition 1827,
pages 276 & 292.

several of the fishing villages of Banffshire it was the practice not many years ago, and perhaps may still be, to light large fires on promontories or other public places, on the evening of the first of May, called "Beltane," or Baal's day. This festival was there called "Red Even." In Morayshire, the practice of burning the clavie now only lingers at Burghead, where it is celebrated on the last night of the year (Old Style). By the progress of education, it is probable this last remnant of Pagan worship will soon entirely die out.

The Christian religion was planted in Britain perhaps as early as the first century, the earliest permanent settlement of the Romans having taken place in the reign of Claudius Cæsar. Some of the soldiers even then may have been Christians; and no doubt missionaries followed with the victorious legions of the empire. Tradition states that some of the Apostles of our Lord may have preached the Gospel in Britain; but this is extremely doubtful. The Roman arms gradually penetrated to the South of Scotland, and by the close of the first century they had made various raids to the North, and occupied many stations on the coast.

When the Emperor Constantine was converted to the Christian faith in the fourth century, religion must have made considerable progress under the fostering care of the State, and free scope would be given to the exertions of ministers and missionaries; but, as the Roman arms never penetrated much beyond the Firth of Forth, it is probable the North of Scotland was long left in total darkness. Statements have been preserved of the missions of St. Ninian to Galloway in the end of the fourth and beginning of the fifth centuries; of St. Kentigern to Glasgow, and of St. Serf, St. Servanus, and others, but their light never seems to have been shed on our part of the country. Religion in the North came from a different source, and was clearly of Irish origin.

St. Columba, to whom Scotland is so largely indebted for religion and civilization, was born in the county of Donegal in Ireland in the year 518, according to the best Irish authorities. His father was of the Royal race of O'Neil. He was also connected with the Dalriadic Princes of Argyle. He was educated in the best schools of theology, and his

early companions were some of the most famous Irish saints. He led an active religious life when in his native land, and founded some important monasteries there. Although a very pious man, Columba had a good deal of the fiery spirit of his age, engaged in several feuds, and was leader in various battles. These feuds and battles were held to be discreditable to a man of his religious profession, and he was condemned by a Synod of the Irish Church. It is stated that Columba himself was very penitent for his conduct, and resolved to devote himself to the work of a missionary among the heathen. He therefore determined to proceed to one of the western isles, and in the year 563, when advanced to middle life, with twelve blood relatives all devoted to the same cause, he set sail from Derry in a wicker boat covered with hides, and landed shortly thereafter at Iona, which, by some writers, is said to have then belonged to the King of the Picts, but with more probability to the King of the Dalriadic Scots. This question is, however, doubtful. From either of these kings a gift of the island was obtained, and rude buildings were erected suitable to the wants of the age. Of the labours of Columba, space forbids us to speak. He lived upwards of thirty years in Iona, having died in the year 597, and his name will be honoured in all ages as a faithful preacher and zealous missionary, a light in a dark age. He trained numerous preachers, who spread themselves over all Scotland, the North of England, and even into foreign lands. The life and labours of St. Columba have been narrated by many writers, among others by Cumin, one of his successors, about sixty years after his death, and by Adamnan, who became abbot of Iona in the year 679. The latter has written of St. Columba at great length, and editions of his work have been frequently published. Many recent writers have also detailed fully the life of this great man, according to their various ecclesiastical views. Among others, Count Montalembert, in his "Monks of the West;" the Rev. Dr. Smith, minister of Campbelton; the Rev. Dr. W. Lindsay Alexander, in his History of Iona; and the Rev. Dr. M'Lauchlan, in his "Early Scottish Church." It is quite certain that St. Columba preached the Gospel at Inverness, then the seat of Government of the Northern Picts, and

converted the king to Christianity ; but he does not seem to have advanced farther along the east coast of Scotland at that period. The Book of Deer, however, narrates that at a future period of his life, he and his follower, St. Drostan, proceeded as far east as the coast of Buchan, and there founded the Monastery of Deer. How far this is correct we do not know ; but it appears beyond doubt that the coadjutors of Columba proclaimed the Gospel on the coast of the Moray Firth, and, in particular, St. Ethernan, who flourished about the year 582. It is probable that from him the well at Burghead, called St. Ethan's, derives its name. That St. Columba and his followers were men of pure lives and ardent piety is undoubtedly true, and they also did much for the improvement and civilization of the rude inhabitants of the North of Scotland. But from the perusal of his life by Adamnan, it appears that Columba's religion was much clouded by superstition ; that he believed himself, and his disciples much more strongly, that he had the gift of prophecy, and held intercourse with angels and departed spirits, by whom he was informed of future events.

Book of Deer,
Preface, page 2.

Calendar of
Scottish Saints,
page 379.

Columba was the founder of the body of Christians called Culdees, the constitution, laws, and internal management of whose Church are involved in considerable darkness. They were formed upon the Irish model, and both countries, from their remote situation, being almost entirely separated from the rest of Europe, adhered more strictly to ancient forms than other parts of the Christian world. The whole subject of the Culdees has been fiercely disputed by opposing parties—the Romish Church contending that they were Romanists, the Episcopalians that they were governed by Bishops, and the Presbyterians that they were pure Presbyters, and not subject to ordination by Bishops. Among all these contentions, it is difficult to arrive at the truth ; and the probability is that none of the parties are right. The Culdees seem to have been pure missionaries, not connected with any Church but that of Ireland. They erected large houses or colleges for training ministers, such as Iona, Deer, Monymusk, Brechin, and others, which were governed by Abbots, who were supreme in their departments. From these seats of learning and religion the missionaries

issued, going into the wilds of the country and preaching the Gospel as they had opportunity, suffering many trials, exposed to hunger and fatigue, and commending themselves to the rude inhabitants by their pure and unselfish lives. Their preaching and example seem to have been very successful. The Abbot of Iona was long considered the head of the Church, and all laws and regulations formed there were held in much respect and obeyed over the country. To what extent synods or religious assemblies of the clergy were held for regulating their affairs, there is little means of knowing. It was a difficult time either to travel in, or to hold communication with one another.*

M'Lauchlan's
Early Scottish
Church, page
272.

In the end of the eighth century, the west coast of Scotland was harassed by the Danes and Norwegians, and it is recorded that in the year 795 Iona was burnt and devastated by these pirates. This appears to have been of frequent occurrence,† and in 829 it is stated in the Irish annals that Diarmid, Abbot of Iona, came to Scotland with the relics of Columba. Owing to this great insecurity, the seat of the Culdee Church was removed from Iona to Dunkeld in the ninth century, which, from thenceforth, during the continuance of that Church, was the residence of its chief Abbot.

The principal monasteries of the Culdees were St. Andrew's in Fife, Dunblane, Scone, Brechin, Monymusk, Mortlach, Birnie in Moray, Rosemarkie, Dornoch, Iona, and Dunkeld. They were all to the north of the Firth of Forth. Their religious houses were of the most simple form, built of wood or of wicker work, stones, and clay. The ministers did not desire much comfort, and were not given to luxurious

* The subject of the Culdees, from the Presbyterian side, has been largely and most learnedly discussed by the late eminent Dr. John Jamieson in his work entitled, "Historical Account of the Ancient Culdees of Iona, and of their Settlement in Scotland, England, and Ireland," which was published in Edinburgh in 1821; also, by the Rev. Dr. M'Lauchlan in his "Early Scottish Church," published in 1865. From a Romish point of view, by the Rev. Thomas Innes, Vice-Principal of the Scots College at Paris, in his "Civil and Ecclesiastical History of Scotland," and by the Count de Montalembert in his learned work, "The Monks of the West," and particularly in that part of it containing the life of St. Columba, of which a convenient translation was published by Messrs. Blackwood, Edinburgh, in 1868. From an Episcopalian side it has been largely treated by Mr. Walter Goodall, and the late Bishop Russell, of Glasgow, in the introduction to Bishop Keith's "Catalogue of Scottish Bishops," of which an edition was published in 1824; also, by Dr. Grub, of Aberdeen, in his "Church History," and by many other writers; and there is a new work now in the press on this vexed subject, by Mr. William Forbes Skene of Edinburgh.

† The Monastery was burnt by the Northmen in 802, and four years after—in 806—the whole community, sixty-eight in number, were destroyed.

living. In their wanderings through the country, they had cells for retirement, many of which still exist in the Western Isles.

In the eighth and ninth centuries, the kingdom of modern Scotland contained five nations—viz., the Saxons in Lothian, and the southern counties; the Britons of Strathclyde; the Southern Picts, who occupied the country south of the Grampians; the Northern Picts, whose capital was Inverness, and who occupied the extensive regions from Aberdeen northwards; and the Scots, who occupied Argyle, and a considerable part of the Western Isles.

From the end of the eighth to the beginning of the eleventh centuries, the history of North Britain is very obscure, both in Church and State, and the statements of the chroniclers, and of all our historians, are to be adopted with great caution. While, at the former period, we find what is now called Scotland in the hands of five nations, in the latter we find the whole country in the hands of one, and that one the weakest of the whole—the Scotch; while the Picts, Britons, and Saxons were all extinguished, and their names gone. The important junction of the kingdoms of the Scots and Picts, our annalists generally agree, took place under Kenneth Macalpin, the Scotch King of Dalriada, in the year 843, although what were the causes which brought about that union, they much differ upon; and, notwithstanding the research and labours of learned men for the last century and a-half, the subject will perhaps never be entirely cleared up.

In the beginning of the eleventh century, we find the Culdee Church still predominant in Scotland, and nominally governed as in the days of St. Columba, five centuries earlier; but, although the same in appearance, it was in reality much changed. Its highest offices and landed property had become an object for politicians, and the Church, being much secularised, its Abbots and leading men had become hereditary, and handed down their estates and revenues from father to son. The clergy married, and had families, who connected themselves with the best of the land—even with the Royal Family. Crinan, Abbot of Dunkeld, perhaps at that time the first ecclesiastic in

Chalmers' Caledonia.
Robertson's Early Kings.
Skene's Celtic Scotland.

Scotland, married Bethoc, or Beatrice, daughter of Malcolm II., and by her was the father of that unfortunate monarch, King Duncan, who succeeded to the Throne, as heir to his grandfather, in the year 1034, and was killed, through the machinations of his kinsman, Macbeth, in 1040. Crinan himself, who endeavoured to recover the kingdom for his family, was himself killed in battle by Macbeth in 1045.

We have stated that there was a Culdee Monastery at Birnie. There was probably also a church of the same body at Elgin, and tradition seems to point that it may have been on the site of the present Elgin Cathedral. When King Duncan was killed by Macbeth, either in battle or by private assassination, which took place at Bothgowan or Bothgofnane, in the parish of Duffus or Alves, his body was carried to Elgin, and laid in a church, and, according to Fordun, it was eventually carried to Iona, and interred in the sepulchre of the Scotch kings there.* I have little doubt that the place of the temporary sepulture of King Duncan in Elgin was the Church of the Holy Trinity, where the ruins of our venerable Cathedral now stand, then a Culdee place of worship. The Culdees dedicated many of their churches to the Trinity, and the Romish clergy, at a future period, erected their places of worship, with great prudence, on the sites of buildings hallowed by the religious feelings of the country, and pious recollections of former ages.

In the year 1058, Malcolm Canmore, having defeated and killed Macbeth, succeeded to the Throne of his father, Duncan. This succession, and the many changes both in Church and State incident to it, were very disagreeable to the inhabitants of Moray, who were then under their native rulers in a semi-independent state. For about a century

* Our Elgin tradition would fain have retained King Duncan's body in Elgin, and the late John Shanks, keeper of the Cathedral, pointed out, with undoubting faith, the actual stone coffin in which he was laid. The words of the historians are, however, express. Fordun states—
 Fordun's Scotichronicon, "Hic autem pius rex occisus est scelere generis occisorum tam avi quam proavi, quorum præcipuus
 vol. I., Edition "erat Machabeda, filius Finele, a quo latenter apud Bothgafuen vulneratus ad mortem, et apud
 1759, pages 233, "Elgin delatus occubuit et in Insula Iona sepultus est de quo habentur hæc metra—
 234.

"Abthanus genuit Duncanum nomine natum,

"Qui senis annis rex erat Albanæ.

"A Finleg natus percussit eum Machabeda

"Vulnere lethali; rex apud Elgin obit."

Hollinshead's
 Chronicle, vol.
 I., page 341.

Hollinshead states—"The body of Duncane was first conveyed unto Elgin, and there buried in
 "kinglie wise; but afterwards it was removed and carried unto Colmekill, and there laid in a
 "sepulture amongst his predecessors, in the year after the birth of our Saviour, 1046."

the kingdom was disturbed with their numerous and desperate rebellions, which required the most strenuous efforts of successive sovereigns to overcome. During this confused period, we hear little of the Church, and it was no doubt in a very declining state. About the year 1160, the rebellious inhabitants, after a struggle with Malcolm IV., were in large numbers removed from their native province to the Midland and Southern Counties of Scotland, and a more peaceable population introduced in their stead. In the reign of Alexander I., about the beginning of the twelfth century, Diocesan Episcopacy was introduced into Moray, but it seems to have taken but slight hold until the reign of William the Lyon, fifty years later. It gradually superseded the ancient Church, which must have been greatly weakened by the removal of the old inhabitants of the province. The Culdees struggled hard over Scotland against the change of the times. In some districts they had a longer existence than in others. It is not recorded that there was any active persecution, but they were borne down by the invasion of foreign Bishops and Monks, introduced by successive sovereigns, more particularly David I., who during his reign frequently visited Elgin, and founded the great Abbey of Kinloss. The Culdees were not finally overcome until the reign of Robert Bruce, after which period we hear of them no more.

The Culdee Church existed in Scotland for about 600 years. We should regret to enter into one word of controversy about it. We may remark, however, that in its outward government, it seems to have been essentially different from its successor, the Church of Rome, having no Diocesan Bishops, Canons regular, nor Monks of any foreign order. Its clergy did not follow celibacy, but married and had families, and the sons frequently succeeded the fathers in their benefices. It is difficult to ascertain with precision what were the rites and ceremonies of the Church. So far as we can gather, they were very simple, but, as we stated before, they were clouded with many superstitions, as was natural in so benighted an age. On the whole, the Church seems to have worked for good, and the clergy appear to have been pure in their lives and manners. To what extent the

character of Scotchmen has been formed by the Culdee Church during its long existence among them, we can hardly venture to give an opinion, but that it has had an effect upon their religious and moral habits, and peculiar opinions, we think there can be little doubt.

THE ROMISH CHURCH.

There was certainly no bishop in the Diocese of Moray before the reign of Alexander I. Gregory, the first mentioned, is a witness in that king's reign to a charter granted to the Priory of Scone; and, in the time of King David I., to a charter granted to the Abbey of Dunfermline. The first settlement, therefore, may have been not earlier than 1115. The bishops, with proverbial prudence and foresight, got possession of the Culdee Church of Birnie, which was hallowed by the pious memories of many ages. It was then a building either of wood or built with clay. Here the first four bishops in succession lodged in their humble abode, without much pomp or ceremony, and perhaps moved about their diocese quietly and unostentatiously. The Church of Birnie was built certainly not later than the year 1150, and probably not much earlier. It is not so old as the Church of Mortlach, being quite of a different style of architecture; but next to it, Birnie is the oldest church now entire in the North of Scotland. It is built with a nave and chancel, and these are connected by a very handsome Norman arch. The walls are very strong, and well cemented, and have already stood for upwards of 700 years, and may stand as long again. The building appears as if it had been shortened somewhat at the west end, and it must have been re-roofed more than once. The windows have also been considerably altered, perhaps for the purpose of affording more light to the interior. In other respects it remains as it was at the beginning. It is probable the first four bishops were buried here. We have distinct information from various sources that Simon de Tonei, an Englishman, who was the fourth bishop, died and was buried at Birnie, then the Cathedral Church of the Diocese, in the year 1184 (15th October). Mr.

Keith, page 135.

Keith, page 136.

Registrum
Moraviense,
page 12.

Shaw mentions Andrew as the fifth bishop, and that he was in this diocese for one year only; but, as he is neither mentioned by Bishop Keith nor in the Chartulary of Moray, it is likely a mistake. Richard was therefore the fifth bishop. He was consecrated in March, 1187, and, being one of King William's chaplains, great gifts of lands, tithes, and revenues were heaped upon him; indeed, he seems to have been a special favourite of the king. He removed the seat of the diocese to Spynie, where he died and was buried in the year 1203. Brice, or Bricius, was the sixth bishop. He was a son of the house of Douglas, and was also connected with the great house of de Moravia, his mother being sister to Friskinus de Kerdal. To this last relationship he no doubt owed his appointment. He was a man of talents, and assumed considerable state. He founded the College of Canons, eight in number, and attended a Council at Rome in 1215, and, by authority of Pope Innocent III., got the Cathedral fixed at Spynie. He died in the year 1222, and was buried at Spynie. The seventh bishop was Andrew de Moravia, or Moray, a son of the powerful family of Duffus. He is supposed to have been consecrated in 1223, and he had no sooner been settled than he took steps to have the Cathedral removed from Spynie to the Church of the Holy Trinity at Elgin. The reasons of the translation were, that Spynie was a solitary place, not safe as a residence, very inconvenient for procuring necessaries, and other purposes. Pope Honorius readily consented to the change, and issued a bull to the Bishop of Caithness, the Abbot of Kinloss, and the Dean of Ross, to superintend the ceremony. The foundation of the magnificent Church at Elgin was therefore laid on the banks of the Lossie, in presence of the above dignitaries, no doubt with all the pomp of the Romish Church, and with full Papal authority, on the 15th (or, as some say, the 19th) July, 1224; and a solemn act thereupon was recorded in the Chartulary on the 14th of the kalends of August the same year. A more convenient place could not have been chosen. The river Lossie ran quite near it. The church was surrounded with a large tract of the most fertile land, and, although adjacent to the burgh, it was quite detached from it. From the terms of the Papal Bull and

Registrum
Moraviense,
pages 63 and 64.

Registrum
Moraviense,
pages 64 and 65.

proceedings at the ceremony of the foundation, it is evident that there was a church here before dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and no doubt formerly a Culdee Church, so that the bishop here, as was previously done at Birnie, chose a situation for his cathedral hallowed by the piety of former ages.

It is very remarkable to consider the rapid rise and increase of power and resources of the Romish Bishops. In the year 1115, little more than a century previous, we find the first Bishop settled at Birnie, occupying a clay-built or wooden house for his residence, and a building of similar materials for his Cathedral; and now, in 1224, we have an erection of the most magnificent church in the kingdom as the Cathedral of the Diocese, and the Castle of Spynie as the palatial residence of the Bishop. It also shows, in a very marked light, the great increase in the wealth of the kingdom during the same period. Indeed, Scotland was now approaching the greatest height of its prosperity, previous to the fatal period when it had to contend for its existence as a nation, with the whole power of England engaged against it. The reigns of Alexander II. and Alexander III. were indeed a golden age for Scotland. Bishop Andrew Moray supported his office with great ability, prudence, and dignity. He added fourteen Canons to those formerly appointed by his predecessor, Bricius, making the number twenty-two. He lived eighteen years after the foundation of the Cathedral, and perhaps had the satisfaction to see the building finished. He died in the year 1242, and his remains were interred in the south side of the Quire of the Cathedral, under a large blue flat stone, which still remains entire, although the brass work upon it has been removed.

It used to be stated that the Elgin Cathedral plan was copied from one of the English churches, but it is now proved that its design was different from any building in Britain. The laying bare of the foundations of the cloisters proves that they were supported by a double row of pillars on each side, which is said to be without parallel in this country, and therefore our Cathedral has been erected from a plan of foreign origin, perhaps derived from France or Italy, and, as the Italian Freemasons travelled about much at that time,



WEST FRONT ELGIN CATHEDRAL.

it may have been erected under their direction. Many of the ecclesiastics of that day were eminent architects. When the Cathedral was finished, it was admitted to be the finest church in Scotland. It is described in the Chartulary of Moray as “nobilis et decora ecclesia Moraviensis, speculum patriæ et decus regni.” In Bower’s continuation of Fordun’s Scotichronicon it is called, “Ecclesiam Cathedralem Moraviæ de Elgyn, decus tunc totius patriæ.” Buchanan states it to be “Omnium quæ tum in Scotia erant, pulcherrima.” A modern artist of high standing (Mr Billings) observes that, “as a building in which size and ornament are combined, “Elgin Cathedral must have been, as its lovely and majestic “fragments still indicate, quite unmatched.”

Registrum
Moraviense,
page 381.

Fordun, vol. II.,
page 416.

Buchanan,
Ruddiman's
Edition, vol. I.,
page 177.

The Elgin Cathedral has a melancholy and eventful history. So early as the year 1270 the building and the canons' houses were burnt, perhaps only partially. Fordun states—“Eodem anno combusta est Ecclesia de Elgyn et œdificia canonicorum.” In 1390 it was again destroyed by that wild cateran Alexander Stewart, Earl of Buchan, called the Wolfe of Badenoch. It is generally supposed that it was then totally destroyed, but this is an evident mistake. The nave and roof, with the whole wood work, were probably seriously damaged, and the great steeple cracked with the heat, but the western steeples, and remainder of the stone work, from their great strength, had resisted the effects of the fire. Mr. Billings states—“It has been generally understood that the Wolfe of Badenoch levelled the building to “the ground, but the pointed arches and their decorations “are a living testimony that he had not so ruthlessly carried “out the work of destruction; and there is every reason “to believe that the portions which have since gradually “crumbled away are the inferior workmanship of the fifteenth “and sixteenth centuries, while the solid and solemn masonry “of the thirteenth still remains.” The subsequent raid of Alexander Macdonald, son of the Lord of the Isles, in 1402, appears to have been entirely for plunder, and the Cathedral was not seriously injured. The work of rebuilding was only slowly carried on. The most vigorous in these operations was Bishop John Innes, who was consecrated in 1407, and died in 1414. He carried on large works, both at Spynie

Fordun, vol. II.,
page 112.

Monteith's
Theatre of
Mortality, page
251.

and Elgin, and erected the Bishop's House in Elgin. He made great progress with the repairs. His tombstone, now destroyed, bore the words, "qui hoc notabile opus extruxit;" but it is evident that he did not finish the work, for, after his death, the Chapter met, and solemnly swore that whoever should be elected Bishop, should set apart one-third of the revenue of the See for repairing the Cathedral, destroyed by the Wolfe of Badenoch. In the year 1414, there was little wealth in the country, compared with two centuries earlier; all were impoverished by the long English wars.

Shaw's History,
Grant's Edition,
page 315.

The great steeple, repaired or rebuilt in the beginning of the fifteenth century, being of inferior workmanship, did not stand long. In the year 1506, it either fell, or showed such signs of decay, that it became necessary to take it down. Next year Bishop Forman began to rebuild it, but the work was not finished until 1538, in the time of Bishop Patrick Hepburn, three other Bishops having intervened in the meantime. The height of the great tower, including the spire, is said to have been 198 feet. Mr. Shaw gives the dimensions of the Cathedral in length and breadth, in all its parts, perhaps not very accurately, as he says himself he had not studied a "scrupulous exactness," but it is sufficient to give an idea of its magnitude and grandeur. In 1568, eight years after the Reformation, the Privy Council ordered the lead to be taken from the building and sold, to meet public exigencies, and it certainly does seem strange, in the present day, that such an order should have been given, to destroy a magnificent building for the sake of the small quantity of lead upon it. It may be curious to consider what part was really covered with lead. It certainly was not the nave, for the high pitched roof, a part of the gable of which is still standing, shows that in its entire length it was covered with slates. The same was probably the case with the side aisles. The Chapter House also appears to have had a sloping roof covered with freestone slabs. My conjecture therefore is that both the western steeples, and also the great steeple, had wooden spires covered with lead, which were then very common, a specimen of which was in the old Church spire of St. Nicholas, at Aberdeen. These wooden spires covered with lead, when well cared for, were very substantial, were

easily repaired, and stood for ages. Had the spires been of stone, it is probable the whole three steeples would have been still standing, as wet could not have got access to the interior. The western spires of the Cathedral of Old Aberdeen, which are built of stone, stand entire to this day. On no other ground than that the spires were covered with lead, can we suppose that it would have been any object to the Privy Council to have stripped the building of its roof. This is confirmed by the earliest view we have of the Cathedral buildings, published in 1693, but perhaps twenty years earlier in date. In that sketch, in the western towers, there is not the slightest appearance of any remnant of stone spires, neither is there in the great steeple, both having the appearance of being clean cut off, and the western towers being exactly in their present state. This can only be accounted for on the ground that they were covered with wood.

The Cathedral was doomed to receive continuous injuries for ages after this date. In 1637, as we have narrated before, the rafters of the Choir were destroyed by a violent tempest of wind. In 1640, the interior was attacked by Gilbert Ross, minister of Elgin, with the assistance of the young laird of Innes, the laird of Brodie, and others, all ardent Covenanters, and the carved and ornamental screens, and wood work, carried away and burnt for firewood. Tradition states that, between the years 1650 and 1660, when the town of Elgin was occupied by a party of Cromwell's soldiers, they, in their zeal against idolatry, amused themselves in destroying the tracery work of the building, and in particular of the great western window. This they did effectually, for they have not left the slightest portion of it remaining. During this time the Chapter House, which was kept tolerably entire, was occasionally used for holding courts and other public purposes. The great steeple, which was erected 200 years previously, fell in the year 1711. It may have been originally badly founded; at all events, it was of inferior work to the older part of the building. It evidently fell towards the west, and in its fall crushed to pieces the whole nave of the church, with its side aisles and splendid double row of pillars, as well as great part of the

north and south transepts, leaving the body of the building a mass of rubbish, containing quantities of the finest carved stones. Great as this destruction was, had the tower fallen eastward it would have proved more serious, for in that event the Chapter House, the Chancel, and St. Mary's Aisle would in all probability have been crushed to pieces. In this sad condition the noble fabric remained all last century, without any enclosure, the fragments of the great steeple and nave being used as a quarry by the Elgin builders, many of the finest hewn stones being incorporated into the new houses of the burgh. It continued in this condition up to the year 1807, and was then a receptacle for the filth of the town, when, through the zeal and activity of the late Joseph King of Newmill, then Provost of the burgh, a man of enlightened mind, who had spent a large portion of his life in London, the Cathedral was enclosed, a keeper appointed, and a small lodge built for his residence. In 1816, through the exertions of the late Mr. Isaac Forsyth and his friend Mr. Adam Longmore, of the Exchequer, the attention of the Barons of Exchequer was directed to the ruins, and it was not too soon, for one of the western towers was then in a very dilapidated state, and threatened to fall. By this timely interposition the tower was repaired, and farther decay prevented. Since that time the building has been put under charge of the Board of Public Works, and has been anxiously cared for. A new lead roof has been put on the Chapter House ; the whole decayed stones of the Cathedral have been removed and replaced by new ones ; and all holes, joinings, crevices, with tops of walls, have been filled with Portland cement, as hard as stone, thus securing it from wet and snow. A new enclosure wall has also been erected, with a comfortable house for the keeper. The public authorities have indeed spared no expense in preserving the venerable remains, making up for former neglect.

The Church, when entire, must have been very magnificent. It was in the shape of the common Jerusalem Cross, and said to have been 264 feet in length. The South Aisle of the Transept was dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul ; the North Aisle to St. Thomas the Martyr (Becket) ; the South Aisle, adjoining the Chancel, was dedicated to the Virgin

Mary; the Chapter-House, which is of elaborate workmanship, Mr. Billings considers, from its style, to have been erected at a date much subsequent to the original building. He also states that the "character of the architecture "brings it back to the best days of the early English. Un- "doubtedly, there are later features, as in the remains of "the Aisle windows, where, although there is not a vestige "of the depressed Gothic of England, there are the "characteristics of the contemporary flamboyant School of "France. The flowered canopies, too, upon the eastern "turrets, and the pilasters at the junction of the choir and "transept, may have been a later decoration. More distinct "evidence of the very early period of great part of these "fragments, is seen in the elevation of the south transept, "in the narrow pointed compartments of the tower windows, "and the magnificent double row of lancet windows at the "east end." On the whole, it may be safely assumed that the noble remains we now have of the Cathedral, are the genuine work of the thirteenth century, as originally erected by Bishop Andrew Moray.

The Manses of the Canons followed the fate of the Cathedral. They were twenty-two in number, as stated before. Six of these stood within the grounds of the North College. The remainder were probably on the south side of North College Street, extending from the west side of King Street to the east side of the garden and grounds of the South College, where there was ample room for them. They were all protected by the strong Precinct wall, and, when the gates were shut, formed a distinct community. They were, according to Fordun, consumed by fire totally, or partially, in the year 1270, and suffered the same fate in 1390. They were certainly rebuilt in the fifteenth century. After the Reformation, they were no doubt occupied as private dwellings, and gradually removed as they fell to decay. In our own day only four remained. These have been now reduced to two—viz., the Dean's Manse, belonging to Mr. Alexander Robertson, and the Archdean's, belonging to Dr. Cooper. They are both fine residences, with extensive lawns and gardens, embracing, in their ample folds, great parts of the old abodes of the Canons. The middle part of

Mr. Robertson's house, standing upon vaults, bears evident marks of the work of the fifteenth century. Whether Dr. Cooper's house contains any part of the original Archdean's house, we cannot speak precisely. Within the last fifty years, the Chanonry of the Cathedral has experienced a great change. It had then a very retired monastic appearance, the houses, walls, and surroundings being all of a venerable decayed aspect. The formation of King Street, with its modern houses; the gateway and porter's lodge at Grant Lodge, with its new enclosing wall; the new porter's lodge at North College; and the many improvements both there and also at South College, although all executed with much good taste, have dissipated the look of antiquity, and given the place an air of modern times.

Before leaving the Cathedral, it is but fair to remember the labours of John Shanks, who was appointed keeper of the Cathedral about the year 1824. He was then a man of sixty-six years of age, and his bodily frame seemed weak and attenuated. He found the whole interior a mass of ruins and rubbish; but with unwearied zeal, by his own unaided exertions, he cleared the whole place, gathering the carved stones, laying bare the foundations of the pillars and the steps of approach, so defining the original outlines of the building, and bringing order out of confusion. His labours are absolutely marvellous. He seemed to love the Cathedral with his whole heart, and his tales of wonder connected with it were without end. He died in 1841, at the age of eighty-three; and his life and labours are best told by the late Lord Cockburn, who composed the epitaph on his tomb as follows:—

“ Here lyes

“ JOHN SHANKS, SHOEMAKER IN ELGIN,

“ Who died 14th April, 1841, aged 83 years.

Lord Cockburn's
Memorials, 2d
Series, vol. I.,
page 171.

“ For seventeen years he was the keeper, and the shower of this Cathedral; and, while not even the Crown was doing anything for its preservation, he, with his own hands, cleared it of many thousand cubic yards of rubbish, disclosing the bases of the pillars, collecting the carved fragments, and introducing some order and propriety.

“ Whoso reverences the Cathedral will respect the memory of this man.”

A striking resemblance of John Shanks, arrayed in his antique garb, has been preserved to posterity, from the elegant pencil of the late Mr. Donald Alexander, an artist who resided long in Elgin, and who has left many specimens of his work there.

It is unfortunate that we have no sketch of the Cathedral in its entire state, to show what was the form of the spires. The first engraving is that of Slezer. The original drawing may have been made as early as 1670, although only published in his *Theatrum Scotiæ* in 1693. It is very valuable, as showing the great steeple, the nave and pillars supporting the side aisles as they then existed, which, except for this sketch, would have been entirely lost. The next view of the Cathedral is contained in Pennant's *Tour* in the year 1769. It differs little from its present state. The sketch is taken from the east side, and shows that the grounds, then unenclosed, extended to the river; and it is much to be regretted that any building, more particularly of a commercial kind, should ever have been permitted to intervene between the ruins and the stream. There is a print of the building in Shaw's *History of Moray*, published in 1775; two pretty etchings in Adam de Cardonnell's *Picturesque Antiquities of Scotland*, which appeared in 1788; a sketch in Captain Grose's *Antiquities* in 1797; a fine front view of the western steeples in Grant and Leslie's *Survey of the Province* in 1798; a series of fine views by John Clark, artist, who resided for some time in Elgin, when making a drawing of the town in 1824; the etchings of Mr. Donald Alexander, artist, which appeared in Rhind's *Sketches of Moray* in 1839. Mr. Alexander attempted a restoration, showing its supposed appearance when entire, but we cannot think it correct. Lastly, we have the eight magnificent views of Billings, published in his *Baronial and Ecclesiastical Antiquities of Scotland* between the years 1845 and 1852. These for accuracy and elegance, with minuteness of detail, excel the works of all previous artists. Since Mr. Billings' time the photographic art has come into operation, and we have the most elegant and true copies of the Cathedral exhibited in all parts of the country, many of them from the skilled hands of Mr. Anderson, our own Elgin photographer.

We may conclude our brief remarks on the Cathedral with the elegant lines of our famous Scotch Latin poet, Arthur Johnston, as quoted by Mr. Pennant, when upon his visit to Elgin in 1769 :—

Arcibus heroum nitidis urbs cingitur, intus
Plebeii radiant, nobiliumque lares
Omnia delectant, veteris sed rudera templi
Dum spectas, lachrymis Scotia tinge genas.

We have little room for a list of the Romish Bishops of the Diocese of Moray, but we cannot overlook them entirely, and shall give a very brief account of them from the Chartulary of Moray, and other sources :—

1. GREGORIUS is the first Bishop of Moray on record. He held the See in the end of the reign of Alexander I. and the beginning of that of David I.

2. WILLIAM was Bishop of Moray before 1158 or 1159, when he went on a mission from King Malcolm IV. to the Pope ; and in 1160 returned Papal Legate to Scotland. He died 9th kalends of February, 1161.

3. FELIX—1162 to 1171.

4. SIMON DE TOENY (or TONEI) elected 1171, consecrated 10 kal. Feb., 1172. This is the first Bishop in whose favour deeds are recorded in the Chartulary ; and he is the first in a roll of Bishops of the See of considerable antiquity. He died 15th kal. October, 1184, and was buried in the Church of Birnie.

5. RICHARD, Clericus Regis, elected kal. March, consecrated ides March, 1187. King William was much in the diocese during his Episcopate, and gave considerable grants to the Bishop, his old servant, and supported his jurisdiction. He died in the year 1203 at Spynie, where he was buried.

6. BRICIUS, a scion of the house of Douglas, previously Prior of Lesmahago, succeeded in 1203. He was connected with the powerful family of De Moravia; to which, perhaps, he owed his promotion. He was a great benefactor of the Church. He procured the Cathedral fixed at Spynie. He attended the Lateran Council in 1215, and applied at Rome for a transference of the Cathedral to Elgin, which was not carried through until the time of his successor. He laid the first foundation of the power of the family of Douglas, whose name before this period is hardly known in history. He died in 1222.

7. ANDREW DE MORAVIA succeeded in 1222, and consecrated 1223 ; was probably son of Hugh de Moravia Lord of Duffus ; was previously parson of Duffus, and in that character consented to the erection of the chapel. In his time, in 1224, the transference of the Episcopal See and the Cathedral of the Diocese to Elgin was effected, which had been designed

and solicited by his predecessor. The Bishop, perhaps, lived to see the Cathedral Church completed, and he at different times, and chiefly by munificent endowments, obtained from his own relatives of the families of de Moravia of Duffus and Petty, increased the number of prebends in the Cathedral to twenty-three, of which the Bishop held one, and sat as a simple undignified canon in the Chapter. Bishop Andrew died in 1242, and was interred on the south side of the Choir of the Cathedral, under a large flat blue stone, originally adorned with brasses, which have been long since removed, but the marks remain.

8. SIMON, probably the Dean of Moray, succeeded in 1242. He died in 1251, and was buried in the Choir of the Cathedral.

9. RALPH, a canon of Lincoln, was elected in his room, but seems to have died before consecration.

10. ARCHIBALD, Dean of Moray, succeeded. He was not consecrated until 1253. He built the Palace of Kinneddar, where he much resided. In his time William Earl of Ross committed an outrage on the Church of Petty; and, as an atonement for his crime, he gave to the Church of Moray the Lands of Cadboll and other lands in the shire of Ross. He died 5th idus Decembris, 1298, having held the diocese for forty-five years. He was buried in the Choir of the Cathedral.

11. DAVID DE MORAVIA succeeded. He was consecrated by Pope Boniface VIII. at Avignon, 28th June, 1299. He was a zealous supporter of King Robert Bruce in the War of Independence. He founded the Scots College at Paris in 1325, which was confirmed by Charles King of France, and continued until ruined by the French Revolution in the end of last century.* He was a lover of learning, and a true patriot. He died in January, 1326, and was interred in the Choir of the Cathedral.

12. JOHN PILMORE, son of Adam Pilmore, burgess of Dundee, elected Bishop of Ross, was postulated Bishop of Moray, and consecrated by Pope John XXII. at Avignon, 3d kal. April, 1326. He finished the Scots College at Paris, begun by his predecessor, which always continued to be administered by the Bishops of Moray until the Reformation. He was Bishop for thirty-seven years. He died in the Castle of Spynie in the vigil of St. Michael the Archangel, 28th September, 1362.

13. ALEXANDER BUR succeeded. He was consecrated at Avignon by Pope Urban V., in the month of December, 1362. In his time (June, 1390) the Cathedral Church, part of the town of Elgin, the Hospital of Maisondieu, St. Giles' Church, and eighteen manses, were burnt by Alexander Stewart Earl of Buchan, commonly called, from his ferocity, the "Wolfe of Badenoch." The Bishop is the author of the affecting letter to the king, written on that melancholy occasion. He died at Spynie, 15th May, 1397, and was interred in the Choir of the Cathedral.

14. WILLIAM DE SPYNY, Chanter of Moray, and Doctor Decretorum, was consecrated at Avignon by Pope Benedict XIII., 16th December, 1397.

* The Scots College at Paris was never restored to the condition in which it was before the French Revolution. A considerable part of the property was lost altogether; the Roman Catholic Bishops in Scotland succeeded in preserving the rest. The institution itself no longer exists, but the Manor, near Paris, the original endowment of the Bishop of Moray, still remains, with the Scottish mission—a link connecting the present day with the age of Bruce.

He died in the Chanonry 2d August, 1406, and was buried in the Choir of the Cathedral.

15. JOHN DE INNES, parson of Duffus, and Archdean of Caithness, was consecrated by Pope Benedict XIII., 23d January, 1406-7. He died at Elgin 25th April, 1414, and was buried at the foot of the north-west pillar which supported the great steeple. The monument erected to his memory was destroyed by the fall of the great steeple in 1711, but the inscription is preserved in Monteith's Theatre of Mortality, published in 1704, and is as follows:—"Hic jacet Reverendus in Christo Pater, D.D., Joannes de Innes, hujus ecclesie quondam Episcopus Moraviensis, qui hoc notabile opus extruxit, et per septennium Episcopale munus tenuit." At the Chapter held for electing his successor, the Canons agreed and made oath that if any of them should be elected Bishop, he should bestow the third of the revenues of the Bishoprick in the building of the Church until its complete restoration.

Monteith's
Theatre of
Mortality, page
251.

16. HENRY DE LYCHTON, parson of Duffus, and Chanter of Moray, of the family of Usan, in the County of Forfar, was consecrated at Valentia by Pope Benedict XIII., on 8th March, 1415. He was translated to the See of Aberdeen—according to Bishop Keith, in 1425, in the Preface to the Chartulary of Moray in 1421; and he died at Aberdeen about the year 1441.

Registrum
Moraviense,
Preface, p. 14.
Bishop Keith,
page 143.

17. DAVID succeeded, and, according to the Chartulary and Bishop Keith, held office until 1429. He is omitted, however, in some lists, and there is a considerable obscurity about his Episcopate.

18. COLUMBA DUNBAR was a younger son of George, tenth Earl of March, and brother of George, eleventh Earl, also nephew of John Dunbar Earl of Moray. He was some time Dean of the Church of Dunbar. The year of his consecration is somewhat doubtful, but he was Bishop of Moray in 1429 or 1430. He had a safe conduct from the King of England to pass through his dominions with a retinue of thirty servants, on his way to Rome in 1433, also another dated 10th May, 1434, to go through England to the Council of Basle. On his return home he died at the Castle of Spynie, and was buried in the aisle of St. Thomas the Martyr, in the Elgin Cathedral, in the north transept, now called the Dunbars' Aisle, where the remains of his statue, a recumbent figure in Episcopal robes, may still be seen.

Registrum,
Preface, page 14.
Keith, page 143.

19. JOHN WINCHESTER, an Englishman, came to Scotland with King James I., was *Clericus Regis* and Prebendary of Dunkeld, afterwards Provost of Lincluden, and Lord Register, elected and confirmed by the Pope, April, 1436; consecrated at Cambuskenneth 9th May, 1437. He was a person in great confidence and high employment under James I. He was engaged in various embassies to England during the minority of James II. In his time the town of Spynie was erected into a Burgh of Barony. He died, according to Bishop Keith, in 1458, and was interred in St. Mary's Aisle, within the Cathedral.

20. JAMES STEWART, of the family of Lorne, Dean of Moray, and Lord High Treasurer, succeeded. He died two years afterwards, and was interred in St. Peter's and St. Paul's Aisle, within the Cathedral.

21. DAVID STEWART, brother of the preceding, was consecrated in 1461. He built the great tower of the Castle of Spynie, which still bears his name, and is the finest part of the building. He was involved in much trouble with the Earl of Huntly, whom he excommunicated. He was a prudent and judicious man. He died in 1475, having held the diocese for fourteen years, and was interred beside his brother in St. Peter's and St. Paul's Aisle, in the Cathedral.

22. WILLIAM TULLOCH, formerly Bishop of Orkney, translated to Moray in 1477. He was keeper of the Privy Seal. He died in 1482, and was buried in St. Mary's Aisle, in the Elgin Cathedral.

23. ANDREW STEWART, third son of Sir James Stewart, called the Black Knight of Lorne, by Jane Queen-Dowager of Scotland, widow of King James I., succeeded in 1482, consecrated 1483. He was previously Subdean of Glasgow, rector of Monkland, also Provost of Lincluden. In a charter of confirmation by King James III., in his favour, he is called "Nostrum Avunculum Andream Episcopum Moraviensem." He died in 1501, and was interred in the Choir of the Cathedral.

24. ANDREW FORMAN succeeded in 1501. He was a man of great talents, and one of the ablest politicians of his time. He was frequently employed in embassies, and was in much favour with King James IV. He was a great pluralist, being commendator of the Abbeys of Dryburgh and Pittenweem, and of Cottingham in England. In 1514, he was translated to the Archiepiscopal See of St. Andrew's. He died in 1522, and was buried at Dunfermline. Although a man of eminent abilities in worldly affairs, he is said to have been very deficient in literature.

25. JAMES HEPBURN, third son of Adam Lord Hales, and brother to Patrick, first Earl of Bothwell, had been previously rector of Partown, afterwards Abbot of Dunfermline, and Lord Treasurer. He was consecrated in 1516, and then resigned the office of Treasurer. He died before November, 1524, and was buried in St. Mary's Aisle, near the Earl of Huntly's Tomb.

26. ROBERT SCHAW, son of the laird of Sauchie, in the shire of Stirling, was elected Abbot of Paisley, 1498, and consecrated Bishop of Moray in 1524. During his incumbency, he was sent ambassador to England. He was an upright virtuous man. He died in 1527, and was buried near the sepulchre of Bishop Andrew Stewart, in the Choir of the Cathedral.

27. ALEXANDER STEWART, son of Alexander Duke of Albany, by Catherine Sinclair, daughter of William Earl of Orkney. He was first Prior of Whithorn, then Abbot of Inchaffray, and Abbot of Scone, was consecrated Bishop of Moray in 1527. He continued to hold the Abbacy of Scone, *in commendam*, a system of pluralities which in these degenerate times much prevailed. He died in 1534, and is said to have been buried in the Monastery of Scone.

28. PATRICK HEPBURN, son of Patrick, first Earl of Bothwell, was Bishop in 1535. He had previously held the Priory of St. Andrew's, and was for some time Secretary. After his promotion to the Bishoprick, he held the Abbacy of Scone, *in commendam*. He was the great dilapidator of the Church possessions. Almost all the charters of alienation at the

conclusion of the printed volume of the Chartulary are granted by him. He was a man of talents, but of very licentious habits. He had a numerous family of illegitimate children, and he provided for many of them, both sons and daughters, out of the possessions of the Bishoprick of Moray and Abbey of Scone. He was the uncle of the notorious James Earl of Bothwell, whose conduct and character, and connection with the unfortunate Queen Mary, throw such a dark shade on Scottish history. He outlived and braved the Reformation, and continued his former mode of life in the Palace of Spynie, and his profuse alienation of Church lands, till the period of his death, 20th June, 1573. He was the last Popish Bishop of Moray. The Romish Hierarchy lasted for a period of about 450 years, within the Diocese of Moray.

Registrum
Moraviense,
Preface, page 17.

Of the constitution of the Cathedral, we have no information, except what is derived from the Chartulary. The Chapter consisted of the eight Canons, first endowed by Bishop Bricius, with two more added by him, or by Bishop Andrew Moray, immediately on succeeding him. Thirteen new Canons, whose prebends were conferred by Bishop Andrew Moray, to which long after was added one prebend during the incumbency of Bishop Patrick Hepburn, the last Roman Catholic Bishop.

Registrum
Moraviense,
page 17.

1. The Bishop had no dignity or pre-eminence in the Chapter as Prebendary of the lands of Ferness, Lethen, Dunlichty, and Tullydivie.
2. The Dean had for his Prebend the church and parish of Auldearn.
3. The Precentor (Chanter) had for Prebend the churches of Lhanbride and Alves.
4. The Treasurer was Prebendary of the churches and parishes of Kinneddar and Essil.
5. The Chancellor had the churches and parishes of St. Peter of Strathaven and Urquhart, beyond Inverness.
6. The Archdean was endowed with the churches and parishes of Forres and Logie.
7. The Subdean had the altarage of Auldearn, with the chapelry of Nairn, and the church and parish of Dallas.
8. The Succentor had the churches and parishes of Rafford and Ferness.

The remaining canonries were endowed with the following Prebends :—

9. The churches and parishes of Spynie and Kintrae.
10. The churches and parishes of Ruthven and Dipple.
11. The church and parish of Rhynie.
12. The churches and parishes of Dumbennan and Kinnore.

13. The church and parish of Inverkeithny.
14. The churches and parishes of Elchies and Botarie.
15. The parsonage tithes of the parish of Moy.
16. The churches and parishes of Cromdale and Advie.
17. The churches and parishes of Kingussie and Inch.
18. The churches and parishes of Croy and Dunlichty. This Prebendary was the Bishop's vicar.
19. The vicarage of St. Giles' of Elgin, with 100 shillings of the altarage of the same.
20. The parsonage teinds of the parishes of Petty and Brachlie.
21. The parsonage tithes of the parishes of Boharm and Aberlour.
22. The church and parish of Duffus.
23. The church and parish of Duthel.
24. The chapelry of the Blessed Virgin in the Castle of Duffus, erected into the Prebend of Unthank, 1542.

The Dominicans, or Blackfriars, were introduced into Scotland in the reign of Alexander II., by William Malvoisin, Bishop of St. Andrew's. They were mendicants, and had fifteen religious houses in Scotland. They were called *Fratres Prædicatores*, because of their frequent preaching. The order was instituted by St. Dominic, the first contriver of the Inquisition, descended of the family of the Gusmans in Spain. He was a Canon regular of the Cathedral of Osma, and Archdean of that Church. He became renowned by his sermons against the Albigenses, and for the encouragement given by him to their persecution. He founded a congregation of preachers, who devoted themselves entirely to the conversion of heretics. The Monastery at Elgin stood on the land of Burghbrigs, a little to the north-east of Murdoch's Wynd, and was founded by King Alexander II. Of the size of the building and character of its architecture, the lands and revenues granted for its support, and the number of Monks or Friars attached, we have no account whatever. The building was, of course, deserted at the Reformation; but some part of the ruins were in existence up to the middle of last century, and a remnant of the foundations was dug up within these few years. The situation was low, and perhaps not very healthy, but the land around it was fertile. The river, which then ran in a different course, was near, and the convenience of being close to the Castle and town, was advantageous to the clergy.

Spottiswood's
Religious
Houses, p. 444.
Chartulary of
Arbroath, p. 235

It is stated that the Knights Templars, and the Knights of St. John or Malta, both had houses in Elgin. The former order was instituted in the year 1118, and at first professed poverty. They were of French origin, and devoted themselves to the entertainment of pilgrims visiting the Holy Sepulchre. In a very short period, however, they changed themselves into a military order, and had enrolled among them the sons of the noblest families in Christendom. They shortly became extremely licentious and arrogant, and obtained large estates in all parts of Europe. Eventually, they made themselves obnoxious to Philip IV. of France, and, by his influence with Pope Clement V., the order was abolished in the year 1312, and the Grandmaster, and many of the principal knights, put to death amidst cruel tortures, and all their property seized. If there was any house belonging to the order in Elgin, it must have been at or prior to the year 1312. The Knights of St. John or Malta had an earlier origin than the Templars, and, as they never attained to the same pitch of power or arrogance, they subsisted for nearly 800 years. The institution of the order originated in a hospice, which was founded at Jerusalem by permission of the Caliphs of Egypt, about the middle of the eleventh century, for receiving pilgrims from Europe who visited that city. In the beginning of the twelfth century, they were formed into a military order, and obtained lands and possessions in various parts of Europe. They had a very distinguished career, and for a long period acted as the defenders of the Christians against the Turks, both by sea and land. They settled at Rhodes in the year 1310. Their gallant defence of that island, and of Malta at a subsequent period, has immortalised the order. They held Malta until 1798, when the French Revolution and Napoleon put an end to them, as they did to many other ancient and venerable institutions. It has been thought that the house in Elgin, occupied by the late Mr. Isaac Forsyth, now belonging to Dr. Mackay, was one of their many establishments in Scotland, but beyond a very faint tradition, there are no distinct grounds for this statement, and the ancient titles of the subjects are lost. Their chief seat in Scotland was at Torphichen.

Mr. Shaw hints that there may have been a Convent in Elgin dedicated to St. Catherine, but, beyond the fact that there is a croft called St. Catherine's Croft, which now belongs to the Elgin Guildry Fund Society, he adduces no evidence to support the statement.

I have already referred to the establishments of the Franciscans or Greyfriars, and of the Lady High House, in treating of the old buildings in the town, and beyond what is there stated, I can add nothing.

I have also already referred to the Preceptory of Maison-dieu at the east end of Elgin. King Alexander II. granted to God, the Blessed Mary, and St. John the Evangelist, and to the House of God (*Domui Dei*), near Elgin, in perpetual charity, the lands of Monbeen and Kellas, by their righteous divisions, and with their just pertinents, for the reception of the poor and their sustentation in the said house. This charter is dated at Aberdeen, the 23d day of February, and twenty-first year of the king's reign, which would be the year 1235, and is confirmed by King David II., by a writ, dated at Spynie, the 12th April, 1343. At this latter date the house seems to have been in great poverty, and to have been much spoiled perhaps during the English wars. The lands of Kellas had been lost, for the charter of King David only refers to the lands of Monbeen. On the accession of King Robert II., a difference arose between the king and the bishop, about the patronage of the *Domus Dei*, which was referred to arbitration on 7th October, 1371, and the arbiters, being Churchmen, gave decerniture in favour of the bishop. In a deed of attestation following on this decerniture, executed at the Bridge of Spey, it is asserted that the house was originally founded by Bishop Andrew Moray in the land leading from the king's highway to the rivulet of Taok, and that he endowed it with the lands called Spetel-field, near the Leper Houses of Elgin, and the land of Pittensayr, within the Lordship of Lambride; that John Pilmore, the last Bishop of Moray, gave the charge of the house to Master Roger de Wedale first, next to John Pilmore, Monk of Cupar, his own uncle, third to Master Symon de Carayl, and fourth to John de Kinnaird, his cousin, and that Alexander Bar or Bur, the then present

Registrum
Moraviense,
pages 126, 127.

Registrum,
page 128.

Registrum,
page 129.

Bishop, gave the custody of the house to Adam de Dundurcos, which he then held. The patronage of the house was also claimed by Alexander Dunbar, brother of Thomas Dunbar, Earl of Moray, on what grounds are not apparent; but by an instrument, dated in September, 1393, his claim was disallowed. The house is said to have been burned by the Wolfe of Badenoch, in the year 1390, but perhaps, like the Cathedral, only partially so, and by the year 1393, it is probable it had been restored.

It would seem by subsequent charters that the Preceptory was endowed with arable lands at Elgin, the lands of Over and Nether Monben, Pittensear, and Kirdels, comprehending Pitcroy, Delnapot, Smiddycroft, with the mill, mill lands, multures, and sequels, and salmon fishing on the water of Spey. It is probable all these lands were feued out previous to the Reformation, except the lands adjoining the Preceptory at Elgin, and that nothing remained but the superiorities. These, having fallen to the Crown in the year 1560, remained very much neglected, until 1594, when they were granted by King James VI. to the Provost and Magistrates of Elgin, by charter, dated at Holyrood House, the 22d March, that year, and which was confirmed by another charter from the same king in 1620, and more fully so by a charter of King Charles I., dated 8th October, 1633. The grounds of Maisondieu and the superiorities of Monben or Manbeen, Pittensear, Kirdels, and Pitcroy, have since remained with the Magistrates and Town Council of Elgin, subject to the maintenance of certain poor men in the Hospital, and also giving a salary to a teacher of music and other liberal arts within the burgh, who shall also officiate as precentor within the Parish Church. The Hospital, being neglected at the Reformation, fell into decay. What was the extent, style of architecture, and peculiar accommodation in the building, we have no record. From the extent of land originally granted it would have had a sufficient revenue to have maintained many poor. Some ruins of the building were in existence up to the latter part of last century, but since have entirely disappeared. In the reign of Charles I. the Magistrates of Elgin erected a house* at the east part of the

The inscription on the Bead House is as follows:—"Hospitalium Burgi de Elgin, per idem conditum, 1624. Blessed is he that considereth the poor; the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble.—Psalm xli., v. a.—Rebuilt, A.D., 1846."

burgh for accommodation of four decayed men, inhabitants of the burgh, and allowed them annuities out of the Preceptory Lands. This house having in course of time become ruinous, was replaced by a new building in the year 1846, in which four poor men called Bedemen are comfortably settled, with an yearly allowance of £10 10s. to each. The Magistrates also, in terms of the Royal Charters, make a large annual allowance out of the revenues of the Maisondieu Lands for educational purposes.

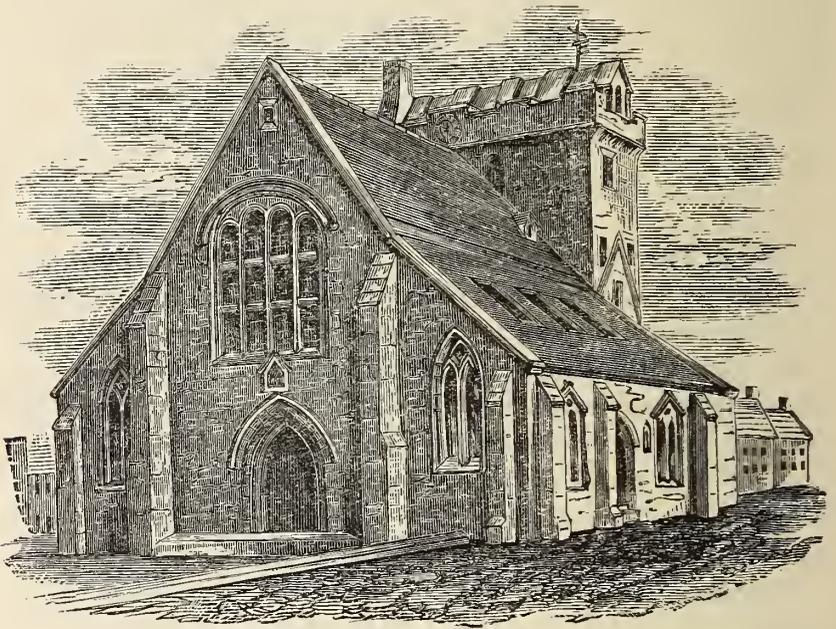
By feuing out portions of the lands the yearly income has largely increased of late years, and it is probable in time that the whole extent will be given off for building purposes, which will be most advantageous to the interest of the burgh.

ST. GILES' CHURCH.

For what reasons the Burgh of Elgin adopted St. Egidius, or Giles, as its patron, and erected a church in his honour, are unknown. He was not a Scottish saint, and in no way connected with Britain, but of Eastern (Greek) origin. Edinburgh has paid him a similar mark of respect, by erecting their great Cathedral Church to his memory; and England has dedicated many ecclesiastical buildings to St. Giles in London and elsewhere. The Church of Elgin, so much connected with the history of the burgh, and so venerable for its antiquity, was built between the years 1180 and 1200, perhaps forty years prior to the Cathedral. It stood upon two rows of massive pillars, and the arches raised on them were of the first pointed, or early English style of architecture. It had a nave and side aisles, a central tower and chancel, all in the usual form of the architecture of these times. At the period of erection there was no intention to build a Cathedral in Elgin, and therefore St. Giles' Church was made suitable to the wants of the town. Its services were conducted by a vicar appointed by the Bishop, assisted by various priests, who said masses at the altars within the building on week-days and festivals, and for the souls of the departed. The Vicar of Elgin was appointed one of the Canons of the Cathedral. That there were various altarages

Registrum
Moraviense,
page 283.

within the Church is shown by a deed of donation dated on the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin in 1286, by which Hugh Herok, Burgess of Elgin, grants his lands of Daldeleyt (probably Dandaleith) for endowment of two chaplainries, one within the Church of the Holy Trinity (the Cathedral), at the altar of St. Nicholas, and the other at the altar of the Holy Cross in the Parish Church of Elgin (St. Giles), where prayers should be said for his own soul, and that of Margaret, his wife, and their parents and children ;



ST. GILES' CHURCH—ERECTED BEFORE 1200, REMOVED 1826.

also, for the soul of Alexander III., the illustrious king of Scotland, and the souls of Archibald Bishop of Moray, and his successors. By another deed of donation dated 20th October, 1363, granted by William de Soreys, Burgess of Elgin, he directs that a certain annual rent therein mentioned should be paid out of a particate of land on the south side of the Burgh of Elgin, for the benefit of the glorious altar of the Blessed Virgin, mother of God, within the Church of St. Giles, Elgin, for prayer for his own soul, those of his predecessors and successors, and all the faithful ;

Registrum,
pages 310 & 311.

and a foundation for a chaplain in St. Giles' Church by Richard, the son of John, dated at the Feast of St. Gregory the Pope, 1365, for the souls of himself and Eliza, his spouse, John and Emma, his father and mother, and the souls of all the faithful departed. There were probably many other donations of a similar description. The Magistrates and Trades appear also to have had private altars for devotional exercises, with officiating priests for the services and masses.

Registrum,
pages 313, 314.

The Church of St. Giles, like the Cathedral, had to pass through severe trials. In the year 1390 it was burnt by the Wolfe of Badenoch, in his ruthless attack upon the burgh. It is recorded in the Chartulary of Moray, that the "gentes Domini Alexandri Seneschalli, combusserunt totam villam de Elgin, et Ecclesiam Sancti Egidii in ipsa." It does not appear to have been totally destroyed. The roof and all the wood work had been consumed, but the strong walls and massive pillars had resisted the flames, and no doubt the roof had soon been restored. The Church did not suffer in the raid of Alexander Macdonald, son of the Lord of the Isles, in 1402, nor in the conflagration of part of the burgh made by the Earl of Huntly in 1452; and at the Reformation, in 1560, it was entire. Previous to that date we have no description of how the interior was laid off, but it was likely in the same form as other Roman Catholic places of worship of the same period. We have also very little account of the clergy officiating in it. There is a vicar of the name of Hervey mentioned as the incumbent, perhaps about the middle of the fifteenth century. He is referred to in a deed in the Chartulary, page 147, unfortunately without date. In his time a glebe was designed to the vicar, and it is still known by the name of "Hervey's Haugh." In 1546, John Innes was Prebendary of Elgin; in 1547, Alexander Hepburn was Prebendary; in 1562, Alexander Chrystie was Prebendary; in 1566, George Hepburn; and from 1567 to 1571, William Douglas held the same office. These are the last of the Roman Catholic Vicars of St. Giles.

Registrum,
page 381.

Registrum
Moraviense,
Preface, pages
23, 24.

The Reformation brought about many changes in Scotland, and perhaps in no part more than in Elgin. It was an Episcopal city, dependent very much on the bishop and clergy, and its prosperity must of course have suffered by

their removal. There would be, therefore, perhaps few zealous reformers in the burgh. Bishop Patrick Hepburn stuck hard to his benefice, and had sufficient influence to retain lands and revenues until his death in 1573. In the meantime, however, two Protestant ministers were appointed for service in the town, and these had no doubt possession of St. Giles' Church, viz., Robert Pont, in 1563; and Alexander Winchester, in 1565. The latter continued in office until 1580. No church could be more inconvenient for Protestant worship than St. Giles. The various altars had to be removed; it had to be filled with pews and galleries; and the aisles, formerly so convenient for private devotion, had to be thrown into the body of the church. At the back of the pillars and arches the officiating clergyman could not be seen, and scarcely heard. Between the years 1563 and 1688 Episcopacy and Presbyterianism had a severe struggle for the ascendancy, and it was difficult to say which side would overcome. From 1560 to 1573 Presbytery prevailed; from 1573 to 1590, Episcopacy; from 1590 to 1606, Presbytery; from 1606 to 1638, Episcopacy; from 1638 to 1661, Presbytery; from 1661 to 1688, Episcopacy; and from the latter date to the present time, Presbyterianism. During this period, however, the form of worship was never changed. There was no liturgy, nor any form of prayers used. The Church was ruled by Kirk-Sessions, Presbyteries, and Synods, the only difference being that in Episcopal times the Bishop presided at the Synods; while in the period of Presbyterian government there was a General Assembly. The Royal House of Stuart had an intense dislike to the Presbyterian party, believing them to be Republicans, and that they wished to curb the Royal authority, which then aimed at absolute and despotic Government.

About the year 1621, the arch which connected the nave and chancel of St. Giles' Church was built up. The latter not being required for Protestant worship, a new entrance was made into the chancel from the street, and it was devoted to week-day service, Bishop Douglas, who then presided, being very zealous in the discharge of his pastoral duties. This new place of worship was called "The Little

Kirk." In Slezer's View of Elgin, which was taken as early as the year 1670, St. Giles' Church has a very different appearance from what it had in its latter days, the tower being in the centre of the building, and the whole edifice presenting the appearance of a cross.

On 22d June, 1679, being Sunday, and the day on which the Battle of Bothwell Bridge took place, shortly after the forenoon service, the roof of St. Giles' Church fell. It had been roofed with heavy freestone flags, and the timber work had become decayed—having probably had little repair for centuries. It was only the centre or nave that was destroyed, the side aisles, arches and pillars, and the tower and choir escaped. This is proved from a minute of the Town Council, dated 21st January, 1680, in which it is stated that on the above day "the Provost, Bailies, and " Counsell, with consent and advyse of the haill communitie, " having met together in the South Yle of Saint Geilles' " Church, their ordinar place of meeting, for considering the " rebuilding of Saint Geilles' Church, within the said burgh, " laittlie fallen; and, after due consideration, with consent " foresaid, did appoint and ordain twentie months' cess to " be stented upon and uplifted from each inhabitant within " the said burgh, as their proportions for helping the re- " building of the said Church."

The Church was repaired in the year 1684, at a cost of somewhat above £4000 Scots. These repairs consisted of the upper part of the front being made new, and the whole interior being reseated. The pulpit, Magistrates' gallery, and many of the other galleries were of oak richly carved, and the Trades' Lofts had the emblems of their crafts engraved upon them. The roof of the Church was of open wood work, and there were four heavy beams of wood across, attached to which were brass chandeliers of antique workmanship, each containing twelve sockets, hung by chains of twisted iron. The building was eighty feet long by sixty in breadth, and is said to have been capable of holding 2000 persons, which would have been absolutely necessary when there was no other religious building in the town. The open roof having been found cold, the Town Council, on 13th August, 1753, resolved that it should be

plastered, and a grant for doing so was voted out of the common good. The best description of St. Giles' Church is contained in William Hay's graphic but somewhat indelicate verses called the "Muckle Kirk of Elgin," composed for the Morayshire Society of Edinburgh at one of their annual festivals, in which the poet was, perhaps, entitled to take some liberties.

The roof and aisles of the Church were supported by five massive pillars and arches on each side. Four of these were square pillars, and the centre one was round. These were probably coeval with the original building of the Church. The aisles were of the same date, also the western front door. The upper part of the front was new, and had a large modern window called a Venetian window. Above the western front door stood a figure of St. Giles, the patron saint, dressed in his robes, with a pastoral staff in one hand and a Bible in the other. The pulpit of the Church, now at Pluscarden Priory, was of oak, curiously carved, and bore the date 1684. It stood upon the fourth pillar, on the south side. Immediately to the west of it was the Magistrates' Gallery, of carved oak. There was a canopy of the same material over it, and the civic dignitaries sat there for successive generations in great state. Farther west, on the same side, was the Shoemakers' Loft, which was always well filled by that numerous craft. In the front of the western gallery was the Blacksmiths' Loft. Next to them sat the Glovers, once a numerous body, but which gradually fell off until reduced to two in number, James Elder and Robert Blencher. These also fulfilled their day, and were gathered to their fathers; and so the craft came to an end. Next to the Glovers was the seat of the Earl of Fife, the largest heritor of the parish, and then followed the Earl of Seafield and the Earl of Moray. These noblemen and their tenants and friends occupied nearly all the north galleries. On the east, adjoining the tower, was the gallery in which the merchants of the town sat, called the Guildry Loft, and behind them were the Tailors and Weavers, the latter almost involved in total darkness. The Carpenters had a Loft near the top of the Church, on the east end. It was erected about the year 1751, and was of inferior materials to most

of the other sittings, and, from its extreme height, was a dangerous-looking situation.

The Church was only lighted once a-year, on the occasion of the winter communion, the evening of the first Sunday of November. It then exhibited a wonderful spectacle. The four large chandeliers were filled with candles, and the pulpit and precentor's seat blazed with similar lights. The Magistrates and all master tradesmen had their own candlesticks, and each family and many private individuals had the same. In short, the Church was illuminated with perhaps 500 candles, and was a perfect blaze of light. A recent writer has summed up the subject of St. Giles' Church in the following well-chosen words:—

Rhind's
Sketches, p. 46.

“ Here, for many generations, the rich and the poor had
“ been accustomed to bow before their Maker, and the young
“ imbibed those feelings and associations which accompanied
“ them through life. On the solemn festivals of the Church,
“ no scene could be more imposing, or more pregnant with
“ reverential awe, than to see every corner of this pile
“ crowded with a great multitude, who came from every
“ part of the country round. And the young will not readily
“ forget the evening devotions of those sacred times, when
“ every corner of this huge fabric was lit up with the
“ flickering lights, which waved and fluttered with the breath
“ of innumerable voices joining in the hymn of praise.

“ To every native of Elgin the Muckle Kirk was an
“ object of reverence. To those at a distance, it always
“ called up pleasing recollections, and a general feeling of
“ dismay was experienced when it was determined to sweep
“ it utterly away. It seems symptoms of decay began to
“ manifest themselves in the roof, and probably another
“ accident like that of 1679 was dreaded. Yet the pillars
“ and walls were strong as rocks, and no doubt would have
“ outlasted as many more centuries as they had seen. On
“ this consideration, and wisely reflecting that a place of
“ worship with so many hallowed recollections should not, if
“ possible, be rashly changed, many wished that a repair or
“ reconstruction should have been attempted; but it was
“ decided otherwise.”

The Communion was celebrated in old St. Giles' Church on Sunday, the 1st October, 1826, and the last sermon was preached in it by the Rev. Richard Rose of Drainie, on Monday, the 2d day of that month, and, as we have stated before, a very solemn and affecting one it was.

The Church began to be demolished in the beginning of October, 1826, and was completely removed before the end of that year. The building itself, and the whole street around, were filled with the remains of the dead, this having been the cemetery of the burgh from the twelfth till the seventeenth centuries. Large quantities of bones were carted away, showing that the extent of interment here must have been very great. The street was thereafter levelled, and the foundation of the new Church laid on 16th January, 1827, by Sir Archibald Dunbar of Northfield, Baronet, Convener of the County, formerly Provost of the burgh, in presence of a large concourse of spectators. The building was finished in August, 1828, and was opened for public worship on 28th October that year.

Although we may feel much regret at the removal of old St. Giles' Church, which had been the principal place of worship in the burgh for nearly six centuries, through the days of Popery, Episcopacy, and Presbyterianism, yet its removal had almost become a necessity. It had no beauty of exterior, being a most unseemly structure. The interior had some appearance of grandeur, but it was extremely ill-arranged, and quite unsuited for Presbyterian worship, many of the sitters not seeing the minister at all, and perhaps having difficulty in hearing him. In winter it was exceedingly cold; and there was no vestry, nor any accommodation for the ministers. While its architecture suited well enough with the old grey houses which then surrounded it, the fine modern buildings which have since been erected would have agreed very ill with the old fabric.

The new Church which took the place of old St. Giles' is of Greek architecture, from a design of the late Mr. Archibald Simpson, of Aberdeen, and is not surpassed by any ecclesiastical building in the North of Scotland, either for external beauty or internal arrangement, the only exception being the smallness of the vestry, which is not suited for

modern requirements, more particularly for the meetings of Church Courts. The cost was about £9000. The number of sittings are stated to be 1706, but in a press the Church might hold 2000.

The bells of the old Church, which had rung for so many generations, were transferred to the new building. The larger one, for sweetness and clearness of tone, is equal to any in Scotland. It may have originally belonged to the Cathedral or to St. Giles' Church, before the Reformation. It is said to have been recast in 1589 or 1593. The little bell, called "the Ministers' Bell," bears the following inscription upon it—"Thomas de Dunbar, me fecit, 1402." It, therefore, was the gift of the Earl of Moray, and is a venerable relic of Roman Catholic times. The big bell was rent in 1713 by a woman striking it violently with a large key, for the purpose of rousing the inhabitants to quench a fire which had broken out in the town during the night. It was recast 17th August, 1713, at the head of Bailie Forsyth's Close, by Albert Gelly, founder in Aberdeen, the expense being defrayed by the Magistrates; and it is stated that upon this occasion many of the rich inhabitants of Elgin repaired to the founding place, and cast in guineas, crowns, and half-crowns, and the poorer people smaller silver coins, during the time the metal was smelting, which contributed to enrich the sound as well as the substance. On the king's birthday, 4th June, 1784, it was over-rung and rent by the boys of the town, when it was taken down, and recast at London on the 17th October the following year, having the names of the Magistrates cast upon it. The expense was again paid by the town. Since that time, a period of ninety-two years, no farther accident has occurred. It has continued to pour out its sweet sounds daily, morning and evening, and to summon on Sundays the congregations of the various churches in the burgh to public worship, and may continue to do so for ages to come.

Rhind's
Sketches, p. 44.

Council
Minutes.
1784-1785.

There are sketches of old St. Giles' Church, both on the east and west ends, preserved in Dr. Rhind's work, from the pencil of Mr. Alexander; and the late James Begg, house painter, has left a drawing of the exterior of the building, and two of the interior, which were taken by him before the

demolition of the building in 1826. These latter views are now in the possession of Mr. Hugh Mackenzie, civil engineer, and will be carefully preserved by him.

St. Giles was the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of Moray in Protestant Episcopal times, and it will be appropriate in this place to give a list of the Bishops of that body during the period of their troublous ascendancy.

Registrum
Moraviense,
Preface, page 16.

1. GEORGE DOUGLAS, natural son of Archibald Earl of Angus, became bishop, and was consecrated 1573. He was Bishop of Moray sixteen years, and died about the year 1589 or 1590, and was buried in the church of Holyrood House.

Keith's Bishops,
pages 151 to 155.

2. ALEXANDER DOUGLAS was minister of Elgin for about twenty-five years, and was promoted to the See of Moray in 1606. He died at Elgin in 1623, and was buried in the south aisle of the Church of St. Giles, in a vault built by his widow, who likewise erected a monument to his memory in that church. On the demolition of the old church, the monument was removed to the Cathedral, and is now built against the north wall of the churchyard.

3. JOHN GUTHRIE was first minister at Perth, and afterwards at Edinburgh; was consecrated Bishop of Moray in 1623, where he continued until deposed by the famous Glasgow Assembly in 1638. He lived in the Castle of Spynie until 1640, when he was forcibly ejected. He then retired to his own estate of Guthrie, in Forfarshire, where he died before the restoration of King Charles II.

4. MURDOCH MACKENZIE, of the family of Gairloch, was chaplain in the Scotch regiments in the service of Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden; was afterwards minister at Contin, then of Inverness, and afterwards of Elgin. He became Bishop of the See of Moray on 18th January, 1662, and was translated to Orkney in 1677. He died at Kirkwall in February or March, 1688, the year of the Revolution, at a very advanced age.

5. JAMES AITKEN or AIKIN, son of Henry Aiken, Sheriff and Commissary of Orkney, was born at Kirkwall, and educated in Edinburgh; was chaplain to the Marquis of Hamilton; King's Commissioner at the Glasgow Assembly of 1638; afterwards minister at Birsay in Orkney; had a living for some time in the Diocese of Winchester in England. He was consecrated Bishop of Moray in 1677. He was a pious peaceable prelate. He was translated to the See of Galloway in 1680, and died in Edinburgh 28th October, 1687, aged seventy-four years, and was buried in the Greyfriars' Churchyard there.

6. COLIN FALCONER, only son of William Falconer of Downduff, of the family of Halkertown, born 1623, was educated at the University of St. Andrew's; was ordained minister of the parish of Essel in 1651, and translated to Forres in 1658, where he officiated twenty-one years. He was promoted to the Bishoprick of Argyle on 5th September, 1679, and in February, 1680, became Bishop of Moray. He was the most popular of all

the Protestant bishops—a hospitable, pious, and peaceable prelate. He died at the Castle of Spynie 11th November, 1686, in the sixty-third year of his age, and was the last bishop who lived there. His body was interred in the south aisle of St. Giles' Church in Elgin, at the bottom of the tower towards the east. In the year 1812, his descendant, Sir Hugh Innes of Lochalsh, Baronet, erected a tablet to his memory on the wall of the Chapter House of the Cathedral.

7. ALEXANDER ROSE, descended of the family of Kilravock, studied divinity at Glasgow under Dr. Gilbert Burnet, afterwards the famous Bishop of Salisbury. He was minister at Perth, and afterwards Professor of Divinity at Glasgow. In 1686, he was appointed Principal of St. Mary's College, St. Andrew's. On 8th March, 1687, a Royal mandate was issued for consecrating him Bishop of Moray, but he never seems to have taken possession, and the same year was translated to the See of Edinburgh. He outlived the Revolution nearly thirty-two years, and died in the Canongate, Edinburgh, 20th March, 1720. He was the last survivor of all the Scotch Established bishops.

8. WILLIAM HAY, of the family of Park, was born 17th February, 1647. He was educated at Aberdeen, and ordained by Bishop Scougal. He was first minister at Kilconquhar, and was made a Doctor of Divinity by Archbishop Sharp. From Kilconquhar he was translated to Perth, and was consecrated Bishop of Moray in the early part of the year 1688. The Revolution occurred the same year, and he was expelled from his diocese. He died at his son-in-law's house at Castlehill, near Inverness, on the 17th March, 1707.

The Presbytery of Elgin was proposed to be erected by the General Assembly April, 1581. The register commences 19th November, 1635, and extends to ten volumes, having a chasm from 26th September, 1688, to 1st July, 1702, at which time it formed part of the Presbytery of Moray, which was divided into three Presbyteries of Forres, Elgin, and Strathbogie, 23d June, 1702. The former registers are stated in 1730 to have been carried off by Bishop Guthrie in the previous century.

Scott's Fasti,
vol. III., pages
151 to 153.

The ministers who officiated in St Giles' Church, Elgin, Presbyterians and Episcopalians, are as follows :—

1563.—ROBERT PONT removed from Dunkeld, continued until 1565, was a man of eminence in his day, and acted for some time as Commissioner for Moray.

1567.—ALEXANDER WINCHESTER was appointed to the Vicarage by King James VI. In 1574, St. Andrew's was added to the charge, with an additional stipend; and the same year he was also presented to Spynie. In the Assembly, 1578, a complaint was made that he had left his flock, but he continued until 1580.

1581.—ALEXANDER DOUGLAS, translated from Keith, admitted in 1581,

appointed Commissioner for Moray by the Assembly, 1588. He was a member of thirteen General Assemblies between 1581 and 1606, when he was appointed Bishop. He held the charge of the parish for some time in conjunction with the See, and died 9th May, 1623, in the forty-third year of his ministry.

1617.—**DAVID PHILP**, A.M., translated from the second charge of this parish. An edict was served on 8th, and he was admitted 30th December. "It is ordenit," by the Session, 14th October, 1621, "that quhen he teitches, that he turne the glass; quhen he goes to the pulpit, that the prayer, psalme, and preitchings be all endit within the hour, under the penalty of 6s. 8d." He died 11th September, 1632, aged about fifty, in the twentieth year of his ministry.

1633.—**JOHN GORDON**, A.M., translated from Kinneddar, had the degree of D.D. from the University of King's College, Aberdeen, 21st September, 1635. He was elected a member of Assembly, 1638, but refused to sign the Covenant, and was deposed by the Synod, 30th April, 1639, which was confirmed by the Commission of Assembly, 23d August, same year. He afterwards obtained a situation in England, where he removed with his wife and family in 1642. He was excommunicated, and the sentence intimated 19th October, 1648.

1640.—**GILBERT ROSS**, translated from Colmonell, admitted 24th September. He, along with the Laird of Innes, younger, and the Laird of Brodie, and others, tore down the fine partition screen of the Cathedral, as narrated before, and carried it home for fuel. He was member of Commission of Assembly, 1642 and 1644, and died 13th August of the latter year, aged about fifty-two.

1645.—**MURDOCH MACKENZIE**, A.M., translated from Inverness 17th April, 1645. He was long an ardent Covenanter, but was cured by being promoted to the Bishoprick in 1662, at same time holding the charge of the parish as parson until translated to the See of Orkney in 1677. He was a man of talents and prudence.

1677.—**JAMES ATKINS**, D.D., elected Bishop of Moray 1st November, 1677, consecrated in 1679. He did not take the parsonage. He was translated to the See of Galloway in 1680.

1680.—**COLIN FALCONER**, A.M., though appointed Bishop of Moray in 1680, does not appear in the parsonage. He died at Spynie, 11th November, 1686, in the sixty-third year of his age.

1687.—**ALEXANDER ROSE**, D.D., while appointed to the See of Moray in 1687, does not appear as parson. He was promoted to the Bishoprick of Edinburgh in 1688.

1688.—**WILLIAM HAY**, D.D., promoted to the See of Moray 29th February this year. He was deprived of the parsonage by the Privy Council, 10th October, 1689, for not reading the proclamation of the Estates, nor praying for King William and Queen Mary, and not observing the proclamation concerning the thanksgiving contribution and fast. He died 19th March, 1707, in the sixty-first year of his age.

1696.—**ROBERT LANGLANDS**, translated from the Barony, Glasgow, called unanimously in 1695, and admitted 21st June, 1696. Died 12th

August succeeding, to the great regret of his parishioners. He was a man of most ardent piety, and great talents as a preacher.

1701.—ALEXANDER KING, translated from Bonhill, called unanimously and admitted 27th April this year. Died 22d December, 1715, in his sixty-third year, and twenty-fifth of his ministry.

1717.—CHARLES PRIMEROSE, A.M., translated from Forres, called by the Presbytery, *jure devoluto*, 1st November, 1716, translated to Crichton, 11th March, 1729.

1730.—JAMES WINCHESTER, translated from Auldearn, called 28th August, 1729, admitted 5th May following. He was translated to Jedburgh, 10th April, 1734.

1735.—ALEXANDER IRVINE, translated from Auldearn, called 11th December, 1734, and admitted 12th August succeeding. Died 22d December, 1758, in the sixty-third year of his age, and thirty-third of his ministry. He married—first, Ann, daughter of Thomas Brodie of Pitgaveny; and, second, 3d November, 1755, Elizabeth Fraser, who died 26th April, 1789. He had two daughters, Mary, who married Mr. James Gray, minister of Lanark, and Sophia, who married Mr. John Wood, minister of Rosemarkie.

1759.—DAVID RINTOUL, translated from Kirkcaldy, admitted 28th September this year. Died 26th October, 1778, in his sixty-fourth year, and thirty-sixth of his ministry. He left £100, the interest to be applied to the support of the Chapel of Ease. He married, 29th August, 1754, Helen, daughter of Mr. Ludovick Brodie. She died 22d January, 1791, having also contributed in 1781 an annuity of £5 to the Chapel, and in 1787 made a further grant of £100.

1779.—JAMES HAY, D.D., translated from Dyce, admitted 8th July this year. Died 22d January, 1784, in the forty-eighth year of his age, and twenty-first of his ministry. He was an able pious man, and greatly regretted. He married—first, 11th November, 1763, Katharine Robertson; second, 19th September, 1780, Elizabeth Abercrombie, who died 27th March, 1790.

1784.—WILLIAM GORDON, A.M., some time missionary at Enzie, admitted 26th August this year. He was appointed chaplain to the Gordon Highlanders in 1794, and for some time was also chaplain to the 100th Regiment of Foot. He died 19th September, 1837, in the eighty-sixth year of his age, and sixty-second of his ministry. He married 8th August, 1793, Catherine Brodie, who died 24th October, 1840, by whom, among others, he had a son Alexander, Sheriff of Sutherland, and Ann, who married the Rev. John Allan, minister of Peterculter.

1838.—ALEXANDER TOPP, ordained and admitted 25th January, 1838; demitted his charge, and joined the Free Church of Scotland, May, 1843; became minister of Free Roxburgh Church, Edinburgh, in 1852, and of Knox Church, Toronto, Canada, in 1858, and had the degree of D.D. from the University of Aberdeen in 1870. He married Mrs. Jane Mortimer, or Clark, widow of Mr. John Clark, Aberdeen.

1843.—PHILIP JERVIS MACKIE, ordained and admitted 14th September this year, and is now (1876) the minister of the first charge of the parish of Elgin.

In the year 1606, the Bishoprick of Moray was revived by King James VI., and Alexander Douglas, minister of Elgin, was appointed Bishop. Being much occupied with the business of an extensive Diocese, he had little time to attend to the pastoral duties of his parish, and it therefore became desirable to institute a collegiate charge, which was done in the year 1607, and since that date Elgin has continued to be served by two ministers. The names of the clergymen of the second or collegiate charge, with an account of all that is known of them, I give from the best authorities as follows :—

Scott's Fasti,
vol. III., p. 153.

1607.—WILLIAM CLOGGIE was settled in Elgin at this time, but was translated to Inveraven the following year, and to Inverness in 1620, where he remained until 1640. He became minister of Spynie in 1646, where he died, 28th December, 1659, aged seventy-seven, in the fifty-third year of his ministry.

The charge at Elgin was vacant until 1613.

1613.—DAVID PHILP, A.M., ordained about 25th March, 1613, was promoted to the first charge of the parish in December, 1617. The second charge was vacant until 1645.

1645.—THOMAS LAW, translated from Boharm, presented by the Town Council 14th, and admitted 28th August this year. He was a member of the Commission of Assembly in 1646, and died 1st September, 1657, aged about fifty-two, in the twenty-fourth year of his ministry.

1659.—JAMES HORNE, translated from Bellie, called unanimously 23d June, and admitted 28th July, 1659, demitted on account of the test in 1682.

1682.—ALEXANDER TOD, translated from Lhanbryd, admitted 11th July this year. Was deprived by the Privy Council, 10th October, 1689, for not reading the proclamation of the Estates, and not praying for King William and Queen Mary.

The charge was kept vacant, it is supposed by the influence of Lord Duffus, and the leading members of the Town Council, who held Jacobite principles, up to 1696. The first charge was kept similarly open, so that Elgin was without a minister for seven years.

1696.—JAMES THOMSON of Newton, Colessie, translated from Colinton, called unanimously in 1695, and admitted 21st June, 1696. He was much beloved as a minister. He died 1st June, 1726, in the thirty-third year of his ministry. He bequeathed 600 merks to buy Bibles for the poor. He married—first, 13th February, 1696, Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. Thomas Paterson, minister of Borthwick, relict of George Turnbull of Currie. She died 12th August, 1698, aged thirty-six. Secondly, Janet, daughter of Brodie of Lethen, by whom he had a son, James, M.D., physician in Elgin, who sold his father's estate of Newton in 1760, and who was esteemed an excellent classical scholar.

1727.—**JOSEPH SANDERSON**, translated from Alves, called to this charge 20th October, 1726, admitted 2d May, 1727. Died 15th July, 1733, in the thirty-first year of his ministry.

1734.—**LACHLAN SHAW**, son of Donald Shaw, farmer at Rothiemurchus, ordained and settled minister at Kingussie, 20th September, 1716; translated to Cawdor 28th October, 1719; translated to Elgin, and there admitted, 9th May, 1734; demitted the charge 5th April, 1774, and died 23d February, 1777. Dr. Scott states that he was in his eighty-fifth year, and sixty-first of his ministry, but it is generally thought in Elgin that he had reached the age of ninety-one. Mr. Shaw was twice married—first, to a daughter of Mr. Stewart, Collector of Customs at Inverness, by whom he had two children; and, second, 14th March, 1727, Anne, daughter of Bailie Duncan Grant of Inverness, by whom he had a large family.

Scott's Fasti,
vol. III., p. 154.

1774.—**WILLIAM PETERKIN**, presented by the Crown 14th April, 1774, and ordained 14th July succeeding. He died 8th January, 1788, in the fourteenth year of his ministry. He was unpopular in the parish, and his settlement was opposed. Dr. Scott states that "he was the first incumbent in the parish who had recourse to notes in the pulpit." He married 31st December, 1774, Marjory, daughter of the Rev. Lachlan Shaw, his predecessor. She died 4th June, 1814.

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Scott's Fasti,
vol. III., p. 154.

1788.—**JOHN GRANT**, son of Mr. Hugh Grant, minister of Knockando, was licensed by the Presbytery of Aberlour 5th March, 1754; recommended by the Presbytery to be preacher at Enzie 26th November, 1755; ordained minister of the parish of Dundurcas 28th September, 1758; removed to Boharm in June, 1783; and from thence translated to Elgin 2d September, 1788, and admitted 14th October thereafter. He died 22d October, 1814, in the eighty-fourth year of his age, and fifty-seventh of his ministry. He was twice married, and had at least two daughters.

1815.—**LEWIS GORDON** was licensed by the Presbytery of Forres 19th July, 1768; ordained and settled minister of Drainie 28th September same year; had the degree of D.D. from the University of King's College, Aberdeen, 17th February, 1815; was elected Moderator of the General Assembly the 18th May thereafter; and translated to Elgin 14th August same year, and admitted 5th September following. He died at Burghead 24th June, 1824, in the seventy-sixth year of his age, and fifty-sixth of his ministry. He is said to have married a daughter of the Rev. Robert Logan, minister of Rafford, by whom he had a large family.

1825.—**ALEXANDER WALKER**, son of Mr. William Walker, in Glenbucket, was licensed by the Presbytery of Fordyce 26th December, 1804; ordained and settled minister of Old Machar 8th August, 1805; translated to the parish of Urquhart, in the County of Elgin, 7th March, 1811; admitted 4th April thereafter; from thence translated to Elgin in October, 1824, and admitted 6th June, 1825; re-translated to Urquhart 4th August, 1841; and died 28th January, 1847, aged about sixty-nine, in the forty-second year of his ministry. He married in 1807 Elizabeth Grant, by whom he had five sons and two daughters. She died 11th January, 1855.

FRANCIS WYLIE, a native of Dundee, educated at St. Andrew's, was ordained and admitted 17th March, 1842. Died 31st March, 1873. Married Margaret, daughter of Alexander Brander, Esquire of Springfield.

DUNCAN STEWART, translated from Dornoch, admitted 21st August, 1873. Is one of the present ministers of the parish.

THE LITTLE KIRK was the Chancel of old St. Giles' Church, and, as we have stated before, the connecting arch which joined the nave and chancel was closed in the year 1621, and never opened again. This occurred during the incumbency of Bishop Alexander Douglas. A new door was made to open into the street, and the chancel set apart for week-day service. When the roof of the nave of St. Giles' Church fell in 1679, the Chancel, or Little Kirk, does not seem to have been in any way injured. In the year 1689, when Mr. Alexander Tod, the then minister of the second charge, was deprived for not praying for King William and Queen Mary, it is probable that, through the influence of Lord Duffus, then paramount in the town, and of the Magistrates, who were almost all attached to Episcopacy, he was maintained in the Little Kirk, and officiated there for a considerable time. Of the conclusion of Mr. Tod's life we know nothing.

In the year 1704, the Magistrates of Elgin (Lord Duffus being then Provost) permitted Mr. Henderson, an Episcopal minister, to conduct divine service in the Little Kirk, but the ministers having applied to the Privy Council, an order was granted to the Sheriff to remove Mr. Henderson. In 1712, the Magistrates permitted a Mr. Blair, an Episcopal minister, to occupy the building. In consequence, a criminal action was raised against the Magistrates before the Court of Justiciary, which was remitted to the Court of Session, when, after proof, it was found that the Little Kirk was part of the Parish Church of St. Giles, and the Magistrates were ordained to restore it to the ministers, and were found liable in expenses, and ordained to pay a fine of £20. There can be no doubt that this was a sound decision, but the Magistrates having appealed to the House of Lords, the decerniture of the Court of Session and Court of Justiciary was reversed, and it was ordered and adjudged that the appellants (the Magistrates) should have the possession of the Little Kirk, it being no part of the Parish Church. The control of the building remained with the Magistrates in all

time thereafter during its existence. How long it was used as an Episcopalian Church after this date I do not find any record. The death of Queen Anne, and the accession of the House of Hanover, tended greatly to depress that body, and their participation in the Rebellions of 1715 and 1745 caused them to be entirely proscribed for a long period.

The Little Kirk, with consent of the Magistrates, appears to have been opened for public worship in connection with the Established Church in the year 1744, one of the ministers preaching a sermon on a week-day, and which was probably continued for a long time. In 1778, Mr. Donald Mitchell, a native of Cromarty, was ordained by the Presbytery of Elgin as assistant to the Rev. David Rintoul, then one of the ministers of the parish, and to officiate in the Little Kirk. He continued to supply, after Mr. Rintoul's death, until his removal to the parish of Ardelach, in 1781. Alexander Macadam succeeded. He had been previously schoolmaster at Cromarty, and was licensed by the Presbytery of Chanonry, 4th May, 1779, was called 18th June, 1781, and supplied the Little Kirk until called to the Gaelic Church of Cromarty in 1782. Mr. Ronald Bayne was called as successor, and officiated with great acceptance. He had previously been minister of the Gaelic Church in Aberdeen, and subsequently chaplain to the 73d Regiment of Foot in India. He was an able and popular minister, and his memory was long respected in the town.

Scott's Fasti,
vol. III., p. 156.

In the year 1798, the Little Kirk having become ruinous, and the Magistrates, whose property it was, not being inclined to make any repairs upon it, the numerous congregation built a new and commodious church in Moss Street, and requested Mr. Bayne to continue as their minister in the new church, but he was interdicted by the Presbytery in 1799, which decision was confirmed by the Synod of Moray and General Assembly in 1800, so that the congregation was under the necessity, very unwillingly, to give up their connection with the Established Church of Scotland, and unite themselves to another denomination of Christians. Mr. Bayne, not willing to separate from the Establishment, removed to the Chapel of Ease at Inverness, where he continued until 1807, when he was presented by the Hon.

Scott's Fasti,
vol. III., p. 264.

Archibald Fraser of Lovat to the parish of Kiltarlity, and admitted 5th May, 1808. He obtained the degree of D.D. from the University of King's College, Aberdeen, 2d July, 1809, and died 31st January, 1821, aged about sixty-six. The Little Kirk was demolished by the Magistrates about or previous to the year 1800, and all traces of it obliterated.

THE FIRST ASSOCIATE CONGREGATION,

NOW CALLED THE FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATION
IN ELGIN.

We have already narrated the secession which took place from the Church of Scotland in the year 1732, and which was consummated by the deposition by the General Assembly of eight eminent and popular ministers of the Church on 15th May, 1740. The fruits of this deplorable event soon appeared over the country.

In the year 1734, a vacancy occurred in the collegiate charge of the parish of Elgin, by the translation of the Reverend James Winchester to Jedburgh. The people divided in making choice of his successor, one portion of them bringing out a call for the Rev. Alexander Irvine of Auldearn, and the other supporting a call for the Rev. Mr. Howie of Methlick. The Presbytery appointed a committee to reconcile the parties, but failed in the attempt. The Synod of Moray, before whom the case came, set aside both calls. An appeal from this decision was made by both parties to the General Assembly, 1735, which preferred the call to Mr. Irvine, and ordered his induction accordingly. Several of the parishioners would not submit to his ministry, and either attended at other parish churches, or remained at home when it was his turn to preach. A disputed settlement took place in the parish of Duffus in 1737, when Mr. John Bower was settled against the wishes of the people, and another in Urquhart in 1739, by the settlement of Mr. James Spence. In January, 1741, a number of parties resident in the parishes of Elgin, Duffus, Urquhart, and Spynie, applied to the Associate Presbytery, whose place of meeting was at

Perth, to be taken under their care, but nothing could be done for them until 1745.

Mr. ALEXANDER TROUP was, in 1745, located as a missionary in the County of Moray, and to visit in Ross-shire. He was ordained and settled in Elgin in 1748, and was translated to Perth in 1763, after a ministry of fifteen years.

Second minister, THOMAS DUNCAN, from Kinclaven, ordained 18th July, 1770; died 5th July, 1818, in the seventieth year of his age, and forty-eighth of his ministry. He was a popular and successful preacher, and much respected in the town.

Third minister, ROBERT CRAWFORD, previously at Auchinleck, admitted as colleague to Mr. Duncan in 1817; died 25th March, 1828, in the fifty-third year of his age, and seventeenth of his ministry.

Fourth minister, JOHN PRINGLE, from Tranent, ordained 16th July, 1829, and is now in the forty-eighth year of his useful ministry. He is the translator of Calvin's works on 1st and 2d Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians, three volumes.

Mackelvie's
Annals of U.P.
Church, pages
249, 250, &c.

The first Secession Church in Elgin was built in 1754; the second in 1807, on the same site as the first, with 438 sittings; and the third, a very elegant building in South Street, was erected in 1864, with 500 sittings, at a cost of £1300.

SECOND ASSOCIATE CONGREGATION,

NOW SECOND UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The eighteenth century was not so exciting either in Church or State as the preceding one. It has the general character of being rather a dull period; still, the religious movements were considerable. In England, the rise and progress of the Wesleyan and Calvinistic Methodists, particularly of the former, were very striking; and, in like manner, the beginning and extension of the Secession Churches in Scotland attracted considerable attention, and created alarm to the Established Church. Methodism never took root in Scotland. It does not seem suited to the genius of the people, the national mind, amidst all differences and contentions, leaning to Presbyterian forms of worship. It does not appear that the great preacher George Whitefield ever visited Elgin; at least, I have discovered no account

of his visits. That wonderfully energetic man and ardent preacher, John Wesley, appears to have done so on more than one occasion. A friend of mine, long since dead, mentioned to me that he had heard Mr. Wesley preach in the old malt barn attached to the buildings where the Shambles now stand, at the foot of North Street. No ecclesiastical building in the town would probably have then admitted the venerable man in that comparatively bigoted period. In the year 1797, the late eminent Mr. James Haldane visited Elgin, and, although his stay was short, it produced some permanent effects, still bearing on the religious history of the burgh. Mr. Haldane makes the following

Lives of Robert
and James
Haldane, 4th
Edition, pages
154, 155.

remarks in his journal, under date 1st August, 1797 :—
 “ Arrived in Elgin. The Magistrates and ministers have
 “ prohibited the bellman from giving intimation of sermon ;
 “ but, though public notice was prevented, some friends of
 “ the truth were abundantly active, and at the appointed
 “ hour we had a congregation of about 600 persons, to whom
 “ we preached in the street from the steps of the church.
 “ Preached again in the morning.” From Elgin Mr. Haldane
 proceeded with his companions to Burghead on 11th August, and records that a good many of his friends from Elgin and the people of the village assembled, to whom they preached. They there embarked for Kirkwall, in Orkney, and on his return preached in Caithness, Sutherland, Ross, and Inverness, and also in Nairn, Auldearn, and Forres, returning to Elgin in the latter end of October, and there addressing congregations morning and evening, varying from 700 to 1000 persons. These sermons made a considerable impression on many of the inhabitants, and produced after fruits.

In the year 1798, the Little Kirk of Elgin having become ruinous, as we have stated before, a new Church for the congregation worshipping there was erected in Moss Street, and, on proposing to remove with their able and popular minister, the Rev. Ronald Bayne, they were interdicted by the Presbytery in 1799, and this sentence being confirmed by the Synod of Moray and General Assembly of 1800, the congregation was, by this sentence, debarred and prohibited from all further connection with the Established Church of Scotland. In this dilemma, and being left

without a minister, they probably, with the advice of Mr. Haldane, made choice of Mr. William Ballantyne, who had been for some time officiating at Thurso, and who had been one of Mr. Haldane's coadjutors, to be their minister. Mr. Ballantyne was settled in the spring of 1801, and was an able and energetic preacher, very zealous in the discharge of his duties, attracting a large attendance at his ministrations from the town and surrounding country, and was for a time extremely useful. But while matters seemed to prosper so far as preaching was concerned, Mr. Ballantyne was not satisfied with the order and discipline practised among them. The congregation was Presbyterian, while he was an Independent in principles. In endeavouring to change the form of worship in the church, to establish weekly communion and other practices followed by Congregationalists, Mr. Ballantyne met with extreme opposition from the office-bearers and people generally, which soon assumed so serious an aspect, that Mr. Ballantyne in 1804 resigned office, and with a few attached followers entirely withdrew, and formed an Independent congregation in the town.

Being thus again left to themselves and being resolved to adhere to Presbyterian principles, the office-bearers consulted with the Rev. Thomas Stark, minister at Forres, what course they ought to take, in the circumstances in which they were placed, when he advised them to call a minister from the Secession Church. This advice being generally approved of by the congregation, they resolved to connect themselves with the Anti-Burgher Presbytery of Elgin. They have since continued their connection with this body—now the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

The first minister called was the Rev. SIMON SOMERVILLE, previously at Carnoustie, who was admitted 17th April, 1805, and, after a long and faithful discharge of his duties, died 11th October, 1839, in the seventy-second year of his age, and forty-eighth of his ministry. Mr. Somerville was an able and popular preacher, and had a large attendance during all the period of his long ministry.

The second minister was the Rev. ADAM LIND, from Craigdam. He was called to Comrie, Burntisland, and Elgin; gave the preference to Elgin, and was admitted as colleague to Mr. Somerville, 27th July, 1836. On Mr. Somerville's death, he became sole minister, and has officiated with

Mackelvie's
Annals of U.P.
Church, pages
249 to 252.

much acceptance for the long period of forty years. Mr. Lind has published various sermons, and is author of a Memoir of the Rev. Adam Lind, Whitehill, and of papers to the "United Presbyterian Magazine."

A new Church was erected on the old site in 1858, with 750 sittings, at a cost of £2400.

THE CONGREGATIONAL OR INDEPENDENT CHURCH.

The origin of this congregation we have stated in the preceding paragraph. The Rev. William Ballantyne, who had been minister of the Moss Street Presbyterian Church, and who was an able and acceptable preacher, having differed with his office-bearers and people on the subject of forms of worship, resigned the charge in 1804. Some of the congregation who had profited by his ministry, and felt attached to him for his piety and ability as a preacher, followed him to form a separate congregation, on the principles of Independency, and this was the commencement of the Congregational Church presently existing in Elgin.

The congregation met for worship in Thunderton House, then recently purchased by John Batchen, auctioneer, from Sir Archibald Dunbar, and when the weather was favourable they met in a back yard attached to the house. In the same year (1804) Mr. Robert Haldane of Airthrey erected a new Church for Mr. Ballantyne at the top of the Thunderton House property, capable of holding 1300 people. Mr. Haldane anticipated that the Church would be filled, but his hopes were not realised. About a year after the Church was opened Mr. Ballantyne removed to London, and, it is understood, eventually adopted Baptist views. Prior to his removal he had recommended Mr. Alexander Stewart, who had studied at Mr. Haldane's classes, to the favourable notice of the congregation. After being heard as a candidate, he became their minister. But he soon announced that he had adopted Baptist principles, and resigned office. After Mr. Stewart's departure the Church was vacant for a short period, but the work was carried on by ministers from Nairn, Forres, and Knockando. During the vacancy communication was

held with Mr. Robert Haldane, who was then training young men for the ministry, and Mr. Neil M'Neil, a young man whose studies were not completed, was sent to supply the pulpit for a few months. Mr. M'Neil set out from Edinburgh on foot, with only his Bible in his pocket, and a staff in his hand, and reached Elgin on 3d May, 1808. He was well received by his small congregation, which then only numbered seventy persons, but he found the Church, seated for 1300 persons, very inconvenient and unpleasant. Although Mr. M'Neil's engagement was only temporary, after some time he resolved to continue permanently with the people. Mr. Haldane in the same year, having adopted Baptist views, resolved to dispose of the Church, and the congregation was compelled to look out for a place of worship to themselves, which they fortunately succeeded in acquiring, by purchasing a small chapel in South Street, which had been originally built for the congregation of Nonjuring Episcopalians, and was afterwards occupied by Methodists. It was capable of holding about 200 persons. They continued here until 1822, when a new chapel was built in Batchen Lane, and opened in May of that year, a house for the minister being acquired on the opposite side of the same lane. Mr. M'Neil, after an incumbency of forty-six years, retired in May, 1854, and died on 1st March, 1855, in the seventy-fourth year of his age, much regretted. The funeral was largely attended by ministers of all denominations, by the Magistrates and Town Council, and all the respectable inhabitants of the burgh. Mr. Archibald Guthrie was ordained as successor on 6th December, 1854. In 1860 he was removed to England, where he still labours. For four years after this time the Church struggled on through many difficulties, receiving occasional supplies from students and probationers. In August, 1864, Mr. James Stark received an unanimous call, and, his ministry proving successful, a very neat new Church was erected in South Street, in the early English style of architecture, in 1866. The building is fifty-three feet in length, by thirty-three in breadth. Mr. Stark was removed to Edinburgh in the year 1872, and was succeeded by Mr. James Anderson, the present minister of the congregation.

Lives of R. & J.
A. Haldane,
pages 334, 335.

Council
Minutes.

BAPTIST CHURCH.

If the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland had sanctioned the Moss Street Presbyterian Church as a Chapel of Ease, the probability is that we would have had neither a Congregational nor a Baptist Church in Elgin.

Mr. William Ballantyne, to whom we have referred before, left Elgin in the year 1807, having got an appointment in London. Previous to his departure, he, for some years, had formed a class for training missionary students, which had been attended with considerable success. In 1808 the Messrs. Haldane, whose doctrines had exercised a considerable influence in Elgin, embraced Baptist views. Mr. Alexander Stewart, who then ministered to the Independent congregation in Elgin, saw it to be his duty to adopt the same principles, and, in consequence, had to resign office. He went to Edinburgh for the purpose of having the ordinance of baptism administered to him; and, during his absence, a Mr. Mackenzie, a Baptist minister, visited Elgin, and administered the rite to those who had imbibed the sentiments of believers' baptism. In the course of a few weeks, Mr. Stewart returned to remove his family, and baptised a few more, among others John James, John Kelly, Robert Packie, James Nicol, and John Batchen, all resident in Elgin, with various females. In the course of a year were added to the above Alexander Urquhart, Lewis Anderson, John Lumsden, Captain John Roy, and others. Thus the first Baptist Church was formed in Elgin in the year 1808, and was composed of about thirty members. They went on pretty comfortably for some time, but laboured under the disadvantage of having no settled pastor. In 1810, the subject of salutation caused a split, when a male member and five females left. Three of the females returned. In 1814, the original party divided on account of some trifling differences, and the consequence was that their leader, John James, resigned office, and thus the Church broke up. An attempt was made by Robert Packie to re-organise them, but it failed; and in about three years he left this country for America. In 1819, a few of

the Baptists joined the Independent Church, but not being satisfied there they soon left, and resolved to revive the Baptist cause. Between the years 1825 and 1828 they had occasional visits from Baptist ministers, but had no stated ministry of their own.

The Chapel originally built by Mr. Robert Haldane, for Mr. Ballantyne, was sold to the Methodists at the time Mr. Stewart left Elgin in 1808, but the Methodists' cause having failed, they resolved to dispose of it. In 1828 the Chapel was purchased by three of the Baptists, Alexander Urquhart, John Batchen, and Lewis Anderson, who intended it for the accommodation of the Church when formed. In 1830, Mr. John Edwards from Canada, being in Scotland collecting for missionary purposes, proposed to form the few surviving Baptists into a Church, and succeeded in the attempt, and they were once more put into Church order. The members were then Alexander Urquhart, Peter Macdonald, Captain John Roy, John Batchen, all of Elgin; John Bain, Forres, and eight females. Mr. Urquhart, one of the brethren, was appointed President of the meeting, and for twelve years they assembled together and observed the ordinances of the Gospel.

About the year 1839, a preacher was stationed among them for about twelve months, and at a future period another for six months. The latter was succeeded in 1843 by Mr. William Tulloch, as stated minister. The Church had then fifteen members. Mr. Tulloch officiated for twelve years with much acceptance, and considerably increased the congregation. He resigned the pastorate in August, 1855, and left Elgin in September of that year, having been invited to the Tabernacle in Edinburgh. On 14th July, 1850, in Mr. Tulloch's time, the neat chapel at the top of Reidhaven Street was opened. From 1855 to 1858, the pulpit was supplied by neighbouring Baptist ministers, and sometimes by the brethren themselves. Mr. Thomas Vesey, from Wigan, officiated from 17th April, 1858, to 19th May, 1861. Mr. James Macfarlane, from Aberchirder, became pastor on 17th October, 1861, and resigned from ill health on 1st March, 1871, when he received a presentation, from friends at a distance and in Elgin, of upwards of £250. From 1871

to 1876, there was no stated ministry. On 26th February, 1877, Mr. A. D. Young received an unanimous invitation to the pastorate, and is to be settled on Sunday, 11th March.

Mr. Alexander Urquhart died on 12th August, 1864, and Mr. Peter Macdonald on 6th February, 1859, both leading members of this body.

The Church, erected by Mr Robert Haldane for Mr. Ballantyne in 1804, to accommodate 1300 hearers, had a singular history. Had Mr. Haldane persevered in Congregational principles, and Mr. Ballantyne continued the pastor, it might have proved a very successful ministry; but the Messrs. Haldane having adopted Baptist views, and Mr. Ballantyne having left Elgin, the congregation was entirely scattered, and left without a head. The Church was sold to the Methodists shortly after 1808. For a time they had a considerable attendance according as able preachers were sent to them, but on the whole it was a failure, and the proprietors, about the year 1820, reduced the size of the Church by converting the upper part into a separate hall, which for some years was used as a manufactory for straw bonnets, in which a number of young females in the town were employed, the lower part being used for public worship. The straw plaiting manufactory not having succeeded, the upper storey was converted into two dwelling-houses, with separate front stairs of entry, and the Church was thereby further circumscribed.

In 1828, as we have stated above, the building was purchased by Messrs. Alexander Urquhart, Lewis Anderson, and John Batchen, three of the leading Baptists in Elgin, as a place of meeting for their body. Shortly after the year 1830, the Baptists let the Church to the Old Light Seceders, who for a period of ten years and upwards had a respectable small congregation in it, in which many eminent men of their body occasionally officiated. Among others the late Dr. Thomas M'Crie, of Edinburgh, the author of the *Life of John Knox*, and his two sons; Dr. Wylie, of Edinburgh, Mr. Whyte, of Haddington; and others. These preachers attracted considerable attention in the town, and the Church was occupied by that body up to the year 1840, or perhaps longer.

In 1843, upon the occasion of the Disruption of the Church of Scotland, the building was occupied from May to November of that year by the party who had left the Establishment ; but it being of too small dimensions to hold them, one half attended in the forenoon, and the other half in the afternoon.

In 1851, the Free Church in Elgin being found too small for its hearers, another congregation began to be formed, and this church was again occupied by that denomination up to the year 1853, when the Free South Church was built.

The Baptists having now built a church for themselves, the proprietors sold the building in 1858 or 1859, when it was entirely altered and converted into a furniture wareroom, but shortly thereafter it took fire, and, with all its contents, was totally consumed.

The *Banffshire Journal* of 15th November, 1859, contained a very curious and graphic account of this church, from the pen of a vigorous writer, entitled, " Old Elgin, and the eventful career and fate of a Modern Chapel," which will well repay perusal.*

THE FREE CHURCH CONGREGATIONS.

The history of the Church of Scotland from 1834 to 1843 is a very stirring one. It is a period of strife, but also of progress. The excitement of these times is passing away, and it is only the senior members of the present generation who can recall it to their memory. Had the feelings of Church parties been less excited, the serious breach made in the Church might have been prevented, or had Government stepped in with a healing measure, the evils complained of might have been cured ; but the ruling powers, led by party advisers in Scotland, could not anticipate the crisis, and were led to believe that the cloud would pass away, if the old regime was upheld with a firm hand. Sir Robert Peel, the Premier, was anxious to introduce legal changes that would

* Mr. Robert Haldane of Airthrey died in 1842, and his brother James in 1851, at very advanced periods of life. They were both most consistent, able men, and did much for the cause of religion.

have brought the Church machinery into harmonious working order; but Sir James Graham and the Earl of Aberdeen firmly opposed it, and, when the evil was done, confessed that it was the greatest blunder of their political lives. Eventually good may come out of evil, and the scattered branches of the Presbyterian family in Scotland may yet be gathered into one fold, a consummation devoutly to be wished for, so that, instead of preying on each other, they may be able to hold up a united phalanx against all enemies.

The only two members of the Presbytery of Elgin who left the Church in 1843, were the Rev. Alexander Topp, collegiate minister of Elgin, and the Rev. Alexander Gentle, minister of Alves.

Mr. TOPP was settled in Elgin in the beginning of 1838, and was a very able and popular preacher. He, from the first, joined the evangelical party in the Church, and supported them in all their movements. When the Disruption occurred in May, 1843, Mr. Topp carried a large proportion of the congregation with him, some from principle, others from personal attachment to himself. The hearers procured temporary accommodation in the Baptist Church, where one-half of them assembled in the forenoon, and the other half in the afternoon. The numbers may have been about 1200. In the meantime a site for a new church was procured in South Street, upon ground belonging to the Elgin Guildry Fund Society, and the building was carried on with such rapidity that, although only commenced in the latter part of June, it was finished by the end of October, and the Communion was celebrated in it the first week of November. The building was indeed too rapidly finished, for in putting on the roof on the freshly erected walls, they gave way to some extent, and the roof had to be strengthened by tying it with iron rods, which had the effect of giving it additional strength, and it has never since shown any signs of weakness. Mr. Topp, after a most acceptable and useful ministry of eleven years, received a call to Roxburgh Free Church in Edinburgh, which he accepted on 7th May, 1852, and was settled there upon 1st July of same year. In 1858 he was translated to Knox Church, Toronto, in Canada, where he still officiates. His ministry there has been much blessed for the good of his own congregation, and for the advantage of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, he having been very conducive to the union of the whole Presbyterians within the British Dominion in North America, a consummation which has been satisfactorily carried out, and of which united body he has been the second Moderator. In the year 1870 he received the degree of D.D. from the University of Aberdeen. He was succeeded by

2. ROBERT JOHN WATT, who was inducted on 16th December, 1852, and died 16th November, 1862. Mr. Watt was a native of Ireland; was first a minister of the Reformed Presbyterian or Cameronian Church, then

of the Original Secession body, and thereafter, with the most of his brethren of that persuasion, joined the Free Church.

3. ARCHIBALD SMELLIE was a native of Orkney, son of the Rev. James Smellie, minister of St. Andrew's and Deerness, in the Presbytery of Kirkwall; officiated for some time in Orkney as successor to his father, who died in 1852, from thence was translated to Banff, and was inducted to the Elgin congregation on 1st October, 1863. He officiated here five years, and was translated to the Free Greyfriars' Church, Edinburgh, on 19th November, 1868.

4. SIMEON ROSS MACPHAIL, a native of Forres, was first minister of the East Free Church, Forfar, and translated to Elgin, where he was inducted on 24th June, 1869. On the formation of a second Free Church congregation in Elgin, this one was denominated the Free High Church. Mr. Macphail is their present minister.

SECOND FREE CONGREGATION,

CALLED THE FREE SOUTH CHURCH.

In the year 1851, the Free High Church, being unable to contain its large and increasing congregation, it was proposed to make an addition to the south end of it, so that all the hearers might be suitably accommodated; but Mr. Topp, feeling that his strength was hardly equal to a larger congregation, proposed that an attempt should be made to form a second charge. It was difficult, however, to get any persons to take a lead in this movement, all being unwilling to leave Mr. Topp's ministry. After considerable hesitation, two of the office-bearers consented to move, and the Baptist Church was taken on lease for the purpose of making the experiment. The new Church was commenced by an opening sermon from Mr. Topp, which was, of course, well attended. The new charge consisted at first of about sixty persons, with occasionally a few additional from the other congregation. Probationers were procured to officiate, and sometimes a sermon was got from one of the ministers of the Presbytery, or a stranger who happened to come into this quarter. Not much progress was made for the first year. Mr. Topp, however, having left Elgin in the month of May, 1852, there was not the same inducement to his congregation to remain together, and some of his office-bearers and members agreed to join the new church. Accordingly, steps were taken for

erection of a new building for the congregation, and subscriptions being liberally obtained—not in Elgin only, but from many friends at a distance, among others the late Elizabeth Duchess of Gordon, who subscribed £100—a site was procured from the Elgin Guildry Fund Society, and the present handsome Church was erected, at a cost of about £2100. The building is in the mediæval Gothic style, and has a spire fronting the north of 130 feet in height. It is seated for about 750 persons, and has a fine open wooden roof, which is a great ornament to the interior. The first minister called was

GEORGE SHEPHERD, a native of Banffshire, who was inducted on 25th November, 1852, and died at Aberdeen on 20th July, 1853, to the great regret of the congregation. Mr. Shepherd was first missionary at Fort-William; settled as minister of the parish of Laggan 16th November, 1818; translated to Kingussie 11th May, 1825, and became Free Church minister there in 1843. After the Disruption, Mr. Shepherd's labours in the Presbytery of Abernethy were of the most intense and anxious description, organising congregations, and continual preachings, generally in the open air, in winter, in the time of snow. He thus weakened a very vigorous constitution, and was cut off at a comparatively early age. Few ministers of the Free Church underwent more labours than Mr. Shepherd. He was a fervent, evangelical, and attractive preacher, particularly earnest, of high and honourable principles as a man, and most agreeable in private society.

2. DONALD CAMPBELL GORDON, son of the Rev. Dr. Robert Gordon, of Edinburgh, was ordained 22d June, 1854. Died on 20th November, 1866.

3. WILLIAM TRAIL, a native of Aberdeenshire, was first minister at Skene, from thence translated to Manchester; thereafter in the High Church, Inverness; from thence to the Tron Church and Kelvinside, Glasgow. Was inducted on 19th September, 1867, and died 28th February, 1874.

4. WILLIAM ALEXANDER GRAY, son of the Rev. Thomas Gray, Free Church, Inverurie, was first at Logie-Almond in Perthshire; from thence translated to this charge on 11th November, 1874, and is the present minister of the congregation.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

When the Revolution of 1688 occurred, it came upon the then Established Church as a complete surprise. The landing of William Prince of Orange at Torbay, on the 5th

November that year, was quite unlooked for by the nation, and even if it did occur it was not expected to be successful. In Scotland, it is supposed that at this period the Episcopalian and Presbyterian parties were pretty equally divided. To the North of the Tay, the former had clearly the majority, while in the South and West of Scotland the latter abounded. The Presbyterians were the more active and energetic party, and were the ardent supporters of the new order of things—many of their leaders being in the Prince's army, and, through the Rev. William Carstairs, one of their body, had much of the Royal ear. Still, the Prince would have preferred to have uniformity of public worship within the three kingdoms; and if the Bishops and their clergy had submitted to the new Government, and taken the oaths to William and Mary, the *de facto* sovereigns, Episcopacy might have been allowed to remain. But they were not wise in their generation; the Bishops, to a man, declined to recognise the Government, expecting, probably, that it would only be temporary, and that the House of Stuart would again be restored. They were in this entirely deceived. The country was sick of the tyrannical and cruel conduct of King James, and was resolved that he and his family should return no more.

Bishop William Hay, who had been consecrated on 29th February, 1688, had to resign the same year; and on 10th October, 1689, was also deprived of the parsonage by the Privy Council for not reading the proclamation of the Estates, nor praying for King William and Queen Mary, and he immediately left Elgin. His colleague in St. Giles' Church, Alexander Tod, who had been settled in 1682, was also deprived for a similar reason, as in the case of the Bishop; but Lord Duffus, and his youngest son, the Honourable William Sutherland of Roscommon, who were then leaders in the town, and the Magistrates of the burgh, who were almost all of Jacobite principles, having kept the Parish Church vacant for a period of seven years from the Revolution, it is probable that Mr. Tod continued to officiate occasionally either in St. Giles' Church, or in the Little Kirk adjoining. Of his final destination, we know nothing. Great part of the leading and higher classes in the town were at this time Episcopalian.

In 1704, the Magistrates permitted a Mr. Henderson, an Episcopal minister, to officiate in the Little Kirk, but on the complaint of the parochial clergymen, he was removed by the Privy Council at Edinburgh. Notwithstanding this, the Magistrates in 1712 again authorised a Mr. Blair, an Episcopal minister, to occupy the same building, but by decree of the Court of Justiciary and Court of Session, he was ordered to quit possession. This decision being appealed against, was reversed by the House of Lords, the Tory and High Church Government of Bolingbroke and Oxford being then in the ascendancy, and the Magistrates were confirmed in the possession of the Little Kirk. We have no evidence how long Mr. Henderson continued to officiate. Mr. King of Newmill, who died in 1715, and his son and successor were Episcopalians, and permitted the Greyfriars' Church, then belonging to them, to be used for public worship, at least occasionally; and we have evidence of a sermon having been preached there in 1716. Mr. John Gordon, a Nonjuror, was Episcopal minister in Elgin from 1721 to 1738. He was tolerated by the very lenient Government of that day, and had a large congregation of about 800 hearers, and his baptisms were from thirty to forty annually. The baptismal register is still in existence. Mr. Gordon died, or was removed about 1738, and we have no note of the incumbent who succeeded. In 1741, Mr. William Falconar, a native of Elgin, and who had been for some time minister of a congregation at Forres, was consecrated Bishop of Moray, and likely took charge of the Elgin congregation, being closely related to Mr. King of Newmill. It is probable the Episcopalians were still permitted to use the old Greyfriars' Church as a place of worship.

The Rebellion of 1745 shortly after occurred, in which the Scotch Episcopalian party having in general heartily joined either openly or secretly, the Duke of Cumberland destroyed all their churches and scattered their congregations. Mr. King of Newmill, being at this time Sheriff of the County of Elgin, preferred his loyalty to his Church, and abandoned Episcopacy, he and his family ever after attending the Parish Church. The only family of importance who continued to adhere to the Episcopal Church in Elgin were

the Andersons of Linkwood, who were steadfast in their principles. In most country places the meeting houses were burnt to the ground. In towns or villages where burning was not safe, they were shut up or demolished. The clergy themselves were obliged to leave their houses, which sometimes were plundered, and to skulk where they best could, that they might not fall into the hands of the military. After the crushing of the Rebellion, it was enacted in the summer session of Parliament, 1746, "That from and after the first September of that year, every person exercising the function of a pastor or minister in any Episcopal meeting in Scotland, without registering his letters of orders, and taking all the oaths required by law, and praying for His Majesty King George and the Royal Family by name, shall, for the first offence, suffer six months' imprisonment; and for the second, or any subsequent offence, being thereof convicted before the Justiciary or any of the Circuit Courts, shall be transported to some of His Majesty's plantations in America for life, and, in case of his return to Britain, shall suffer imprisonment for life." By the same Act a congregation of Episcopalians was limited to five persons over and above the members of the household where the minister might be at the time. This very severe Act, which was strictly enforced, for the time closed Episcopal meetings in Elgin as well as elsewhere.

About the year 1760, or shortly after, Mr. Francis Chalmers, a clergyman qualified by law, and who had taken the oaths to Government, was settled in Elgin. He officiated in a Church situated on the south side of High Street, where the shops of Mr. James Asher and Messrs. Milne & Walker now are, and had only a very small congregation. In his time Alexander Gordon of Cairnfield executed a deed of mortification of part of the lands of Barflathills for the benefit of the Episcopal Church in Elgin, and a Church in the Enzie. The deed is taken in name of Mr. Chalmers and his successors, and still exists. Mr. Chalmers died, or removed, in the year 1780, and was succeeded by Mr. Alexander Allardyce, who officiated up to the beginning of the present century. About the year 1785, notwithstanding the penal laws were not then repealed, a small Nonjuring Episcopal

Skinner's
Ecclesiastical
History, vol. II.,
page 664.

congregation was established in Elgin, under the charge of the Rev. Hugh Buchan. The numbers attending must have been very small. They met in a room or chapel on the north side of South Street, which the Methodists, and afterwards the Congregationalists, used as a place of worship. The death of Prince Charles Edward Stuart without issue, and his brother, Henry Cardinal York, having taken the oath of celibacy, as required by the Romish Church, left no hope of an heir for the Royal House of Stuart in the direct line, and the Bishops and clergy of the Scotch Episcopal Church, having met at Aberdeen on the 24th April, 1788, unanimously agreed to comply with, and submit to, the then present Government of the kingdom as vested in the person of His Majesty King George III., and appointed their clergy to make public notification to their respective congregations to that effect, upon the 18th day of May then next. Prayers for the king by name were thereby ordered to be introduced, and to be continued thereafter in the religious assemblies of the Episcopal Church. In consequence of the above resolutions, the Act of the 32d George III., cap. 63, entitled, "An Act for granting relief to pastors, ministers, and lay persons of the Episcopal Communion in Scotland" was passed, by which the penal laws enacted in 1746 were rescinded, on the condition "that every minister, within six months from 1st July, 1792, shall take and subscribe the oaths of allegiance, abjuration, and assurance, and also the Thirty-nine Articles of the Church of England, to pray for the King's Most Excellent Majesty by name, for His Majesty's heirs or successors, and for all the Royal Family, in the same way as is contained in the Liturgy of the Church of England," under the penalties contained in the Act. In consequence of the above arrangements, and Act of Parliament, there being no cause of difference between the two congregations, on the death or removal of Mr. Allardyce, in the beginning of this century, Mr. Buchan, who was much respected in the town, became the minister of the United Church, and removed from the chapel in South Street to the Church in the High Street. North Street having been opened in the year 1821, it was resolved to build a new Church and

Skinner's
History, vol. II.,
page 688.

Blackwood's
Acts of Parlia-
ment, vol. I.

Parsonage at the north-west corner of it for the congregation. These buildings were commenced in 1825, and finished in 1826. The situation is somewhat low and damp, but very central and convenient. To defray the cost, handsome subscriptions were obtained in the town and other quarters — persons of all denominations contributing — Alexander Duke of Gordon heading the list with a donation of £100. The total subscriptions were £574 16s. 6d. The Chapel is in the Gothic style, and is a remarkably neat building, and an ornament to the street. In 1852, an apse was added; and in 1875 the Chapel has been farther enlarged by adding a large wing to the west end, for which liberal subscriptions were readily obtained. Within the last twenty years, the parsonage house being found inconveniently small, another storey has been added to it, by which it is greatly improved, both externally and internally. Since Mr. Allardyce's time the ministers of the United Church have been as follows:—

HUGH BUCHAN settled in 1785 in the Nonjuring congregation; became minister of the United body about 1800; died in 1829. He was a fine venerable looking gentleman of the old school.

ROBERT BRUCE BOSWELL, of the family of Balmuto, from 1829 to 1831, obtained a chaplaincy in India.

WILLIAM GRAHAM COLE, from 1831 to 1838. At the latter date he was removed to a charge in England.

WILLIAM C. MACLAURIN, from 1838 to 1850, at which latter date he joined the Roman Catholic Church.

ROBERT EDEN, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese, resided in Elgin, and officiated from 1850 to 1853, when he removed to Inverness, finding it more convenient for superintendence of the United Diocese of Moray and Ross. He was succeeded by

JOHN FERGUSON, a native of Aberdeenshire, who has officiated from 1853 to the present time, during whose incumbency the later improvements to the Church have been carried out.

Although none of the Disestablishment Bishops, except Dr. Eden, have officiated in Elgin since the Revolution of 1688, it may be appropriate here to give an account of the Bishops of the Diocese during that period.

1. From the death of Bishop Hay (the last Bishop of the Established Episcopal Church) in 1707, there was no Bishop here until 1727, when William Dunbar, who had been minister at Cruden, in Aberdeenshire, and

Account of
Parish of Spynie,
pp. 325, 326, 327.

deprived at the Revolution, for not taking the oaths to William and Mary, the new sovereigns, was chosen by the Episcopal clergy of Moray to be their Bishop, and he was consecrated at Edinburgh on the 18th June, 1727, by Bishops Gadderar, Millar, and Rattray. He was first appointed to the districts of Moray and Ross, and afterwards, on the death of Bishop Gadderar, to that of Aberdeen, where he died in the year 1746.

2. WILLIAM FALCONAR is stated to have been a great-grandson of Colin Falconar, Bishop of Moray. He was son of Alexander Falconar, merchant in Elgin, by his wife, Jean King, daughter of William King of Newmill, Provost of Elgin. He was minister of an Episcopal Church at Forres, and in 1741 was consecrated at Alloa by Bishops Rattray, Keith, and White. He was the same year appointed to the charge of Caithness, and the following year to that of Moray. He was elected Primus in 1761, and was translated to Edinburgh in 1776, where he died in 1784. He bears the character of being a very judicious, sensible man, and conducted the affairs of his Church with wisdom, in difficult times, when it was in a state of great depression.

3. ARTHUR PETRIE was minister of a chapel at Meiklefolla, in Aberdeenshire, and was consecrated, at Dundee, Bishop-Coadjutor of Moray, in the year 1776, by Bishops Falconar, Rait, Kilgour, and Rose. Next year he was appointed Bishop of Ross and Caithness, and in 1777 had the whole charge of Moray. He only lived ten or eleven years after his consecration, having died in 1787.

4. ANDREW MACFARLANE, Presbyter at Inverness, was consecrated at Peterhead on 7th March, 1787, by Bishops Kilgour, Petrie, and Skinner. Bishop Petrie having died the following month, Mr. Macfarlane succeeded him as Bishop of Moray, as well as of Ross and Argyle, all which districts were united. He died in the year 1819.

5. ALEXANDER JOLLY was minister of a congregation at Fraserburgh, where he officiated to the close of his long life. He was born 3d April, 1755. He was consecrated at Dundee 24th June, 1796, by Bishops Drummond, Macfarlane, and Strachan, and, on the resignation of Bishop Macfarlane, was appointed to the charge of Moray. He was a very learned, pious clergyman, much venerated and respected by all classes of the community. He died 29th June, 1838.

6. DAVID LOW, Presbyter at Pittenweem, was consecrated at Stirling on 14th November, 1819, and elected as their Bishop by the clergy of Ross and Argyle. On the death of Bishop Jolly, in 1838, he succeeded him in Moray. He died in the year 1850.

7. ROBERT EDEN, D.D., third son of Sir Frederick Morton Eden, Baronet of Fruir, in the County of Durham, was born in London, 2d September, 1804; educated at Westminster School, and at Christ Church, Oxford; ordained deacon and priest in 1828, in Gloucester Cathedral, by the Right Rev. Dr. Bethel, Bishop of Gloucester; held the Curacy of Weston Subedge, in the Diocese of Gloucester, and the Curacy of Messing and Peldon, in the County of Essex, and Diocese of London, until the year 1837, when he was presented to the living of Leigh, in the County of Essex, by Dr. Blomfield, Bishop of London, and at the same time was appointed Rural

Dean. He held the living of Leigh until the year 1852. He was consecrated Bishop of Moray and Ross, in St. Paul's Church, Edinburgh, in March, 1851, by Bishops Skinner, Terrot, Trower, and Ewing, and subsequently had Caithness added to his charge. He has been an active, energetic, and zealous prelate. By his exertions the magnificent Cathedral at Inverness has been erected, and he is greatly esteemed by all classes, not only within his own diocese, but in all other parts of the country where he is known. He was elected Primus of the Scotch Episcopal Church in 1863.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH,

FROM THE YEAR 1558.

The Council met in the Church of the Blackfriars in Edinburgh, on the 27th November, 1558. Like the other later Synods, it included prelates and representatives from both the Provinces of St. Andrew's and Glasgow, and hence received the name of a Provincial General Council. Many persons of note were present. Among the prelates were William Gordon, Bishop of Aberdeen, Patrick Hepburn, Bishop of Moray, and Robert Reid, Bishop of Orkney.* They had to consider the subject of the reformation of the Church, and how it could be enabled to meet the difficulties of the times. But being of very different views, they arrived at no satisfactory conclusion, and parted, never to meet again. They could not have dreamt that the storm which overwhelmed them was so near.

Lindsay of
Pitscottie's
History, 3d
Edition, p. 315.

The change of religion took place in 1560. It was not looked for by the Church, and came upon it like a thunder-storm. It was hoped the cloud would pass away, and that a restoration would take place, but the expectation was doomed to disappointment. The nation was not by any means unanimous in this change, and even in 1590 the great struggle between the contending parties was not concluded. The Catholics were particularly strong in the northern part of the kingdom, where many noblemen and gentlemen supported the old cause. In the year 1592, it is said that thirteen of the nobility of Scotland still adhered to the

* Robert Reid, Abbot of Kinloss, thereafter Bishop of Orkney, was one of the most estimable prelates of the time, and is deservedly revered as the patron of learning; the second founder of the Cathedral Church of St. Magnus in his island diocese; and the donor of the earliest endowment of what afterwards became the University of Edinburgh.

Roman Catholic Communion. The Earls of Moray, Seaforth, Sutherland, and Caithness early adopted the Reformed doctrines, which paved the way for the introduction of the Protestant faith into their extensive estates.

The Roman Catholic clergy who remained in the kingdom after their Church was overthrown assumed the disguise of soldiers, sailors, physicians, and other professions. Others conformed outwardly, but continued in their own faith privately. From 1580, downwards, the wanderings of priests were incessant and general throughout Scotland, and more especially in the North, under the Huntly family. In the reign of King Charles I., the old creed was still held by the Marquis of Huntly, the Earl of Aboyne, the Lairds of Craig, Gight, Abergeldie, Lesmoir, and Letterfourie; by the Earl of Errol, and the families of Delgaty and Fetterletter; the Leslies, Bissets, and Blackhalls, in the Garioch; the Irvines and Coutts families in Mar; the Cheynes, Conns, and others in Buchan. Between 1580 and 1600, members of the Jesuit, Benedictine, Franciscan, Lazarate, and Augustinian orders planted themselves in different districts. The Jesuit stations in the North were Braemar, Glengarden, Strathglass, and Buchan. To overcome the difficulties of the Roman Catholics in Scotland, Pope Clement VIII., in 1600, founded the Scots College at Rome, as a nursery for native missionaries.

A very curious volume was published by the Spalding Club, in the year 1844, viz., "A Breiffe Narration of the Services done to Three Noble Ladyes, by Gilbert Blakhal, Priest of the Scots Mission in France, in the Low Countries, and in Scotland, from 1631 till 1649." This work throws considerable light upon the history of these times, and the state of society both in Scotland and France. Father Blackhal's narration is amusing. He returned from Paris in 1637, and performed the duties of a missionary in the counties of Aberdeen and Banff, and was also chaplain to Lady Aboyne, at Aboyne Castle. He seems to have made some narrow escapes in his missionary journeys, and his work will repay a perusal. The end of his life is as obscure as its beginning. He was at Paris when he wrote his narrative of service to the three noble ladies. How long he survived thereafter is not known.

In the year 1653, by a decree of Propaganda, the Scottish secular clergy were incorporated into a body missionary, under the superintendence of the Rev. William Ballantyne, the first prefect of the mission. This person was the son of the Protestant minister of the parish of Douglas. He was educated at the University of Edinburgh, and, travelling in France, embraced the Catholic religion at Paris. He entered the Scots College there, and studied two years, returning to Scotland as a missionary in 1649. The Covenanters, hearing of his arrival, seized himself and all his books and papers, but after some time he was set at liberty, and entered on his labours with great zeal. During the remainder of his life, he was at the head of Catholic affairs in Scotland, and made repeated journeys at considerable risk from Scotland to the Continent. In his latter days he lived with the Marchioness of Huntly in Elgin, and it appears shortly before his death, made a journey to Rome, to report the progress of mission work in Scotland. In July, 1661, he was taken ill, and, after six weeks, died in Lady Huntly's house in Elgin. He was interred in the Marquis of Huntly's Aisle in the Elgin Cathedral—the Magistrates and many of the inhabitants attending as a testimony of their esteem of his virtues.

Gordon's
Roman Catholic
Church
in Scotland.

In the year 1677, the Catholics of Scotland were visited by Mr. Alexander Leslie, priest, who estimated their numbers at 14,000, whereof 12,000 were in the Highlands and Islands, 405 in Aberdeenshire, 1000 in Banffshire, and only 8 in Morayshire. Mr. Leslie seems to have led an anxious and troubled life, and died at Banff in the early part of last century.

The death of Alexander, second Duke of Gordon, in 1728, leaving a young family, who were brought up as Protestants by their mother, Henrietta Duchess of Gordon, must have had a very depressing effect on the Roman Catholics, who looked on that family as their head in the North. It is certain that up to that time a chaplain was kept at Gordon Castle, and, if there were any Catholics in Elgin, he must have visited, and administered to them the rites of religion. The numbers, however, must have been very small. Indeed, we hear nothing about their existence at all last century, but that there were a few there can be no doubt.

It is probable that from this time, and down to the beginning of the present century, there were very few Roman Catholics in Elgin. We hear nothing of them in the records of the town, and they had certainly no chapel or meeting-house. When they required spiritual advice or religious assistance, they had either to go to a distance for it, or were visited by a clergyman. The nearest point where such could be procured was from Fochabers or the Enzie, where Catholics were numerous, as on other parts of the Duke of Gordon's estates, notwithstanding the change which had taken place in the religious principles of the head of the family. There was also a seminary at Scalan, in Glenlivet, where young men were educated for the ministry, from an early part of last century, under the protection of the Gordon family, although frequently in danger of their lives.

The first Priest located in Elgin was JOHN FARQUHARSON. He was born in 1748 at Glenconlas, in Strathaven. He was educated at the seminary of Scalan, in Glenlivet, and thereafter went to Rome, where he was ordained Priest. He was for some years in the mission in Scotland. In 1784 he was appointed Principal of the Scots College of Douay, where he remained till the College was broken up, at the beginning of the first French Revolution. On his return home in 1790, he was for two years in Aberdeen. He was then translated to Glasgow, to succeed Mr. Alexander Macdonald, who subsequently became Bishop of Kingstown, in Upper Canada. While in Glasgow he erected the Calton Chapel, capable of containing about 600 hearers. In 1805 he was sent to Ayr, which he left soon after, and had for a successor Mr. James Maclachlan, who died there in 1811 or 1812. From Ayr he went to Morayshire, to attend the Catholics scattered over the lower part of that county. He lived first at Lossiemouth, and subsequently bought the property in Elgin near the Academy, which served as a chapel and house for the clergyman, till the erection of the chapel in 1844. After the peace was concluded, on the fall of the Emperor Napoleon, he went to France, to look after the wreck of the Scots Ecclesiastical property, and died at Paris in April, 1817. Mr. Farquharson was a person of very venerable, gentleman-like appearance, and had the air of one who had been in the very best society. I have a distinct recollection of seeing him frequently, when I was a little boy going to school—the Catholic Chapel of that day being quite close to the Academy. Mr. Farquharson was a considerable benefactor to the Mission of Strathaven, the place of his birth, and also left a fund for the support of a superannuated clergyman in each of the three districts. An account of what he did for the Scots College is given in the MS. History of Mr. Macpherson, relative to that College.

For some time after Mr. Farquharson's removal, matters in Elgin

reverted to the former state, and there was no regular priest located in the town until the settlement of

2. JOHN FORBES. Mr. Forbes was born on 27th December, 1791, at Glackkan of Glenconlas, in Strathaven. He had the rudiments of his education at the parish school, and, showing decided talent, he was admitted to the College of Auquhorthies on the 5th November, 1802. On 3d August, 1803, he was sent to the Scots College at Valladolid, where he remained until the close of 1808, when the French invaded Spain, which broke up the establishment. He returned to England in 1809, and proceeded to Scotland, when he resumed his studies at Auquhorthies, and completed them in 1814. He was ordained Priest in 1815, and was successively located in the west Highlands, Paisley, Ayr, and Stobhall. About 1818 he was transferred to Banff, having also the charge at Portsoy. In 1827 he was settled at Elgin. Mr. Forbes went through England and Scotland in 1837, to raise funds for erection of a new chapel and dwelling-house, with considerable success. He resumed the undertaking in 1840, and went to England, Ireland, and Belgium, but not with the same success as before, having, however, received a large donation from Abbe Chevalier Drummond Stewart, and, with farther assistance from Bishop James Kyle, the work was begun in 1843, and the elegant chapel completed in 1844. Mr. Forbes died in 1856, very suddenly, of disease of the heart, and was buried at St. Ninians, in the Enzie. He was an excellent scholar, well versed in various Continental languages, a pleasant companion, liberal in his opinions, and a general favourite in the town.

Gordon's
Catholic Church
in Scotland,
pp. 544, 545, 546.

After an interval of about two years from the death of Mr. Forbes, the vacancy was supplied in 1858 by the appointment of

3. JOHN THOMSON, who has filled the charge for nearly twenty years. In his time a school and nunnery have been added to the church establishment.

CHAPTER VI.

SCHOOLS AND LEARNED MEN, &c.

I. SCHOOLS.

THE early history of schools in Scotland is involved in great obscurity. It is a subject very much connected with the Church. When St. Columba settled in Iona, in the middle of the sixth century, with his few friends and followers, he carried with him such learning as Ireland could produce. A knowledge of the Scriptures, of the Latin language, and of writing, was essential to every minister and missionary; and we are informed, on the best authority, that both Columba himself and his clergy spent much of their leisure time in copying the Scriptures and religious works. A school was formed in every monastery for training priests, and keeping up a succession of learned men to preach the Gospel, and it is probable that some of the laity may have also obtained instruction when inclined to receive it. While learning was principally derived from the Latin language, it is proved that there were writings also in the Irish tongue, which was the vernacular language both in Ireland and Scotland.

Book of Deer.

From Iona learning spread over Scotland, and in the various monasteries, erected by the Culdees, schools were formed on the same foundation as in the parent establishment. The libraries in these religious houses were very scanty, consisting generally of some portion of the Scriptures, service books, and a few of the works of the early fathers. We have a description of the books in the Abbey of St. Serf, in Lochleven, so late as the year 1100, which may be a sample of the libraries of the day. It consisted of four books of the services of the Church, the Gospel after the text of St. Prosper, the Acts of the Apostles, three Books of

Solomon, the works of Origen, a treatise on the Sacraments, and a few similar works. At a future period, and when more intercourse was had with the external world, some of the Latin classics would be added to these libraries.

The change from the Culdee Church to that of Rome, had a considerable effect in promoting the spread of literature. The Bishops had sometimes to go to England, and occasionally to Rome, and would naturally bring back with them additional manuscripts, and an increased knowledge of such learning as then prevailed.

Bricius Bishop of Moray, who succeeded to the See in 1203, adopted the constitution of Lincoln for his Cathedral, the nature of which was ascertained by a mission to England. The duties of the Chancellor of Lincoln consisted in superintending the schools of theology, and it pertained to his dignity that no one should teach without his license. It is probable, therefore, that a Cathedral School was erected first at Spynie by Bishop Bricius, and afterwards transferred to Elgin in the time of his eminent successor, Bishop Andrew Moray. At the school so erected, the aspirants for clerical office would be trained to a knowledge of the Latin language, then the medium of all learning, to the reading of the Scriptures, and the early fathers, the breviaries and missals of the Church, and the art of writing. There was at this date hardly any works in the Saxon vernacular, and the Gaelic language as yet entirely prevailed in the interior of the country, the Saxon or Teutonic being only spoken on the narrow line bordering on the sea. The higher orders of the clergy finished their education either at the English Universities or at Paris, to which the Scotch early resorted. The foundation of the Scots College at Paris, by Bishop David Moray, in the year 1325, and which was finished by his successor, Bishop John Pilmore, was a remarkable event in the progress of education, and it continued to be the resort of natives of Scotland for completion of their studies during many subsequent ages.

Grant's History
of Burgh
Schools, page 19.

In the same century, and the beginning of the following one, considerable progress was made in forming the language of the country. The poem of "The Bruce," by John Barbour, Archdeacon of Aberdeen, is a fine specimen of the

Grant's Burgh
Schools, p. 20.

Registrum
Moraviense,
pages 57, 270.

English language of that age ; and the chronicle of Andrew Wyntoun, Prior of Lochleven, a little later, although more rude than that of Barbour, is a piece of vigorous writing. In 1489, among the statutes and acts of Convocation of the Chapter of Moray, is one headed "Pro cancellario de scola generali."* The general school, it provides, must be built by those who ought to erect it in the town of Elgin, in the place assigned for this purpose ; and the Chancellor is to see that a fit man be appointed for ruling and governing the school, teaching those who come to it, and instructing them in grammar, which means the Latin language. The art of printing, which was discovered about the year 1440, gave an extraordinary impetus to learning ; and it is marvellous how soon it attained to perfection. Some of the works printed in the end of the first century of its birth, and in the subsequent one, are perfect gems, not excelled by any of our own day.

The clergy of the fifteenth century were great promoters of learning, and were the founders of our three oldest Universities, viz., St. Andrew's, in 1411, by Bishop Wardlaw ; Glasgow, in 1450, by Bishop Turnbull ; and Aberdeen, in 1494, by the famous Bishop Elphinstone. These great institutions must have worked a marvellous change in the Scotch literary world. The Greek language was almost unknown in western Europe until this century. The taking of Constantinople by the Turks in 1453, and the entire breaking up of the Greek Empire in consequence, drove the Eastern scholars from their native land, and they carried with them the works of their great poets, historians, and philosophers, which were soon printed and scattered over the Continent and Britain, and taught in the schools and Universities. It does not, however, seem to have been introduced much into Scotland until the sixteenth century.

The bishop and clergy of the diocese seem to have given very considerable attention to the Cathedral School of Elgin ; and it no doubt proved a good preparatory course for the Universities either of Scotland or Paris. At this school the eminent Latin writer, Florentius Volusenus, a

* Bishop Andrew Stewart presided at this Convocation—with Gavin Dunbar, Dean ; Adam Gordon, Precentor ; and Alexander Stewart, Chancellor—which was held within the Cathedral Church the 8th May, 1489.

native of Elgin, was educated ; and a seminary which could show such scholars must have been of considerable standing. The period of the finishing of the education of Volusenus perhaps was not later than 1520 to 1525. The later Catholic Bishops of Moray, viz., Andrew Forman and Patrick Hepburn, although able politicians, were not literary men, and no great encouragement would be given to learning by them.

The nature of the course of education followed in the Grammar School of Elgin, we have no materials for defining. In addition to Latin there may have been some attempt to teach the English language, writing, and arithmetic, for in a community such as then existed in the town, comprising church dignitaries, magistrates, lawyers, and physicians, some degree of knowledge in all these branches was absolutely necessary ; and we have evidence, even before the Reformation, that many of the magistrates of the burgh could both read and write, and were competent to act as judges in the courts held in the town. In the end of the fifteenth and beginning of the sixteenth centuries, the works of various of our native writers were read and appreciated even by the humbler classes. I refer to the poetry of Dunbar, Sir David Lindsay, Henryson, and Henry the Minstrel, which were all very popular ; also, to the works of John Bellenden, our own Archdean of Moray, who not only was a poet of some eminence, but also translated the history of Scotland by Hector Boece, and part of Livy into the English, or rather the Lowland Scotch, of that day.

Up to the period of the Reformation in 1560, the teacher of the Grammar School was a Churchman. After that important event the care of the school fell to the charge of the Magistrates and Town Council, who watched over its interests with jealous care. In the year 1585, Thomas Moig was master of the Grammar School, and seems to have been under the jurisdiction of the Magistrates.

Burgh Court
Book,
21st June 1585.

In 1594, King James VI. grants to the Provost, Bailies, Council, and community of Elgin, and their successors, the Hospital and Preceptory of Maisondieu, with all lands, tenements, annual rents, farms, profits, and emoluments belonging thereto within the kingdom, under the burden of

Charter,
22d March, 1594.

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Minutes.

maintaining certain poor men called Beadmen, and for supporting a master for teaching music and other liberal arts within the burgh. This charter was immediately acted upon, and a music school duly established. In 1652, I find that William Murray was appointed teacher of the Music School for one year, on a salary of 200 merks, for which he was also to take up the Psalms in the church; and he continued in office up to 1658, and perhaps longer. In 1659, the Music Master was also directed to teach the English language, and perhaps writing and arithmetic.

Grant's History
of Burgh
Schools, p. 161.

In 1649, it would appear that the young men attending the Grammar School were ordered not only to read, but also to speak in Latin, and it is recorded that those found guilty of speaking English were liable to be punished. This rule prevailed at that period in all the Burgh Schools in Scotland. The teachers in those days, in addition to their attendance to their pupils in school hours, were expected, at least occasionally, to look after them out of doors; for, on 18th July, 1683, George Cumming, schoolmaster, was ordered to appear before the Council, to answer for his conduct in "not going to the rashes with the bairns." It was the practice then, and up to our own time, to go to the Loch of Spynie to pull bulrushes, and it may have been considered dangerous to permit the children to go by themselves, without the control of their teacher.

Council
Minutes.

In 1696, the Act was passed whereby heritors, in every parish in Scotland, were ordered to provide a school-house, and modify a salary to a teacher, where there was no Parochial School before. Strange to say, this Act was never obeyed in the extensive parish of Elgin, and the reason may be that, while the Magistrates of Elgin were very jealous of all interference with the Burgh Schools, the heritors had no desire to expend their money on building school-houses, or paying salaries to teachers, and no person ever proposed to compel them to fulfil their legal obligations.

Council
Minutes.

On 31st January, 1704, in presence of James Lord Duffus, Provost, and others, "compeared Mr. Hugh Tod, master of "the Grammar School of this burgh, and demitted his said "office, and desired that the Council might provide themselves of another at Whitsunday next."

On 7th February, 1704, "the Council made choice of Mr. Thomas Gordon, pedagogue to Patrick Barclay of Towie, as schoolmaster of the Grammar School of this burgh, to succeed Mr. Tod, and they have subscribed a contract with him for three years, after 26th May next." Alexander Roust was master of the Music School in 1717, and his contract was renewed that year.

In 1727, Mr. John Porteous was teacher of the Grammar School, and, complaints having been made against him for non-attendance, which he refused to answer, the Council declared the school vacant from the first May then next. William Gordon, teacher of the Grammar School, who had been appointed in 1730, was dismissed in 1732 "for frequently sitting up all night, drinking, and rioting in taverns;" and in 1734, Henry Innes was also dismissed, because "he had lost authority over the boys, his scholars;" so that they were not profiting in their learning.

In the year 1744, James Cruickshank, master of the Grammar School, being under Church scandal, from which he had not been absolved, and which had been a cause of dispute between the Magistrates and ministers of the burgh, and that he had taken to merchandising, and not supposed to be giving due attendance to the school, and also disrespectful to the Magistrates, the school was declared vacant from the term of Candlemas then next. This case of Cruickshank was the foundation of an action in the Court of Session between the Magistrates and ministers, on the ground of jurisdiction, which was settled by an agreement in 1748, but the authority of the Court never having been interponed to the agreement, it seems not to have been acted upon by either party. On 17th November, 1746, William Cruden was appointed master of the Music School, with a salary of fifty merks, and to receive the school fees. On 16th May, 1748, the famous Alexander Roust, who had retired from being master of the Music School, and succeeded by Mr. Cruden, was continued precentor in the Parish Church during the pleasure of the Magistrates, and Mr. Cruden was ordained to pay Mr. Roust at the rate of five pounds Scots monthly out of the emoluments of office.

In 1773, William Peterkin, master of the Grammar

School, received a presentation to the Parish Church of Elgin, and William Farquhar, master of the Music School, was appointed to succeed him in the Grammar School. In 1774, Mr. Brander of Pitgaveny presented a terrestrial and a celestial globe for the use of the schools. John Anderson, schoolmaster of Fyvie, was elected master of the Music School on 7th October, 1773, and continued in office, with great satisfaction to the community, up to 1802.

Mr. George Daun was teacher of the Grammar School in 1781, but having entered into holy orders, and preached both in Elgin and country parishes, a dispute arose between him and the Magistrates, which became the subject of a lawsuit in the Court of Session, and ended in Mr. Daun agreeing to give up the charge, in the following year. He was succeeded by Alexander Wilson, teacher at Banff, who entered office in May, 1782.

The schools at this time consisted of two very poor buildings—the Grammar School, at the top of the School Wynd, now called Commerce Street, and the Sang School, a little farther south. There was no playground attached to either, but being in the very outskirts of the town, where there were abundance of open unenclosed fields, the boys had liberty to roam about at their pleasure, and the want of a playground was not felt.

In 1799, the old schools had become absolutely ruinous, and the Magistrates resolved to have new buildings erected, and additional masters appointed, so as to change the system of education into a regular academy, and, after many meetings and maturing their plans, a site was obtained from the Elgin Guildry Fund Society, and three new schools erected and finished in 1801. To meet the expense, the old schools were sold by public roup—the Grammar School for £74, and the English School for £54. Subscription papers were sent through the country—the Magistrates heading the list with £200, and the Earl of Findlater subscribing for £105; Sir William Grant, Master of the Rolls, an old Elgin pupil, for £105; the Earl of Moray for £52 10s.; Mr. Alexander Brodie, M.P., for £50; with many other handsome donations of lesser amount. The contract for the new schools was entered into by the Magistrates, on

30th August, 1800, and the cost price was £505 12s. 2d. The buildings being finished, and taken possession of, Mr. Alexander Wilson was continued master of the Latin School, and Mr. John Anderson of the English School, and directed to teach English, grammar, writing, and church music.

On 25th January, 1802, Mr. Wilson having become minister of Aberlour, Mr. John Anderson was appointed his successor, Mr. John Black, teacher of arithmetic and mathematics, and Mr. M'Combie, teacher of the English School. Messrs. Black and M'Combie only continued in office until the summer vacation of the following year, when Mr. James Thomson was elected teacher of the Mathematical School, and Mr. Alexander Reid of the English School, and entered on their duties on 4th August, 1803.

The teachers in the Academy from that date up to the present time have been as follows:—

I. THE LATIN SCHOOL.

JOHN ANDERSON, from 1802 to 1815, when he died.

JAMES THOMSON, from 1815 to 1825, when he became minister of the parish of Keith.

WILLIAM DUGUID, from 1825 to 1842; became minister of the parish of Glass.

JOHN ALLAN, from 1842 to 1844; is now minister of the parish of Peterculter.

DONALD MORRISON, from 1844 to 1859; is now Rector of the Glasgow Academy.

GAVIN HAMILTON, from 1859 to 1876, when he retired.

II. MATHEMATICAL SCHOOL.

JAMES THOMSON, from 1803 to 1808; he then became minister of Pluscarden.

JOHN WADDEL, from 1809 to 1821, when he died.

PETER MERSON, from 1821 to 1857, when he resigned, and received a retiring allowance of £50 for the remainder of his life.

WILLIAM MACDONALD, from 1856 to 1862, at which date he retired.

JOHN GARDEN, from 1862 to 1866; he then retired.

ROBERT PATTISON, 1867, is the present teacher.

III. THE ENGLISH SCHOOL.

ALEXANDER REID, from 1803 to 1819.

ALEXANDER BRANDSBY, from 1819 to 1827, when he died.

JAMES JENKINS, from 1827 to 1848; he became minister of the parish of Aboyne.

JAMES MACDONALD, from 1848 to 1862 ; he then became Rector of the Ayr Academy.

CHARLES ANDERSON, from 1862 to 1863.

JOHN GARDEN, from 1863 to 1866.

JOHN MITCHELL, 1867, is the present teacher.

In the year 1819, the English class-room in the Academy being found inconveniently small, and quite unsuitable for the large attendance of boys and girls, a new and airy school-room was erected on the south side of the playground.

In the time of Mr. James Thomson, classical teacher, he had always a large number of boarders, varying from twenty to twenty-five. He was a person of a kindly disposition, and took much interest in his pupils. Having been at one time tutor in a family in Skye, where he was held in much esteem, a great number of boarders came from that part of the country. Mr. Donald Morrison had also a large number of boarders, sometimes as high as forty. In 1859, he retired from the Academy, and set up a private seminary, carrying all his boarders with him, which was a serious blow to the Academy.

The disputes between the Presbytery of Elgin and the Magistrates of the Burgh, on the subject of jurisdiction, which had been a cause of difference for a century, culminated at the time of the Disruption of the Church of Scotland in 1843—the Magistrates maintaining that they had a right to present teachers of any religious sect, while the Presbytery held that the teachers must be adherents to the Church of Scotland, sign the Confession of Faith of that Church, and be subject to the Presbytery. This led to a serious declaratory lawsuit between the parties in the Court of Session, which lasted for several years, and in which much public money was expended, which might have been used for more beneficial purposes. This case has assumed a national importance from the consequences which followed, and it may be proper here to give a summary of it :—

Grant's Burgh
Schools, pages
91, 92, 93.

“ In May, 1844, the Presbytery intimated to the Town Council that they had appointed the annual examination of the Academy on 26th June. The Council, while

“ approving of the time fixed, resolved that in future they
“ alone should appoint the day of examination ; and on 16th
“ June, 1845, the Town-Clerk intimated to the Presbytery
“ that the Council had fixed the day, and invited the
“ Presbytery to attend. To this intimation the Clerk of
“ Presbytery replied, that, according to the established
“ practice, and in the exercise of their vested rights, the
“ Presbytery had resolved to examine the Academy on
“ different days, which that body accordingly did. On 6th
“ May, 1846, the Clerk of Presbytery issued the usual
“ notices as to the examination, with the protest that their
“ examining the school did not imply that they recognised
“ as rector one who was a Free Churchman, not in com-
“ munion with their own Church.

“ On 16th June, 1846, the Presbytery, having met to
“ consider what should be done with reference to an act of
“ the Town Council fixing 22d and 23d June for the
“ examination, resolved to examine the Academy on 24th
“ June, as previously appointed. Accordingly, on that date
“ they convened at the Academy, but found the doors shut
“ up. In these circumstances they raised a summons of
“ declarator against the Council, concluding that the Elgin
“ Academy was a public school, and as such fell within the
“ jurisdiction of the pursuers, who, in virtue of certain Acts
“ of Parliament and of the common law, were entitled, they
“ contended, to exercise over the masters of the school a
“ right of trial with a view to induction, and a right of
“ removal from office. They also maintained that the
“ schoolmasters were bound, before admission, to subscribe,
“ in presence of the Presbytery, the Confession of Faith, to
“ conform to the worship of the Established Church, and to
“ submit to its discipline, as required by Act 1706, cap. 6,
“ and other laws applicable to public schools. The defenders
“ resisted the conclusion, contending that the claims of the
“ pursuers rested upon a series of old statutes, which applied
“ to parochial schools only ; but even if it were held that
“ they extended to burgh schools also, they have received a
“ construction from the practice of the country, opposite to
“ that sought to be put on them by the pursuers, the
“ Presbytery. The Court of Session held in 1861, that the

“ Academy, which was provided by public subscription, and
“ included the old Grammar School and a Sang School (the
“ latter endowed out of the Hospital of Maisondieu, and in
“ course of time becoming the English School), formed a
“ public High School, the old constitution remaining the
“ same, and as such was subject to the control of the
“ Presbytery. The Church naturally enough rejoiced at a
“ decision which extended, or rather incontestably estab-
“ lished, her jurisdiction over all schools, placing the burgh
“ schools, like the parish schools, under her superintendence.
“ And in the same year the Assembly strongly recommended
“ the claim of the Presbytery of Elgin to pecuniary help for
“ having vindicated the right of the Church to examine
“ burgh schools. The Church did not long enjoy the victory
“ she had won, for it was in consequence of this decision that
“ the Act 24 and 25 Victoria, cap. 107, was passed, which
“ entirely severed the class of schools we are now dealing
“ with from the Church, by providing that no master of
“ any burgh school shall be subject to the government or
“ discipline of the Established Church, or to the trial,
“ judgment, or censure of the Presbytery for his sufficiency,
“ qualifications, or deportment in his office.”

For a period of nearly three centuries, the Magistrates discouraged and set their faces against all schools except the public ones of the burgh, which were made a monopoly ; and it must be admitted that they used their utmost endeavour to maintain them in a state of efficiency, by having well qualified teachers, so that the Elgin schools had a high character over the country, and many eminent scholars were trained at them. By the progress of events, this system could be maintained no longer. In 1831, a large Free School was erected at General Anderson's Institution ; within a few years later, a Trades' School followed—all which made a heavy drain on the Academy ; and in 1859, Mr. Donald Morrison, the classical teacher, set up a private academy in Hay Street, called the Weston House Academy, which carried away a great number of boys of the higher classes. The Education (Scotland) Act, 1872, took the Academy from the hands of its ancient patrons, the Magistrates of

Elgin, who had nourished it with anxious care for so lengthened a period, and placed it under the Burgh School Board, who are making every exertion to promote its welfare ; but it has been farther seriously weakened by the formation of the Educational Institute, and also of the large West End School, at which latter seminary it is stated that fully 200 children attend. There are many memories, however, connected with the old Academy, which we may fondly hope will never be allowed to go down, but under the fostering care of able guardians, may again flourish in renewed vigour as in the days of old, and be a blessing to future generations, as it has been to the past.

The Magistrates of Elgin, while giving due attention to the Academy, were not neglectful of female education. We find that upwards of a century ago a ladies' school of some standing existed in the burgh. On 30th October, 1775, Mrs. Jean Cumming, the then teacher, intimated to the Provost that she proposed to give up teaching the Female School, "as she was to change her manner of life," that is, to be married. Miss Janet Charles, daughter of George Charles, merchant in Elgin, was appointed to succeed, with a salary of £7 yearly from the town. On 26th June, 1780, Misses Elizabeth and Helen Duff were elected schoolmistresses of the burgh, with a yearly salary of £5 sterling. Miss Helen Duff continued the school up to the year 1810. On 5th March that year, Misses Elizabeth and Mary Shand were appointed teachers in room of Miss Helen Duff, with a salary of £50 per annum, payable half-yearly, to commence at Whitsunday then next. The Council also fixed the school fees to be charged. The Misses Shand ably conducted the school for about thirty years, having not only a large public day school, but also a boarding establishment, where young ladies from all parts of the country, and many from abroad, were educated. They took a great interest in their pupils, and many girls in poor circumstances had their education gratuitously. The number of boarders was generally from twenty to thirty. The Misses Shand purchased from Mr. Grant of Elchies the picturesque old house which stood where the Caledonian Bank now is. It was very convenient for the purpose, having large accommodation and a play-

Council
Minutes.

ground behind. The Misses Shand retired about the year 1840, and they were the last female teachers who received a salary from the Magistrates. About the year 1820, a private ladies' school was established by Miss Jane Downie, which had also a large measure of success, she having frequently twenty boarders. On her retirement, the Misses Evershed succeeded, and for many years maintained a most successful seminary.

Since their time female schools have not enjoyed the same prosperity as formerly, which may in some measure be accounted for by the great facilities now afforded by railways for travelling, and the desire by many parents to send their daughters to London, France, and Germany, to obtain the highest class of education, and particularly a facility in speaking foreign languages. It would, however, be a great advantage to the burgh if a ladies' seminary on a first-rate scale could be revived, so that the money so largely spent elsewhere on female education might be kept at home; and it is hoped that at no distant date some judicious arrangement may be carried out for the attainment of so desirable a purpose.

II. LEARNED MEN.

In proposing to treat this subject, I do not mean to confine myself to persons actually born within the parish and burgh, but to embrace all such as have by ancestry, official duties, residence, or education, been connected with the district; and I fain hope that all to whom I shall refer will be found deserving of the grateful remembrance of their countrymen.

BRICIUS BISHOP OF MORAY, a son of the noble family of Douglas, who had formerly been Prior of Lesmahago, and who, by his mother, was connected with the great house of de Moravia, was settled Bishop of Moray in 1203. He seems to have been a lover of learning. After his settlement he sent Freskinus the Dean (probably his own uncle) and Andrew the Chancellor to Lincoln, to obtain information as to the government of that Diocese, in order to regulate the See of Moray in the same manner. The deputation was well received, and obtained full copies of the rules and regulations of Lincoln, which are recorded in the Chartulary of Moray for

reference. Among others, the Chancellor's duties are pointed out for regulating the School of Theology—"Officium Cancellarii est Scholas Theologiæ regere." There can be little doubt that in this Bishop's time the first Cathedral School was founded, the parent of all our Elgin schools. He was a man of large and liberal mind, and mixed with the heads of the Church, having been at a Council at Rome in the year 1215. His journey there is confirmed by a safe conduct from the King of England, granted in order to facilitate his return from the Papal Court. He held the Diocese for nineteen years with great prudence and dignity, and died in the year 1222. He is said to have been the first great man of the house of Douglas.

DAVID DE MORAVIA was probably a son of the family of Duffus, a true patriot and supporter of King Robert Bruce, and also a man of undoubted learning. He was likely educated at the University of Paris, to which he was attached. His excellent patriotic conduct raised against him the enmity of King Edward, who charged him with consenting to the death of John Cumin. Being therefore excommunicated, he fled to Orkney, whereupon Edward wrote the King of Norway, requesting him to order the Bishop to be seized and sent to him, a request which was not complied with. He was consecrated Bishop of the See of Moray, at Avignon, in the time of Pope Boniface VIII., on the vigil of the holy apostles Peter and Paul, in the year 1299. As a proof of his love of learning, he founded the Scots College at Paris, in the year 1325, which was confirmed by Charles King of France in 1326. The Bishop died the same year, before the College was fully established.

Fœdera, vol.
II., page 1045.

Keith's Bishops,
Russell's
Edition, p. 140.

JOHN PILMORE was son to Adam Pilmore, burgess of Dundee, as appears by an indenture dated "in festo Sancti Valentini Martyris, 1326," to which "Adam de Pilmore, burgensis de Dundee," appends his seal "unacum sigillo venerabilis in Christo Patris, Joannis, Dei gratia Episcopi Moraviensis, filii ejusdem Adæ de Pilmore." He was consecrated Bishop of Moray on the 3d of the kalends of April, 1325, by the hands of Pope John XXII., and by the Pope's own provision. He took great care to finish what his predecessor had begun in Paris, as appears from an authentic document, in the year 1333. This establishment (the Scots College of Paris) subsisted, under the care of the Bishops of Moray, up to the Reformation, and was always administered by them, who, in quality of founders and patrons, presented to the house, and settled directors and superiors thereof. John Pilmore held the Diocese of Moray for the long period of thirty-seven years, and died in the Castle of Spynie, on the vigil of St. Michael the Archangel, in the year 1362.

Macfarlane's
Charters.

Keith's Bishop
page 141.

ANDREW STEWART, third son of Sir James Stewart, surnamed the Black Knight of Lorne, by Jane Queen-Dowager of Scotland, the widow of King James I., became Bishop of Moray in 1482. He had been previously Subdean of Glasgow and Rector of Monkland, Provost of Lincluden and Dean of Faculty in the University of Glasgow. In the year 1488, a charter of confirmation was granted by King James III. for enlargement of the burgh of Spynie, in which it is stated that the deed was given for the "special trust, cordial love, and singular favor" which the king bore to the Reverend Father in Christ his uncle Andrew Bishop of Moray. The

Registrum
Moraviense,
page 270.

Bishop appears to have been a lover of schools and learning, and at a convocation of the Canons, held in the Cathedral Church of Moray on the 4th November, 1488, the following statute was made relative to the school:—“Item generalis scola erigatur et edificetur per illos qui eam erigere et edificare deberent apud oppidum de Elgin in loco ad hoc alias assignato, et quod per dictum Cancellarium dicte ecclesie unus vir ideneus deputetur et ordinetur cum effectu ad regendum et gubernandum eandem, et ad eam venientes docendum, instruendum, et in grammatica informandum; et citetur Rector de Kyncardin Ecclesie, qui eandem regere et gubernare deberet, ad docendum quo jure dictam rectoriam possidet et tenet.” Bishop Stewart held the See of Moray for nineteen years. He died in the year 1501, and was buried in the Quire of the Cathedral.

JOHN BELLENDEN, Archdean of Moray, was a native of Lothian, and was born towards the close of the fifteenth century. He studied at the University of St. Andrew's, where his name is entered in the records in the year 1508. He remained there for some years. His education was completed at the University of Paris, where he took the degree of Doctor of Divinity. He returned to Scotland during the minority of King James V., and became attached to the Royal establishment as “clerk of his comptis.” In 1530 he is celebrated as a Court poet by Sir David Lyndsay, who had been his fellow student at St. Andrew's, and was afterwards along with him in the king's household—

But now of late has start up heastily
A cunning clerk that writeth craftily,
A plant of poets, called Ballanten,
Whose ornat writs my wit cannot defyne :
Get he into the Court authority,
He will precel Quintin and Kennedy.*

In 1530, Bellenden was employed, by command of the king, in translating Boece's History, which had been published in Paris in 1526. The object of this translation was to introduce to the king and others who had not acquired the Latin language, a knowledge of the history of their country. He delivered a manuscript copy of the work to the king in the summer of 1533, and about the same time he was engaged in a translation of Livy. During the years 1531, 1532, and 1533, grants of money were made to Bellenden by the king for his literary labours, and he was still further rewarded by the king by an appointment to the Archdeanery of Moray. He subsequently got a vacant Prebendaryship in the Cathedral of Ross. The translations of Bellenden are characterised by great felicity of language, and by a freedom that shows his profound acquaintance with the learned language upon which he wrought. His History was printed in 1536 by Thomas Davidson, and had become in later times extremely rare, until a new edition, in a very elegant style, was published by Messrs. Tait, Edinburgh, in 1821. At the same time appeared the translation of the first two books of Livy, which had never before been printed. Bellenden wrote

* Lyndsay here probably refers to Quintin Shaw and Walter Kennedy, contemporary poets, who are both referred to in Dunbar's celebrated poem, “Lament for the Deth of the Makkaris.”

various other works in prose and poetry, which are mostly lost. A poem called "Vertue and Vyce" has been preserved, of which we shall give a stanza or two as a specimen of his versification—

Methocht I was into a pleasand mead,
 Quhair Flora made the tender bluims to spread,
 Throw kindly dew and humours nutritive,
 Quhen golden Titan, with his flames sae reid,
 Above the seas upraist his glorious heid,
 Defounding down his heit restorative
 To every fruit that nature made to live,
 Whilk was afore into the winter deid,
 With storms cauld and har-frost penetrive.

A silver fountain sprang with water cleir
 Into that place quhair I approachit neir,
 Quhair I did sone espy a fellon reird
 Of courtly gallants in their gayest weir,
 Rejoicing them in season of the zeir,
 As it had been of Mayis sweit day the feird ;
 Their gudelie havings made me nocht affeird ;
 With them I saw a crownit king appear,
 With tender downs arising in his beird.

Their courtly gallants sett, and their intents,
 To sing and play on divers instruments,
 According to this prince's appetyte ;
 Twa ladyis fair came pransand owre the bents,
 Thair costly claething shew'd their mighty rents ;
 Quhat heart nicht wish, they wanted not a myte,
 The rubies shone upon their fingers quhyt :
 And finally I knew, by thair consents,
 This VERTUE was, the other hight DELYTE.

Bellenden lived happily and comfortably under the Royal favour during the remaining years of the reign of King James V. He was violently opposed to the doctrines of the Reformation, which, in his latter days, were making great progress in Scotland. His conduct in this respect brought considerable odium upon him, and, in consequence, he retired from his own country in disgust, and died at Rome about the year 1550. It is supposed we shall soon have another edition of his great work, printed in the series of the Scottish Historians now in progress.

FLORENCE WILSON, known among scholars of his own time by the Latin name of Florentius Volusenus, was born on the banks of the Lossie, near Elgin, about the year 1500. He was educated at the Grammar or Cathedral School of Elgin, and prosecuted his studies farther at the University of King's College, Aberdeen. He seems to have been afterwards at the University of Paris. Returning to England, his abilities recommended him to the notice of Cardinal Wolsey, who appointed him preceptor to his nephew, and he accompanied the latter to Paris, where he was sent for his education. On Wolsey's death in 1530, Volusenus lost his pupil, but he soon after found another patron in the learned Cardinal du Bellai, Archbishop of Paris. Intending to proceed to Rome with this prelate, he travelled with

Ortus, Vita
 et Mors Flor.
 Voluseni, p. 13.

him as far as Avignon, where he was seized with an illness which caused him to be left behind, and prevented his farther journey. Having neither money nor friends, he resolved to apply to the celebrated Cardinal Saddilet, Bishop of Carpentras, and, arriving at his house at night, he was readily admitted into his library, where the Bishop was then engaged at his studies. The skill of Volusenus in the learned languages strongly prepossessed the Cardinal in his favour, and he procured for him the appointment of teacher of Greek and Latin in the Public School of Carpentras. During the time he held this appointment, he composed his excellent work "*De Animi Tranquillitate Dialogus*," which was first printed at Leyden in 1543. In this book, which displays throughout a great body of learning, and an intimate acquaintance with the Greek and Latin classics, there are interspersed several pieces of Latin poetry of his own composition, which are stated by scholars to be little inferior to Buchanan. About 1546, after residing at Carpentras for ten years, Volusenus felt a strong desire to revisit his native land, but was taken ill on the way, and died at Vienne, in Dauphiny, about 1547. His work, "*De Tranquillitate Animi*," was much admired in the sixteenth century, and still continues to keep its place among scholars, being held in estimation for its pure Latinity and the fine sentiments it contains. Volusenus seems to have been a friend of George Buchanan, or the latter was an admirer of his work. He inscribes the following beautiful lines to his memory :—

Buchanan's
Works, vol. II.,
page 82, Edition
1715.

Hic Musis, Volusene, jaces carissime, ripam
Ad Rhodani, terra quam procul a patria ?
Hoc meruit virtus tua, tellus quæ foret altrix
Virtutum, ut cineres conderet illa tuos.

The best memoir of Volusenus is from the pen of our learned townsman, Mr. James Taylor, which is composed with all the elegance and care for which his writings are distinguished. It was printed in Elgin in the year 1861, and presented by him to the Elgin Literary and Scientific Association, along with a copy of Volusenus' great work, "*De Tranquillitate Animi*."

The works of Volusenus are said to be as follows :—

1. *Commentatio Theologica in Apherismos Dissecta*. Leyden, 1539.
2. *Philosophiæ Aristotolicæ Synopsis*, Lib. IV. Of these works there are no copies extant, and it is doubtful whether the last was ever printed.
3. *De Tranquillitate Animi*. Leyden, 1543. Reprinted at Edinburgh, 1571. An edition was published in Edinburgh in 1707, corrected by Ruddiman, who wrote a short life of Volusenus in Latin, and the last one in 1751, with a preface by Dr. John Ward, dedicated to William Wishart, Principal of the University of Edinburgh. This edition contains the life by Ruddiman, but the author is not acknowledged. The publishers are Hamilton, Balfour, & Neill. This last edition is the one presented by Mr. Taylor to the Elgin Literary and Scientific Association, and is very neatly printed.
4. He is said to have written a book of Latin poems, printed in London in 1619. One of his Latin poems has been translated by Robert Blair, the author of *The Grave*, and will be found in *Wilson's Poets of Scotland*, vol. I., page 43.
5. Two Letters, one in Latin and another in English, the latter addressed to Thomas Cromwell, afterwards Lord Cromwell and Earl of Essex, are inserted in the *Bannatyne Miscellany*.

Chalmers' Life
of Ruddiman,
pages 41, 42.

It is said that Volusenus was attached to the doctrines of the Reformation, and that if he had returned to Scotland he would have professed Reformed principles. This statement admits of considerable doubt. There is a life of Volusenus in Mackenzie's Lives of Scottish Writers, vol. III., pages 29-34.

ROBERT PONT was for some time minister at Elgin and Birnie, and Commissioner for the Diocese or Province of Moray from 1563 to 1573. He was born of respectable parents at Culross, in the year 1527. Studied at St. Andrew's, where he took the degree of Master in Theology, and is supposed to have pursued his studies in jurisprudence at some foreign University. He supported the Reformation, and became one of the leading Presbyterian divines. In the year 1563, he competed with Alexander Gordon, Bishop of Galloway, for the office of Superintendent of that Diocese, but was not successful, and the same year was appointed Commissioner of the Diocese of Moray. In 1566, his translation and interpretation of the Helvetian Confession was ordered by the General Assembly to be printed. In 1569 he was presented to the Provostry of Trinity College, and afterwards to St. Cuthbert's Church, which he held, along with his office of Superintendent of Moray, and in the same year he executed the command of the General Assembly in excommunicating Adam Bishop of Orkney, who married Queen Mary to Bothwell. In 1571, the Earl of Morton, then Regent, being desirous to propitiate the Church, proposed that some of its members should be appointed Senators of the College of Justice, and, with consent of the Church, Pont was selected as well qualified for the office, and he took his seat on the bench as one of the Judges. This appointment did not give satisfaction in the North, and a complaint was given in to the General Assembly, which met at Edinburgh on 6th August, 1573, of his non-residence, and not sufficiently visiting the churches of Moray, when he pleaded the want of leisure. He seems to have continued to occupy a seat on the bench up to 1584, when he was deprived for protesting against the State interfering with the liberties of the Church. He was presented in 1587 to the Bishoprick of Caithness, but the General Assembly refused to accede to the king's proposal, and the See remained vacant. In the General Assembly, held at Burntisland in May, 1601, "it was ordained that Robert Pont should revise the Psalmes, and that his labours should be revised the next Assemblée," but nothing was done. In 1602, Pont was appointed Commissioner for Orkney, and was also named one of a committee for prescribing a regular and constant plan of visitation. He had for some time a pension of "300 merks yearly from the thirds of the Diocese of Moray, together with the third of the victual of the Thesaurry of Moray, and the third of the teind salmon of the three Cobles of Spey, pertaining to the third assumed by the Bishop of Moray." During the period he retained office, he attended fourteen out of the twenty-three General Assemblies that were held, and was elected Moderator of that of 5th July, 1570. He was also a member of the Convention at Leith, 12th January, 1571.

Scott's Fasti,
vol. III., pages
150 and 450.

Hailes' Senators
of the College of
Justice, pages
151, 152, 153.

Mr. Pont was a very learned man, and distinguished himself both as a divine, a man of science, and a judge. Mr. Tytler writes of him as follows:—

- Tytler's Life of Sir Thomas Graig, pages 219, 228. "At length, after a life divided between his labours as a minister, his duties as a judge, and his exertions as an author, this pious and amiable old man, without pain, or suffering, but by a gentle decay of nature, was gathered to his fathers." His literary labours are referred to by Dr. M'Crie's Life of Melville, vol. II., page 428. M'Crie, and Mr. Fraser-Tytler. He died on the 8th May, 1608, in the eighty-first year of his age, and was interred in St. Cuthbert's Churchyard, where a monument was erected to his memory, with the following inscription :—

Ille Ego Robertus Pontanus in hoc prope Sacro—
Christi qui fueram Pastor gregis ; auspice Christo,
Æternæ hic recubans expecto resurgere vitæ.

Obiit 8 die Mensis Maii, anno G, 1608, ætatis 81.

A pastour of Christ's flock sometime was I,
Within the church that standeth just hard by ;
Sir Robert Pont my name, who here now ly,
And in Christ's pow'r, I hope that this my dust
Shall rise to life eternal with the just.

Twice forty years and one when he had seen,
During which space he on the earth had been,
Of the third month, upon the twice fourth day,
To death he did resign his corps of clay,
When sixteen hundred years and seven were past and gone :
He now interred is beside this little stone.

Mr. Pont married a lady of the name of Margaret Smith, and had two sons, Zachary Pont, minister at Bower, in Caithness, who married Margaret Knox, daughter of John Knox, the great Reformer ; and Timothy Pont, minister of Dunnet, in the same county, whose skill as the first Scottish geographer is well known, and whose untimely death was a grievous loss to science, and to his country.

- ALEXANDER SETON, Lord Urquhart, Lord Fyvie, and Earl of Dunfermline. I have already referred to this great man as Prior of Pluscarden, and proprietor of that estate, also as a residenter in the burgh of Elgin, but I must here notice him briefly as one of the most learned men of his age. He was the third son of George sixth Lord Seton, by Isabella, daughter of Sir William Hamilton of Sanquhar. Being a younger brother, he was intended for the Church, and his family being Roman Catholics, he went to Rome, and was admitted a student in the College of the Jesuits, where he made great progress in the Greek and Latin languages, as also in mathematics, architecture, and other sciences. Finding that the prospects for Church preferment in Scotland were closed by the progress of the Reformation, he betook himself to the study of the civil law, and for that purpose travelled into France, where he remained several years. On his return to Scotland, he pursued his legal studies, and passed advocate. He was admitted a Lord of Session, on 16th February, 1588, by the title of Lord Urquhart. On 26th May, 1593, he was elected Lord President. He was created a Peer by the title of Lord Fyvie, on 4th March, 1598, and was then entrusted with the education of Prince Charles, the king's second son. He was appointed Vice-Chancellor, on 8th February, 1604, and a Commissioner for
- Hailes' Senators of the College of Justice, pages 196 to 202.
- Tytler's Life of Sir Thomas Craig, pages 229, 237.
- Douglas' Peerage, vol. I., pages 480, 481.

the Union, then projected between the kingdoms. He shortly thereafter was promoted to the dignity of Chancellor, and was created Earl of Dunfermline, on 4th March, 1606, a member of the English Privy Council in 1609, and Royal Commissioner in the Parliament held in 1612. He held the office of Chancellor, and managed all the important business committed to his charge, to the entire satisfaction of the king and country, until his death, which occurred at his own house of Pinkie, on 16th June, 1622, in the sixty-seventh year of his age, after a short illness of fourteen days. He was probably the most eminent person of his time, for talent, judgment, and prudence, in a very difficult period of his country's history. It is a great honour to Elgin that he made it so much the place of his residence, during the periods of his relaxation from business. He is stated to have been Provost of the burgh in 1591. We have distinct evidence that he held that office on or shortly after the year 1606. Mr. Tytler states that "he was an upright and learned judge, an indefatigable and conscientious statesman, an accomplished scholar, and a patron of men of letters." Three Latin epigrams of his are prefixed to Bishop Leslie's History of Scotland, one of which is very elegantly written.

Bishop Leslie's
History, Edition
1675, page 14.

LACHLAN SHAW, historian of the Province of Moray, was son of Donald Shaw, a respectable farmer at Rothiemurchus, in the County of Inverness, and supposed to be a descendant of the ancient family of the Shaws, who were long settled at, and proprietors of, the estate of Rothiemurchus. Mr. Shaw's birth may have taken place between 1685 and 1690. He is said to have received the rudiments of his education at the school of Ruthven, in Badenoch, then the only seminary of any importance on the banks of the Spey. He afterwards studied, and took his degree at King's College, Aberdeen; became schoolmaster of Abernethy, 2d May, 1711; and held a bursary for the Irish language from the Synod of Moray 1712-1714. He studied theology at the University of Edinburgh, and was licensed by the Presbytery of Haddington, 24th April, 1716. Having thus completed his studies, and received his license, the Synod of Moray recommended their Commissioners to send him North to their bounds for active duty. On the 20th September, 1716, he was settled as minister of the parish of Kingussie, and his name appears on the roll of the members of Synod on the 30th October that year. He continued minister of Kingussie until 28th October, 1719, when he was translated to Cawdor, and on the 9th May, 1734, he was settled at Elgin, where he continued the remainder of his life.

Synod Records,
VI., 30.

Synod Records,
VI., 35.

Mr. Shaw early turned his attention to obtaining information for his History of the Province of Moray. In the year 1726 he made a tour through the Highland districts, and, being a keen observer, he gives a deplorable account of the gross ignorance which then prevailed, more particularly in Glengarry, then almost inaccessible. His work was completed long before it was published, and only seems to have received a few finishing strokes before going to the press. His History is particularly valuable in giving an account of the country when it was just emerging from semi-barbarism, and the feudal and clan system; and the mass of information which he has collected on historical, genealogical, and ecclesiastical subjects, and the light he has thrown on the manners, customs, and

superstitions of his times, well entitle him to the name he has received as the best local historian Scotland has produced. Episcopalians think he has treated their body with great and unjust severity, but allowances must be made for him. He just lived immediately after the period when Episcopacy was abolished, and was brought up among clergy and laity of the Presbyterian body, who had suffered in their persons and property from the persecutions of these trying times, and it is no wonder that he felt strongly on that subject, and he only shared in the same feelings which possessed others of his time. Mr. Shaw's History was published in 1775, two years before his death, and it has left him a name that will be remembered in all time in his native province. A second edition was published by John Grant, bookseller in Elgin, in the year 1827, but, unfortunately, he has mixed the original text with much extraneous matter, which detracts from the value of that edition. Mr. Shaw, in addition to his History, is the author of other works—viz., Description of Moray in Pennant's Tour, Continuation of Rose's Genealogy of the Family of Kilravock (Edinburgh Spalding Club), 1848, and he also edited the Rev. Dr. Macpherson's Critical Dissertations, with Notes and Additions: London, 1768. He left a good many manuscripts on scientific subjects. Some of them I have seen in possession of his grand-daughter, Mrs. Grant, but at her death they were lost. He also corresponded with various learned men, such as Lord Hailes, upon literary and antiquarian subjects, and was well read in the publications of his time. He was on intimate terms with many of the County proprietors, particularly the families of Brodie, and Dunbar of Northfield, with whom he communicated, and exchanged new publications.

Scott's Fasti,
vol. III., p. 154.

Mr. Shaw was twice married. His first wife was a Miss Stewart, daughter of Mr. Stewart, Collector of Customs at Inverness, by whom he had a son and daughter. David, the son, went to New York, and there married and had a family. Anne, the daughter, married Bailie John Copland of Aberdeen, and had a daughter, Helen, married to Dr. Patrick Forbes, minister of Boharm, afterwards Professor of Humanity at Aberdeen. He married again on 14th March, 1727, Ann Grant, daughter of Duncan Grant, one of the Bailies of Inverness, by whom he had a large family. Of these grew up Duncan, Lachlan, and Donald, Mary, Isabella, Marjory, and Sarah. Duncan was minister of the parish of Rafford from 1753 to 1783, from whence he was translated to Aberdeen. He was eminent in his day as a divine and scholar; was made a Doctor of Divinity and Moderator of the General Assembly. He married Jean Gordon, daughter of the Rev. George Gordon, minister of Alves, and had three sons and four daughters, all of whom seem to have died without issue. Lachlan, the second son, went to Jamaica, was there seventeen years, and died in London, on his return to England. David died at the age of eighteen, when preparing to join his brother Lachlan in Jamaica. Mary and Isabella both died unmarried. Marjory married the Rev. William Peterkin, one of the ministers of Elgin; and Sarah married James Donaldson, son of William Donaldson, at Morristown, near Elgin, and had a large family, of whom was lately surviving Mr. Lachlan Donaldson, some time Mayor of the City of St. John, New Brunswick. Mr. Shaw lived in eventful times, and saw many

changes in Church and State. He was a minister during the Rebellions of 1715 and 1745, and a contemporary of Wodrow, Boston, Willison, and the Erskines, as well as Robertson, Blair, and Carlyle. He witnessed the restoration of Patronage, the famous Marrow Controversy, the Secession of 1732, and the commencement of the Relief Church in 1752. He resigned his charge as one of the ministers of Elgin on 5th April, 1774, and died 23d February, 1777. He was survived by his wife, Ann Grant. His body was interred within the walls of the Elgin Cathedral somewhere near the High Altar, but no stone was erected to his memory, and the exact place of interment is not known. Posterity has done him somewhat tardy justice. In the year 1868, a handsome slab of Peterhead granite was, by permission of Her Majesty's Board of Works, placed in the Chancel of the Cathedral, in a conspicuous spot, to Mr. Shaw's memory, at the cost of a large body of subscribers, his grandson, Mr. Lachlan Donaldson, heading the list. The following inscription is engraved on the stone :—

IN MEMORY OF
THE REV. LACHLAN SHAW,

HISTORIAN OF THE PROVINCE OF MORAY,

And one of the Collegiate Ministers of Elgin, who died on the 23d of February, 1777,
in the 91st year of his age, and 61st of his ministry ;

And whose remains are interred within the walls of this Cathedral.

This Monument is erected by a few Subscribers, admirers of Mr. Shaw's talents and worth.
November, 1868.

A memorial window has been appropriately placed in the Parish Church of Elgin, as a record of Mr. Shaw, at the cost of his grandson, Mr. Donaldson.

A difference of opinion has arisen about Mr. Shaw's age. His birth is not recorded in the parish register. Dr. Scott, in his *Fasti*, states he was only in his eighty-fifth year when he died. In 1871, I wrote him for his authority, when he referred me to the "Weekly Magazine" of March, 1777, and the "Scots Magazine" of February the same year, where his age and character are given. The general opinion in Elgin is, that he was six years older, and the age of ninety-one is accordingly therefore given on his monument in the Cathedral, and the memorial window in the Parish Church.

JOHN GRANT, son of Hugh Grant, minister of Knockando, was born in the Manse of Knockando in the year 1730, and was descended from the family of Moyness. He was settled minister at Dundurcas on 28th September, 1758, and removed to Boharm in consequence of the Act of Annexation in 1783. He was from thence translated to Elgin, 14th October, 1788. Mr. Grant was not only very attentive to his duties as a minister—having been the first to introduce Sabbath Schools into the parish—but was also indefatigable in the discharge of pastoral duty, administering comfort to the distressed, and relieving the necessities of the poor. When not employed in his official labours, he devoted his time to the acquisition of knowledge—his reading being varied and extensive, while his taste was chaste and his judgment correct. He completed a large

Survey of
Province of
Moray, page 27.

Council
Minutes.

Scott's *Fasti*,
vol. III., pages
154, 1.5.

work on chronology, which was approved of by his class-fellow, Principal Robertson, but its publication was anticipated by a similar work. His publications are on the Roman Hasta and Pilum, on the Brass and Iron used by the Ancients, Memoir of the Roman Progress to the North of the Grampian Hills (*Archæologica Scotica*), Survey of the Province of Moray, which he published in 1798, conjointly with the late Rev. William Leslie, minister of St. Andrew's-Lhanbryd—Mr. Grant taking the first and second chapters, and Mr. Leslie the third and fourth. This work contains much very valuable information on the subjects which it treats. The account of the Parish of Elgin in Sir John Sinclair's *Statistics of Scotland*, vol. V., embracing twenty-two closely printed pages, conveys very interesting statements on the ancient history, progress, and then present condition of the parish and burgh, which will well repay a careful perusal. He also left a work in manuscript, entitled *Brittannia Antiqua*, which is preserved in the library of Cullen House. Dr. Scott states in his *Fasti*, that, although Mr. Grant was much devoted to retirement and study, his manners were courteous and easy, betraying neither the restraint nor pedantry by which the scholar is too often characterised. He delighted in social mirth, could be frolicsome with youth, serious with gravity, and garrulous with old age. Although not a striking nor what would now be called a popular preacher, he seems to have been much respected for his kindness of disposition, amiable qualities, and his desire to promote the temporal and spiritual good of his people. Mr. Grant was twice married, and had two daughters; one of them the wife of Mr. Alexander Addison, an eminent Counsel at the American Bar. He died on the 22d October, 1814, in the eighty-fourth year of his age, and fifty-seventh of his ministry.

GEORGE CHALMERS, the eminent author of *Caledonia*, although neither a native of Elgin nor educated there, was connected with it by many ties. His great-grandfather, his grand-uncle, and several of his relatives possessed lands about the town. His brother, Alexander Chalmers, was a writer in Elgin, and some time Sheriff-Substitute of the County, and he himself was an honorary member of the Morayshire Farmer Club. He was probably also connected with George and James Chalmers, who were Town-Clerks of the burgh in the seventeenth century. The family were owners of the small property of Pittensear, in the parish of St. Andrew's-Lhanbryd, for about a century, and they had also lands in the parish of Urquhart. George Chalmers was the son of James Chalmers, who resided in Fochabers, and was born there in the year 1742. His father appears to have been in good circumstances, and gave him the best education the country could afford. From the school of his native place, he was sent to King's College, Aberdeen, where he completed the usual academical course, and thereafter studied law in Edinburgh for some years.

In 1763, he visited Maryland, in the United States of America, where two of his father's brothers had settled, with the view of recovering some property, and was induced to commence practice as a barrister, in which profession he seems to have met with considerable success; and, when the celebrated question arose respecting the payment of tithes to the Church, he took up the cause of the clergy, and argued their case with great

ability against the famous advocate, Patrick Henry, who subsequently became so conspicuous in the War of Independence. He was not only defeated in this cause, but was obliged, as a marked Royalist, to withdraw from the country. He returned to England in 1776, but for ten years thereafter received no compensation or place for his loyalty to his country. He supported himself in London by his pen; and, his political and other writings having at length brought him into public notice, in the year 1786 he was appointed to the responsible situation of Chief Clerk to the Board of Trade, the duties of which office he continued to discharge with diligence and ability during the remainder of his life, a period of thirty-nine years.

Having considerable leisure, he devoted himself to literary pursuits, and few writers of his day or of any time have issued so many productions. He was a most indefatigable and industrious student. He wrote biographies of Defoe, Allan Ramsay, Sir David Lyndsay, and others, a life of Thomas Paine, Thomas Ruddiman, and Mary Queen of Scots (he was an enthusiastic admirer of Queen Mary), with numerous works on poetry, commerce, and jurisprudence. His great work *Caledonia* unfortunately was never completed. The first volume was published in 1807. It treats of the history of Scotland during the Roman, Pictish, Scottish, and Scoto-Saxon periods, from the year 80 to 1306. The second volume, containing the histories of the Counties of Roxburgh, Berwick, Haddington, Edinburgh, Linlithgow, Peebles, and Selkirk, appeared in 1810. After a lapse of fourteen years, a third volume was published in 1824, containing histories of Dumfries, Kirkcudbright, Wigtown, Ayr, Lanark, Renfrew, and Dumbarton. In the preface to this volume he promises that his work would be completed within two years from that date, and that the histories of the Central and Northern Counties would then be placed before the world. This promise was not to be realised. The life of man becomes very precarious at the age of eighty-two. Mr. Chalmers died at his house in London, on the 31st May, 1825, in the eighty-third year of his age. It is a great loss to the nation, and in particular to the North of Scotland, that his important history was never completed. We never had a writer of more unwearied diligence, deep research, and so attached to the subject, and there is not likely to arise such another. He spent much of his life in useless controversy, which resulted in no practical good. If the time so wasted had been employed on his great work, we would have had a national history, perhaps unequalled. There is a very good account of Mr. Chalmers in Constable's *Literary Correspondence*, published in 1873, sixty pages being allotted to him. It is there stated in the concluding paragraph that his nephew, Mr. James Chalmers, who had been long devoted to his uncle, was expected to be his heir, but, on the death of the old gentleman, the will, which was known to have been executed, could not be found. The library, which was curious and extensive, would probably have been purchased by the Edinburgh Faculty of Advocates, had Mr. James Chalmers had power to dispose of it. As it was, it remained under his care until he died, when it was sold by public auction in London, in the year 1841. A very excellent concise memoir of Mr. Chalmers, from the pen of

Constable's
Literary Correspondence, p. 465.

Dr. James Macdonald of the Ayr Academy, is given in the fifth volume of the Ninth Edition of the Encyclopædia Britannica, pages 373, 374. A very good portrait of Mr. Chalmers is in possession of his relative, Mrs. M'William, the Chanonry, Elgin, and another belongs to Mrs. Grant, widow of the late John Peter Grant, Esq., W.S., Edinburgh, perhaps a gift to his mother, the late talented Mrs. Grant of Laggan. Mrs. M'William has also the desk and writing table at which the zealous antiquary and scholar so long laboured, a valuable relic of a truly great man.

ROBERT ALVES was born at Elgin in 1745. He was educated at Aberdeen, and in 1766 took the degree of Master of Arts. He was designed for the Church, but from want of patronage, then so necessary, or of talents sufficiently popular, he had to be satisfied with the situation of a parochial teacher, first at Deskford, and afterwards at Banff. In 1779, he removed to Edinburgh, where he maintained himself for several years by teaching the Greek, Latin, French, and Italian languages. In 1782, he sent to the press a volume of poems, which was published by William Creech, Edinburgh, and Cadell, London, and met with such success as encouraged him to produce a second in 1789, entitled, "Edinburgh, a Poem, in Two Parts;" also, "The Weeping Bard, in Sixteen Cantos." In these works much genius is not to be discovered; but they bear the impression of a cultivated mind, and much poetic susceptibility. The author complains of a wayward "fate," and it is not to be estimated how far that may have cramped his efforts to excel. In 1784, he began a work, entitled, Sketches of a History of Literature, and it was in the press when he died on the 1st of January, 1794. It was afterwards published by his friend Dr. Alexander Chapman. The plan of this work is said to be excellent, but inaccurate in its details. Mr. Alves' name is not mentioned in any of our biographical dictionaries, and the only account of him which I have seen is contained in the Lives of Scottish Poets, by the Society of Ancient Scots, established A.D. 1770, published by T. Boys, Ludgate Hill, London, in 1822, in three neat duodecimo volumes, with illustrations. From that work I have extracted the foregoing brief account of him. He seems to be quite unknown in his native place. The only copy of his poems of 1782 which I have seen is one in my own possession, from which I shall make two extracts:—

RURAL HAPPINESS—AN ODE.

Oft I quit, for rural air,
The busy town, its smoke, and care;
Lay me where the wild thyme blows,
Crocus bud, or damask rose;
Inhale the sweets of every flower,
And think on pain and grief no more.

Here at ease, alone and still,
Let me muse by purling rill;
Sadly soothe my pensive soul,
While its drowsy murmurs roll,
And its waves that post away,
Liken to life's inconstant day.

Oft I weave, with pleasing care,
 A verdant wreath of flowrets fair—
 Pansies gay with pinks I join,
 Sweet pea bloom and eglantine ;
 And as their colours fade away,
 Think how all my hopes decay.

Let me seek, at noontide hour,
 Shady oak, or woodbine bower,
 Walks of elm in stately rank,
 Or the cowslip's scented bank,
 There to muse old authors o'er,
 And drink the soul of ancient lore.

TIME :

AN ELEGY WRITTEN NEAR THE RUINS OF ELGIN CATHEDRAL.

'Twas at the sober hour of closing day,
 When night fast falling wraps the world in shade,
 Musing, I bent my solitary way,
 For yon pale mansions of the silent dead.

Hard by yon ancient pile with ivy crowned,
 Memorial sad of Time's resistless sway,
 Here towers to heaven—there cumbers all the ground,
 With vast unwieldy heaps of old decay.

To solemn thoughts invites the solemn scene,
 The earth wide hushed, and heaven's refulgent fires ;
 And Cynthia, riding in her car serene,
 Affections gentle as herself inspires.

When thus the Muse, "Be scenes like these thy theme,
 Man's life how vain, his joys, his labours all !"
 I heard and felt the soft inspiring flame,
 And wept to see the mouldering columns fall.

Yet such the fate of all the works of pride,
 Reared to adorn our life, or name to save ;
 They shine their hour, then whelming seek the tide,
 Buried for ever in oblivion's wave.

SIR WILLIAM GRANT, Master of the Rolls, was a descendant of the old family of Ballindalloch, and was born in 1755 at Wester Elchies, in the parish of Knockando. Having been early left an orphan by the death of his parents, he was educated by his uncle, Robert Grant of Elchies, at the Elgin Grammar School, and afterwards at Aberdeen and Leyden Universities. In 1775 he sailed to Canada, and served in defence of Quebec. On the retreat of the enemy, he was appointed Attorney-General, although not then called to the English Bar, and for eight years held that office. Having returned to England, and being called to the bar, he had no success for some years ; but Mr. Pitt, having discovered his talents in an interview he had with him about Canadian affairs, got him a seat in Parliament, as Member for Shaftesbury, in 1790. In the following year he signalised himself by a great maiden speech in defence of the Premier's

Anti-Russian policy. In December, 1792, he opposed negotiations with France, and in 1793 got a Judgeship for Carmarthen, Pembroke, and Cardigan. In 1795 he was made a King's Counsel, but confined himself to Chancery business. In the same year he was appointed Solicitor-General to the Queen; in 1798 Chief Justice of Chester; and in 1799 Solicitor-General. He distinguished himself greatly in his argument upon the *Thelluson* case. On 30th May, 1801, he succeeded Sir Pepper Arden as Master of the Rolls. He still remained in the House of Commons, and, by his influence there, caused the rejection of Sir Samuel Romilly's bill for making land liable for debt. He seldom interfered with ordinary political questions, except when the fate of the Administration depended on the debate. His last great effort in the House of Commons was in defence of the resolutions respecting the Regency, and it is stated to have been a triumphant effort of argumentative eloquence. He had represented the County of Banff from 1796 to 1812, and, at the dissolution in the latter year, he retired from Parliament, and in December, 1817, from the bench. He occupied his leisure in the enjoyment of society, or with the study of literature, and especially poetry, in which he was interested, even in the most active years of his life. The attacks of rheumatism drove him to the warm climate of Dawlish, where he died on 25th May, 1832, in the seventy-sixth year of his age. Lord Brougham states that in Parliament Sir William Grant was unquestionably to be classed with speakers of the first order. His style was that of the closest and severest reasoning ever heard in any popular assembly, and as a Judge he attained to the perfection of judicial eloquence, and its effect upon all listeners was as certain and as powerful as its merits were incontestable and exalted. He was in his politics strictly Conservative.

Brougham's
Sketches of
Statesmen,
vol. I., page 171.

Sir William Grant, in the midst of a busy life, was not unmindful of the companions of his youth. He had a warm friendship for the Rev. William Gordon, minister of Elgin, who had been his class-fellow at the Elgin Academy, and left him a handsome legacy at his death. He also corresponded with the Rev. John Grant, minister of Dundurcas, afterwards of Elgin, whom he had known in his early days. Mr. Grant mentions Sir William very kindly in his *Survey of the Province of Moray*.

*Survey of
Province of
Moray*, page 27.

ALEXANDER STEPHEN, a well-known literary writer of his time, and the author of many works both in prose and verse, was the son of Thomas Stephen, Provost of Elgin, by his wife Elizabeth Forsyth, sister of the late Mr. Isaac Forsyth, and born at Elgin in the year 1757. He no doubt received the rudiments of his education at the schools of his native town, and afterwards attended classes at the University of Aberdeen, where he completed his studies.

At the early age of eighteen, Mr. Stephen made a voyage to the West India Islands, principally, it would seem, with a view to add to his stock of information, and to see the world. At Jamaica, he became acquainted with Mr. John Miller, a person of considerable eminence, and a Member of the House of Assembly in that place, from whom he received much hospitable attention, and by whom he was introduced to some of the most respectable families in the Island.

On his return to England, Mr. Stephen obtained a commission in the 84th Regiment, but never joined, in consequence of that corps having been suddenly and unexpectedly reduced. At the age of twenty-one he entered himself a member of the Middle Temple, and continued his legal studies for several years, but did not at this time join the English Bar, although he afterwards did so. He was much devoted to poetry and other literary pursuits, and his first work was, "Jamaica," a poem, which was followed in rapid succession by various voluminous works of biography and miscellaneous subjects. His industry in this respect seems to have been very great, and his literary labours obtained him the friendship of His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, Sir James Mackintosh, John Horne Tooke, Sir Philip Francis, the Earl of Buchan, and other eminent persons of that time.

Mr. Stephen, although not devoting himself much to legal pursuits, appears to have been consulted by his countryman, Sir James Innes, when he claimed the title and estates of the Duke of Roxburghe, and to have acted as one of the Counsel in that great case in the House of Lords, in which Sir James made out his title to the great inheritance.

In 1792, Mr. Stephen married Miss Lewin, daughter of Samuel Lewin, Esquire of Broadfield House, Hertfordshire, a gentleman of considerable property. By this lady, who is said to have been a person of fascinating manners and great mental endowments, he had three children, two of whom died young, the survivor being Mr. Thomas Algernon Stephen, who was for some time an officer in the Royal Scots Regiment, and was wounded at Waterloo.

Mr. Stephen was a person of retired habits, but could appear in the world when circumstances required him to do so, and during his life had three times visited the Continent, and travelled over France, Holland, and Flanders. He wrote a great deal for the periodical press, and the pages of the "Analytical Review" abound in learned and ingenious articles from his pen. He was also a very frequent contributor to the "Monthly Magazine." The Editor of that work states "that in facility of biographical writing, and in extent of information on the lives and actions of the contemporary generation, Mr. Stephen was equalled by no writer of his age. His industry and integrity are proved by naming the works which proceeded from his pen; and, though every variety of character passed in review before him, he never wrote an ill-natured paragraph, or aided the propagation of calumny."

Mr. Stephen's constitution was much impaired by intense study, and he suffered severely from gout during the last two years of his life. He died somewhat suddenly, at his residence of Park House, Chelsea, 24th February, 1821.

His figure was tall and commanding, his voice powerful, his general deportment graceful, and his manners particularly gentlemanlike and conciliating.

Annual
Obituary, 1822.

Mr. Stephen's acknowledged works are :—

1. Jamaica, a Poem.
2. The Templar, a Law Journal.

3. A History of the Wars which arose out of the French Revolution, 2 vols., quarto, 1803.
 4. Memoirs of John Horne Tooke, octavo, 1813.
 5. The nine first volumes of Lives of Public Characters.
 6. Letters from a Nobleman to his Son.
 7. A Translation of the Life of Dr. Franklin.
 8. The Annual Biography, vols. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.
- With several anonymous pamphlets on various subjects.

Mr. Thomas Algernon Stephen, the only son of Mr. Alexander Stephen, held various Government appointments in England, the West Indies, and North America. He married, in 1822, a daughter of the Rev. Richard and Lady Elizabeth Brickenden. By her he had a large family, of whom are now surviving two sons, settled in Canada, a daughter, married to Sir Wilford Brett, and three unmarried daughters, the Misses Stephen of Park Place, Elgin. Mr. Thomas Algernon Stephen settled at Walmer, in Kent, in 1859, and died there in 1865. Mrs. Stephen died in 1871. They are both interred in the Military Cemetery at Walmer.

JOSEPH FORSYTH was born at Elgin on 18th February, 1763. His father, Alexander Forsyth, merchant in Elgin, a most worthy citizen of the burgh, had carried on business for many years with much credit to himself, and was greatly respected. Joseph was educated at the Grammar School of Elgin, and afterwards at King's College, Aberdeen, where he attained great proficiency in the Greek and Latin classics, which became a source of enjoyment to him during his life. On completing his curriculum, his parents hoped he would have turned his mind to the Church, but, having little prospect of success in these days of strict patronage, and also from some diffidence of manner, he soon gave up all idea of that profession. He therefore resolved to try and turn his classical attainments to some account in London. Having gone thither, he soon formed a connection with the master of one of the most respectable academies in that neighbourhood, at Newington Butts; and, entering as assistant and successor, he afterwards purchased the establishment, and conducted it for thirteen years on his own account, with reputation and success. His constitution, however, was not equal to the work, and, being threatened with a pulmonary disease, he found he could not contend longer with the charge of an establishment of nearly a hundred boarders. He therefore resigned, and retired to Devonshire in the spring of 1801 to recruit his health.

In July of that year he came to Elgin, to visit his mother and other relatives, and remained until the autumn. The Peace of Amiens having taken place on the 1st October that year, Mr. Forsyth resolved to visit Italy, the native home of the Roman classics he loved so much; and, on the 12th of that month, he set out on his journey, spending a few weeks in Paris. He reached Nice on Christmas Day, 1801. He visited Genoa, Pisa, Florence, Naples, Rome, and other cities, being highly delighted with the buildings, ruins, remains of ancient art, and works of modern talent. In consequence of the rupture between Britain and France in 1802, an order was given by Bonaparte to seize all British subjects, and Mr. Forsyth, while on his return home, was arrested by the police at Turin, on

25th May, 1803, and carried to Nismes. After some stay there, he endeavoured to escape, but was apprehended at Marseilles and carried back. From this he was removed to a fort, in a distant part of France, where he was harshly treated. After some time he was permitted to join some friends at Verdun, where he remained for five years. In 1811, through the influence of a lady in the suite of the King of Holland, he was allowed to reside in Paris, where he had access to the society of learned Frenchmen, the public institutions, museums, National Library, and the Louvre.

Mr. Forsyth was only allowed a residence of four months in Paris. He was then ordered to withdraw, with a permission to choose either Verdun or Valenciennes as his future residence. He fixed on the latter, and, after three years' abode, was pleased with the preference he had given—having the advantage of riding into the country, and of living in a cottage several miles from the town. His favourite pursuits were the study of the classics, Italian poetry, and architecture. Being informed that appearing before the public as an author might induce the Emperor to release him from his banishment, he was induced to prepare the notes he had made while on his tour in Italy, and publish them in England, copies of which were forwarded to the leading members of the National Institute of France, with solicitations in his favour from some of the most eminent literary persons in London. These applications had no effect, and it was not until the Allies entered Paris in March, 1814, that he regained his liberty. He arrived in England in May, and, after an absence of thirteen years, came to Elgin in July to visit his relatives. The winter of that year he spent in London. In April, 1815, he returned to Elgin, with the intention of there spending the evening of his days, but it was evident his health was declining; and, although somewhat recruited by a visit to Inverness-shire, Argyle, and the Western Isles, he had an attack of apoplexy on his return, which carried him off on the 20th September. Mr. Forsyth was a person of highly cultivated talents, amiable disposition, and polished manners. His fame rests upon his work, "On the Antiquities, Arts, and Letters of Italy," a second edition of which, with a short memoir by his brother, Mr. Isaac Forsyth, was published in London in 1816. This has been followed by subsequent editions, and the work is still considered by judges as the best of its kind upon the subject to which it refers.

ROBERT WATSON. This person was born in Elgin about the middle of last century, but I have failed to discover to what family he belonged. He is chiefly remembered from his connection with the papers of the Royal Stuart family. In early life he went to the United States of America, and took part in the War of Independence, taking the patriotic side. He there received a wound, which lamed him for life. His services entitled him to the rank of Colonel, and some land, which he soon thereafter sold. He also there imbibed Republican principles, which stuck to him through life. Upon his return to Scotland, he employed himself for some time in teaching, and also took his degree as M.D. at a University. He had some hopes of procuring an important situation in India, for which his talents well fitted him, and, having gone to London for that purpose, he wrote a

pamphlet in reply to Mr. Burke's book against the French Jacobins, which acquired some popularity, and brought him into connection with a secret Republican Society. The English Government, having discovered this Society, seized all their papers and some members. Watson, among others, escaped in a Swedish vessel to France. This event, he used to say, was the reef on which his life-vessel made shipwreck. In Paris, to which he went, he became acquainted with the Emperor Napoleon, then advancing in his honours, but not arrived at the Imperial dignity, and, through his influence, he was put in charge of the affairs of the Scots College at Paris. Some years afterwards he came to Rome to make the attempt to cultivate cotton and indigo in the Pontine Marshes, for which Napoleon had offered a prize of 100,000 francs. The attempt was unsuccessful, and Dr. Watson had to remain at Rome in indigent circumstances. He had then to return to his former occupation of teaching. Among other pupils he taught the English language to Professor Von Vogelstein, reading with him some of the best British classics.

About the year 1818, he came into possession of the archives of the Royal Family of Stuart, which had been found under the ceiling of an old Roman Palazzo, where had formerly lived a person in the employment of Cardinal York, from whose heiress he purchased the documents for 100 scudi. These very valuable papers he might have disposed of for a large sum, as they were of the highest interest; and he is said to have been offered £1000 for twelve letters. He had not the discretion to leave the country with these documents, nor to keep them private; and, the knowledge of his having possession of them having been reported, he was seized by the Cardinal Gonsalvi, and the papers delivered over to the British Government, with a recommendation, however, that Dr. Watson should be recompensed. The Prince Regent is said to have given him a pension of £200 per annum, with a direction to go to Fontainebleau, and there make search for some papers belonging to the same archives.

In 1825, I learn, from a letter addressed to an old pupil in Morayshire, that he was then in Paris, and had made a collection of many valuable curiosities, with which he expected to return to his own country that year; that the British Government had at various times advanced him sums of money, equal in whole to £3100, for his support, in consequence of the seizure of the Stuart papers, and he expected a farther vote would be made to him of as much as would enable him to live in comfort in his native land. To what extent this expectation was realised I do not know. He did eventually return to England; and a good many years after this he is said to have died in London under mysterious circumstances.

A considerable interest has been excited in Watson's life, on account of his possession of the Stuart papers. The late Bishop of Brechin wrote an article about him in the "Edinburgh Review" some years ago, and Mr. Cosmo Innes refers to him very particularly in his preface to the *Chartulary of Glasgow*. His life, if fully made known, would be quite a romance. Dr. Watson seems to have been a scholar of some attainments, and of considerable ability. He had evidently very advanced opinions, both on religion and politics, and his life seems to have been a chequered and unhappy one.

JAMES COCK was born at Elgin in the year 1752, of humble but respectable parents. He was bred by his father to the laborious occupation of a weaver, and arrived at some proficiency in the figured and more ingenious departments of that trade. His father's circumstances could only afford him a scanty education; and, as he himself married early, and had a family of eight children, industry and a strict attention to business became absolutely necessary. He was much respected in Elgin, and considered a tradesman of ability and ingenuity. In April, 1797, he removed from Elgin and settled in Aberdeen, where in the year 1806 he published a small volume called "Simple Strains, or the Honespun Lays of an Untutored Muse," which having met with some success, he brought out a second volume in 1810, under the same name. The poems are generally short, and a great portion in the Scotch dialect. The year of the poet's death I have not discovered. His daughter, Janet Cock, the last survivor of a large family, died in May, 1875, at Woodside, Aberdeen, at the advanced age of eighty-five. The following lines extracted from a pretty long poem entitled, "On paying my last respects to the Town of Elgin, as the place of my nativity, from the top of Ladyhill," gives a fair specimen of the Elgin poet's composition. It evidently refers to the Elgin Cathedral:

Religious rites no more thy walls shall grace,
Nor blazing tapers rival solar light;
Order to sad confusion now gives place,
And each fair object sinks in endless night.

O ruthless Time! can nought exemption claim—
Will birth and fortune no protection find?
Ah! what is birth or fortune but a name,
Vain of itself, and empty as the wind.

Yet virtue shall outlive thy tyrant power!
And when this sphere is from its orbit driven,
When the last trump shall close the final hour,
Then, Phoenix-like, shall virtue spring to heaven.

ROBERT MYLNE, architect. This eminent man is said to be descended from an old Elgin family, who left their native place nearly three hundred years ago, and became famous as masons and builders. Some twenty years ago, two gentlemen, antiquaries, came to Elgin to make inquiries about the Mylne family, and among others called upon myself, and I had little hesitation in coming to the conclusion that they were of a family who had been burgesses of Elgin in the sixteenth century, and who had been proprietors of a rood of burgh land on the south side of the High Street, and which is described in the titles as follows:—"All and hail, that rood of burgh bigged land, lying on the south side of the burgh of Elgin, of old pertaining to the deceased John Miln, son of William Miln, burghess of Elgin, and by him disposed to John Mackean, merchant burghess of the said burgh, great-grandfather to Robert Mackean, lawful son of the deceased John Mackean, merchant in Elgin, and by the said Robert Mackean, to John Mitchell, weaver in Elgin." According to an ancient manuscript, possessed by the Lodge of Scone and Perth, John Mylne,

Lyon's History
of the Lodge of
Edinburgh,
pages 91 to 95.

mason, came to Perth from the "North Countrie," and "in process of tyme, by reason of his skill and airt, wes preferred to be the King's Ma'ties Mr. Measone, and Mr. of the said Lodge at Scone." On his death, he was succeeded in the office of King's Master Mason, by his son John, who is represented in the Perth Charter as having, in the capacity of Master of the Lodge of Scone, and at His Majesty's own desire, entered King James VI. as "Frieman Meason and Fellow Craft." His son, a third John Mylne, mason, was called in 1616 to the Scottish Capital, to undertake the erection of the King's statue. His signature appears twice in the records of Mary's Chapel. On the death of William Wallace in 1631, he was appointed Master Mason to King Charles I., which office he in 1636 resigned in favour of his eldest son, "Johne Mylne, younger," who had in October, 1633, been made Fellow of Craft in the Lodge of Edinburgh.

This John Mylne was Deacon of the Lodge and Warden in 1636, to the former of which offices he was ten times re-elected in twenty-seven years. In 1640-41, he was with the Scotch army at Newcastle. In 1646 he received the appointment from the King of Captain of Pioneers, and Principal Master Gunner of all Scotland, and in 1652 he was elected by the Crafts as a Commissioner for the formation of a Treaty of Union with England. As Convener of the Trades, he had a seat in the Town Council of Edinburgh for six years, ending in 1664, and on several occasions represented the city in the Scotch Parliament. Mr. Mylne held a high professional position, and was intimate with many gentlemen frequenting the Scottish Court at the time. He died in 1667, and in 1668 the Incorporation of Mary's Chapel placed an inscription to his memory over the door of their hall.

Alexander Mylne, the next of the family who belonged to the Lodge of Edinburgh, was passed Fellow of Craft, 2d June, 1635. As a sculptor, he was engaged in the embellishment of the Parliament House and other public buildings in Edinburgh. He died in 1643, and was buried in the Abbey of Holyrood.

Robert Mylne, mason, who acquired the estate of Balfarge, in Fife, was entered apprentice to his uncle, John Mylne, 27th December, 1653, and was made a Fellow of Craft on 23d September, 1660. He was Warden of the Lodge in 1663 and 1664. He filled the Deacon's chair from 1681 to 1688. He became Master Mason to King Charles II. on the death of his uncle. In 1671 he was employed to rebuild the Palace of Holyrood. He was also the builder of Mylne's Court and Mylne's Square. He died in 1710.

William Mylne, mason, eldest son of Robert Mylne, was admitted a member of the Lodge at St. Mary's Chapel, 27th December, 1681. He was Warden in 1695, 1696, and 1697, and died in 1728.

Thomas Mylne, mason, eldest son of William Mylne, and subsequently proprietor of Powderhall, a small but now valuable property near Edinburgh, was admitted apprentice 27th December, 1721. He was chosen Master of the Society 27th December, 1735; was for some time Deacon of the Incorporation, and again Master in 1741 and 1742; Grand Treasurer of the Lodge from 1737 to 1755. He died 5th March, 1763.

William Mylne, mason, second son of Thomas Mylne, was entered apprentice 27th December, 1750. He was Deacon of the Incorporation, and Member of the City Council in 1765. His largest undertaking was the construction of the North Bridge of Edinburgh—the contract price being £10,140. The foundation of the North Bridge was laid with Masonic honours, on 21st October, 1763. Mr. Mylne removed to Dublin, where he died in 1790.

Robert Mylne, eldest son of Thomas Mylne, was, at a meeting of the Lodge in Edinburgh on 14th January, 1754, admitted, entered apprentice as honorary member, and, on 8th April same year, raised to the degree of Master Mason. His name last appears in the sederunt of the meeting on St. John's Day, 1759. Mr. Mylne, in pursuit of his profession, went to Rome, where he studied. On returning to London, the superiority of a plan which he presented, amongst those of sixty-nine other candidates, for the contemplated Blackfriars' Bridge, gained him the prize for the design, and the execution of that great public work, which was commenced in 1761. He died in 1811, and was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral, having been surveyor to that edifice for fifty years.

With the death of Robert Mylne, terminated the family's connection with the ancient Lodge of Edinburgh, a connection which had been maintained through five successive generations. The present representative of the family is Mr. Robert W. Mylne, F.R.S., architect and engineer in London, whose father, William Chadwell Mylne, F.R.S., also architect and engineer in London, was second son of the above mentioned Robert Mylne, Master Mason of the Lodge in Edinburgh.

ROBERT JAMIESON, an intelligent antiquary, a respectable writer of verses, and an elegant scholar, is said to have been born at Elgin. I find, however, that he was actually born at Westfield, in the parish of Spynie, on the 20th April, 1781, his father being Andrew Jamieson, a residenter there, and his mother Isabella Flyter, a name then not uncommon in the parish. I have no doubt, however, that he had his education at the Grammar School of Elgin, which fitted him at an early age to become classical assistant in the School of Macclesfield, in Cheshire. When quite a young man he had acquired a taste for ancient ballads, and was in the habit of making collections of them. From congeniality of disposition, he formed an intimacy with the late Sir Walter Scott, which continued through life. His correspondence with Sir Walter commenced as early as 1801, when Jamieson was only twenty years of age, and, as he addresses him "My dear friend," the intimacy must then have been considerable. Amongst the first years of this century, Mr. Jamieson proceeded to the shores of the Baltic, to occupy a situation in the Academy of Riga. Prior to his departure, he had formed the scheme of preparing a collection of ballads, recovered from tradition, which he published in 1806, in two octavo volumes, under the name of "Popular Ballads and Songs, from tradition, manuscripts, and scarce editions, with translations of similar pieces from the ancient Danish Language, and a few Originals by the Editor." In the preparation of this work, he acknowledges his obligations to Dr. Jamieson, author of the History of the Culdees; Dr. Robert

Constable's
Literary Corres-
pondents,
vol. I., page 505.

Parochial
Register.

Constable's
Literary Corres-
pondents,
vol. I., page 507.

Anderson, Editor of the British Poets; Dr. John Leyden; and some others.

Mr. Jamieson was at Riga in 1806, and up to 1808. On the 16th December, 1806, Sir Walter Scott addressed to him a long letter, in which he presses him to return to Edinburgh, with the view of employment there; and on 7th June of the latter year, he writes to Mr. Archibald Constable on the subject of literary work. Shortly after this date he left Russia, and settled in Edinburgh, having received an appointment in the Register House, as assistant to Mr. Thomas Thomson, the Deputy-Clerk Register, in the antiquarian department, through the influence of Sir Walter Scott.

Constable,
vol. I., page 513.

The exact year when Mr. Jamieson returned to Edinburgh, I do not find, but it must have been shortly after 1808. In 1811, Mr. Thomas Constable writes that he was then on such cordial terms with his father's family, that he was a frequent and welcome visitor, and invites himself to dine at his grandfather's house on New-Year's Day.

Constable,
vol. I., page 516.

Being familiar with the Northern languages, Mr. Jamieson edited, conjointly with Sir Walter Scott and Henry Weber, a learned work, entitled, "Illustrations of Northern Antiquities, from the earlier Teutonic and Scandinavian Romances; Edinburgh, 1814." In 1818, he published, with some contributions from Scott, a new edition of Burt's Letters from the North of Scotland. The work on Northern Antiquities, the joint production of Weber, Jamieson, and Scott, is a very handsome quarto volume. The first portion, "Teutonic Romances," is by Weber; the second, "Popular, Heroic, and Romantic Ballads, translated from the Northern Languages, with notes and illustrations," by Jamieson; and the third part, "Abstract of the Eyrbyggja Saga," by Sir Walter Scott.

The edition of Burt's celebrated Letters, by Jamieson, was published in 1818, and a second in 1822, at London, the latter having an introduction, appendix, and extensive notes by Jamieson; and Sir Walter Scott contributed the curious narrative of Donald the Hammerer. Another edition of this work, with Jamieson's introduction, but without his notes, was published in 1876.

In the year 1820, he stood as a candidate for the situation of Librarian to the Faculty of Advocates, which he was well qualified to fill, and which would have been very congenial to him; but he was unsuccessful, the appointment having been conferred on the late Dr. David Irving. He retained his post in the Register House until the year 1836. The death of his friend, Sir Walter Scott in 1832, must have proved a grief and disappointment. In his latter years he seems to have been unfortunate, and his position in the Register House uncomfortable. He removed eventually to London, and died there in the end of the year 1844.

Mr. Jamieson was of the middle size, of muscular form, and strongly marked features. As a literary antiquary, he was held in high estimation by the men of learning in the Scottish Capital. As a poet, he composed several songs, which are worthy of a place in the minstrelsy of his country.

He never seems to have revisited the North of Scotland from the days of his youth, and is entirely forgotten in his native land.

The following song is a specimen of Jamieson's poetry. His prose is vigorous and terse :—

MY SWEET WEE LADDIE.

O blessings attend my sweet wee laddie,
That blinks sae bonnily now on my knee ;
And thousands o' blessings attend on his daddie,
Tho' far awa' now frae his babie and me.

Its aft ha'e I sitten, and sair ha'e I grutten,
Till blear'd and blinded wi' tears was my e'e ;
And aft I bethought me, how dearly I've bought thee,
For dear hast thou been, and dear art thou to me.

O lanely and weary, cauld, friendless, and dreary,
To me the wide warld's a wilderness a' ;
Yet still ae dear blossom I clasp to my bosom,
And oh ! 'tis sae sweet—like the joy that's awa'.

When thou lighest sleeping, I hang o'er thee weeping,
And bitter the tears that thy slumbers bedew !
Yet thy innocence smiling, sae sweetly beguiling,
Half mak's me forget that I sorrow e'er knew.

Then smile, my sweet laddie—O smile like thy daddie,
My heart will be light, tho' the tear's in my e'e ;
I canna believe he will ever deceive me,
Sae leal and sae kind as he kythed aye to be.

And O, 'mid my mourning, to see him returning,
Wi' thee to his arms when with rapture I fly—
Come weal or come wae then, nae fear I can hae then,
And wha'll be sae blest as my babie and I ?

Then blessings attend my sweet wee laddie,
That blinks sae bonnily now on my knee ;
And thousands o' blessings attend on his daddie,
Tho' far awa' now frae his babie and me.

WILLIAM HAY, who may truly be called the "Elgin Poet," was born in the White Horse Inn Close, in Elgin, about the year 1794. His father is said to have been Harry Hay, a Messenger-at-Arms, and his mother, Margaret Falconer. Under his mother's care he passed his childhood. She was a retailer of small wares from a stall in the High Street, and sometimes both mother and child must have had a very scanty subsistence. He was a lively boy, and soon attracted notice, wandering about the streets, and left very much to look after himself. Among his early patrons were Mrs. Anderson of Birnie and her family, Dr. Paterson, the Rev. James Paterson, and Mrs. Innes of the White Horse Inn. Through these friends, or some other means, he was brought under the notice of Mr. John Anderson, classical teacher in the Elgin Academy, who, having discovered that the boy had an intellect for learning, generously undertook to instruct him free of all charge. Mr. Anderson's kindness was repaid by the diligence and ability which Hay showed at his studies. He generally stood at the top of his class, and showed to his master the greatest gratitude and respect.

Having completed his studies so far as could be done at the Elgin Academy, Hay was, on the recommendation of the Rev. Mr. Macfarlane of Edinkillie, appointed tutor to the family of Mrs. Cumming of Logie, then consisting of five promising sons, most of whom went eventually to India, and died in comparatively early life. Mrs. Cumming, the widow of Mr. Cumming of Logie, was a native of Ayrshire, and one of the beauties celebrated by the immortal pen of Robert Burns. This was a happy arrangement for all parties. It introduced Hay into refined society, and Mrs. Cumming proved his friend till the close of her long life. Near Logie Mr. Dick Lauder, afterwards Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, lived with his family, and, there being a great intimacy between the two houses, Hay enjoyed the benefit of Sir Thomas Dick Lauder's literary tastes and intellectual powers, which proved of lasting benefit to him. His patron, Mr. Macfarlane, was also a person of ability, and an accomplished scholar. Not being over-tasked, he had leisure to enjoy the beautiful scenery on the banks of the Findhorn and its tributaries, and this was perhaps the happiest period of his life.

Having been for some time troubled with a stoppage of the passage by which the tears enter the nostrils from both eyes, Mrs. Cumming and Mr. Dick Lauder resolved to send him to Edinburgh to consult Dr. Gordon, in the end of October, 1817. A land journey being then tedious and expensive, Hay was put on board a Leith smack at Findhorn, and, after an enjoyable voyage of some eight days, arrived in Edinburgh, where he saw (to him) a new world, and, by the care and skill of Dr. Gordon, a native of Forres, returned home cured of his malady.

In the end of the year 1819, after a sojourn of four or five years on the banks of the Findhorn, Hay set out for Edinburgh to complete his studies, and to obtain employment as a teacher. He took up his residence in a humble room in the Pleasance. Being of a very independent spirit, he always avoided getting into debt, and in his payments was most punctual. He soon got into good employment as a private teacher, and in that very laborious work was occupied from morning to a late hour in the night. He at same time attended the University, with a view to the Church, and in Professor Wilson's Moral Philosophy Class his exercises stood first on the list. Having entered the Divinity classes, he found that study was not congenial to him. He had formed a high idea of the duties of a clergyman, setting Dr. Andrew Thomson and Dr. Robert Gordon as his models, and, after weighing himself with them, he came to the conclusion that he could not arrive at the requisite standard, and, having written his first discourse, he said it would be the last, and he gave it up.

In the year 1822, a printing press was set up in Elgin, and a periodical started called the "Ephemera." This little work contains many excellent pieces, and gives an account of times now passed away. Hay contributed many articles, in prose and verse. The publication continued for a year, answered its purpose, was given up, and forgotten.

In 1824, he became tutor in the family of Lady Davidson of Cantray, an office which he accepted by advice of his friends, and it became a relaxation from his more severe duties. Lady Davidson lived principally

in Edinburgh, paying a summer visit to Nairnshire. He remained in this situation perhaps for some years, until his pupils finished their studies, when he resumed his own independent work.

On the suggestion of a friend, Hay at this time began the translation of Buchanan's poems of the Franciscans, and, going on with great perseverance, he finished it in a very happy manner. He was a great admirer of Buchanan. His pure Latinity, classical taste, and rough independent spirit had charms for him. These translations introduced him to Mr. Blackwood the publisher, and also to a closer intimacy between him and Professor Wilson. Teaching and other literary work now again flowed in upon him, and among his pupils he had sons both of Professor Wilson and Mr. Blackwood. The Franciscans appeared in "Blackwood's Magazine," and received high commendation. These were followed by a series of poems from the Greek anthology and from Homer, in conjunction with Professor Wilson.

In the year 1824, a Morayshire Society was established in Edinburgh. Its object was to bring Morayshire men in the Scottish Metropolis together at least once a-year for social purposes; and they did something in the way of collecting money for prizes to schools in different parts of the county. At first it met in a very quiet way, but gradually extended its influence. Hay joined the Society in 1828, and became its poet laureate, preparing a song or ode for each of its annual meetings. These songs, referring to scenes and characters of Morayshire, are all rich and racy, were received with much applause, and speedily became very popular. He himself was in the way of looking upon them with more complacency than any other of his literary productions. They have since been collected together, and, with compositions by other persons for the same Society, were published in a small volume by the late Mr. John Miller of Forres, called "The Lintie of Moray." In the spring of 1831, he composed a very spirited song called "The Bachelors of Elgin," which was sung at a bachelors' ball given in Elgin that season. It describes most graphically the bachelors of the district round Elgin.

From his influence with the leading men in Edinburgh at this time, Hay might have got a good appointment for life, but he did not covet it, and preferred to have a free unfettered life, without being tied to any office.

In 1836, Hay, with some friends, spent a winter on the Continent. He himself was very wishful to proceed as far as Rome, that he might see the ruins and remains of works of art of classic times, but in consequence of the feeble health of one of the party, they were compelled to winter at Nice. They did not return home until the autumn of the following year, having spent not only the winter but the summer in France and Switzerland.

The summer of 1838 was the last he spent in Morayshire. He enjoyed the sea breezes at Lossiemouth and the society of his friends, observing the changes which were then beginning to take place in his native town. He was not in robust health, but had all his usual wit and humour about him, and seemed to have derived benefit by breathing the northern air. He returned in the autumn to Edinburgh to resume his labours.

The latter years of his life were not happy. He was much troubled with nervous headaches, which periodically returned, sometimes continuing with intensity for weeks. Like many intellectual men, he was capricious and wavering with regard to regimen. Sometimes he tried courses of water drinking, abstinence, and long walks, usually pushing all these to extremes. Then, again, he would relapse into sedentary habits, with nothing but a stroll through the crowded streets and a dinner party in the evening. Disease continued to increase upon him, and he was at last visited with the painful affliction of total blindness—perhaps a return of the affection of his early days, which medical skill and the strength of his constitution had then enabled him to throw off. He continued in this condition for the last seven years of his life, never leaving the house, never almost leaving his bed. For the three years previous to his death he had paralysis of the lower extremities, which incapacitated him from any motion. During this painful period, when all books and sources of information were shut out from him, he frequently occupied himself with singing Psalms and hymns, and meditating on the Scriptures. His mind was never of a sceptical turn; his early religious impressions were strong; and his reverence for things sacred always remained supreme. Thus time passed on till nature became more and more exhausted, and his once robust frame was reduced to a skeleton, and on 22d July, 1854, he sank into his last sleep. He was attended to his grave in the New Calton Burying-ground by those of his friends then in town, and his head was laid in its last resting-place by Sheriff Gordon of Edinburgh, his former pupil, and son of his earliest physician, Dr. John Gordon.

Hay's best works are his translations from the Greek and Latin poets, but he will be remembered more by his songs for the Morayshire Society. His most popular productions are "The Muckle Kirk" and "The Bachelors of Elgin." Both of these are perfect pictures of what they profess to describe, but the poet's feelings are perhaps best brought out in the ode, "Our Fatherland," of which we shall insert a short excerpt:—

Though man be dust, and to dust returns,
 Still something in his bosom burns,
 That claims a higher and a holier birth,
 Than the senseless clod of sluggish earth:
 There's heart to heart, and mind to mind,
 Which the cords of love and of friendship bind:
 And we'll moisten with wine, and tighten the band
 That binds us in love to our Fatherland.

There are thoughts which far in the bosom dwell,
 Which a sound or a word can arouse like a spell;
 And the Spey, the Lossie, and the Lady-Hill,
 With a thousand thoughts our memories fill;
 And the mind flies back, through its hopes and fears,
 To the laughing days of our boyhood's years:
 Like a scene charmed up by a fairy wand,
 We gaze with delight on our Fatherland.

'Mid the gayest scenes will oft intrude
 The thoughts of the gloomiest solitude,

As the fairest sky is oft o'ercast
 By the gloomy veil of the coming blast ;
 So amid our mirth, we think how few
 Are left of those whom once we knew,
 Who have bid adieu to this mortal strand,
 To us, and to all in their Fatherland.

A portrait of Hay, the work of his friend, Mr. Alexander Barron, was acquired after his death by a few of his old admirers, and is appropriately placed in the Elgin Museum. If not a very striking resemblance, it preserves, to some extent, the features of our old friend.

I have abbreviated the above account of Hay's life from the kindly Memoir of Dr. William Rhind, published in 1855, and also from my own recollections. In the winter of 1830, when in Edinburgh, I had many opportunities of seeing him. He was then in the zenith of his reputation. I also saw him on the occasion of his last visit to Elgin in 1838.

WILLIAM RHIND, surgeon, a voluminous writer, and a very amiable man, was born at Inverlochty, in the parish of Elgin, in the year 1797. His father, William Rhind, was tenant of that farm. He was the youngest of a large family. His father, in addition to farming, was long a respectable corn merchant, and at least three of his sons followed that occupation. William was educated partly at Duffus Parish School, and afterwards at the Elgin Academy, the teachers of which were then Messrs. Anderson, Waddel, and Reid. In the year 1813, he entered Marischal College, Aberdeen, where he was considered a superior scholar. After being several sessions at the University of Aberdeen, he was apprenticed to the late Dr. James Stephen, physician in Elgin, as was the practice in those days; and, having completed his apprenticeship, he went to the University of Edinburgh, where he passed the usual curriculum of study, and took his degree as a surgeon. Being thus qualified, in 1818 he went to London in the way of his profession, but, meeting with no great prospect of success, he commenced practice in Elgin, and, like his medical brethren, opened a shop, where he sold medicines, and was consulted by his patients. His leisure hours he devoted to literature and science, and he was a leading member of the Elgin Literary Association, long before our Museum was in existence in the town. In 1822, the periodical called the "Ephemera" was started in Elgin, under the editorship of Mr. Rhind, to which we have already referred. It contains many excellent essays and pieces of poetry, and existed for one year. Its object was to support a printing press, then recently introduced by a very worthy man, Robert Johnston, the first printer we ever had in the town, and it answered its purpose. Mr. Rhind had the misfortune to be lame in both his feet, and, although better qualified for the duties of his profession than most medical men, his infirmity was a great drawback, and, after spending some years in Elgin, he resolved to settle in Edinburgh, where he devoted himself to literary and scientific pursuits. His removal to Edinburgh may have taken place about the years 1823 or 1824. During a period of forty years he contributed numerous articles to periodical literary works on scientific subjects; also, the works undernoted by himself:—

Several volumes of Miscellany of Natural History, edited by Sir Thomas Dick Lauder.

Studies in Natural History, published in 1830.

Elements of Geology.

Elements of Geography.

Elements of Zoology.

Geology of Environs of Edinburgh, 1836.

Age of the Earth considered Geologically and Historically, 1838.

Sketches of the Past and Present State of Moray, with Illustrations by Mr. Donald Alexander, 1839.

The Vegetable Kingdom, a large and important work.

Class Book, Elementary Geography, 1858.

Class Book, Physical Geography, 1859.

He also wrote several Gazetteers, and the letterpress for maps showing the coal fields of the world.

While pursuing the walks of literature, Mr. Rhind was not unmindful of his medical and surgical profession, and it was expected at one period that he would have received a permanent appointment in the College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, for which his talents well qualified him, but this expectation was not realised. He was a member of the Royal Physical and other learned Societies in the metropolis. He was also well known in many parts of Scotland as a lecturer on the various branches of science, in which he was so well versed. Once in Elgin he delivered some lectures on Natural History in the Museum.

Mr. Rhind was a most agreeable and instructive member of society, although unassuming and retiring in his manners. Nothing gratified him more than to get an evening visit at his house in the west end of Princes Street from a Morayshire man who could give him the news from his native county, and tell him of his early friends, who were gradually getting fewer in numbers. His scientific pursuits did not weaken his confidence in revealed religion. He was a sincere Christian, and lived and died in the good hope of the gospel, a happy and contented man.

In the year 1866, Mr. Rhind retired from Edinburgh, and took up his abode with his brother Alexander and his family at Woodhaven, near Newport, in Fife, where he had every attention paid him during his declining years; and there he died calmly and peaceably in the spring of 1874, without any apparent illness, nature being exhausted, in the seventy-seventh year of his age, esteemed and valued by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. Mr. Rhind was a member of a long-lived family. His brother James died in 1863, aged eighty-one; Alexander, another brother, in January, 1874, aged eighty-four; and Archibald, a third brother, who emigrated to America in 1833, was alive in 1874, then in the ninetieth year of his age, and is probably still alive.

The best known of Mr. Rhind's works in his native county is his Sketches of Moray, a very pleasing and instructive work, well deserving of a second edition, being much appreciated, and now very rare.

CHARLES WILLIAM GEORGE ST. JOHN, the author of Wild Sports of the Highlands, and other works, an eminent naturalist and sportsman, was the son of General the Honourable Frederick St. John, who was the second son

Burke's
Peerage, 1870,
page 115.

of Frederick, second Viscount Bolingbroke, and was born 3d December, 1809. He was sent to the school of Midhurst, in Sussex, in 1821, where he remained four years. While at school, he showed his naturalist tastes by gathering dormice, stag beetles of gigantic size, caterpillars, rabbits, guinea pigs, and squirrels—a wonderful menagerie. In 1828, he obtained a clerkship in the Treasury Office, but it was not congenial to his mind, and, after working on at the desk for four or five years, he could no longer bear the confinement, and gave up his situation in the latter end of 1833 or beginning of 1834. The formalities of London life were irksome to him, and perhaps his early aversion to mixed society may be, to some extent, attributed to a slight impediment in his speech, which, like all such nervous affections, was most felt in his intercourse with strangers. It almost disappeared when he was among familiar friends, with whom his conversation was easy and flowing. In the year 1834 he was at Rosehall, in Sutherland. The place was lent him by his cousin, the late Lord Bolingbroke, and here he lived a secluded life, having good scope for improving his experiences of natural history, and a wide range for indulging his tastes in shooting and fishing.

It was on an expedition from Rosehall that Mr. St. John met Miss Anne Gibson, to whom he was married in November, 1834. She was possessed of some fortune, and proved herself a devoted wife, accommodating herself to her husband's tastes and manner of life. He was thus enabled henceforward to live the life of a sportsman and naturalist in the Highlands. He rented various places chosen for their picturesque beauties or capabilities of sport, and opportunities of study of wild animal life. His recollections of Rosehall, Aldourie, and some others beyond the Moray Firth, were pleasing. About the year 1840, he settled at Invererne, in Morayshire, a place adjacent to the sea, and also within an easy distance of mountain sport, and in the midst of the game and wild animals of the low country. The coast is here indented with bays of the sea, and studded with frequent fresh water lakes, the haunts of all the common wild fowl, and of many of the rarer sorts.

In 1845, Mr. St. John was prevailed on by Mr. Cosmo Innes to allow a paper of his to be published in the "Quarterly Review." The materials were by Mr. St. John, but the composition by Mr. Innes. It attracted considerable attention; and, the ice being once broken, Mr. St. John's journals were arranged, and brought out in the popular volume of "Wild Sports and Natural History in the Highlands," which was published by Mr. Murray of London. After this publication, Mr. St. John's life was happier from the occupation supplied. He kept journals more regularly, and became an authority on all questions of Scotch sport. The neighbourhood of Invererne, to the basin of the Findhorn, the resort of innumerable wild fowl; the sand hills of Culbin, so curious; the wild ground behind Brodie and Dalvey; the Old Bar, abounding in seals; the mouth of the Muckle Burn, the favourite haunt of the otter, made it a most desirable residence for a naturalist and sportsman. Here Mr. St. John made out a chapter for every month in the year, in the shape of a journal under the title of "Field Notes of a Naturalist," the materials for which, in a more complete state, were published after his death.

In 1847, Mr. St. John removed to a small villa near Nairn. In 1848 and 1849, he was for some time in Edinburgh, making excursions from thence to Newcastle on the one hand, and into Sutherland on the other. From his early residence at Rosehall, Sutherland, with its wild country, had always very great attractions for him. It was less known then than now. He published his *Reminiscences of Sutherland*, its sports, natural history, birds, and wild animals, in two pretty volumes. This work was not, however, so popular as the preceding one.

In 1849, he established himself and family at the South College, Elgin, where he had a good commodious house, large grounds and garden, a pleasant society, and the benefit of good schools; and for sport, beside some shooting ground taken by him from the proprietor of the College, he had the Loch of Spynie and the Rocks of Covesea. His life at Elgin was a very happy one; his letters were full of active pursuits, with a fair mixture of literary work; all his talents were turned to account; no walk nor drive but furnished a note on his favourite study; he no longer complained that he was an idle man.

Mr. St. John was a vigorous and active man of temperate and healthy habits, and might naturally have looked forward to many years of life, but it was otherwise ordered. He had been for some time subject to severe nervous headaches, quite disabling him from exertion, but they caused no alarm. He had one of these attacks of illness in the beginning of December, 1853, but in a few days he had, to all appearance, thrown off the disease, and on Tuesday, 6th December, was on his way to shoot, when he was struck down by paralysis of the whole left side. He was carried home quite powerless, but retaining his senses entire. He never recovered the use of his limbs, but his health was so far restored as to permit his trying a change of air and scene. He removed to Brighton, and afterwards to Southampton, with little benefit from medical treatment or change of climate, but he clung to the hope that he might again return to the North of Scotland. It was, however, all in vain. He died at Woolston, near Southampton, on the 12th July, 1856, in the forty-seventh year of his age, and was buried in the Southampton Cemetery.

After his death, his journals were published under the care of his friend, Mr. Cosmo Innes. The work is entitled, "*Natural History and Sport in Moray*, by the late Charles St. John." To this interesting book a life of Mr. St. John is prefixed, from which I have abbreviated the foregoing short memoir.

Mr. St. John was a most amiable person of retiring unassuming manners. He loved sport principally from its connection with natural history, and the attainment of a knowledge of the habits of wild birds and beasts. Although a most excellent shot, he disliked indiscriminate slaughter, and was always very sparing of life in his many sporting excursions.

COSMO INNES, Sheriff of Moray, although not a native of Elgin, was connected with it by many family ties. His grandfather, Robert Innes, was a merchant in Elgin, and lived at the West Port. He was familiarly known as Robert Innes of the Port. He was the last of that famous class of old Elgin merchants, who, in the preceding generation before the Union

with England, carried on a large trade with France, Holland, and the Hanse Towns, exporting corn, malt, salted fish, and other commodities, and importing wine, ironware, silks, brandy, gin, and other articles. Of this class of merchants were the families of Duff, Calder, King, and many others. After the Union, the Custom-House laws of England, which were extended to Scotland, crippled the trade, which degenerated into smuggling, and it at last died away entirely. Mr. Innes held a highly respectable position in the burgh, and was on a very intimate footing with many of the gentry of the country round. His son, John Innes, was born here in 1747. He was bred a lawyer, became a writer to the Signet in Edinburgh, where he had for some time a flourishing business, and was a person of considerable talents. He also succeeded to the estates of Leuchars and Dunkinty, and, between business and property, might have had a prosperous life, had he not been possessed with the spirit of speculation. About the close of last century, he sold his estates in Morayshire to the Earl of Fife, and took a lease for seventy-six years of the estate of Durris, in Kincardineshire, from the Earl of Peterborough. It is understood that it was let on moderate terms, and, except that it was under strict entail, and that it was doubtful how far the proprietor had power to grant it, the speculation might have turned out a favourable one. Mr. Innes married Euphemia Russell, daughter of Mr. James Russell of Earlsmill, Commissioner to the Earl of Moray, and by her had a family of sixteen children, most of whom died in early life. Cosmo was the youngest, except one daughter, and was born at Durris, the 9th September, 1798. His father embarked all his means in the Durris property, built a mansion-house, entered on a field of vigorous improvement, and acted in all respects as if he had been the proprietor of the estate. All went on well for a time, and, had the Peterborough family continued to exist, the lease would probably have been allowed to run its natural course, and terminate in peace.

Early in the present century, the Earl of Peterborough died, and was succeeded by his relative the Duke of Gordon as next heir of entail. The Duke immediately brought an action of reduction of the lease, as an alienation of the estate, and, after a very protracted litigation both in the Court of Session and House of Lords, the Duke prevailed. The final decision was pronounced in the year 1824. Mr. Innes raised a counter action against the Duke of Gordon for payment of the extensive improvements he had made on the estate, but in this he failed also. It was found that the heir of entail was not liable, although he reaped the benefit; and, owing to the lease not being executed with the formalities of English law, recourse was also lost against the representatives of the Earl of Peterborough. The case was one of extreme hardship, for there can be no doubt Mr. Innes entered into the lease in good faith. By this untoward event the family were reduced from a state of comfort, perhaps of wealth, to one of poverty.

Cosmo Innes was in his youth extremely delicate, and his life was only preserved by the great care of his mother. He was educated partly at the Parish School at Stonehaven, and the High School of Edinburgh, under Rector Pillans. He was at College at Aberdeen, Glasgow, and Oxford

successfully. He passed as an advocate at the Scotch Bar in 1822, and in 1826 married Miss Rose of Kilravock. His practice at the bar was limited, but he soon showed a great taste for antiquarian pursuits and genealogical studies, and in a short time attracted the notice of Mr. Thomas Thomson, the Deputy-Clerk Register, then busily engaged in arranging the records of Scotland, whose assistant he became for small remuneration, and so commenced that extra-professional part of his labours, which he continued with ever-increasing zeal to his dying day. Some years after his marriage, Mr. Innes took up his residence at Ramsay Lodge, Edinburgh, an old house built by Allan Ramsay the poet, near the Castle, in a very airy situation, and having a most extensive view, with the benefit of free access to the Princes Street Gardens. In 1834, he was appointed an Advocate-Depute by the Whig Government, then in office, and, finding his residence inconvenient, in 1836 he removed to Forres Street, near Moray Place. Before this time he had begun to write papers for the "Quarterly Review," then under the editorship of Mr. Lockhart, and he was now a frequent contributor both to that and the "North British Review." He had also been engaged in editing chartularies for the Bannatyne and Maitland Clubs. He required little sleep, and was able for work both at late and early hours. At this time he had formed an intimacy with the late Lord Jeffrey, which continued as long as the latter lived, and there was much pleasant intercourse between the families.

In 1840, Mr. Innes was appointed Sheriff of Moray. This was particularly agreeable to him. Although not the place of his own birth, it was that of his father and grandfather, and of a long line of ancestry. He had also many friends and relatives in Morayshire, and in the adjoining small county of Nairn, which was included in the Sheriffdom. His wife's relatives resided at Kilravock Castle.

In 1846, Mr. Innes accepted the Chair of History in the University of Edinburgh, a situation more honourable than lucrative. He prepared his lectures with great care, but the attendance being irregular, he eventually gave it up. In the spring of 1847, the season of the failure of the potato crop, occurred the serious meal riots in Morayshire. These, after the lapse of thirty years, will be remembered by many still alive. They were only put down by introducing part of a regiment of soldiers into the county, and by the trials of the rioters, some of the leaders of whom had a sentence of seven years' penal servitude inflicted upon them. These riots, with the legal proceedings following upon them, gave the Sheriff very considerable trouble.

In 1832, Mr. Innes contributed to the Maitland Club the Register of the Monastery of Paisley; for the Bannatyne Club, in 1837, the Register of St. Mary of Melrose; and in the same year, the Register of the Bishoprick of Moray, the gift of the late Duke of Sutherland to the Club; for the Maitland Club, in 1843, the Register of the Bishoprick of Glasgow, in two volumes; in the same year, the Book of the Church of Scone; in 1845, the Register of the Bishoprick of Aberdeen, in two volumes, for the Spalding Club; and in 1846, the Book of St. Mary of Kelso. He was a great admirer of the mediæval system, and entered very enthusiastically, and with

much love, into these old works, which throw the only clear light upon the history of Scotland during the period to which they refer.

In 1852, the death of his early friend and patron, Mr. Thomas Thomson, opened to him the office of Principal Clerk of Session, for which he had to exchange his Sheriffship. For a time he expressed the hope that he might be permitted to retain both offices. This had been allowed to Sir Walter Scott, but that precedent was not now followed. He, however, did not cease to visit his friends and relatives in Morayshire, on account of his separation from the Sheriffship. In 1861, or 1862, he took up his residence in a large house behind Inverleith Row, where he spent the remainder of his life.

In 1860, Mr. Innes spent part of the autumn at the old mansion of Gordonstown, in Morayshire, and on the 23d October of that year, he was prevailed on to deliver a lecture on the Antiquities of Moray, for the benefit of the Elgin Literary and Scientific Association, which was afterwards printed at their request. This very pleasing lecture was largely attended, and gave great satisfaction to, and much interested, all who heard it. The information contained was extremely valuable, and the subject was treated in his best style, and is still pleasingly remembered.

The closing years of his life were the busiest. The duties of his Clerkship were light, and performed between the hours of ten and four; and for some years he lectured on six days of the week during the Session, from nine to ten in the morning.

It was Mr. Innes' practice to leave Edinburgh at the close of the Summer Session, and to spend the autumn in the country; and, on 21st July, 1874, he, with his family, set out for Port-Sonachar, on Loch-Awe, from thence to Killin, on the 30th of the same month, where, on the following morning, he was taken suddenly ill, was never thereafter conscious, and died the same evening. His remains were removed to Edinburgh, and, on Wednesday, the 5th August, were interred in the Warriston Cemetery.

I have referred to several works edited by Mr. Innes. In addition to these, he was engaged in many others, and it is wonderful the extent of work he went through. I can only give a very imperfect list of his labours. In 1847, he edited the "*Liber Insulæ Missarum*;" in 1848, "*The Genealogy of the Family of Rose of Kilravock*;" in 1849, "*The Register of St. Mary of Newbottle*;" between 1850 and 1854, "*The two first parts of the Origines Parochiales Scotiæ*;" in 1855, "*The Black Book of Taymouth*," from the Breadalbane Charter Room, and the book of St. Thomas of Aberbrothoc, as well as an octavo volume containing a Memoir of his friend, Mr. Thomas Thomson. In conjunction with Mr. Robertson, "*The Monumenta Almæ Universitatis*," in three volumes, in 1854; in the same year, the "*Fasti Aberdonenses*;" in 1856, "*Barbour's Bruce*;" in 1859, "*The Thanes of Cawdor*;" in 1864, "*An Account of the Family of Innes*." Besides all these, he published various original works—viz., "*Scotland in the Middle Ages*," "*Sketches of Early Scottish History*," and "*Lectures on Scotch Legal Antiquities*." He also wrote, in 1868, an introductory essay to the "*Ancient Laws and Customs of the Burghs of Scotland*," for the Scottish Burgh Records Society. In short, his labours were incessant and

untiring, and in the last years of his life he was engaged in editing and preparing for the press the Rescinded Acts of the Scotch Parliament, and indexing the folio edition of the whole Acts. This, of course, required the help of able assistants, and he had the happy art of always having a band of talented men about him to aid in his labours.

Mr. Innes was no bookworm. He was fond of country sports, and spent part of every autumn in shooting and fishing—frequently in the County of Moray—and by this enjoyment of air and exercise invigorated his body and mind. Although naturally of a delicate constitution, he lived till the seventy-sixth year of his age, enjoying a fair measure of health.

His works are all prepared in a very pleasing style, and he has the rare skill of giving an interest to the most dry details of antiquarian lore. He was an Episcopalian and High Churchman by religious profession, and ardently attached to that cause; but in private society he never obtruded his opinions upon others.

III. PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

Kennedy's
Annals of
Aberdeen, vol.
II., page 194.

The oldest newspaper in the North of Scotland is the "Aberdeen Journal," which was established by Mr. James Chalmers in 1748. The origin of it was the account which he printed of the Battle of Culloden in the month of April, 1746; but, owing to Mr. Chalmers having to be absent from Aberdeen, on official business connected with the Royal Army, in which he was an Assistant Commissary, the newspaper was not under regular publication until 1748; it then appeared under the name of "The Aberdeen Journal, or North British Magazine." It met with considerable success. An opposition newspaper, under the name of the "Aberdeen Intelligencer," was started in 1752, but it was given up in 1757. Another in 1761, and a third in 1770, met with no success; and in 1793, after a lapse of forty-five years, we find the "Aberdeen Journal" still the only newspaper in the North, published every Monday by its original proprietors, James Chalmers & Co. It was not until the year 1806 that a second newspaper was established in Aberdeen, under the name of the "Aberdeen Chronicle," which was started by Mr. John Booth, merchant, and continued for thirty years. It professed more Liberal views than the "Journal," and was at last incorporated with the "Aberdeen Herald," which has in time also finished its course, and been amalgamated with the "Free Press."

Chalmers' Life
of Ruddiman,
page 442.

About the year 1810, a newspaper was published in Inverness, called the "Inverness Journal." Whether it originated with the late Mr. Mackintosh of Raigmore I cannot be quite sure, but, if not, shortly after its commencement it fell into his hands. He had been in India, where he realised a fortune, and, on his return home, having acquired a considerable estate near Inverness, he was anxious to take a lead in the affairs of the town and county, and, with that view, he considered having the command of a newspaper, to disseminate his own views, would best promote his object. For some time the "Journal" prospered, and had a considerable circulation, but, from causes to which we need not here refer, it declined in influence, and at last was extinguished.

We had no printer in Elgin until about the year 1821. The want of one had been long greatly felt. When any printing, however small in importance, had to be done, it was executed at Aberdeen, Inverness, or Banff. In 1821, Robert Johnston, a printer from the south or west of Scotland, settled in Elgin. He was a steady respectable tradesman, and had considerable employment. In 1822, some literary young men started a weekly magazine, called the "Ephemera," which was printed by Mr. Johnston. It displayed considerable talent both in prose and verse—Mr. William Rhind being editor, and he and his friend William Hay supplying the best of the articles. The work was considerably appreciated by the public while it lasted. It was, however, ephemeral, as its name bore. It commenced on 25th March, 1822, and ended on 14th April, 1823. Its professed object was to support the recently established printing press, and, having fulfilled its task, it finished its course. It is believed an attempt was made in Mr. Johnston's time to get up a weekly newspaper, and that some numbers were actually published, but it soon died away. After some years' residence Mr. Johnston left Elgin, having better prospects elsewhere. He was alive some years ago at a venerable old age, and probably may still be so.

In 1827, John Grant and his brother, James, issued a weekly newspaper, under the name of the "Elgin Courier." It was edited by Mr. James Grant. It had a fair measure of success. In addition to the newspaper, John Grant

published an edition of Shaw's History of Moray, which is well printed, but the additions introduced being mixed up with the original text, deteriorates this edition. An "Elgin Magazine" was also issued, and an "Elgin Annual." Book-binding was carried on along with the other business, and for some years it became an active trade. In 1833, Mr. James Grant left Elgin, finding the field too small for his talents. He became first a reporter for the "Morning Chronicle," editor of the "Observer," and for many years was editor of the "Morning Advertiser." His career in London has been one of marked success. In addition to his editorial labours, he has distinguished himself as one of the most voluminous and popular writers of the day, and has appeared as an author in religious, biographical, and miscellaneous literature. It is now forty-four years since he left Elgin, and his mind is still as active and his pen as busy as ever. He has a warm affection for his native town, and a kindly feeling for all its inhabitants. The newspaper did not long survive after Mr. James Grant left it. The following year (1834) it ceased its existence, and for some months Elgin was again without a newspaper. The want was felt, and in the course of the same year Mr. Alexander Russell commenced the "Elgin Courant," on Conservative principles, and occupied the field, without opposition, for a period of nine years. The newspaper had a large circulation, and, with the extensive printing business connected with it, proved a remunerative undertaking.

In 1843, the Disruption of the Church of Scotland took place, and politics ran high, and the party favouring these views, resolved to have a newspaper of their own to promote their own principles. For this purpose the "Elgin Courier," which had been given up for nine years, was revived, and again established under the proprietorship of Messrs. Jeans & M'Gillivray. It had a fair circulation. After a few years the partners separated. Mr. Jeans carried on the newspaper, under the name of the "Elgin and Morayshire Courier," and Mr. M'Gillivray started another, called "The Advertiser." We had thus three weekly newspapers, and three printing presses in the burgh, and all seemed to have fair employment.

In 1860, Mr. Russell disposed of the "Courant" newspaper

and his printing establishment to Mr. James Black, who had been trained to the business, under Mr. Alex. Ramsay, the eminent proprietor of the "Banffshire Journal." The death of Mr. Jeans, which occurred some time after, was a great blow to the "Courier," and, although it was carried on for a good many years after that event, it was in a declining state, and finally, in 1874, the copyright was purchased by Mr. Black, and it was amalgamated with the "Courant." This newspaper is now carried on bi-weekly, under the name of the "Elgin Courant and Courier."

In this present year (1877), the "Advertiser" has been given up by Mr. M'Gillivray, and a new weekly newspaper has been established by Mr. James Watson, bookseller, called the "Moray Weekly News." It professes to be neutral in politics, is remarkably well printed, on good paper, and promises to have a considerable circulation. There is room in the town and neighbourhood for two newspapers, and ample field for success to both.

The progress of printing in Elgin is quite wonderful. Less than sixty years ago we had only one newspaper to the North of Aberdeen, and no printer in the burgh. Now we have three printers fully employed, who produce as good work as in any provincial town in the kingdom, with two newspapers, one bi-weekly and another weekly, both in extensive circulation. This progress of knowledge is not confined to Elgin. Every town in the North of Scotland of any size, even to Kirkwall in Orkney, has its printing press and newspaper, and, with the aid of the telegraphic wire, supplies the latest intelligence from all parts of the world. The rapid diffusion of knowledge by means of the press is truly the greatest wonder of this stirring age.

CHAPTER VII.

THE CIVIL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF THE BURGH.

Burgh Records
of Scotland,
vol. I.

IN the time of King David I., Elgin was a Royal Burgh, and is so acknowledged by that king, whose reign terminated in 1153. It is referred to in a grant made by him to the Priory of Urquhart, of an annual payment of twenty shillings “*de firma Burgi mei et aquarum de Elgin,*” but no farther recognition took place until the reign of his grandson, William the Lyon. Elgin is included among the burghs “*be north the Munth,*” to whom King William granted the privilege of a “*free Hanse,*” which they had enjoyed in the time of his grandfather, King David. While Elgin was thus acknowledged to be a burgh, we have no trace of any charter being granted so early as King William’s time, or, if granted, it has been lost. The first extant public recognition of Elgin as a burgh is the Charter of Guild, granted by King Alexander II., in 1234, in the following terms:—“*Alexander, Dei gratia Rex Scotorum, omnibus probis hominibus totius terræ suæ salutem. Sciatis nos concecisse, et hac carta nostra confirmasse Burgensibus nostris de Elgyn, ut ipsi ad meliorationem Burgi nostri de Elgyn habeant in eodem Burgo Gildam suam mercatoriam, adeo libere, et sicut aliqui Burgorum nostrorum in toto regno nostro Gildam suam habent. Testibus Alano Hostiario, Reginaldo de Cheyn Camerario, Hugone de Abernethie, Willielmo et Bernardo de Monte-alto, Alexandro de Moravia, et Willielmo Byset. Apud Elgyn, vigesimo octavo dei Novembris, anno regni nostri vigesimo (1234).*” Elgin from this time down to the reign of King Robert Bruce had no feudal superior except the Crown, to which it owed direct allegiance. After the conclusion of the War of Independence, King Robert granted to his beloved nephew, Thomas Randolph, all the Crown lands in Moray, as they pertained to King Alexander III.,

bounded in the way described in the Royal Charter in his favour, with the manor of Elgyn, which should be considered the chief mansion of the Earldom of Moray, and with all other manors, burghs, towns, and thanages within the bounds therein mentioned, from the mouth of the Spey to Ross and Argyle. This embraced the burghs of Elgin, Forres, Nairn, and Inverness. The condition, however, was that the burghs within the bounds of the Earldom should have and exercise the same liberties which they possessed in the time of King Alexander, and in his (King Robert's) own time.

Registrum
Moraviense,
pages 342, 343,
344.

The Earls of Moray, in their several successions, were easy superiors, and benefactors to the burgh of Elgin, and took a warm interest in its affairs. Thomas Randolph did not long enjoy the Earldom, having died at Musselburgh, on 20th July, 1332, to the great loss and grief of his country. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Thomas, who, in a few weeks thereafter, fell fighting for his country at the Battle of Dupplin. He was succeeded by his brother John, who was killed at the Battle of Durham in 1346. His death ended the male line of this illustrious family. Their heroic sister Agnes Countess of Dunbar and March, became the heir to the Earldom, and carried it into the Dunbar family, who never previously had obtained a footing in the North of Scotland. The Earls of Moray of this family were—1st, Patrick, designed Earl of March and Moray, who married Agnes Randolph; 2d, John Dunbar, their second son, who married the Princess Marjory, daughter of King Robert II. In the renewal of the grant to him, Badenoch, Lochaber, and Urquhart, were excluded from the charter. He was killed in a tourney in England, 1394; 3d, Thomas; 4th, Thomas, who was succeeded by his cousin, James Dunbar of Fren-draught, as fifth Earl. He had two daughters. The eldest married James Lord Crichton; and the second, Mary, married Archibald Douglas, brother of the Earl of Douglas. Douglas had the influence to get the eldest daughter set aside, and, in right of his wife, became sixth Earl of Moray of this family. Having, however, joined in the rebellion of his brother, the Earl of Douglas, he was killed at the Battle of Arkinholm, in Dumfriesshire, in 1455, and the Earldom was forfeited to the Crown.

Douglas'
Peerage, vol. II.

Shaw's History,
Grant's Edition,
page 240.

John Dunbar, Earl of Moray, by charter to the town in 1390, discharged the burgh for ever of the assize on ale which they were bound to pay him as Constable of the Castle of Elgin. Thomas Dunbar, his son, granted to the town, free of custom, all the wool, cloth, and other articles shipped from the harbour of Spey; and the same Earl Thomas, by his charter dated 22d October, 1396, confirmed King Alexander's Charter of Guildry, which was also done by Earl Archibald Douglas by charter of 27th October, 1451. Earl Archibald is stated to have granted to the Magistrates the sixty Aughteen Parts Land, which had previously belonged to the Earl as Constable of the Castle of Elgin. On the forfeiture of Archibald Douglas, the feudal right of the Earl of Moray over the burgh ceased, and was never renewed again. The burgh became Royal, and held direct of the Crown in all time thereafter.

Scotch Burgh
Records, vol. I.,
Preface, page 41.

The burghs of Scotland had no Parliamentary representation until the time of King Robert Bruce. In the memorable Parliament held by him at Cambuskenneth on the 15th July, 1326, the lay estates of the kingdom specially named as the earls, barons, burgesses, and free tenants of the realm, granted to the king the tenth penny of all rents, according to the old extent of King Alexander III., to meet the expenses of the War of Independence, and in place of certain old and odious exactions which the great monarch freely abandoned. Whether Elgin was represented in this Parliament there is no evidence. The probability is that so long as the burgh was under the feudal supremacy of the Earls of Moray it had no standing in Parliament. This fact is in a manner proved, because in the Rolls of the Scotch Parliament I find no representative stated for Elgin until the year 1469, shortly after the forfeiture of Archibald Douglas, the last Earl of Moray connected with the Dunbar line.

In 1469 and 1488, the burgh was represented, but the names of the Commissioners are not given. A long pause thereafter ensues, and after the lapse of a century we find the Members pretty regularly sent. They were chosen by the Provost, Bailies, and Town Council—certainly a very limited constituency. They are as follows:—

Provost of Elgin from 1705 to 1709. He had the misfortune to join in the Rebellion in 1715, and his estate was forfeited. He probably died abroad. His widow, commonly called Lady Roscommon, lived in the Castle of Quarrelwood, where she died at an advanced age.

By the Act of Union with England, 1707, the Burghs of Elgin, Banff, Cullen, Inverurie, and Kintore were united into one District, to return a Member to the British Parliament.

The first election was held at Elgin, on the 26th May, 1708. William King of Newmill was delegate for Elgin. Colonel PATRICK OGILVIE of Loanmay was chosen Member.

Second election, at Banff, 27th October, 1710. Kenneth Mackenzie, Bailie, was delegate for Elgin. ALEXANDER REID of Barra was elected Member.

Third election, at Cullen, 17th September, 1713. George Innes of Dunkinty was delegate for Elgin. The Hon. JAMES MURRAY was elected.

Fourth election, at Kintore, in 1714. George Innes of Dunkinty was delegate for Elgin. The Hon. JAMES MURRAY was re-elected.

Fifth election, at Kintore, 19th February, 1715. Archibald Dunbar of Thunderton and Robert Dunbar of Grangehill were delegates for Elgin. The Hon. JAMES MURRAY was re-elected.

Sixth election, at Inverurie, 3d April, 1722. The Hon. Colonel John Campbell, Groom of the Bed-chamber to the Prince of Wales, was delegate for Elgin. The Hon. M. E. WILLIAM FRASER was chosen Member. Mr. Fraser was unseated by the House of Commons, 23d January, 1724, and Colonel CAMPBELL declared duly elected.

Seventh election, at Elgin, 9th September, 1727. Duncan Urquhart, younger of Burdsyards, was delegate for Elgin. WILLIAM STUART, Esq., Remembrancer in Exchequer, was elected Member.

Eighth election, at Elgin, 16th March, 1728. James Innes, Provost, was delegate for Elgin. PATRICK CAMPBELL, Esq., was chosen Member.

Ninth election, at Banff, 18th May, 1734. Provost James Innes was delegate for Elgin. The Hon. WILLIAM STUART was elected Member, and continued in office until 1741.

Tenth election, at Cullen, 28th May, 1741. William Anderson of Linkwood was delegate for Elgin. Sir JAMES GRANT of Grant, Bart., was elected Member, and served until 1746.

Eleventh election, at Cullen, 18th February, 1747. Provost John Duff was delegate for Elgin. WILLIAM GRANT of Prestongrange, Lord Advocate, was elected Member.

Twelfth election, at Kintore, 22d July, 1747. Bailie Robert Grant was delegate for Elgin. WILLIAM GRANT, Lord Advocate, was re-elected.

Thirteenth election, at Inverurie, 9th May, 1754. Alexander Brodie of Windyhill, late Provost, was delegate for Elgin. WILLIAM GRANT, Lord Advocate, was re-elected.

- Fourteenth election, at Inverurie, 1st January, 1755. James Robertson, Provost, was delegate for Elgin. ANDREW MITCHELL of Thainston was elected Member.
- Fifteenth election, at Elgin, 20th April, 1761. James Robertson of Bishopmill was delegate for Elgin, and presided over the meeting. ANDREW MITCHELL of Thainston was re-elected Member.
- Sixteenth election, at Banff, 11th April, 1768. Alexander Brodie of Windyhills was delegate for Elgin. Sir ANDREW MITCHELL, Knight of the Bath, was re-elected.
- Seventeenth election, at Banff, 20th March, 1771. William Brodie, younger of Windyhills, was delegate for Elgin. THOMAS LOCKHART, Esquire, Councillor-at-Law, of Lincoln's Inn, London, was elected.
- Eighteenth election, at Cullen, 31st October, 1774. William Brodie, younger of Windyhills, was delegate for Elgin. Colonel STAATS LONG MORRIS was, by a majority, elected Member.
- Nineteenth election, at Kintore, 2d October, 1780. Major-General James Grant of Ballindalloch was, by a majority of votes, elected delegate for Elgin. Major-General STAATS LONG MORRIS was re-elected.
- Twentieth election, at Inverurie, 26th April, 1784. William Robertson, oldest Bailie, was delegate for Elgin. WILLIAM ADAM of Woodston, Advocate, was chosen Member. The Parliament continued until 1790.
- Twenty-first election, at Elgin, 12th July, 1790. Bailie Alexander Brander was delegate for Elgin, and preses of the meeting. ALEXANDER BRODIE of Madras was unanimously chosen Member.
- Twenty-second election, at Banff, 20th June, 1796. George Brown, Provost, was delegate for Elgin. ALEXANDER BRODIE of Madras was re-elected Member. The Parliament continued until 1802.
- Twenty-third election, at Cullen, 30th July, 1802. George Brown, Provost, was delegate for Elgin. Colonel FRANCIS WILLIAM GRANT was elected.
- Twenty-fourth election, at Kintore, 24th November, 1806. Joseph King of Newmill, Provost, was delegate for Elgin. GEORGE SKENE of Skene was chosen Member.
- Twenty-fifth election, at Inverurie, 30th May, 1807. Joseph King of Newmill, Provost, was delegate for Elgin. ARCHIBALD COLQUHON, Lord Advocate, was elected.
- Twenty-sixth election, at Inverurie, 13th July, 1810. George Brown, Provost, was delegate for Elgin. The Right Hon. WILLIAM DUNDAS was elected Member.
- Twenty-seventh election, at Inverurie, 13th April, 1812. George Brown, Provost, was delegate for Elgin. ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL of Blythwood was chosen Member.
- Twenty-eighth election, at Elgin, 30th October, 1812. George Fenton, Provost, was delegate for Elgin. PATRICK MILNE of Crimonmogate was elected Member.
- Twenty-ninth election, at Banff, 11th July, 1818. The Hon. Colonel Francis William Grant was delegate for Elgin. ROBERT GRANT, Barrister-at-Law, was elected Member.
- Thirtieth election, at Cullen, 31st March, 1820. ARCHIBALD FARQUHARSON

of Finzean was elected. This was the famous disputed election between the Duff and Grant families.

- Thirty-first election, at Kintore, 3d July, 1826. William Inglis of Middleton, Writer to the Signet, was delegate for Elgin. The Honourable Lieutenant-General ALEXANDER DUFF was elected.
- Thirty-second election, at Inverurie, 23d August, 1830. Major Alexander Francis Taylor of Monaughty was delegate for Elgin. The Honourable Lieutenant-General ALEXANDER DUFF was re-elected Member.
- Thirty-third election, at Elgin, 23d May, 1831. John Lawson, jun., Provost, was delegate for Elgin. Sir WILLIAM GORDON GORDON CUMMING of Altyre, Baronet, was elected Member. This was the last election under the old system, previous to passing the Reform Bill.

By the Reform Bill, Elgin was fixed as the head burgh of the district, where the elections were to be held in all time coming, and Peterhead was added to the district.

- Thirty-fourth election, at Elgin, 29th December, 1832. Lieutenant-Colonel ANDREW LEITH HAY, younger of Rannes, was elected.
- Thirty-fifth election. Colonel LEITH HAY having been appointed Clerk of the Ordnance, vacated his seat, and was re-elected 30th June, 1834.
- Thirty-sixth election, 19th January, 1835. Colonel LEITH HAY was re-elected.
- Thirty-seventh election. Colonel LEITH HAY, having again to vacate his seat on account of being appointed Clerk of the Ordnance, was re-elected 2d May, 1835.
- Thirty-eighth election. Queen Victoria having succeeded to the Throne, a new election took place on 25th July, 1837. Sir ANDREW LEITH HAY was re-elected Member.
- Thirty-ninth election. Sir Andrew Leith Hay having been appointed Governor of one of the West India Islands, vacated his seat. The Hon. Fox MAULE, Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, was elected Member, 13th February, 1838.
- Fortieth election, 7th July, 1841. Sir ANDREW LEITH HAY, who had returned from abroad, was elected Member.
- Forty-first election, 23d July, 1847. GEORGE SKENE DUFF of Milton Duff was elected Member.
- Forty-second election, July, 1852. GEORGE SKENE DUFF of Milton was re-elected. Parliament met 4th November.
- Forty-third election, April, 1857. GEORGE SKENE DUFF was re-elected.
- Forty-fourth election, May, 1859. MOUNTSTUART ELPHINSTONE GRANT DUFF was elected.
- Forty-fifth election, July, 1865. Mr. GRANT DUFF was re-elected Member.
- Forty-sixth election, November, 1868. Mr. GRANT DUFF was re-elected.
- Forty-seventh election, 3d February, 1874. Mr. GRANT DUFF was again elected Member for the Elgin District of Burghs.

THE TOWN COUNCIL.

Although Elgin had no Charter of Guild until the reign of Alexander II., it is recognised as a Royal Burgh in the time of David I. King William the Lyon refers to the Bailies, in a charter granted by him, dated at Elgin, in favour of Richard Bishop of Moray, of ten pounds to be paid yearly out of the farms of the burgh of Elgin, to the Bishop at the Feasts of Easter and Michaelmas, by equal portions, and directs the Bailies of the burgh to pay the same. This charter or grant must have been made between the years 1187 and 1203, when Bishop Richard held the Episcopate. In the year 1261, Thomas Wysman was Provost. In a charter by Adam de Berewyc, son of William de Berewyc, late burgess of Elgin, in favour of John, the son of Nicholas, dated in the Feast of St. Gregory, 1343, Walter, the son of Ralph, is mentioned as Provost, and William Ydil and William Vitrearius (the Glazier) are the Bailies. The witnesses are John Fercard, William de Stralroch, John Penny, Vosnaldus de Aberkerder, Roger de Strevelyn, and Symon Young, burgesses of Elgin; and, in a notarial instrument, dated the 13th February, 1368, Patrick de Creython, and Henry, the son of Robert, are stated to be Bailies of the burgh. We can find no trace at this early date of what number the Council consisted, or whether there was any fixed number. The election was probably made by the votes of the whole burgesses of the town. There were some old laws relating to burghs, and privileges and election of Magistrates, but I have not found them on record. By the Act of the Scots Parliament, 1474, the seventh Parliament of King James III., it is enacted as follows:—"Item, it is statute and ordained in burrowes, "notwithstanding the actes maid of before, that there sal "be of the auld Councill of the zeir before, foure worthy "persones chosen zeirly to the new Councill at their entrie, "to sit with them for that zeir, and have power with them "to doe justice." This statute so far regulated the election of the Council, and seems to have been acted upon. King James II. granted a charter to the town in 1445, by which

Registrum
Moraviense,
pages 289, 290.

Registrum,
page 166.

Acts of Scotch
Parliament,
Edition, 1597.

he confirmed its lands and revenues, and all other privileges ; and the same king, in 1457, granted a charter of the Grieshop Lands, probably confirming the previous charter of Archibald Douglas Earl of Moray.

The burghs of Scotland seem to have had the same powers of administering justice within their territories as the Lords of Regality, and to repledge from other Judges criminals coming under their jurisdiction. This power of repledging was, however, diminished by the Act 1488, which provides that, when the King's Justice shall be sitting in the burgh at the time of his Circuit, he shall have the power of trial by Assize. The Magistrates had the power of trial and punishment by pit and gallows, and this, with all other acts of justice, they no doubt freely exercised. By charter of King James VI., dated 22d March, 1594, he recognises and confirms all the rights and privileges of the Provost, Bailies, Council, and community of the burgh, which are farther established by Crown Charters in the years 1620 and 1633. It would seem that, in the seventeenth century, the number of the Council was nearly as large as in the present time. In 1643, it consisted of sixteen members, but a petition having been that year given in by the merchants of the town that a Dean of Guild should be appointed, for the regulation of trade, their request was complied with, and Mr. George Cuming was appointed to that office, and it was resolved that, in future, a Dean of Guild should be appointed annually. The Council was thereby increased to seventeen members.

The particular mode of making the yearly elections of the Council at this period, is not very apparent. In 1652, the time of the Commonwealth, a warrant was produced by General Monk from the Commissioners of the Commonwealth of England for electing Magistrates, and the whole freemen were cited to be present. On 15th May, 1689, after the Revolution, the Magistrates and Town Council were elected by a poll of the inhabitants, having scot and lot.

In the year 1705, disputes having arisen in the burgh about the election of the Magistrates and Town Council, a petition was given in to the Convention to fix the sett and mode of election. The Convention entertained the petition,

and appointed the Commissioners for Dundee, Aberdeen, Montrose, Inverness, Tain, Banff, Nairn, Forres, and Fortrose to settle the differences, to recommend a sett for the burgh, and to report to next Convention. The Commissioners met at Elgin on 13th September, 1705, for this purpose, and seem to have taken great pains in framing a Constitution, which proved satisfactory to all parties. An abstract of it is as follows:—

1. The Town Council to consist of seventeen members, including the Deacon, Convener, and two Deacons of Trades. Shaw's History,
Grant's Edition,
pages 240, 241.
2. These two Deacons shall be chosen by the Council.
3. The new Council shall be elected annually on Monday immediately preceding Michaelmas.
4. The Magistrates and other Office-bearers shall be elected on Tuesday thereafter.
5. There shall be annually put off three of the Guildry and two of the Trades.
6. One Provost, four Bailies, a Treasurer, and other Office-bearers shall be chosen.
7. The Provost shall not continue in office above three years; nor the Bailies, Dean of Guild, or Treasurer above two, and they may be changed yearly.
8. When these are put off their offices, they shall be continued in the Council for the next year.
9. The old Council shall choose the new, and both the old and new shall choose the Magistrates and office-bearers. In the week preceding, the Incorporated Trades choose their Deacons, and on Saturday three of every Trade meet, and leet three of their number, of which three the Council on Monday chooses one for Convener.
10. None may be elected but residenters and burgesses who bear scot and lot.
11. The Councillors shall choose annually out of their own number five Assessors to the Dean of Guild, whereof three with the Dean shall be a quorum.
12. The Council shall choose fifteen persons out of their own body, whereof two of the Trades for Stent Masters, who shall be sworn *de fidei*, and nine to make a quorum.
13. No stent except the public cess shall be imposed without the consent of a head court.
14. On the second Tuesday of September yearly, a head court shall be called, and the state of the burgh, and the Magistrates' management of the common good, shall be laid before them, and the books and accounts shall lie on the Council table for twenty days preceding the head court, for the satisfaction of all concerned.

The foregoing Constitution was reported to the Convention in 1706, approved of, and ordered to be acted upon in all time coming. In practice it worked well, and continued up to the Burgh Reform Bill in 1832. It contained a very wholesome provision that no Provost should remain in office for more than three years at one time, and no Bailie for more than two years. Previous to that time a Provost would sometimes have remained in office for ten years, and longer, and, since the year 1832, the same practice has been renewed both with Provost and Bailies.

The passing of the Reform Bill has lowered the dignity of Town Councils, and much abridged their privileges. Previous to that time their political power was great. They entirely represented the burgh in all political matters, and were the seventeen voters for a Member of Parliament, all others being excluded, and sometimes, as happened in 1820, the vote of a single member of Council turned an election from one Parliamentary candidate to another. The members of Council have now no more political power than any other burgh voters; and their authority has since been farther reduced by the appointment of Police Commissioners, and, lastly, by the Education Act, whereby the management of Burgh Schools is taken out of their hands.

Under the old close system business seems to have been conducted regularly and carefully. The financial department was, on the whole, well managed, and at the close of their career they delivered over the charge of affairs to their successors under the new system in fair and regular order. The only extra expense which seems to have been incurred by the worthy men of the olden time was indulging in an occasional dinner or supper at the public charge, and which they fairly earned by their gratuitous services. On the whole, they had peaceful times, their quiet meetings not being disturbed with newspaper reporters, as in the days of their less fortunate successors, all whose sayings and doings have to pass through the ordeal of the public press.

The proceedings of Town Councils are now much dependent on popular opinion, and, while that is attended with some advantages, it has also the disadvantage of often causing the members to rush into hasty and ill-considered

projects, to gratify the wishes of their constituents. No human system is perfect, and in present times of liberty the ancient close system, which formerly worked advantageously, would not be tolerated for a day.

I have been wishful to give a list of Provosts of the burgh from the earliest times to the present date, but I have found it a very difficult task. The list underwritten is all I have been able to accomplish, and it is in part very imperfect:—

THOMAS WYSMAN Provost in	1261
WALTER, the son of Ralph	1343
JOHN YOUNG	1540
WILLIAM HAY of Mayne	1549
WILLIAM GADDERAR	1557
JOHN ANNAND	1567, 1568, & 1580
ALEXANDER SETON, EARL OF DUNFERMLINE, about	1606
JAMES RUTHERFURD	1618
JOHN HAY	1632
JOHN HAY	1643
JOHN DOUGLAS	1657
GEORGE CUMING of Lochtervandich	1663
THOMAS CALDER	1666
GEORGE CUMING	1670 to 1687
Sir ALEXANDER INNES of Coxton	1687 „ 1688
DAVID STEWART	1689
WILLIAM CALDER of Spynie	1689 „ 1690
WILLIAM KING of Newmill	1690 „ 1700
JAMES LORD DUFFUS	1700 „ 1705
WILLIAM SUTHERLAND	1705 „ 1709
WILLIAM KING of Newmill	1709 „ 1711
GEORGE INNES of Dunkinty	1711 „ 1714
ARCHIBALD DUNBAR of Thunderton, M.A.	1714 „ 1717
ROBERT INNES, Doctor of Medicine	1717 „ 1720
JAMES INNES, Doctor of Medicine	1720 „ 1723
ROBERT INNES, M.D., from 1723 to 1726, when he died.	
JAMES INNES, M.D.	1726 „ 1729
JAMES ANDERSON of Linkwood, from 1729 to 1731, when he died.	
JAMES INNES, Doctor of Medicine	1731 to 1734
JOHN ROBERTSON, Merchant	1734 „ 1737
JAMES INNES, Doctor of Medicine	1737 „ 1740
WILLIAM ANDERSON of Linkwood	1740 „ 1743
JAMES STEPHEN, Merchant	1743 „ 1746
JOHN DUFF, Senior, Merchant	1746 „ 1749
ALEXANDER BRODIE of Windyhills	1749 „ 1752
JAMES ROBERTSON of Bishopmill	1752 „ 1755
ALEXANDER BRODIE of Windyhills	1755 „ 1758

JAMES ROBERTSON of Bishopmill	1758 to 1761
ALEXANDER BRODIE of Windyhills	1761 „ 1764
JAMES ROBERTSON of Bishopmill	1764 „ 1767
ALEXANDER BRODIE of Windyhills	1767 „ 1770
THOMAS STEPHEN, Merchant	1770 „ 1771
JOHN DUFF, Merchant	1771 „ 1774
ALEXANDER BRODIE of Windyhills	1774 „ 1775
JOHN DUFF, Merchant	1775 „ 1778
ALEXANDER BRODIE of Windyhills	1778 „ 1779
JOHN DUFF, Merchant	1779 „ 1782
GEORGE BROWN, Linkwood	1782 „ 1785
JOHN DUFF, Merchant	1785 „ 1788
GEORGE BROWN, Linkwood	1788 „ 1791
JOHN DUFF, Merchant	1791 „ 1792
ALEXANDER BRANDER, Merchant	1792 „ 1795
GEORGE BROWN, Linkwood	1795 „ 1798
ALEXANDER BRANDER, Merchant	1798 „ 1799
GEORGE BROWN, Linkwood	1799 „ 1801

PROVOSTS AND BAILIES FROM 1801 TO 1833.

1801.—George Brown, Provost ; John Forteath, Francis Taylor, John Forsyth, junior, and Robert Joss, Bailies.

1802.—Joseph King of Newmill, Provost ; John Forteath, Alexander Innes, William Gauldie, and George Fenton, Bailies.

1803.—George Brown, Provost. Francis Taylor, Alexander Innes, Robert Joss, and William Gauldie, Bailies.

1804.—George Brown, Provost. Peter Nicholson, Francis Taylor, Robert Joss, and George Fenton, Bailies.

1805.—George Brown, Provost. William Dunbar, John Forsyth, jun., William Gauldie, and Peter Nicholson, Bailies.

1806.—Joseph King of Newmill, Provost. Francis Taylor, William Gauldie, Robert Joss, and William Dunbar, Bailies.

1807.—Joseph King, Provost. Francis Taylor, Robert Joss, Peter Nicholson, and John Russell, Bailies.

1808.—Joseph King, Provost. William Gauldie, Joseph Collie, Peter Nicholson, and John Russell, Bailies.

1809.—George Brown, Provost. William Gauldie, Francis Taylor, Robert Joss, and Joseph Collie, Bailies.

1810.—George Brown, Provost. Francis Taylor, Robert Joss, Peter Nicholson, and John Russell, Bailies.

1811.—George Brown, Provost. William Gauldie, Joseph Collie, Peter Nicholson, and John Russell, Bailies.

1812.—George Fenton, Provost. William Gauldie, Joseph Collie, Francis Taylor, and Robert Joss, Bailies.

1813.—George Fenton, Provost. Francis Taylor, Robert Joss, Peter Nicholson, and John Russell, Bailies.

1814.—George Fenton, Provost. William Gauldie, Peter Nicholson, John Russell, and Joseph Collie, Bailies.

1815.—George Brown, Provost. Francis Taylor, Robert Joss, William Gauldie, and Joseph Collie, Bailies.

1816.—Colonel Francis William Grant, Provost. Francis Taylor, Robert Joss, Peter Nicholson, and John Russell, Bailies.

1817.—Colonel Francis William Grant, Provost. William Gauldie, Peter Nicholson, John Russell, and Joseph Collie, Bailies.

1818.—Colonel Francis William Grant, Provost. Alexander Innes, Robert Joss, William Gauldie, and Joseph Collie, Bailies.

1819.—Sir Archibald Dunbar of Northfield, Baronet, Provost. Francis Taylor, Alexander Innes, Robert Joss, and Peter Nicholson, Bailies.

1820.—Alexander Innes, Provost. John Forsyth, jun., Peter Nicholson, William Dunbar, and David Cormie, Bailies.

1821.—Alexander Innes, Provost. John Forsyth, jun., William Dunbar, David Cormie, and Lewis Anderson, Bailies.

1822.—Alexander Innes, Provost. Peter Nicholson, Lewis Anderson, James Henry, and James Petrie, Bailies.

1823.—Peter Nicholson, Provost. John Forsyth, jun., James Henry, James Petrie, and Francis Cruikshank, Bailies.

1824.—Peter Nicholson, Provost. John Forsyth, jun., David Cormie, Lewis Anderson, and Francis Cruikshank, Bailies.

1825.—Peter Nicholson, Provost. David Cormie, Lewis Anderson, James Petrie, and Harry Milne, Bailies.

1826.—Alexander Innes, Provost. James Petrie, Francis Cruikshank, Harry Milne, and John Johnston, Bailies.

1827.—Alexander Innes, Provost. Francis Cruikshank, Harry Milne, John Johnston, and Lewis Anderson, Bailies.

1828.—Alexander Innes, Provost. Lewis Anderson, David Cormie, Alexander Young, and George Robertson, Bailies.

1829.—John Lawson, junior, Provost. David Cormie, James Petrie, George Robertson, and Harry Milne, Bailies.

1830.—John Lawson, junior, Provost. Lewis Anderson, Harry Milne, John Johnston, and John M'Kimmie, Bailies.

1831.—John Lawson, junior, Provost. Lewis Anderson, John Johnston, John M'Kimmie, and Francis Cruikshank, Bailies.

1832.—James Petrie, Provost. Francis Cruikshank, Alexander Forteach, Alexander Young, and John Walker, Bailies.

This was the last election under the old system; the Reform Bill having come into operation at the election in November, 1833.

PROVOSTS FROM 1833 TO 1876.

WILLIAM GAULDIE, Merchant	1833 to 1835
JOHN M'KIMMIE, Merchant	1835 „ 1839
ALEXANDER YOUNG, Banker	1839 „ 1840

JOHN M'KIMMIE, Merchant	1840 to 1842
JAMES WILSON	1842 „ 1848
JAMES GRANT, Solicitor	1848 „ 1851
JAMES GRANT	1851 „ 1854
The same	1854 „ 1857
The same	1857 „ 1860
The same	1860 „ 1863
ALEXANDER RUSSELL	1863 „ 1866
The same	1866 „ 1869
ALEXANDER CAMERON of Mainhouse	1869 „ 1872
The same	1872 „ 1875
WILLIAM CULBARD, Merchant	1875

TOWN CLERKS.

That there were Town Clerks in the burgh, coeval with the beginning of Town Councils, there can be no manner of doubt; but, as we have no records prior to the sixteenth century, we cannot trace any of their names at an early date. These functionaries have always performed an important part in the affairs of the town, and been the advisers of the Magistrates and Councils in all business matters, and therefore cannot be passed by without endeavouring to trace at least some of them.

Thomas Hay was Town-Clerk of the burgh in the end of the sixteenth, and early part of the seventeenth centuries, and seems to have held the office for a considerable time. About the middle of the seventeenth century, a practice began in Elgin of having two Town-Clerks, the origin of which, or the causes which led to it, I have not discovered.

John Chalmers and George Chalmers were joint Clerks as early as the year 1675, and perhaps much earlier. On the death of John Chalmers, Robert Anderson, writer and Commissary Clerk, was appointed conjunct Clerk of the burgh, along with George Chalmers. They were both acting in 1694 and 1695. George Chalmers appears to have died shortly after this time, and Robert Anderson and David Stewart were joint Clerks until 1703. At that time Robert Anderson retired, and David Stewart continued until 1714 jointly with James Anderson.

From about 1714 to 1717, James Anderson and James Fraser were joint Town-Clerks.

James Fraser having joined the Rebellion in 1715 and 1716, was deprived of his office, by Minute of Council, 27th March, 1717.

From 1717 to 1719, James Anderson and Hugh Crombie were joint Clerks. Hugh Crombie died on 26th October, 1719, when Alexander Smith, notary public, was elected in his room.

From 1719 to 1731, James Anderson and Alexander Smith were joint Clerks. Mr. Anderson died in 1731. His son, William Anderson of Linkwood, was elected in his room.

From 1731 to 1745, Alexander Smith and William Anderson were joint Town-Clerks. Mr. Anderson died 13th June, 1745. William Burnet, writer, was elected in his room.

From 1745 to 1746, Alexander Smith and William Burnet were joint Town-Clerks. Mr. Smith died in July or August, 1746. Patrick Duff, son of Bailie Robert Duff, was elected in his place, by Minute of Council, 23d September, 1746.

From 1746 to 1774, William Burnet and Patrick Duff were Clerks.

Mr. Burnet having taken part with Provost Stephen, Bailie Laing, and Mr. Brander, on their side of politics against the majority of the Town Council, they summarily deprived him of his office on 19th September, 1774. Mr. Burnet had served the Council for about thirty years, and in the end seems to have been very ill treated. He bears the character of having been a very respectable man of business. He died in 1781.

From 1774 to 1782, Patrick Duff and Alexander Duff, his son, were conjunct Town-Clerks. Alexander Duff died in 1782, and his brother Patrick Duff, junior, was appointed in his room.

From 1782 to 1787, Patrick Duff, senior, and Patrick Duff, junior, were joint Town-Clerks. The former died in 1787.

From 1787 to 1812, Patrick Duff and George Fenton were joint Clerks. Mr. Fenton resigned office on 14th September, 1812, and Patrick Duff, junior, was appointed assistant and successor to his father. This was a new mode of appointment, which was introduced for the first time on this occasion, and has never been repeated.

From 1812 to 1821, Patrick Duff, senior, and Patrick Duff, junior, were Clerks. Patrick Duff, senior, died 24th May, 1821, and was succeeded by his son as sole Clerk.

From 1821 to 1861, Patrick Duff was sole Town-Clerk of the burgh. He died in April, 1861.

On 22d April, 1861, the Town Council appointed Fife Duff Robertson, writer, who had been assistant to the late Mr. Duff, as their Town-Clerk.

Mr. Robertson, in consequence of severe illness, being unable to discharge the duties of his office, the Council, on 26th July, 1871, appointed Mr. David Forsyth, solicitor in Elgin, to be joint Town-Clerk of the burgh. Mr. Robertson died shortly after. Mr. Forsyth has been sole Town-Clerk of the burgh since Mr. Robertson's death.

CONVENTION OF BURGHS.

This is probably the oldest civil institution in Scotland, anterior even to Parliaments, and owes its origin to the desire of our early kings to promote trade and commerce, and municipal rights in the country. It has been productive

of much good, and has been one of the principal means of advancing civil liberty in Scotland. The first four burghs which were formed into a Convention were Edinburgh, Roxburgh, Berwick, and Stirling. By them the old burgh laws of Scotland were framed, which are still preserved. In the reign of King David I., certain privileges were granted to the northern burghs, which were confirmed by his grandson, William the Lyon, who gave power to the burghs of Aberdeen, Kintore, Banff, Cullen, Elgin, Forres, Nairn, and Inverness, to combine for the purpose of holding a Hanse or Parliament for management of their affairs, to be held where and when they chose. I find no record of what this northern combination of burghs did, in virtue of the powers granted to them. The first meeting of the General Convention was held at Edinburgh, the 10th January, 1295. The only burghs represented were Berwick, Edinburgh, Roxburgh, and Stirling. Some laws were framed at this meeting. Aberdeen does not seem to have been represented at the General Convention, until the meeting held at Edinburgh, 16th March, 1491. There was a second meeting the same year, at which the burghs of Aberdeen, Perth, Dundee, and Haddington, were represented. I find no notice of Elgin until 1552. The Convention was held in the Tolbooth of Edinburgh on the 4th April of that year. The Commissioners from Elgin were William Gadderar and Alexander Douglas. At this meeting laws were passed for regulating customs and election of Town Councils. At the Convention held in Edinburgh, 15th July, 1574, Walter Mavor was Commissioner for Elgin.

Burgh Records
Society, vol. 1.

Council Records
of Aberdeen,
vol. VII., p. 243.

Records of
Convention of
Royal Burghs,
vol. I., pages 1
and 25.

At the meeting of 1575 a taxation was laid upon the burghs "for payment of the soumes grantit to my Lord "Regentis Grace for discharge of the bulzeoun, for the "charges of men to be sent in Flanderis, for tryell of the "falís cunzie, and for recompance of the expensis debursit, "and to be debursit, for ingathering of the same." The proportion laid upon Elgin was £82 10s. ; on Banff, £27 10s. ; on Forres, £27 10s. ; on Nairn, £5 10s. ; on Inverness, £100 ; which shows that, while Elgin was very far above Banff, Forres, and Nairn in wealth, it was not much behind Inverness. At the Convention held in Edinburgh in July,

1580, Elgin, among other burghs, was fined £20 for not sending a Commissioner.

At the meeting of April, 1581, Elgin was represented by John Annand, Provost of the burgh, when a complaint was made against the burghs of Elgin and Forres, for compelling "the merchandis of frie burrowes arrivand at their ports "with wyne, salt, and uther merchandise, from uther frie "ports of the realme, to make ane offer to thame of the same, "and the decision heirop being referrit to this present Con- "ventioun, the Commissionaris of burrowes befor rehersit, "in presence of Jhone Annand, Provest and Commissioner "for the bruch of Elgein, and in *penam contumacie* of the "said bruch of Forres, findis the saidis burrowes to haif done "wrong in the premissis, and tharefore dischargis thame in "speciall, and all uthir burrowes in generall, to caus or "compell any frie merchant cummand with his guidis from "ane frie port within the realme, to mak offer to them of the "samyn ; but that it sall be leisum to the saidis merchants "to dispose upoun thair saidis guidis frielie, but impediment "or offer making in tyme cuming, without prejudice alwayes "to the liberty of the bruch." In the October meeting, held at Edinburgh the same year, John Annand, Provost, was Commissioner for Elgin, and for Forres, Thomas Urquhart, probably of Burdsyards.

Records of
Convention,
vol. I.

In the Convention held at Ayr, from the 10th to 18th June, 1583, Alexander Boynd was Commissioner for Elgin; and at the meeting held at Linlithgow, in July, 1584, James Douglas appeared for Elgin. James Douglas was also representative at the Convention held at Cupar the 3d, 4th, and 5th May, 1586. At this meeting a dispensation was granted to the burgh of Forres, permitting them to send no Commissioner for three years, in respect of the poverty of the burgh. Banff, among other burghs, was fined £20 for sending no Commissioner.

At the meeting of Convention held at Dundee, the 3d July, 1587, Elgin was represented by Thomas Hay, who was probably then Town-Clerk of the burgh. He also appeared for the burgh of Nairn. Forres was represented by James Dunbar of Tarbet, who made a grievous complaint of "the puir and simple estaitt of the said burgh, decay of

Records of
Convention, vol.
I., pages 235,
236.

“the common warkis thairof, and greitt oppressioun and
 “intrusion maid be gentillmen, thair nychbouris, in thair
 “commoun landis; as alsua of the incommoditie and wrang
 “the said burgh sustenis be halding of mercattes and faires
 “att kirkis, chappellis, and utheris unfrie places adjacent
 “to thame, to the prejudice of the liberties of the hail
 “burrowes,” and craved that the taxation of the burgh
 should be reduced, and an exemption given from attending
 Conventions. An exemption from attendance was given for
 three years, and the question of taxation was continued
 until the next general meeting; and they promised to assist
 them in the matter of oppression complained of, by bringing
 it before the Estates of Parliament. On the 5th July, the
 following entry occurs:—“The quhilk day, the foirsaidis
 “Commissioners, understanding the povertie and greitt
 “penurie of the burrowis of Rutherglen, Elgyn, Wigtoun,
 “Jedburgh, Kirkcudbrycht, Banff, Forfar, Innernes, Tayne,
 “Culane, and Quhitherne, hes exemit, and be thir presentis
 “exemes the saidis burrows for the space of three zeris nixtt
 “following the dait heirof; willing and declaring heirby that
 “they, nor any of thame, sall incur ony danger or unlaw be
 “thair absence thairfra, nochtwithstanding ony actis made
 “in the contrair, provyding that ilk ane of the saidis burrowis
 “direct, with the Commissioners of the burgh ewest to them
 “nocht exemit, to every Convention of the saidis burrowis
 “during the space foresaid, ane autentik missive appreving
 “the conclusionis and proceedings of the saidis Conventionis.”
 There is no doubt the country generally, and many of the
 burghs, were in great poverty at this time, but perhaps their
 condition was somewhat overstated to get relief from the
 heavy expense of sending a Commissioner to attend the
 Conventions. In these times they could only travel on
 horseback, well armed, and with some attendance of servants
 for their protection.

Records of
 Convention, vol.
 I., page 239.

At the autumn meeting of the Convention, held in
 Edinburgh, the penult day of October, 1587, James Guthrie
 was Commissioner for Elgin. The taxation laid upon Elgin
 was 32s. ; Banff, 13s. 4d. ; Inverness, 36s. ; Forres, 4s. ;
 Nairn, 8d. At the meeting held at Glasgow in July, 1588,
 Elgin sent no Commissioner, but gave a missive to Aberdeen

Records of
 Convention, vol.
 I., page 244.

to act. In July, 1589, the Convention met at St. Andrew's, and lasted four days. William Gibson, one of the Bailies, was Commissioner for Elgin. A large extent of business was transacted.

In 1591, the meeting was at Montrose. Alexander Annand was Commissioner from Elgin, and he also held a missive from Forres. The taxation for Elgin was 25s. ; for Forres, 6s. 8d. ; for Nairn, 5s. The meeting of 1592 was held at Kirkcaldy. Alexander Annand was again Commissioner for Elgin, and held a mandate from Nairn. Robert Tulloch (probably of Tannachy) represented Forres. Alexander Annand also represented Elgin at the meeting held in Edinburgh, January, 1593, and at Stirling in June, 1594. At this meeting Elgin, among other burghs, was exempted from sending a Commissioner to all Conventions south of the Tay for three years. Elgin was stented for expenses in 22s. ; Forres in 6s. 8d. ; and Nairn in 5s. The Convention of 1596 was held at Aberdeen. Elgin was represented by Alexander Boyne.

Records of
Convention, vol.
I., page 353.

A special meeting was held at Edinburgh on 1st April, 1597. Alexander Annand was Commissioner for Elgin and Forres. And in June the same year, at the meeting at Burntisland, Alexander Boyne appeared for Elgin. At this meeting Elgin was stented in 20s., and Forres in 6s. No Commissioner was sent for 1598 and 1599. In June, 1600, Alexander Boyne represented the burgh at the Convention held at Kinghorn that year, and George Annand at the General Convention in Edinburgh, 1601.

Records of
Convention, vol.
II., page 1.

In the Convention begun at Haddington on 5th July, 1603, Alexander Douglas, of Morristown, was the Commissioner for Elgin. At this meeting, Elgin, among several other burghs, was fined in the sum of £20 for not having "producit sufficient delegeance in the rouping of their commoun guidis, and perambulating of their mercheis," but, "upon promeis of their present Commissioneris for to mend the samyn to the next Conventioun," the fine of Elgin was reduced to forty shillings.

At the special meeting of Convention held at Edinburgh, 24th April, 1604, Alexander Gordon was Commissioner for Elgin ; and at the General Convention held at Perth, 3d

Records of
Convention, vol.
II., pages 169,
172.

July, the same year, George Brodie, one of the Bailies, was the representative for this burgh. At this meeting, in consequence of the succession of King James VI. to the Throne of England, a proposed treaty for Union with that kingdom was under consideration, and the rights and privileges of the burghs as connected therewith. This proposed treaty came to no issue.

At the Convention held at Dundee, the 5th July, 1606, George Brodie again represented Elgin; but he and several other Commissioners of northern burghs not having appeared on the first day of the meeting, and failing then to show their commissions, each were fined in £20, but which fines were remitted on their proving that they were detained at the meeting of the Parliament then in session at Perth. Elgin had no representatives at the Conventions of 1607, 1608, and 1609, being exempted; but at the meeting of 1608 it was fined in the sum of £60 for not making payment of their share of certain sums ordered by the Convention to be made as stated in the minutes, and decree passed accordingly.

Records of
Convention, vol.
II., page 267.

vol. II., p. 238.

The Convention of 1610 was held at Crail. Duncan Leslie was Commissioner for Elgin. The minutes bear as follows:—"The samin day, Duncan Leslie, Commissioner for "Elgine, confessit and grantit that thair persons, videlicet, "Andro Schand, in Carnoch, Walter Adam thair, John "Richardson thair, dwellis within thair liberteis, being unfrie "and using the libertie of the burgh, and thairfor the saidis "Commissioners ordearis the said burgh of Elgine to produce "exact diligence be proces of law, at the leist, in restraining "and punisching of the said persones, and all uthers, at the "nixt Generall Conventione, and this to be ane heid of the "nixt missive."

The Convention of 1611 was held at Stirling. Patrick Gibson, Bailie, was Commissioner for Elgin, who reported that letters of horning had been taken out against Andrew Shand and Walter Adam, the unfreemen referred to at the meeting of 1610. The diligence was ordered to be put to farther execution against the above persons, and all others of the same sort, and a report to be made to next Convention, "under the payne of ane unlay of twentie pund."

The Convention of 1612 was held at Arbroath. Gavin

Douglas, of the family of Morristown, was Commissioner for Elgin. "The burgh of Elgine was ordered to prosecute thair captione against Andro Schand, and to schaw their deprivatione of Johne Richartson, thair outland burges." At this meeting Elgin, among other burghs, was exempted from attending all Conventions be south Forth for three years.

Elgin had no Commissioner at the Convention held at Dunbar on the 6th July, 1613; but the burgh was fined in the sum of forty pounds for not proceeding with the diligence against unfreemen. Another meeting of Convention was held at Edinburgh, apparently an adjournment from Dunbar, on 12th July, 1613. Gavin Douglas was Commissioner from Elgin. There were no less than five meetings, general and special, this year, but the Elgin Commissioner only attended one of them.

A General Convention was held at Kirkcaldy, the 5th July, 1614. Gavin Douglas was again Commissioner for this burgh. At this meeting the case of the Elgin unfreemen was again brought up for consideration. It appears to have been considered a special one. The Commissioner reported that James Richardson was now an actual resider within the burgh, and that Andrew Shand had desisted from trading. Proof of this was ordered to be produced at next meeting, under the penalty of twenty pounds. In the proceedings of the 8th July, it is minuted as follows:—"The same day, ordeans, at the desyre of the Commissioner for the burgh of Elgyne, that the burghs of Forres and Inverness sall direct thair Commissioners to the said burgh of Elgyne, to give thame thair best advyse for removing of thair croce to the maist publik place of the said burgh, and to desyre thame to repair thair calsays, and this to be ane heid of the nixt missive." A special meeting was held at Edinburgh on 13th July this year, after Kirkcaldy meeting, at which Gavin Douglas was also present.

Records of
Convention,
vol. II., pages
462 and 466.

With the year 1614, we lose the valuable and interesting records of the Convention of Burghs, which have hitherto been no farther published. It is hoped this work may be continued to the present time, as it would throw much light upon the history of the country, and the progress of trade and

commerce, as well as the manners and customs of burghal life. The Members of Convention, so far as we have been able to collect them, are as follows:—

	Year of Meeting.
JAMES RUTHERFURD	1617
JOHN HAY	1618
JAMES RUTHERFURD	1620
JOHN HAY and WM. LESLIE	1621
JOHN HAY	1623
HEW FALCONER	1624
JOHN HAY, ROBERT HARDIE, and WILLIAM LESLIE	1626
JOHN HAY	1630

The Convention Records are wanting from 3d March,
1631, to 3d July, 1649.

JOHN HAY	1649
GEORGE CUMING	1652
THOMAS CALDER	1655
JOHN DOUGLAS	1656
JOHN DUNBAR	1657
ALEXANDER DUNBAR	1658
ANDREW LESLIE and JOHN DUNBAR	1660
ANDREW LESLIE	1663
WILLIAM CUMING	1664
ANDREW YOUNG	1665
DAVID STEWART	1666
JAMES CALDER	1669
ALEXANDER DUNBAR	1670
JAMES CALDER	1671
JOHN SPENCE	1674

From 1674 to 1710 we have been unable to find the
Members' names.

WILLIAM DUFF of Dipple	1710
ARCHIBALD DUNBAR of Thunderton, Provost of Elgin	1716
ROBERT INNES, Provost	1718
Bailie CHARLES GORDON	1719
JOHN M'COMBIE or M'KOMIE, Writer in Edinburgh	1720
JAMES INNES, Provost of Elgin	1721
WILLIAM FORBES, Writer in Edinburgh	1732
The same Commissioner	1733
The same Commissioner	1734
JAMES STEPHEN, Merchant in Elgin	1738
WILLIAM FORBES, Writer in Edinburgh	1739
JOHN LAING, Dean of Guild	1743
JAMES STEPHEN, Provost of Elgin	1744
WILLIAM FORBES, Writer in Edinburgh	1746
PATRICK DUFF, Writer to the Signet	1747
The same Commissioner	1752
The same Commissioner	1753

	Year of Meeting.
WILLIAM FORBES, Writer in Edinburgh	1757
COSMO GORDON (of Cluny), Advocate	1761
The same Commissioner	1763
The same Commissioner	1769
PROVOST THOMAS STEPHEN	1771
COSMO GORDON (of Cluny), Advocate	1773
JOHN INNES, Writer to the Signet	1774
PATRICK DUFF, Town-Clerk, whom failing, JOHN INNES, Writer to the Signet	1776
JOHN INNES, Writer to the Signet	1781
The same Commissioner	1782
The same Commissioner	1783
Bailie JOHN BRANDER	1784
FRANCIS RUSSELL of Westfield	1785
* *	
Bailie FRANCIS TAYLOR	1811
PETER BROWN, Linkwood	1818
JAMES IVORY, Advocate	1821
The same Commissioner	1822
The same Commissioner	1823
The same Commissioner	1824
The same Commissioner	1825
WILLIAM INGLIS of Middleton, Writer to the Signet in Edinburgh	1827
* *	
No Commissioner having been elected for many years, Provost JAMES GRANT was appointed 26th March	1855
Provost ALEXANDER RUSSELL	1858
The same Commissioner	1864
ALEXANDER CAMERON, Provost	1870
The same Commissioner	1873

The above list is very imperfect.

THE TRADES' INCORPORATIONS.

We find notice of the Trades in Elgin at a very early date. From the importance of the burgh in the twelfth century as the occasional residence of our kings, and in the beginning of the following century as an Episcopal See, tradesmen of different crafts must have been much required. Mr. James Taylor, in his work on Edward I. of England in the North of Scotland, has extracted from the Chartulary of Moray various references to tradesmen in the thirteenth century, viz. :—"Osbert and Henry, smiths or armourers ;

Taylor's
Edward I. in
Scotland, page
124.

“Richard, William, and Thomas, glaziers (*vitrearii*) ; Brice the tailor (*cissor*) ; James the smith, shoemaker (*sutor*) ; John the Fuller (*fullonis*) ; Gregory the builder is mentioned in 1237. Carpenters were sent by the Sheriff of Elgin in 1262 to Caithness, to erect a new hall and wardrobe room for Alexander III. William the gardener (*Willielmus ortulanus*) is mentioned as early as the year 1242. Gardens appear to have been common in the town even at this early period.” The various tradesmen did not form themselves into corporations until comparatively a late date. Up to the middle of the seventeenth century they were entirely under the control of the Magistrates and Town Council. As we have stated in a previous part of this work, about the year 1650 there appear to have been seven Crafts in the burgh, viz., saddlers, smiths, metallers, tailors, shoemakers, weavers, and butchers. The Magistrates agreed to give each of these Crafts certain privileges, as embodied in deeds entered into in 1657 and 1658, and regulations were made for the management of the different bodies. These seem to have been extended in the year 1670. The Magistrates farther, in 1675, on a petition given in by the Deacons and representatives of the Trades and Crafts, supplicating that they would admit as a member of the Council a Deacon Convener, agreed to their request, and appointed James Chalmer, glover in Elgin, a person of great respectability, to be Deacon Convener for the ensuing year. In 1700, a farther arrangement was made between the Town Council and the Trades, by which the latter obtained right to elect their own Deacons, but no Deacon to remain in office for more than two years without consent of the Council. The previous practice seems to have been that each Trade gave in a leet of three members, out of which the Magistrates chose the Deacon.

Before the end of the seventeenth century, the Trades of Elgin had formed themselves into six different Crafts, viz., smiths, tailors, glovers, carpenters, shoemakers, and weavers, and had assumed considerable importance in the town. In the year 1705, the Magistrates granted them the privilege of electing their Deacons and Boxmasters by poll election, the voters being burgesses and freemen ; and by the new

sett of the burgh, granted by the Convention in the same year, they had the further privilege given them of returning three members out of their body to the Town Council, viz., the Deacon Convener and two other Deacons, which last were chosen by the Town Council out of the six Deacons elected by the different Crafts. This gave the Trades great political power, in fact, it gave them nearly the fifth part of the representation of the burgh, and in the election of a Member of Parliament the vote of the Convener and Deacons had great weight. It was therefore an object of ambition to get into the office of a Deacon, and the Trades' elections gave rise to severe contests and squabbings. The different Crafts had also the exclusive right of exercising their own trade, and all unfreemen encroaching on their privileges were watched with a jealous eye, and immediately prosecuted. This suffered no relaxation, until, at last, it cured itself, having become intolerable, and was entirely swept away shortly after the passing of the Reform Bill.

By the Act passed in 1833, the election of Town Councils being altered from the old close system, and being chosen by the Parliamentary electors, the honours of the Trades' Incorporations were entirely shorn, and their political power gone; and this being followed by the Act abolishing their exclusive privileges, they had little object in continuing to take an interest in their crafts as public bodies. The shoemakers, who had considerable landed property, sold it and wound up their affairs; and, if they and the other bodies meet now, it is more as friendly societies than as public corporate bodies. The Convener, or United Incorporated Trades, acquired from the Magistrates, in the year 1760, part of the Moor of Elgin, which they improved and converted into arable ground, and within the last fifty years have feued out a considerable part of it, on which the village of New Elgin has been built. From this they draw a considerable revenue, which is divided among the different crafts, according to arrangements made among themselves. This property, which was worthless little more than a century ago, and was feued out by the Magistrates to the Convener Meeting at a yearly feu-duty of £24 Scots, is now of very considerable and increasing yearly value.

It is curious to mark the changes which have taken place among the different crafts within the present century. The weavers had a most flourishing trade, and were a numerous body until within the last sixty years. The introduction of machinery and of power looms has entirely annihilated their business; and it is believed there is not now a weaver carrying on business on his private account within the burgh. The like fate has happened to the glovers. During the seventeenth, and part of the eighteenth centuries they were a very flourishing craft. Gloves of a certain kind were much more used then than now. The Elgin trade perhaps did not manufacture the finest quality of gloves. They were likely strongly made, adapted for horsemen, who were then very numerous, and for outdoor and harvest work. A considerable portion no doubt was exported to other parts of the country. Among the last master glovers were James Elder, Robert Blenshall or Blenchard, and Alexander Culbard. The two former died about the year 1817, and the latter, who retired from the glove trade and adopted the tanning business, died at a very advanced age some twenty years since. There have been scarcely any gloves manufactured within the burgh during the present century, and it has died out even more than the weaving trade. The tailors, shoemakers, smiths, and carpenters, still flourish within the burgh, and are indispensable for all time, although as incorporated crafts their privileges have ceased.*

* The ancestors of Provost Culbard are amongst the oldest families connected with the town. They were for long members of the glover craft, and I am obliged to the Provost for the following interesting paper about his relatives and the Corporation of Glovers, which I insert in this note:—

“1. Gilbert Hay was admitted as a Freeman of the Glover Incorporation on the 26th September, 1677, within ‘ye meeting at ye Greyfriars of Elgin,’ and on 15th May, 1704, he was admitted a Freeman Burgess and Guild Brother—Lord Duffus being then Provost.

“2. John Hay, glover, son of the above Gilbert, was admitted to the Corporation 14th May, 1715, and was Deacon in 1721-22.

“3. James Culbard was admitted a Burgess Freeman of the burgh on 19th June, 1679.

“4. James Culbard, son of James Culbard above-mentioned, married Isobel Mavor, 18th April 1707.

“5. James Culbard, contractor in Elgin, son of the preceding, married Christian Hay, daughter of the above-mentioned Deacon John Hay, and entered the Glovers’ Incorporation on 27th January, 1766, as son-in-law to a member.

“6. Alexander Culbard, glover, their son, entered the Incorporation on 18th September, 1780, and was admitted a Guild Brother in right of his grandfather, 22d May, 1807. Up to 1750, a number of families were engaged in making gloves and dressing leather. Their names were Blenshall, Chalmers, Macandrew, Shepherd, Williamson, Elder, Philip, Hay, Dunbar, Chisholm, and others. Deacon William Macandrew carried on the tanning trade in premises where the present shambles now stands, and was succeeded by a family of the name of Mackean, who also died out early in this century. Alexander Culbard about 1780, or soon thereafter, abandoned glove making, with the exception of harvest gloves, and commenced making sheep leather, for

TRADE AND MANUFACTURES.

Elgin being early an Episcopal City, its trade was confined very much to supplying the wants of the Bishop's Court, and the numerous clergy and visitors who came to the town for religious purposes. These must have been large, and constant supplies of provisions, wines, clothing, hardware goods, and other commodities had to be provided. These came principally from France, Flanders, and the Hanse Towns of the North. The Loch of Spynie being an arm of the sea up to the fifteenth century, it is probable that vessels entered that estuary, and delivered their goods at the Bishop's Port of Spynie, which only occasioned a land carriage of two miles to the town. After the closing up of the lake, some coasting trade no doubt took place at the creeks of Spey, Lossie, Covesea, and Burghead; but the principal port for the County was Findhorn.

In the seventeenth century, the Elgin merchants were very enterprising, and had a large foreign trade. The Cummings, Calders, Leslies, Donaldsons, Stewarts, Duffis, Kings, and others, were engaged in this traffic, which was a very profitable one; and the parties concerned generally made considerable fortunes. The exports were corn, malt, salmon, dried fish, cured meat, and other home commodities; and the imports were wines and spirits, silks, hardware goods, and general merchandise. These goods were principally brought from France and Holland, and some of the German northern towns. There was little or no trade with England. Cromwell, during the time of his Protectorate, with his usual enlightened policy, opened up the trade of England to Scotland; but when he departed from the

"sale in London, and was the first who opened up that trade from Elgin. He afterwards began tanning in the premises which were known as the Chalmer Garden in Lossie Wynd, which he purchased from the late William Robertson of Auchinroath in 1801.

"7. James Culbard, his son, joined his father about this time, and, in addition to skinning and tanning trades, carried on that of manufacturing curried leather, and his family have since continued the same business on an enlarged scale.

"Between 1750 and 1800, the trade in gloves seems to have gradually died out. The last two apprentices who were able to produce as an assay one pair of men's, and one pair of women's gloves, were Alexander Geddes, admitted in 1791, and the late James Smith, Bridgend, Bishopmill, in 1805. The only other apprentices who have since been admitted to the Incorporation were James Gray and Andrew Ross in 1825, who produced as their assay a dressed sheep skin; and by the year 1830, with the exception of the Culbard family, not a single member of the Incorporation had any connection with the trade, and many of the old names have entirely disappeared."

Administration, Scotland was again excluded, and continued so until the Union; while with France, Holland, and the free cities of Germany, the Scotch were placed on the most favoured footing. The malt trade from Elgin was at this period so great that from thirty to forty malt kilns and malt barns were required for malting and drying the grain. These were generally substantial stone built and slated buildings, about 100 feet in length. Many of them existed to a late period, but are now all gone, except one, which is in a very dilapidated state. This foreign trade continued to increase and flourish up to the time of the Union in 1707, shortly after which period the Fiscal Laws of England being extended to Scotland, and heavy export and import duties imposed, the trade gradually languished, and finally died away—having degenerated into a smuggling traffic, which respectable merchants hesitated to engage in. There is no doubt, however, that smuggling was largely carried on, even by parties in respectable positions of life, in the articles of wines, brandy, gin, tea, silks, and tobacco, up to the year 1780; and it was usual to find in the houses of shipmasters casks of the finest French claret, which was freely offered to all visitors. The risk in those days was in landing the goods. After they were housed and stored, the Excise made no farther enquiry. Fortunes were made by Elgin merchants in the smuggling trade, but latterly it became too hazardous, as the laws became more strict, and before the end of last century the trade had expired. In lieu of it a large trade in grain followed, which was exported to London, and also to Leith and other ports in the Firth of Forth.

In the seventeenth century a large brewing business of ale and whisky was carried on in the town. In 1697, there were eighty persons entered as private brewers, who seemed to have all a brisk trade. William Douglas, who probably was then the principal innkeeper, within three months of this year, had brewed 4000 gallons of ale and 400 gallons of aqua vitæ, which shows that the consumption of drink, in a population of 3000 persons, must have been enormous. Of course they had the Friday markets, and the six large yearly markets, at which farmers, cattle-dealers, and strangers largely partook of liquor—the orgies frequently

continuing for days. The malting trade of the seventeenth and early part of the eighteenth centuries, was succeeded by weaving, and the old malt kilns were filled with weavers' looms. A very busy trade it was, and it continued until about fifty years ago ; it has since entirely ceased.

In the end of last century, Messrs. Robertson & Forsyth had a small woollen manufactory in a close a little to the east of Lossie Wynd. They were succeeded by the late Mr. Alexander Johnston, who appears to have removed to Newmill as early as the year 1800, having taken a lease from Mr. King, the then proprietor of the Mills. In a memorial laid before the Council on 4th December, 1800, Mr. Johnston stated that he had lately erected an engine for scrubbing and carding of wool, with slobbing and spinning jennies for the manufacture of woollen yarn, and asking their recommendation to the Board of Trustees for enabling him to carry on the manufactory, and for defraying the expense of the machinery. This request was readily complied with, but how far the Board of Trustees for Manufactures gave pecuniary aid, we have no means of knowing. Mr. Johnston carried on the work with success, and, in the year 1836, he purchased from Captain Stewart, the successor of Mr. King, the whole mills and buildings, with about nine acres of ground along the river Lossie, for which, in addition to the purchase price, an annual feu-duty of £50 was stipulated to be paid. He died in 1864, at a very advanced age, but long previous to his death had retired from the business, in favour of his son, Mr. James Johnston. The business has since been largely increased, and the extent of building is now very great—steam-power as well as water-power being used for the extensive machinery. The principal goods manufactured are Scotch plaids and shawls, tweeds, kerseys, and double cloths—foreign and Scotch wools being both used. They are all of excellent quality, and are celebrated in the London and other markets—quantities being also sent abroad. It is supposed two hundred persons, young and old, may be employed in these works from the town of Elgin and village of Bishopmill. This manufactory is perhaps the most important one to the north of Aberdeenshire. Messrs. Johnstone have also established an iron foundry, where steam engines,

Council
Minutes, see
before, page 236.

boilers, reaping machines, and all the other miscellaneous articles of regular engineering works are manufactured. A plentiful supply of gas is made on the premises for lighting the workshops and dwelling-houses. This large and important work has proved very beneficial to the town, in giving employment to so many of its inhabitants, and in supplying goods of first-rate quality to merchants and individuals.

The grain trade is still largely carried on in the town, and, at the Friday weekly markets, the farmers meet the numerous dealers from the County and Banffshire—many distillers also attending. The Morayshire barley has a high name over the kingdom, and a considerable portion is shipped for the English brewers, who require it to be of first-rate quality and colour. For a few hours every Friday forenoon a busy traffic in grain is carried on.

In the year 1784, a brewery company was established at the east end of Elgin, near the Cathedral, on a piece of ground called the Petty Manse, quite close to the Lossie, which was acquired from Mr. James Robertson, of Jamaica, then proprietor of the North College, at the price of sixty pounds. The partners were Peter Rose Watson of Westertown and Coltfoot; George Brown, Provost of Elgin; William Robertson, merchant in Elgin; John Ritchie, junior, merchant; Alexander Brander, merchant; and William Young, at Oldmills. The capital was to be £1000, and a cash account for £500. The capital was raised as follows:—

Mr. Peter Rose Watson	£400
Mr. William Robertson	200
Messrs. G. Brown, John Ritchie, junior, Alexander Brander, and William Young, each £100	400
	<hr/>
	£1000

The contract of co-partnership is dated 17th, 23d, and 30th July, 1784, and was to endure for nineteen years, with power to prorogate. The firm was Robertson, Brander, Ritchie, & Company, and Mr. William Robertson was to take the active management. We are not sure whether the contract ran out its course of nineteen years, or if it was terminated by consent at an earlier date, but in the early part of the

present century it was sold to Mr. Alexander Young, a native of Banffshire, who understood the business practically, and who gave it his sole attention. In his hands it prospered very much, and after a successful trade he transmitted it to his sons, by whom it was actively continued for many years, under the firm of Alexander & James Young. These gentlemen are both dead, but the work is still carried on successfully by Mr. James Bennett, a great-grandson of the first Alexander Young, and by Mr. James Leslie, who was trained to the business, and was assumed as a partner by the late Mr. James Young. Large quantities of ale, beer, and porter are brewed, and sold in the town, and sent by rail and other conveyances, both by land and water, to all the northern counties. Another brewery, called the West Brewery, was established at Gallowcreek in the year 1831. This concern has passed through many different hands, but is still carried on.

We have already referred to the tanning business which was started by Alexander Culbard, glover, in the year 1801. He erected tan pits and buildings for dressing skins at the east side of Lossie Wynd, and carried on a considerable trade both at home and with London. He was shortly after joined by his son, the late Mr. James Culbard, who extended the business considerably. In the year 1839, the latter purchased from Mr. Isaac Forsyth a large piece of ground to the west of Lossie Wynd, and from the late Mr. Thomas Miln, in 1841, an additional lot, upon which very extensive works for tanning, drying, and dressing skins of all descriptions have been erected. This establishment increased from year to year, until at last it became the largest and most complete in the North of Scotland. Mr. Culbard had not only a very extensive home business, but exported to London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow. The trade was a successful one. He died in 1860, and was succeeded by his son, Mr. William Culbard, now Provost of the burgh, who, having acquired great practical skill in the business, by seeing the best works in this country, and also travelling on the Continent, has now put the works into the most improved state, having steam engines and every necessary requirement in machinery for dressing and finishing leather in a way adapted for the best

markets. He has a large business both at home and with the principal towns in England and Scotland. Mr. Culbard employs from forty to fifty men and boys in his business. It is a scene of extreme activity, and all the departments of the work, from the tanning to the last finishing, is carried on with the greatest nicety. There is also an extensive trade in wool. The wool loft, which extends over the whole range of the building, with drying accommodation, is on a floor of somewhere about 700 superficial yards. The tanning business has much changed within the last thirty years. Up to the year 1850, there was not a sufficient number of beasts slaughtered in the northern counties to supply hides for the local consumption. In the early part of the present century it was customary to secure the hides for fixed periods, by giving premiums to the butchers, in addition to the current price. There were then numerous small tanneries in the North of Scotland, and the hides were manufactured into leather suitable for the coarser varieties of boots and shoes and common harness, and principally sold and used in the country. Up to the year 1830, when the duty on leather was abolished, considerable quantities were tanned by country people in peat mosses, which seldom came under the notice of the Excise.

The late Mr. James Culbard used to import Russian and Danish hides, and he was the first in the North to avail himself of steam power and hydraulic presses in the manufacture of leather. In former times our farmers almost exclusively reared cattle to be sent as lean stock to the South, to be there fattened for the butcher. When steam communication by sea was opened up, they immediately abandoned this practice, and fed them at home, sending them alive to London and other markets, and, on the railway system being completed, it was found cheaper to send them as dead meat, and, consequently, the number of animals slaughtered in the country is annually increasing. During the winter months there are from 2000 to 3000 oxen per week slaughtered in the counties of Aberdeen and Banff, and a proportional number in the counties of Elgin, Nairn, Inverness, and Ross. The number of sheep reared, fed, and killed in these counties has also increased to a surprising extent. Instead of import-

ing hides, we have now a large number for export; and, as the shoemaking trade has of late years gone into the hands of large manufacturers, the great proportion of the leather made here is now sold in Glasgow, London, Liverpool, and Manchester. As the object of the farmers is to get as large a quantity of beef into the market as soon as possible, all our shorthorned crosses are killed fat, before they reach two years of age, Aberdeenshire polled and west Highlanders at three; and the skill and attention that have been applied to effect this change, has resulted in constantly deteriorating the quality of the hides, making them almost as thin as the skin of a thorough-bred horse, and the principal difficulty is now in making them into anything that will command a ready sale. A very great variety of leather, suitable for every purpose in the trade, is constantly for sale at the Elgin Tan Works, which are the largest, indeed the only important ones, to the north of Dundee.*

A wonderful change has occurred in the burgh in warehouses and shops. Forty years ago the shops were generally small in size, low in the ceiling, and very confined. The windows were of very narrow dimensions, and not adapted for showing the goods; and the merchants, many of whom were most worthy, industrious men, were not pushing, but allowed matters to go on much in the way of the routine of a quiet regular life. They were not expensive in their habits, and what profits they had were carefully preserved. Perhaps, in their comparatively quiet and unobtrusive way, they were happier than their successors of the present day. It was not thought that the introduction of railways would have tended to advance the mercantile interests of Elgin. It was rather anticipated that, with the facilities of speedy transit, families would import their goods direct from the large towns, and that the small towns would fall away. So far as the burgh of Elgin is concerned, this anticipation has not been realised. On the contrary, new and greatly extended shops have been built of the most improved description, with plate-glass windows for showing off the goods. The merchants have adapted themselves to

* I am obliged to Provost Culbard for notes upon the progress of the tanning business, from which I have extracted the above.

the times, and a new generation has sprung up of the most active and enterprising habits, whose mode of transacting business would astonish the quiet burghers of the last age. With increased facilities of transit and accommodation, the business of the town is perhaps doubled, or even tripled, within the last forty years. The shops of the clothiers, grocers, ironmongers, drapers, and others, for extent and variety of goods, cannot be excelled in any town in the North of Scotland. One new department of business, perhaps unique in the North, has been introduced in the burgh within the last few years—that of Messrs. L. & G. Mackintosh—in pattern designs in tweed and plaid cloths. This requires the exercise of great skill and taste. The variety of cloths, in all shades of colour, in their warehouse is very wonderful; and, as this new trade promises to be both extensive and prosperous, it is hoped their ingenuity and perseverance, in a new branch of industry, may meet with a well-merited reward.

BANKS AND BANKING.

Courtney's
Essay on
Banking.

Banking of a certain kind appears to have existed at a very early age of the world's history, and to have reached a high state of development in Greece and Rome. During the wars and troubles which eventually befel these countries, it was like other arts entirely lost; but it re-appeared in Italy with the revival of civilisation. The Bank of Venice is said to have been the first in date in modern Europe, and to have existed as early as the middle of the twelfth century; but it seems to have been used principally for the purposes of the Government, and did not carry on its business as a regular bank for some centuries later. The origin of modern banking may therefore be traced to the money dealers of Florence, who were in high repute as receivers on deposit and lenders of money in the fourteenth century, and banking was practised there even before that period. The business of banking was not introduced into England till the seventeenth century, when it began to be undertaken by goldsmiths in London, who are said to have borrowed it

from Holland. The banking houses of Messrs. Child & Co. of Temple Bar, and Messrs. Hoare & Co. in Fleet Street, still survive as the only private banks now in existence in London, which were established previous to the incorporation of the Bank of England.

The Bank of England was founded in 1694. Its principal projector was William Paterson, a Scotchman of great abilities, who was afterwards deeply concerned in the unfortunate Darien enterprise, and who deserved a better fate than what befel him. King William III. and his Government being much distressed for want of money, partly from the abuses of taxation, and partly from the difficulty of borrowing because of the supposed instability of the Revolutionary establishment, the Bank grew out of a loan of £1,200,000 for the public service. It was incorporated on 27th July, 1694, under the title of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, and the management was committed to a Governor and twenty-four Directors.

The Bank of Scotland was projected by Mr. John Holland, merchant in London, and was established by an Act of the Scotch Parliament in 1695, by the name of the Governor and Company of the Bank of Scotland. Its original capital was £1,200,000 Scots money, or £100,000 sterling; divided in shares of £1000 Scots, or £83 6s. 8d. sterling each. It is the only Scotch bank established by Act of Parliament, and began to create branches in 1696, and issued notes for one pound in 1704. At an early period it received deposits on interest, certainly as far back as 1729. It is therefore entitled to the credit of having introduced, and set on foot, the distinctive principles of the Scotch banking system, which, with some defects, is perhaps superior to most others. The Bank of Scotland has been on the whole cautiously and skilfully managed, and has been productive of much advantage to the country. The Royal Bank of Scotland was established in 1727; the original capital was £151,000 sterling.

The British Linen Company was incorporated in 1746, for the purpose of undertaking the manufacture of linen, but the views in which it originated were soon abandoned, and it became a banking company only. No other large

bank was established in Edinburgh until the year 1810, when the Commercial Bank of Scotland was formed.

Kennedy's
Annals of
Aberdeen, vol.
II., pages 195
and 196.

An attempt was made to establish a bank in Aberdeen as early as the year 1752, but not being attended with success was relinquished, and the Thistle Bank of Glasgow introduced a branch in its place, which, after a trial, did not give satisfaction to many of the merchants and inhabitants; and, in 1766, it was resolved to institute a bank in the city upon a liberal and extensive plan. A sum of £72,000 sterling was accordingly subscribed, in shares of £500 each, as a capital stock, to be applied for the purposes of the undertaking, and on the 1st January, 1767, the Bank was opened in Castle Street under the name of the Banking Company in Aberdeen. After some disagreeable differences with the Thistle Bank, the branch of that establishment was eventually withdrawn, and the Bank had the whole field to itself up to the year 1780. It had a very prosperous career, and the shares rapidly increased in value. A branch of the Bank of Scotland was established in Aberdeen in the year 1780, and a new bank in 1788, under the name of the Commercial Banking Company. This Bank was confined to a few partners engaged in commerce and manufactures, was very beneficial to the public, and greatly tended to facilitate trade and the execution of many public works. After a successful career, it was wound up about forty years ago, and a large profit divided among its shareholders, who were very few in number. It was quite a local concern, and never had any branches. The Aberdeen Bank, its predecessor, having met with many reverses in business, and lost a large portion of its capital, amalgamated with the Union Bank of Scotland at a somewhat later date.

A branch of the Bank of Scotland is stated to have been established in Inverness about the year 1770, and one of the British Linen Company shortly thereafter. The Bank of Scotland also had a branch in Forres about or shortly after this date, which, it is said, was principally founded for the convenience of Government, to supply money for paying the troops at Fort-George. It no doubt was also a great convenience to the district around. The Bank Agents of those days were, however, very much limited in their

powers, and could do little for the accommodation of the public without consulting the parent establishment; money being scarce, they were very chary of making advances.

It is difficult in the present day to understand the book-keeping of the merchants in Scotland of former ages. The oldest work we have on the subject is "The Ledger of Andrew Halyburton, conservator of the privileges of the Scotch nation in the Netherlands from 1492 to 1503." It is very curious; but how such a book could have been balanced or put into any regular form of mercantile business, one can scarcely explain. It is also impossible to understand how, without banks or other modes of transmitting money, the balances of accounts could have been settled and adjusted. It is certain that most of the business both at home and abroad was carried on by a system of barter, and that little money passed between parties. Rents were paid in grain, customs, and services. The proprietors had large quantities of meal and grain in their granaries and girnels. What they did not require for family purposes they shipped generally abroad. Holland received much malt and barley, and in return they received wine, spirits, clothing, and ironmongery goods, which balanced the accounts.

William Duff of Muirton, Provost of Inverness, and his nephew, William Duff of Dipple, who spent the last twenty years of his life in Elgin, were both private bankers and money dealers. They had much of the ready money of the North of Scotland in the beginning of last century, at a time when it was particularly scarce, and both of them made large advances, principally upon land mortgages, but no doubt also upon good bills. I am not aware that they had any successors in their peculiar mode of business. The late Provost Brown, in and before the year 1780, was in the habit of procuring money from the Aberdeen Bank, and making advances to parties in the town of Elgin, and through the country, on approved bills, acting in some respects as agent for the Bank.

About the year 1783, a regular agency of the Aberdeen Bank was started in Elgin under the care of Thomas Stephen, Provost of Elgin, which was followed by a branch of the Bank of Scotland, of which Mr. John Forsyth was

appointed agent. The branch of the Aberdeen Bank, now called the Union Bank of Scotland, continues up to the present time, but the branch of the Bank of Scotland, not having been found profitable, was withdrawn about the year 1807. The branches of the same Bank at Forres and Banff are said to have been removed much about the same time. On removal of the Bank of Scotland branch from Elgin, the British Linen Company established an agency, which was a very successful one, and really did the greater part of the business of the east end of the County of Elgin for nearly twenty years, the Aberdeen Bank not pushing its business. In 1826, the Commercial Bank of Scotland commenced a branch ; and in 1836, the North of Scotland Bank. These have since been followed in rapid succession by agencies of the Caledonian Bank, the Royal Bank of Scotland, the City of Glasgow Bank, and, lastly, the Bank of Scotland has resumed its business. We have now, therefore, eight bank branches in the burgh, all set up within a period of ninety-two years, and, if one may judge from the handsome edifices erected, and the activity displayed, the agents are all doing a considerable stroke of business. Nothing can more mark the progress of a country than the increase of banking business ; and it is really wonderful what has been done in that respect within the memory of persons still living. Scotland owes much of its prosperity in trade, manufactures, agriculture, shipping, and railways, to the advances made by banks ; and, in return, the banks themselves have benefited by their own liberality, their increase of capital and profits in business being yearly advancing.

Within my own recollection, there were only two bank branches in Elgin, and one in Forres, none other in this county ; now we have eight branches in Elgin, four in Forres, two in Fochabers, two in Rothes, three in Grantown, one in Lossiemouth, and one in Burghead. Within the same period of my recollection, there was not a branch bank in the county of Nairn, only two in the county of Ross, and none in Cromarty or in Sutherland. The progress of the country within half-a-century is indeed wonderful. The present banks in Scotland have a monopoly of the business, and work as a combined body, but they are very liberal in

their dealings with the public ; and no person having the least claim to get credit will want it on fair terms. It is not probable that we will have any change in the system of Scotch banking for many years, unless the requirements of the country should be very much extended, of which at present there is little prospect.

SHERIFFS AND SHERIFF COURTS.

It is probable that the ancient Maormars, or Princes of Moray, held some kind of rude jurisdiction in their time, administered justice and punished crimes ; but we have not the least trace of it from any record. The power of the Crown was very feeble in the North of Scotland for many ages. The rulers of Moray were very powerful and turbulent, and their constant rebellions threatened the Royal authority itself, and were only put down by the exercise of the most severe measures. The institution of sheriffships seems to have been introduced as early as the reign of Alexander I. ; and in the large Province of Moray, extending from the mouth of the Spey to the borders of Argyle, three Sheriffdoms were created, viz., Elgin, Nairn, and Inverness. The boundaries of these Sheriffdoms, the right of appointment to office, and the duties to be performed, were not defined until a much later period ; and it would seem that within the larger Sheriffdoms there were Sub-Sheriffs, appointed either by the Crown or the great barons.

We find that Alexander Douglas was Sheriff of Elgin in the year 1226, and that Thomas Wiseman was Sheriff in 1248 ; but what was the extent of their jurisdiction is not stated.* It is very probable that Reginald Cheyne of Duffus held the office of principal Sheriff of Elgin in the end of the same century, more particularly during the time of the English occupation, he being in much favour with Edward I. By the great charter of King Robert Bruce to his nephew, Thomas Randolph, which, although without

Tytler's History,
vol. II., pages
204, 205.

Skene de
Verborum
Significatione,
Edition 1599.

Bell's Digest.

Registrum
Moraviense,
pages 23, 114.

Registrum
Moraviense,
pp. 342, 343, 344.

* In a charter by Eva de Murthac Domina de Rothas, in favour of Archibald Bishop of Moray of the lands of Inverlochty, dated the 3d of the ides of April, 1260, Gilbert de Roule, Knight, Sheriff, is one of the witnesses, but his Sheriffdom is not named.

Registrum
Moraviense,
page 138.

Douglas' Peerage, Wood's Edition, vol. II., page 250.

date, is supposed to have been executed in the year 1312, he grants him all the king's lands in Moray, extending from the mouth of the Spey to the borders of Argyle and Ross, with feudal superiority over the burghs of Elgin, Forres, and Inverness, in free earldom and free regality, with power of judging in all cases like as the king or his ministers could do themselves. These plenary powers, almost Royal, would seem to infer that the Earls of Moray should have the power of administering justice, and acting as the king's Sheriffs within these bounds. Indeed, the creation of a Regality gave equal powers to those held by the king's Justice-General. We may therefore assume that the successive Earls of Moray, through the Randolph, Dunbar, and Douglas lines, were Hereditary Sheriffs of Moray, and either acted themselves as such, or appointed their deputies, up to the forfeiture of Archibald Douglas in the year 1455.* Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield, only son of James, fifth Earl of Moray of the name of Dunbar, by his wife Isabella Innes, daughter of Sir Walter Innes of that Ilk, was unjustly deprived of the earldom, on the ground that his father and mother, being second cousins, were within the forbidden degrees, and, having married without a dispensation from the Pope, the marriage was unlawful. He, however, got a large estate, and is said to have been created Hereditary Sheriff of Moray. It has been doubted whether Sir Alexander was himself ever Sheriff. It is quite clear, however, that his son Sir James Dunbar, who succeeded him in his estates, was Sheriff. This fact is expressly stated in a precept of gift to James of Dunbar, recorded in volume I., folio 31, of the Register of the Privy Seal in Her Majesty's Register House, Edinburgh, dated 26th May, 1498.

Douglas' Peerage, vol. II., page 253.

Douglas' Baronage, p.119.

The Sheriffdom continued from this time in the family of Dunbar of Westfield, up to the year 1724, when it was sold by Ludovick Dunbar, the then proprietor of the estate, and Hereditary Sheriff, to Charles Earl of Moray. The price paid, I have found, was £2000 sterling. The sale, by some members of the family, was held to be illegal and incompetent, but it

Registrum Moraviense, page 475.

* In a writ upon the lands of Kirdels, granted by John Bishop of Ross and others, in favour of William the Graham, dated 16th August, 1420, Walter of Douglas is stated to be Sheriff of Elgin. He probably was Deputy of Thomas Earl of Moray.

does not seem to have been seriously challenged;* and Charles Earl of Moray, who died in 1735; Francis, his brother and successor, who died in 1739; and James, the next Earl, who died in 1767, all acted as Hereditary Sheriffs in succession, and appointed deputies to act for them.

By the Act of the 20th George II., cap. 43, the Heritable Jurisdictions were all abolished. The Earl of Moray claimed £8000 for the value of the Sheriffship, but he was only allowed £3000 of compensation. The powers of the Hereditary Sheriffs were, in their palmyest days, much weakened by the jurisdictions of the different Regalities within their bounds—viz., the Regality of Spynie, which extended over nine baronies, and those of Kinloss, Pluscarden, Grant, Huntly, Grangehill, and others. The Lords of Regality could repledge or withdraw any person residing within their bounds, from trial before another court, for whatever crime he might be there indicted, except in the case of treason against the sovereign. They had the power of life and death, and were within their own territories quite arbitrary. The power of Regality was executed by a Bailie, whose civil jurisdiction was in all respects equal to the Sheriff, but his criminal powers were greater. The Bailie of Regality could judge in the four pleas of the Crown, whereas the Sheriff was competent to none of them but murder. These dangerous legal powers had for ages been felt to be a serious drawback to the administration of justice, and there were constant discussions occurring between the Sheriffs and the Bailies of Regality regarding their respective powers. By the above quoted statute, the Regalities, as well as the Hereditary Sheriffdoms, were all properly abolished.

It was usual for the Dunbars of Westfield to appoint Deputy-Sheriffs to act for them, in the discharge of the duties of the office, when they could not act competently themselves, and they were generally of their own name and kindred. Thus, in the year 1592, Patrick Dunbar of Boghall, uncle and tutor to his nephew, Sir Alexander Dunbar of Cumnock and Westfield, acted also as Sheriff in his room;

* I find the Rev. Thomas Dunbar, D.D., Vicar of Kilreden, in Essex, the heir-male of the Westfield family, did adopt some legal steps to prevent the sale of the Sheriffship, but they were found incompetent.

and, being on a visit to the Earl of Moray at Donibristle that year, had the misfortune to be killed, along with the Earl, on that disastrous occasion. In 1674, Patrick Dunbar of Belnaferry was acting Sheriff. Alexander Dunbar of Bishopmill, and Archibald Dunbar of Thunderton, appear to have been the last acting Sheriffs of Moray of the name of Dunbar. The former seems to have been Deputy for James and Robert Dunbar of Westfield, the Hereditary Sheriffs, from about 1702 to 1720, and the latter from that date,* up to the period of the sale to the Earl of Moray in 1724.

On the purchase of the Sheriffdom by the Earl of Moray, he appointed Robert Urquhart of Burdsyards to be his deputy,†

* That Archibald Dunbar of Thunderton was acting Sheriff in 1723, appears from letters of inhibition raised and executed against Ludovick Dunbar of Westfield, and him, for preventing the sale of the Sheriffship, registered 10th July, 1723.

† The family of Urquhart of Burdsyards occupied a very respectable position as proprietors in Morayshire, for many generations. Sir Robert Douglas intended to publish an account of them in the second volume of the Baronage of Scotland, but which, unfortunately, owing to his death, never passed through the press. I have therefore been only able to gather a few scattered gleanings about them. They were a branch of the ancient family of Cromarty. The first of them I find any account of was Thomas Urquhart, second son of John Urquhart of Cromarty, by his wife, Agnes, daughter of Sir Alexander Ramsay, ancestor of the Earl of Dalhousie. He was appointed captain and keeper of the Castle of Tarnua (Darnaway), by charter from Thomas Earl of Moray, dated 1402. He purchased some parks and yards about the town of Forres, which acquired the name of the Burgh Yards, or, as anciently spelt, "Burdyards." In an indenture between William Thane of Calder and Hugh Rose, Baron of Kilravock, dated Forres, 21st June, 1482, Alexander Urquhart of Burdsyards is a witness. In 1565, Alexander Urquhart of Burdsyards, and Provost of Forres, was proprietor of the lands of Sheriffmill, near Elgin, probably as a vassal of the Bishop of Moray. About the year 1571, William, eldest son and apparent heir of Alexander Urquhart of Burdsyards, married Catherine, third daughter of Hugh Rose of Kilravock. On 19th November, 1599, "Thomas Urquhart de Burriszairdis, hæres Willielmi Urquhart de Burriszairdis patris," was served heir to his father "in terris de Burriszairdis, Half Hill Bank, Little Cruik, Meikill Cruik, et Wyismannis Aikers." This Thomas Urquhart seems to have married Margaret, daughter of Sir Robert Munro of Foulis, Baronet, by whom he had a daughter, Marjory, married to John Dunbar of Pankill, afterwards of Mochrum. John Urquhart succeeded his father, and about the middle of the seventeenth century, the family acquired the Barony of Sanquhar from the Dunbars, the former proprietors, and had thus a large estate. On the 27th February, 1675, "Thomas Urquhart de Burrisyards, hæres Joannis Urquhart de Burrisyards patris," was served heir to him "in terris "de Burrisyards, Half Hill Bank, Little Cruik, Meikle Cruik, et Wysmans Aikers, villa et terris "de Sanquhar, 4 sexdecem partibus piscationum aquæ dulcis de Findorne, cum pendiculo vocato "the Half-long Pool." The above Thomas Urquhart, much to the surprise of the world, having resolved to become a preacher of the gospel, was privately ordained, and received a presentation from the Bishop of Moray to the parish of Dallas, where he officiated as minister from about the year 1688 until 1706, about or shortly after which latter period he died. He was succeeded by his son Robert Urquhart, who, being bred to the law, was appointed Sheriff of the County of Elgin by the Earl of Moray, as above stated. He seems to have been an energetic, able person, and although he had a Substitute under him, gave great personal attention to the duties of his office. He was a leading man in the County for many years. He retired from the office of Sheriff in 1739, and perhaps did not long survive. He was succeeded in his estates by his son Duncan Urquhart, who married a daughter of Sir William Gordon of Park, by his wife Janet Duff, daughter of William Earl of Fife. He was a Colonel in the army, and kept up the character and respectability of the family. When Mr. Shaw published his History of Moray in 1775, he reports them as still in a flourishing condition; but the end was drawing near. Duncan Urquhart was succeeded by his son Robert, who was also an officer in the army, and moved in the best society. Having a good estate, he might have continued the respectable career of his fathers, but he adopted one of the most wasteful extravagance and dissipation, and in a very few years spent all his fortune. The estate was still in his possession in 1796, but at or previous to 1798, was sold to the late Mr. George Grant. There was probably little or no reversion, and the proprietor was soon reduced to beggary. A recent

Douglas' Baronage, p.161.

Shaw, page 113.

Registrum, page 436.

Douglas', p. 455.

Abbreviatio Retornatarum.

Douglas' Baronage, p.117.

Abbreviatio Retornatarum.

Shaw's History, page 387.

Shaw's History, page 113.

Old Statistical Account, vol. XVII., page 448.

Survey of Moray, p. 157.

but he seems not to have acted regularly until 1732. Mr. Urquhart continued in office until 1739. His last Court was held on 5th October that year. The Earl of Moray presided at the Michaelmas Head Court of the year 1740, and the regular Sheriff's work of the year 1740 and part of 1741 was done by various persons. On 1st April, 1741, William King of Newmill* was appointed Sheriff by the Earl of Moray, and held his first Court on the 17th of that month. Mr. King continued until 1748, when the Heritable Jurisdictions were abolished. He had very arduous duties to perform during the Rebellion in the years 1745 and 1746, particularly in the spring of the latter year, when the rebel troops were for several months in possession of the country, and after the Battle of Culloden, when the Duke of Cumberland's forces were harrying and burning all who had opposed the Government. He executed the work of the Sheriff with great prudence in difficult times. He retired from office with the Earl of Moray, his patron.

The first Sheriff appointed by the Crown, after the abolition of the Heritable Jurisdictions, was John Grant—probably the same person who was afterwards Baron of Exchequer. He held office from 1748 to 1754. James Brodie of Spynie succeeded, and acted from 1754 to 1756, when he died. Until the vacancy was filled up, Mr. John Grant, who had previously acted, held the interim appointment. Alexander Gordon of Whiteley, advocate, was appointed in 1757, and held office until 1783. He lived much in Elgin, and seems to have made himself very agreeable to all classes. He was a person of humour and conviviality, as well as of good talents, and was long remembered for his pleasant manners. His salary was £150 per annum, out of which he had to pay his Substitute; but the salary, though small to modern ideas, was considerable

writer makes the following observations :—"Not very long ago, indeed within the memory, perhaps, of some still alive, Urquhart, laird of Burdsyards, a scion of the famous family of Urquhart of Cromarty, after passing many years as an officer in a distinguished regiment, and mixing in the first society of London and Edinburgh, was necessitated by his extravagance to sell his estate, sank step by step to the lowest depth of misery, and came at last a wandering beggar to his own door, or rather to that door which had once been his own."

Burke's
Vicissitudes of
Families, vol.
I., page 6.

* William King of Newmill was at this time the head of a much respected Elgin family, to which I have several times alluded before, and I shall hereafter give a more special account of their generations.

a century ago, and perhaps equal in value to three times that amount in our day. Mr. Gordon died on the 10th August, 1783. Sir George Abercromby, Baronet of Birkenbog, was appointed Sheriff, 15th October, 1783, and held office for forty-eight years. He had at first the same salary as his predecessor, but it was eventually raised to £300 per annum. Sir George was a person of sagacity and prudence, and greatly respected. He died 18th July, 1831. John Cuninghame, advocate, succeeded; held office for four years; became Solicitor-General for Scotland in 1835; and shortly thereafter was raised to the Bench of the Supreme Court. Graham Speirs, advocate, was installed 2d June, 1835—an able lawyer and most dignified judge. He resigned office on 16th June, 1840, having been then appointed Sheriff of the County of Edinburgh. Cosmo Innes, advocate, was appointed in his place in June, 1840, and held the Sheriffship until 2d June, 1852, when he was promoted to be one of the Principal Clerks of Session. Mr. Innes was eminent as an antiquarian and historical writer, as I have detailed before in the short account of his life and writings, and was much attached to this county, from the long connection his ancestors had with it. Benjamin Robert Bell succeeded in 1852, and has been in office for a period of twenty-five years. In his time the County of Banff has been annexed to the Sheriffdom, which has added much to the duties of the situation, and makes them infinitely more laborious. The salary has been increased in proportion—it being now raised to £700 per annum.

The Sheriff-Substitutes who have acted during the last 150 years have been numerous, particularly in the earlier part of the period, and their terms of office rather undefined. John Robertson, merchant, acted from 1727 to 1738. During this period of office James Chalmers, writer, and Alexander Smith, writer, were successively joint Substitutes. Robert Duff, merchant, acted from 1740 to 1742; George Wilson, junior, merchant, from 1742 to 1749; James Stephen, merchant, from 1749 to 1751; Robert Anderson,*

* Robert Anderson was of the family of Linkwood, who had been continuously connected with the legal profession in Elgin for about a century. He married successively, first, a daughter of Alexander Mackintosh of Blervie, and, second, a daughter of James Anderson of Linkwood. He had by these marriages a son, William Anderson, physician in Edinburgh; a son, Captain Robert Anderson; a daughter, Margaret, married to Alexander Milne of Chapelton; a daughter, Barbara, married to James Thurburn, at Drum, Keith.

writer, from 1755 to 1766. During his time the following persons acted as joint Substitutes:—John Proctor,* writer; John Gordon, writer; and William Burnett, writer. Mr. Anderson died in 1766, from which time John Gordon and William Burnett acted as Substitutes up to 1776, and Mr. Burnett alone from that time till 1781, when he died. Alexander Chalmers, writer, succeeded, and held office until 15th June, 1783, when he retired, perhaps in consequence of the death of Mr. Gordon of Whiteley, the principal Sheriff. George Fenton, writer in Elgin, was appointed Substitute by Sir George Abercromby on 15th October, 1783, and held office for nearly forty-five years, having retired 24th January, 1828. Dr. James Coull of Ashgrove acted as joint Substitute from 1807 to 1821. Patrick Cameron, writer, was appointed Substitute on 31st December, 1827, and retired 17th September, 1862, at which latter date Donald Macleod Smith, advocate, Edinburgh, was appointed his successor, and is the present holder of that important office. The salary of the Sheriff-Substitute was, during last century, merely a nominal one, and even when Mr. George Fenton was appointed to the office in 1783, it was only £30 per annum. It has been successively raised, and now reaches £550, which is still quite insufficient.

SHERIFF-CLERKS.

The office of Sheriff-Clerk is a very ancient one, and may be coeval with the Sheriffship itself; but it is impossible to trace the parties who have held it very far back. The first name I find is

JOHN CHALMERS, who was Sheriff-Clerk in 1648, and held office until 1655.

ALEXANDER DUNBAR succeeded, and continued to 1665. He seems to have been the same person who was Commissary-Clerk.

* John Proctor, above-mentioned, was father of Patrick Proctor, and grandfather of William Proctor, successively factors to the Earl of Strathmore. A daughter was married to John Nicoll, merchant, Lossiemouth, the father of the late eminent Dr. Francis Nicoll, Principal of the University of St. Andrew's.

JOHN CHALMERS held office from 1665 until 1675. He was perhaps a son of the former John Chalmers, and is evidently the same person who was Town-Clerk of the burgh.

ALEXANDER GRANT was Sheriff-Clerk from 1675 to 1685.

ANDREW MUNRO succeeded, and held office from 1685 to 1703.

JAMES FRASER, who had previously been in Mr. Munro's employment, was appointed in 1703. He was Sheriff-Clerk in 1724. He was the same person who was conjunct Clerk of the burgh from 1714 to 1717, and who was deprived by the Magistrates for joining the Rebellion of 1715. He resigned office as Sheriff-Clerk on 23d October, 1756.

PATRICK DUFF, Writer to the Signet, was appointed in his place, but he seems to have been non-resident. His brother, Archibald Duff, who had been a writer in Banff, settled in Elgin, and became his Deputy. They were sons of John Duff, Provost of Elgin. Their father, Provost Duff, was second son of Patrick Duff of Craigston. Patrick Duff, the Sheriff-Clerk, was of expensive habits, and, having got into difficulties, he left the country and settled in North America.

Baird's Memoirs
of the Duffs,
pp. 98, 99, 100.

His brother, ARCHIBALD DUFF, succeeded him as principal Sheriff-Clerk in 1761, and died on 13th June, 1793. He married his cousin, Jane Stewart, daughter of Francis Stewart of Lesmurdie, by whom he had one son, who predeceased him. He resided at Bilbohall. Mr. Archibald Duff was a person of standing and repute in his time, of considerable ability, of social habits, and possessed of much humour and pleasing manners. He was long remembered for these qualities.

WILLIAM ROSE of Belivat, who had been previously assisting Mr. Archibald Duff, was appointed his successor in 1793, and held office until June, 1802, when he resigned.

PATRICK ROSE, his son, succeeded, and continued until 24th November, 1804, when he also resigned. He afterwards became Sheriff-Clerk of the County of Banff, which office he held for many years up to the time of his death.

PATRICK DUFF, writer in Elgin, obtained the Sheriff-Clerkship on 22d July, 1805, and died in 1821. In 1809, an action was raised against him and his deputy, Robert Bain, by Patrick Sellar and James Thomson, writers in Elgin, to restrain them from acting as Procurators before the Sheriff Court of Elgin, being at same time Clerks of Court, in which action the Court of Session found that it was illegal so to act, and they, as Sheriff-Clerks, were prevented from acting as Procurators of Court in time coming.

ARTHUR DUFF, son of Patrick Duff, the late Clerk, was appointed successor to his father. He seems to have received the appointment previous to his father's death, but did not enter on his duties until 3d September, 1821. He died on 9th July, 1860.

GEORGE LESLIE, writer in Elgin, succeeded. He received his commission on 8th August, 1860, and died 30th August, 1871.

JAMES JAMESON, solicitor in Elgin, was appointed successor on 25th October, 1871, and is the present principal Sheriff-Clerk.

The Deputy Sheriff-Clerks during the last century and

a-half have been very numerous. I do not propose to give any list of them, but I may mention that the present Deputy, James David Murdoch, has acted for the three last Sheriff-Clerks, and was interim Sheriff-Clerk after the deaths of Arthur Duff and George Leslie; and his long experience, prudence, and courtesy of conduct, during a period of a quarter of a century in which he has held office, have given him the confidence of his employers and of the Sheriffs, practitioners of Court, and the general public.

THE COMMISSARY COURT.

The Commissaries were, in ancient times, the delegates of the Bishops and clergy for judging in those questions which fell within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction. By the Acts 1560 and 1567, cap. 2, all jurisdiction dependent on Papal authority was abolished. But the Commissary Court of Edinburgh, consisting of four Commissaries, was erected by Queen Mary, under a grant dated 8th February, 1563. It had a universal jurisdiction, by which it confirmed the testaments of all who died in foreign countries, or who died in Scotland without a fixed domicile, and reviewed the decrees of Inferior Commissaries. It had jurisdiction in declarators of marriage, actions of adherence and divorce, executions of testaments and declarators of bastardy, and a cumulative jurisdiction in actions of aliment against husbands, and of slander and defamation, sealing repositories, authenticating tutorial and curatorial inventories, &c. By the Act 49 George III., cap. 42, sec. 2, the registration of probative writs, and of protests on bills, was taken from the Commissaries. The number of Inferior Commissaries was formerly twenty-three; but, by the Act 4 George IV., cap. 97, they were all abolished, and their jurisdiction vested in the Sheriffs.

The Commissariat of Moray was a very extensive one. It embraced the Counties of Elgin and Nairn, great part of Inverness, and part of Banff and Aberdeen, its bounds being the same as the old Bishoprick. So long as Episcopacy continued, it was an Ecclesiastical Court, subject to the Bishop, and the Commissary acted under his authority.

The Commissary Records of Moray are not in good order. Many volumes of the older part are mislaid or lost, and some of a later date have been removed to the Register House in Edinburgh for preservation. Of the persons who acted as Judges of the Commissary Court of Moray, I am only able to give a few names. The records commence in 1680.

DAVID STEWART of Newton was Commissary in 1664 and 1680, and continued until 1698 or 1699. In these latter years Thomas Tulloch, younger of Tannachy, was associated with him as joint Commissary. Mr. Stewart was a person of considerable standing in his time. He was Commissioner to the Earl of Moray, and related to that noble family. He erected, as a residence for himself, in the year 1688, the large house near the Elgin Cathedral, afterwards called Dunkinty House. It stood in the garden of Grant Lodge, and will be remembered by many yet alive, having been removed not many years ago.

THOMAS TULLOCH was Commissary from 1705 to 1715.

There is a blank in the Commissary Records from 1715 to 1735. At the latter date,

ALEXANDER ROSS, Writer to the Signet, was acting as Commissary, and continued in office until March, 1753.

THOMAS BRODIE, Writer to the Signet, was Commissary from 1st August, 1753, to 6th September, 1762.

LACHLAN GRANT, writer, was Commissary from 1770 to 1775, when he died.

LUDOVICK GRANT, junior, writer in Edinburgh, acted from 7th November, 1775, to 2d February, 1791.

JOHN GRANT, writer, Edinburgh, from 1791 to 1811.

GEORGE FENTON was Interim Commissary from 1811 to 1819.

JAMES COULL of Ashgrove was appointed Commissary for life in 1819, and presented his commission on 5th May that year. He continued until December, 1823, when the office was abolished, and vested in the Sheriffs, who have successively acted as Commissaries ever since.

The office of Commissary-Clerk, extending over so wide a district as the Diocese of Moray, was a very lucrative one—the cases of all kinds falling under the cognisance of the judge being very numerous, up to the time particularly when its separate jurisdiction was abolished.

ALEXANDER DUNBAR was Commissary-Clerk in 1663 and 1664, and probably continued until 1680. He was succeeded by

ROBERT ANDERSON, a prominent person in the affairs of the burgh. He resigned the office of Commissary-Clerk in 1703, but lived until 1715.

JAMES ANDERSON, son of Robert Anderson, was appointed in room of his father. He died in 1731, and was Provost of the burgh at or about the time of his death.

WILLIAM ANDERSON, son of the last-mentioned Clerk, succeeded his father. He died 13th June, 1745, at a very early age, but had been Provost of the burgh from 1740 to 1743.

JAMES CRAIG, jun., writer, held the office for a short time.

ROBERT ANDERSON, cousin of William Anderson, was appointed his successor, and died in December, 1766. He held also the office of Sheriff-Substitute from 1755 to the time of his death.

WILLIAM DUNBAR, writer, was Commissary-Clerk in 1767. He is probably the same person who was afterwards Town-Clerk of Forres.

ALEXANDER CHALMERS, writer, was Commissary-Clerk-Depute in 1781, and principal Clerk in 1784. He died about 1796.

WILLIAM ROSE of Belivat was Commissary-Clerk in 1796, and he and his son, Patrick Rose, held the office until 1804.

PATRICK DUFF, writer, held office from 1805 until 1821, when he died.

PATRICK DUFF, son of the above, was Commissary-Clerk from his father's death in 1821 to the period of his own death, 2d April, 1861.

JAMES GRANT, writer in Elgin, succeeded, and held the office until 23d May, 1872, when he died. It was then conjoined with the Sheriff-Clerkship.

JAMES JAMESON, Sheriff-Clerk, was also appointed Commissary-Clerk on 15th August, 1872, and now discharges the duties of both offices.

PROCURATORS-FISCAL.

The office of Procurator-Fiscal is supposed to be of great antiquity, and may be coeval with that of Sheriff, for the Fiscal is a necessary adjunct to the Sheriff, in the discharge of the important duty of prosecuting for crimes. The creation of this office shows the sagacity of our ancestors, for in England, although the necessity of a public prosecutor is felt, they are only still groping at it. I have not discovered the Procurators-Fiscal of this County very far back, but I give a list of them as far as the records show—

PATRICK DUFF, writer, was Procurator-Fiscal perhaps as early as the middle of the last century, and up to the year 1787.

THOMAS SELLAR, writer, from 29th March, 1787, to 9th September, 1806, when he resigned.

PATRICK SELLAR, son of Thomas Sellar, from 9th September, 1806, to 23d July, 1810, when he resigned.

JAMES RITCHIE, from 1810 to 1812.

JAMES THOMSON, from 22d July, 1812, to 22d February, 1826, when he resigned.

PATRICK CAMERON, from 21st December, 1826, to 24th January, 1828.

ALEXANDER BROWN, from 25th January, 1828, to 6th December, 1852. He died shortly after.

WILLIAM GRIGOR, from 8th February, 1853, to 8th September, 1872, when he died.

ALEXANDER GRIGOR ALLAN, solicitor, who had been acting with Mr. William Grigor from 18th December, 1866, is the present Procurator-Fiscal of the County of Elgin.

LAW AGENTS.

Previous to the Reformation in 1560, the most of the law business of Scotland was conducted by Churchmen and ecclesiastical notaries. Of these latter there were generally several connected with every Episcopal Court, who prepared all the charters and instruments. As the names of the writers were not in these days attached to the writs, it is impossible to know the parties who framed them. But few laymen were competent to the task, and the Churchmen kept all legal knowledge in their own hands. In looking over the Chartulary of Moray, I find very few of the names of Church notaries mentioned. In an instrument on lands in the parish of Rhynie, dated 20th May, 1464, "Andreas de Fores, Presbyter, Moraviensis Diocesios, et Notarius," acts as notary. In an instrument on the marches of Croy and Kildrummy, dated 2d May, 1492, "Donaldus Thome, Presbyter, Moraviensis Diocesios, et Notarius," is the notary; and, in a process about the davoch of Aberchirder, between Alexander Innes of that Ilk, and Alexander Symson, Vicar of Aberchirder, dated 31st May, 1511, the above Donaldus Thome is also the notary. After the Reformation, the law business fell into the hands of laymen. They were probably at first very poorly educated. Almost all our eminent early lawyers were trained in the French schools at Paris, which accounts for our laws being so much framed on the French model, and so different from those of England. In perusing these early charters and notarial instruments, it is wonderful to find how closely they resemble our own deeds, up to a period of thirty years ago. The old deeds have the advantage of greater brevity. The notarial long Latin docquet is almost verbatim the same as the docquet used by ourselves, up to the time of the recent statutory changes in conveyancing.

Registrum
Moraviense,
pages 232, 240,
253.

It is quite impossible to give a list of the Law Agents connected with Elgin from the period of the Reformation, as we have unfortunately kept no record of them. In some few Counties they have done so, and in this respect I would particularly mention Aberdeen, which has preserved a record of its Law Agents from the year 1400 downwards to the present time. I have, however, gathered a few of the names of the more prominent legal men of business connected with Elgin, and whom I propose here briefly to detail—

In the year 1580, I find a JOHN or JAMES GUTHRIE, a notary. He is probably the same person who was Commissioner from Elgin to the Convention of Royal Burghs, held at Edinburgh in October, 1587.

In 1603, JOHN ANNAND and GEORGE ANNAND were notaries and law agents. Very likely they were sons of John Annand of Morristown, Provost of Elgin, who held office in the year 1580, and were also connected with Alexander Annand, who was Commissioner from Elgin to the Conventions of Burghs in 1591, 1592, 1593, 1594, and 1597.

In 1606, I find THOMAS HAY, a notary-public and Town-Clerk.

In 1614, I find ALEXANDER GADDERAR, a notary-public in Elgin.

In 1628, WILLIAM YOUNG.

In 1648, ANDREW YOUNG. He seems to be the same person who represented the burgh in the Scots Parliament of 1665.

In 1655, JAMES PETRIE, notary-public.

In 1664, JAMES CHALMERS.

The same year, ALEXANDER DUNBAR, who was also Commissary-Clerk.

In 1683, JOHN CHALMERS.

About the same time, GEORGE CHALMERS. They were both Town-Clerks, either jointly or in succession.

In 1690, 1696, and 1700, ANDREW MUNRO was an agent in Elgin, and also Sheriff-Clerk.

JAMES WISEMAN, writer in Elgin, was born perhaps about the year 1655. He was a Bailie in 1687, and long continued in the Town Council. He had many public appointments and a large general business. He seems also to have been on intimate terms with many of the County gentlemen; for at least half-a-century he was greatly concerned with the public business of the burgh and county. He was very social in his habits, and a hard drinker—a necessary adjunct of those times. He lived to a good old age; for I find a very distinct letter addressed by him to Archibald Dunbar of Newton on 24th June, 1734, detailing some particulars of the Rebellion of 1715. He did not long survive, as he must have been then an old man.

JAMES FRASER was in the office of Andrew Munro, Sheriff-Clerk, in 1696. He was a person of considerable talents. In 1700, he was a writer in Elgin; and in November of that year he assisted the Procurator-Fiscal of Banffshire in conducting the trial of James Macpherson, Donald Brown, and Peter Brown, to which I have before referred, and which ended in their

Social Life in
Former Days,
First Series,
pp. 67 and 298.

conviction and in the execution of Macpherson. The arguments in this case are very elaborate, and show much legal knowledge. Mr. Fraser was afterwards Town-Clerk and Sheriff-Clerk, and resigned the latter office in 1756.

HUGH INNES was a writer in Elgin in 1690, and DAVID STEWART about the same time. The latter was Town-Clerk, and died about 1703.

ROBERT ANDERSON was born about the year 1640. His father lived at Barnuckity, and was a person of some standing. He himself was an apprentice to John Chalmers, Town-Clerk of Elgin. He was made a burghess of the burgh of Forres on 12th April, 1665, for some good service done there, and must have been then a young man. He married Janet Hepburn, daughter of Major James Hepburn of Tearie, who died in 1692. He was Town-Clerk and Commissary-Clerk, and was long a Magistrate and member of the Town Council of Elgin. He resigned his public offices in 1703, but lived until 1715.

Tomb in
Elgin Cathedral.

JAMES CRAIG was son of the Rev. Thomas Craig, minister of St. Andrew's. He was in business as a writer in Elgin shortly after the year 1700, and had fair success. He married Agnes King, daughter of William King of Newmill, Provost of Elgin, in 1708, and died about 1740.

JAMES ANDERSON, son of Robert Anderson, Town-Clerk, was born in 1680, and began business shortly after 1700. He was the most able legal practitioner of his time, being agent for many of the principal proprietors of the County. He succeeded his father as Town-Clerk and Commissary-Clerk in 1703, and seems to have occasionally acted as Sheriff-Substitute. He married, in 1706, Barbara King, daughter of William King of Newmill, Provost of Elgin. He purchased the estate of Linkwood in 1728. He was also Provost of the burgh for some years. He died in the height of his prosperity in the year 1731, at the comparatively early age of fifty-one.

ALEXANDER SMITH, a native of Elgin, was in business in the early part of last century. He became joint Town-Clerk in the year 1719, and held that office up to the year 1746, when he died. He is said to have been one of the most convivial men of his time, at a period when hard drinking was the fashion of the day among the upper and middle classes. Many anecdotes have been preserved of Mr. Smith's social habits, in which, perhaps, his legal brethren were not far behind. Whether "high jinks" were or were not practised by the members of the Elgin Bar, as among their more exalted brethren in Edinburgh (so graphically detailed by Sir Walter Scott in his novel of *Guy Mannering*), it is certain that conviviality was now and long after this date carried beyond all reasonable bounds; and it may have been about this period or shortly after, that, a proposal being made to drain the Loch of Spynie, Sir Robert Gordon of Gordonstown made the humorous remark that, if the Loch were filled with whisky and sugar, the Elgin writers would soon drain it.

HUGH CROMBIE was a contemporary of Mr. Smith. He was his predecessor in the Town-Clerkship, and died in 1719, perhaps at an early age.

I find also a GEORGE CUMMING, a writer in 1723, but of his history I know nothing.

WILLIAM ANDERSON, son of James Anderson, succeeded to his father's business in 1731, and became joint Town-Clerk and Commissary-Clerk. He was also proprietor of the estate of Linkwood. He had a large and flourishing business. He was Provost of the burgh from 1740 to 1743. He never married. He died on 13th June, 1745, at the early age of thirty-eight, and was much regretted.

ROBERT ANDERSON, son of Robert Anderson, merchant in Elgin, was born about the year 1710, was a nephew of James Anderson of Linkwood, and settled in Elgin as a writer in 1736 or thereby. He had a large and respectable business, became Commissary-Clerk of Moray, and acted as Sheriff-Substitute from 1755 to 1766, at which latter period he died.

WILLIAM BURNETT was a native of Elgin, and born in the early part of last century. He became joint Town-Clerk in 1745, which office he held up to 1774. He was also Sheriff-Substitute of the County for about twenty years, for some time jointly with others, and latterly alone. He died very suddenly, 24th February, 1781. He had a large business as a conveyancer and general agent, and was much respected in his time.

ALEXANDER CHALMERS, son of James Chalmers, Fochabers, of the family of Pittensear, was born in the early part of last century, was probably trained to business in Banffshire, settled in Elgin as a writer, where he had a considerable business. He acted for some years as Sheriff-Substitute and Commissary-Clerk. He married Catherine Anderson, daughter of Alexander Anderson of Tynet, by whom he had three sons and four daughters. He died about 1796. Mr. Chalmers was brother of George Chalmers, the eminent author of Caledonia, and had a son James, who long acted with his uncle as an assistant in his literary work.

PATRICK DUFF, writer, was son of Robert Duff, merchant, and one of the Bailies of Elgin. He was born in the year 1725. On the death of Alexander Smith in 1746, his father being a member of the Town Council, and his relative John Duff, senior, being then Provost, he was appointed to succeed Mr. Smith as joint Town-Clerk. He held the office upwards of forty years, and had much other business, his relations having had the greatest power in the Town Council for the whole period. He was known as the "Little Clerk," to distinguish him from Archibald Duff, Sheriff-Clerk, who was called the "Muckle Clerk." He died 26th March, 1787.

ALEXANDER DUFF, son of Patrick Duff, was conjunct Clerk of the burgh along with his father from 1774. He was a person of considerable talents. For some years he was a Bailie, and a leading member in the Council, for it was not thought in those days inconsistent to be both Town-Clerk and a Councillor, Bailie, or even Provost at the same time. Mr. Duff died at Aberdeen, 22d June, 1782, being of a delicate constitution. He married a Miss Mackintosh, daughter of Dr. Mackintosh, one of the Bervie family, a lady of great abilities and personal attractions. It is said that, having gone abroad after her husband's death, she there became acquainted with Prince Talleyrand, the eminent French statesman, and was married to him. How far this statement is true, I cannot say, but the story was currently reported among the lady's relatives as a fact, in my early days.

THOMAS GILZEAN, a native of the parish of Urquhart, settled as a writer in Elgin, about the year 1776. He was an able, persevering man of business. Much of his writings appear among the progresses of writs of the burgh, from 1776 to 1781. About or shortly after the latter year, he was appointed Comptroller of Customs at Inverness, and left Elgin entirely. He eventually became Distributor of Stamps and Sheriff-Substitute of the County of Inverness. He also carried on a large conveyancing business in the counties of Inverness and Ross, preparing deeds of settlement for landed proprietors and others, and advising with them about their affairs. He purchased the estate of Bonaughton, near Inverness, and acquired a considerable fortune. He left one daughter, who was married to the late James Rose Innes of Netherdale. The present proprietor of that estate, Thomas Gilzean Rose Innes, is a son of that marriage. Mr. Gilzean died nearly forty years ago, at a very advanced age.

THOMAS SELLAR, a native of Keith, was for some time a clerk in the office of John Innes of Leuchars, Writer to the Signet. He commenced business in Elgin about 1780, and soon acquired a good standing as a law agent. He was appointed Procurator-Fiscal in 1787, which office he held until 1806. He was law agent for the family of Grant, and many other of the landed proprietors in the county. He married Jane Plenderleath, daughter of the Rev. David Plenderleath, minister of the College Church, Edinburgh, by whom he had one son, the late Patrick Sellar, who succeeded him. He purchased the estate of Westfield on 2d May, 1808, from the widow of Francis Russell of Blackhall, and, being fond of agricultural pursuits, he retired from business the following year, and occupied himself with the improvement of his estate until 1817, when he died. His tombstone bears 6th July, 1817.

PATRICK DUFF, son of Patrick Duff, the first Town-Clerk of that name, was born 29th September, 1762. He was appointed joint Town-Clerk along with his father, 1st July, 1782, being then only nineteen years of age. He was admitted Procurator before the Sheriff Court the following year. In his time he held more public appointments both in the county and burgh than any law agent before or after him, and to which I have already referred. He died 24th May, 1821, aged fifty-nine.

ROBERT SMITH was a law agent in Elgin at or previous to the year 1780, and died in the early part of the present century. I have not heard any particulars of his life beyond that he was a person of social and kindly manners.

JAMES M'WILLIAM was for some years in business in Elgin; was probably trained by Alexander Chalmers, writer, whose daughter, Helen, he married. He died 2d March, 1803, aged forty-six, leaving five sons and two daughters. He was father of Mr. George M'William, land-surveyor.

ROBERT GRIGOR was a native of Elgin, and trained in the office of the first Patrick Duff, Town-Clerk. He commenced business about the year 1794, and shortly after became Distributor of Stamps. He possessed very considerable talents, and was a painstaking and persevering agent, sparing neither time nor trouble in his constituents' behalf. He was very honourable in all his transactions, and of a kindly disposition and pleasing manners.

Mr. Grigor had antiquarian tastes, and knew much of the ancient history and antiquities of the burgh and county, which, it is much to be regretted, he did not commit to writing. His valuable information is now lost. Mr. Grigor died about the year 1854.

PATRICK SELLAR, son of Thomas Sellar of Westfield, joined his father in business about the year 1803; succeeded him as Procurator-Fiscal in 1806, which office he held until 1810. Like his father, he preferred agricultural pursuits to following the legal profession. In 1811, he accepted the office of factor on the estates of the Marchioness of Stafford in the county of Sutherland. He succeeded his father in the estate of Westfield in 1817. He resigned the office of factor on the Sutherland estates in 1817, and during the remainder of his life followed sheep and arable farming in the counties of Elgin, Sutherland, and Argyle. In the latter county he purchased the estates of Acharne and Ardtornish, in the parish of Morven, which he farmed himself up to the period of his death. Mr. Sellar died in 1851. He left seven sons behind him, all still alive, and who have been very prosperous in the world.

JAMES THOMSON was born at Fochabers about 1780. He acted for a short period as Sheriff-Clerk-Depute, but was in business on his own account in 1807. He was appointed Procurator-Fiscal in 1812. He was law agent in this county for the Duke of Gordon and other proprietors; he was also for some time factor on the Altyre and Gordonstown estates. He married the widow of James Leslie of Kininvie. Mr. Thomson was a large, powerful person; but, having injured his spine from the effects of a fall, he early fell into bad health, and, for several years before his death, lost the use of his limbs, and could only walk with support. He was a person of sound sense, a good lawyer, and careful accountant—possessed of pleasant manners and considerable humour. He died about the year 1827 or 1828, in the prime of life.

ALEXANDER ALLAN, son of James Allan, merchant in Garmouth—a young man of great promise—began business as a law agent in Elgin about the closing years of last century. When the Morayshire Farmer Club was established in 1799, he was appointed its first secretary, but falling into bad health, he died within a few years thereafter—perhaps about 1802 or 1803—much regretted.

ROBERT BAIN was born in the parish of Urquhart, and trained to business in the office of Patrick Duff, the second Town-Clerk of that name. He early became assistant to Mr. Duff, and officiated as Sheriff-Clerk-Depute from 1804 to 1809, about which latter period he commenced business on his own account. He had for a period of thirty-seven years an extensive business. He died in 1846.

JAMES RITCHIE, a member of an old respectable Elgin family, was brought up in the office of Thomas Sellar, writer. He began business about 1809, when Mr. Sellar retired, and was Procurator-Fiscal from 1810 to 1812. Mr. Ritchie was an accomplished scholar, and an able lawyer. He was a tall handsome man of agreeable manners, but retired in his habits. He left Elgin in the year 1831, and settled in England—never again visiting the place of his nativity.

ALEXANDER BROWN was born in the parish of St. Andrew's-Lhanbryd, 1793; was trained to business in the office of Patrick Duff, Town-Clerk, and afterwards with James M'Innes, solicitor in the Supreme Courts, Edinburgh. He settled in Elgin about 1814. The politics of 1820 and 1821 opened up a favourable field of business, and Mr. Brown then became agent for the Earl of Fife. On the death of Mr. Thomson, he was appointed agent for the Duke of Gordon. In 1828, he became Procurator-Fiscal, which office he held to the close of his life. He was a most persevering, industrious man of business. Mr. Brown died in January of the year 1853, aged sixty.

PATRICK CAMERON, son of Captain Alexander Cameron, Balvenie, was for some time a law agent in the County of Banff; settled in Elgin in the year 1820; became Distributor of Stamps, and was Procurator-Fiscal from 1826 to 1828, and had much other business. He was appointed Sheriff-Substitute in the end of 1827, which office he held until September, 1862, a period of nearly thirty-five years. He then retired. Mr. Cameron, during his period of office, had his portrait painted at the cost of the agents practising in the Court, which is now placed in the Court-House, and, on his retirement from office, had also a presentation of plate from the agents. He died 16th November, 1865, aged seventy-three.

WILLIAM GRIGOR, son of Mr. Alexander Grigor, Blackfriars' Haugh, born August, 1804; was educated at the Elgin Academy, and afterwards at King's College, Aberdeen. He served his apprenticeship with Robert Bain, writer in Elgin, and was thereafter in various offices in Edinburgh. He settled in Elgin in 1828, and, from his talents, industry, and perseverance, soon became a very prominent man in his profession there. He had a large general business, and held many public appointments. From 1853 he was Procurator-Fiscal of the County; and was President of the Society of Solicitors from October, 1865, to January, 1869. During the last eighteen years of his life, he suffered much from bad health, but, by strict regimen and care, he was enabled to continue his active career up to the close of his life. He died, after a few days' illness, on the 8th September, 1872, aged sixty-eight. From the extent of his business, and unbounded hospitality, no man in the North of Scotland was better known or more respected, and his funeral was very largely attended from all parts of the country. The writer of this notice, having been a partner with Mr. Grigor for the long period of forty-one years, can testify with pleasure to his kindly disposition, and the long and agreeable intercourse he had with him.

JAMES GRANT was born at Shenval, in Glenavon, in the year 1801. He served an apprenticeship with Alexander Brown, writer, and was some years in Edinburgh. He settled in Elgin in 1829, where he soon attracted attention. He did not confine himself to law business, but entered on many other fields. He was a farmer, distiller, projector of railways, and other public companies; and whatever he planned he fearlessly carried out, being daunted by no difficulties. Mr. Grant was Provost of the burgh for a period of fifteen years, from 1848 to 1863, and was Commissary-Clerk from 1861 to 1872. He died 23d May, 1872.

ALEXANDER GORDON, son of Francis Gordon, Elgin, was in business from about 1827, and died some years ago.

GEORGE LESLIE, senior, a native of Rothes, was a clerk to Mr. James Thomson, and afterwards assistant to him. On his death in 1827, he succeeded to part of his business. He died about thirty years ago. He was a partner of the firm of Gordon & Leslie.

ALEXANDER GORDON, junior, son of the Rev. William Gordon, minister of Elgin, was trained in the office of Mr. James Thomson, afterwards with Messrs. Gordon & Bennett, W.S., Edinburgh. He began business in 1828, and, after a few years' practice in Elgin, he became Sheriff-Substitute of Sutherlandshire. He was a good lawyer, and an accomplished scholar. Falling into bad health, he resigned his Sheriffship, and eventually went to America, where he died. He was for some time a partner with George Leslie, senior, under the firm of Gordon & Leslie.

GEORGE LESLIE, junior, was born in the parish of Rothes, but came to Elgin with his father at an early period of his life. He served an apprenticeship with Messrs. Grigor & Young, and from thence went to a law office in Edinburgh. He became partner with Mr. James Grant, and was an able coadjutor with him for many years. Mr. Leslie became Sheriff-Clerk and Keeper of the Register of Sasines in 1860, and was for some years agent for the City of Glasgow Bank. He died in 1871, having been in business about thirty years.

JOHN GEDDES CAMERON, son of John Cameron, tenant of Mains of Orton, was apprenticed to Messrs. Gordon & Leslie, writers in Elgin. On the retirement of Mr. Gordon, and the death of Mr. Leslie, he succeeded to part of their business. He was also for some time agent for the Aberdeen Bank. He died in early life, more than twenty years ago.

JAMES MELLIS was an apprentice to Alexander Brown, writer; was for some time joint Distributor of Stamps, and held other appointments; commenced business in the year 1836; was a partner of the firm of Mellis, Murdoch, & Forsyth, and the first agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland in Elgin. He died in the year 1858, aged fifty.

WILLIAM MURDOCH, an apprentice to Alexander Brown, writer; afterwards in the office of Messrs. Tod & Hill, W.S., Edinburgh; began business in the year 1845; was a partner of the firm of Mellis, Murdoch, & Forsyth in 1858, thereafter of Murdoch & Forsyth. The firm were agents of the Royal Bank of Scotland, and held many public appointments. Mr. Murdoch died in 1871, at an early age.

The present law agents in Elgin are—George Gatherer, Robert Young, Alexander Cooper, William Macdonald, David Forsyth, Alexander Cameron, James Anderson, James Jameson, Alexander Morrison, Patrick Gatherer, James Sutor, Hugh Stewart, Alexander Grigor Allan, John Wink, John Cruickshank, James Allan Jeans, James Allan, and William Charles Young.

LAW AGENTS IN FORRES.

Forres is a very ancient burgh, and is supposed to have been a Roman station. It is early mentioned in Scottish history; we find distinct notice of it in the tenth century. It was a burgh in the reign of King David I., and is expressly mentioned as such in a charter by William the Lyon, in favour of Richard Bishop of Moray, about the year 1187. When the Province of Moray was divided into Sheriffdoms, Forres was annexed to Elgin. The exact bounds of the early Sheriffdom are not well ascertained. The shire has generally been called Elgin and Forres, and in most deeds the Sheriffdom is referred to under that name, which is continued in the Registers up to the present day. When the Dunbars of Westfield were Hereditary Sheriffs, they lived much at the Castle of Forres, and no doubt held some of their courts in that burgh.* The population of Forres being small as compared with Elgin, the County Town, there was no class of legal practitioners there until seventy years ago—the Town-Clerk, up to that date, being found competent for the whole legal work.

Registrum
Moraviense,
page 9.

Douglas'
Baronage,
page 121.

ROBERT TULLOCH was Town-Clerk in 1699. He probably was connected with the family of Tulloch of Tannachy, who then had a residence in the burgh, and were frequently Provosts. On 20th September, 1711, Mr. Tulloch, as Town-Clerk, made a report to the Convention of Burghs, as to the nature of the sett of the burgh, and the mode of electing the Magistrates and Town Council. On 14th September, 1715, this Town-Clerk proclaimed the Pretender as king at the Cross of Forres, for which he was deposed from office the following year; but having deponed that he was forcibly compelled to do this by the Jacobite rebels, and having produced witnesses who gave evidence to the same effect, he was reponed by the Magistrates on 21st May, 1716. He resigned office in consequence of old age in 1722.

Shaw's History,
Edition 1775,
page 198.

THOMAS ANDERSON succeeded as Town-Clerk, and continued in office to September, 1741.

ROBERT ANDERSON was appointed in his room, and officiated for the years 1741 and 1742. He was the same person who was afterwards Commissary-Clerk of Moray and Sheriff-Substitute of the County. He

Accounts of
Lord High
Treasurer, vol.
I., page 316.

* Sir James Dunbar of Cumnock was appointed Sheriff in 1498. The following entry appears in the Lord Treasurer's accounts:—"Item, the 7th day of June, I resavit fra Schir James of Dunbar of Cumnok, Knight, for the compositione of the office of Schirefschip of Elgin and Forres, and the Castell Hill of Forres, giften to him in heretage, £551."

retired in 1742. He was connected with the Forres district through his wife, Elizabeth Mackintosh, daughter of Alexander Mackintosh, then proprietor of the estate of Blervie.

WILLIAM REID, Clerk of Enzie, was appointed in room of Mr. Robert Anderson, and continued until September, 1749, when, in consequence of his non-appearance, he was dismissed, and

JOHN FRASER, Commissary-Clerk of Sutherland, was nominated in his room. He continued in office until 1769, when

WILLIAM DUNBAR succeeded, and remained in office until his death in 1801.

CHARLES BLACK was appointed successor to Mr. Dunbar, and held office until 1829, when he died.

ROBERT WATSON succeeded to office, and continued until 1855, when he died.

ROBERT URQUHART succeeded, and is the present Town-Clerk of the burgh. Mr. Urquhart has been longer in business as a legal practitioner than any one I can trace either in Elgin or Forres.

The first law agent I can find as practising in Forres, apart from the Town-Clerk, was the late John Forsyth. He was a son of James Forsyth, farmer at Longmorn, and was trained in the law office of Robert Grigor, writer in Elgin. He began business in 1809, and gradually obtained a very large practice—perhaps the most extensive in the County at the time. He retired in the year 1844, on account of his health.

In 1808, Charles Black was the sole practitioner at Forres.

1809.—Charles Black and John Forsyth.

1816.—The same.

1820.—Charles Black, John Forsyth, Alexander Dunbar, and Robert Watson.

1830.—John Forsyth, Robert Watson, Robert Abercromby Brands, and Robert Urquhart.

1840.—John Forsyth, Robert Watson, Robert Urquhart, James Grant Manford, William Sclanders.

1850.—Robert Watson, Robert Urquhart, James Grant Manford, William Sclanders, Donald Campbell Grant.

1860.—Robert Urquhart, James Grant Manford, William Sclanders, Felix Calvert Mackenzie, John David Davidson, Robert Peat.

1870.—Robert Urquhart, William Sclanders, Felix Calvert Mackenzie, John David Davidson, Robert Peat, Alexander Mackenzie, Robert Urquhart, junior, Arthur Duffes.

1876.—Robert Urquhart, William Sclanders, Felix Calvert Mackenzie, John David Davidson, Robert Peat, Robert Urquhart, junior, Arthur Duffes, William Grant.

I have already mentioned that the Procurators before the Sheriff Court of Elginshire formed themselves into a Society, under the 14th section of the Procurators (Scotland) Act, 1865, under the name of "The Society of Solicitors for Elginshire." Their first meeting was held on 26th October, 1865. Their Presidents and Vice-Presidents have since been as follows :—

From 26th October, 1865, to January, 1869.—WILLIAM GRIGOR, President; ROBERT URQUHART, Vice-President.

From January, 1869, to January, 1871.—ROBERT URQUHART, President; ROBERT YOUNG, Vice-President.

From January, 1871, to January, 1873.—ROBERT YOUNG, President; JAMES GRANT, Vice-President. Mr. Grant did not run out his term of office, having died on 23d May, 1872.

From January, 1873, to January, 1875.—ALEXANDER COOPER, President; FELIX CALVERT MACKENZIE, Vice-President.

From January, 1875, to January, 1877.—FELIX CALVERT MACKENZIE, President; ALEXANDER CAMERON, Vice-President.

January, 1877.—ALEXANDER CAMERON, President; JOHN DAVID DAVIDSON, Vice-President.

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

If our information is very scanty and imperfect relative to the legal profession in Elgin, it is much more so regarding the medical body, as we have no records to guide us, and very little to refer to, these gentlemen keeping no minutes of their proceedings, and not meeting in any way as a professional society. From the status of the Burgh of Elgin, the number of the inhabitants, and its being the seat of the Bishop of Moray and numerous dignified clergy, there must have been physicians here at a very early date, but what training they had, and how they acquired a knowledge of their business, we are profoundly in the dark. We had no medical school in Scotland until the close of the seventeenth century, when, and in the beginning of the following one, Edinburgh made the great start which it has since constantly maintained. From our intimate connection with France, many of our young men studied medicine at the University of Paris, or some other of the French Schools, and on their return to Scotland communicated their infor-

mation to others at home. The first medical practitioner I find any note of as connected with Elgin is

DR. ROBERT ANDERSON. He was a native of the burgh or the neighbourhood, and may have been connected with the family of the Andersons, who shortly after so successfully followed the legal profession. He was educated at Montpellier and Orange, in France, and had diplomas from both of these Universities. His first diploma from Montpellier as a Bachelor of Medicine is dated the 14th November, 1633, and his second as a Doctor of Medicine is dated the 4th April, 1634. His diploma as a Doctor of Medicine from Orange is dated the 19th April, 1634. These three curious and valuable documents are now before me; and it would seem that some of the Professors were Scotsmen, for I find the names of Rudolph or Ralph Rankine, and William Gray among them—the connection between France and Scotland, which had continued for so many ages, being then still subsisting. Dr. Anderson, after taking his degree, settled in Elgin, and married. He had a son named John, who was born in 1638. The family were prosperous, and purchased part of the lands of Drumfurrich, on the banks of the Spey, which acquired the name of Mudhouse, and which they continued to hold until 1762, when the family ended in an heiress, who married John Stuart of Birkenburn, in the parish of Keith. Mr. Stuart sold the small property.*

KENNETH MACKENZIE was long a medical practitioner in Elgin, and was a successful one, for he acquired both lands and houses about the town. His name frequently appears in the title deeds of the period. He is sometimes called an apothecary, and again is styled a chirurgion. He took an interest in the public affairs of the burgh, and was the Treasurer in 1686. Subsequently, he was a Bailie at different periods. He was alive in 1721. The time of his death I have not discovered.

Social Life in
Former Days,
First Series,
page 20.

ROBERT INNES was a contemporary of Kenneth Mackenzie in the medical profession, and also a member of the Town Council. He was a Bailie in 1693, and again in 1705. He was also Provost from 1717 to 1720, and from 1723 to 1726. He was of considerable standing, both in his own profession and as a public man. He died in 1726.

Social Life in
Former Days,
First Series,
pages 18, 19, 20.

JAMES INNES was a son of Dr. Robert Innes, and succeeded his father in his profession. He had a large practice, and was much employed by the best families, both in the town and country. He also took a great interest in the municipal affairs of the burgh. He was Provost from 1720 to 1723, from 1731 to 1734, and from 1737 to 1740, and was Commissioner to the Convention of Burghs in 1721. He probably died shortly after 1740, as I do not find any notice of him after that date.

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ALEXANDER DOUGAL, son of the Rev. William Dougal. His father was settled at Birnie in 1709, and translated to Spynie in 1721, where he died in 1766. Dr. Dougal was likely educated in Edinburgh, but of this I can find no explicit information. He settled in Elgin, where he was much

Scott's Fasti,
vol. III., pages
159 and 172.

* I am obliged to the Rev. James Cooper of Broughty-Ferry for the use of these curious old diplomas of Dr. Anderson's. Mr. Cooper is a descendant of Mr. Stuart of Birkenburn, who married Helen Anderson, heiress of Mudhouse.

respected, and had a large practice. He lived in the old house at the top of North Street, where he died about the close of last century. He was greatly interested in the welfare of the poor, and was of a benevolent disposition. He left some funds for a dispensary, which, I believe, are now merged into those of Gray's Hospital. Dr. Dougal had a brother, William Dougal, who settled in Keith as a medical man. He was also a very benevolent person, but eccentric in his habits. Many curious anecdotes of his peculiarities were long preserved about Keith, where he was much esteemed and respected.

JAMES WALKER, M.D., was a practitioner in Elgin about the middle and latter part of last century, and appears to have been much employed in his profession. He was a person of peculiar habits, and very eccentric. He married Margaret Ross, widow of Ludovick Dunbar of Westfield, commonly called Lady Westfield, and she being life-rented in the estate, her husband, Dr. Walker, who was very fond of farming, carried on extensive agricultural operations at Westfield, and latterly at Sheriffmill, of which farm he was tenant in his latter days. His mode of farming was to keep the land very clean, to drill the crops, and use no manure. The result was not such as to encourage imitation. The corn was superior in quality to any in the country, but the quantity was small. He does not seem to have neglected his medical profession. I find some curious letters addressed by him to Sir Alexander Dunbar of Northfield, on the subject of his health and other topics, in 1778, 1779, 1780, and 1782. Dr. Walker died at a good old age, about the end of last century or beginning of the present one, and his body was interred in the Elgin Cathedral burying-ground, not far from the west gate on the right hand side of the entry. His tombstone was very small, with the simple words engraved on it, "James Walker, M.D." The stone has been removed by some intruder, and nothing remains to mark the spot where his ashes were deposited.

Old Statistical Account, vol. X., page 631.

Social Life in Former Days, pages 25 to 29.

Parish of Spynie, p. 110.

ALEXANDER BRODIE, son of David Brodie of Mayne, was a physician in Elgin. He was born 1724, and died 1806. He was also proprietor of Mayne, and, being possessed of independent means, and a bachelor, perhaps did not practise his profession to a great extent.

THOMAS STEPHEN, son of James Stephen, Provost of Elgin, by his wife, Ann Innes, daughter of Sir Harry Innes of Innes, was born in 1743. He was educated at Edinburgh and at Leyden. The University of Leyden had attained a high name as a medical school by the labours of the great Boerhaave, one of the most celebrated physicians of modern times, who had long filled the Medical Chair, and been repeatedly Rector of the University; and, although that illustrious man died in 1738, his successors had maintained its name, and students came to it from all quarters. I have not discovered the years when Dr. Stephen was there, or when he took his degree of M.D. Having finished his education, he entered the Royal Navy, and was for some years a surgeon in that service. It was then, and continued long after, a very rough and disagreeable post to fill—if we may judge from the description given by the graphic pen of Smollett—very different from that of our day. Probably he tired of it, and desired a more congenial place of residence. He settled in Elgin as a physician some time

after the year 1770, and soon attained to great eminence in his profession. He had a very extensive practice, and bears the character of being possessed of great skill. He had the entire confidence of the public, and kept his position till the close of a long life. He was very liberal in his opinions—his views being far in advance of his time; and, although a little warm in his temper, he was a man of generous mind, and very kind to the poor, many of whom he attended gratuitously. He married a daughter of James Robertson of Bishoptmill, Provost of Elgin. He died at Elgin on the 6th May, 1819, in the seventy-sixth year of his age.

ALEXANDER GRAY, surgeon, was son of Alexander Gray, wheelwright in Elgin, and Janet Sutherland, sister of Dr. Alexander Sutherland, physician in Bath. His father was a very respectable person, and was elected Deacon of his Incorporation in the year 1772, and a member of the Town Council, in which position he continued for a considerable time. He seems to have been a superior man, and to have given his family a good education. His son Alexander was bred to the medical profession, and was trained under Dr. Thomas Stephen, of whom he speaks in warm terms in his will. It is possible that Dr. Gray may have practised his profession for some time in Elgin, but I have seen no evidence to that effect. His father's position as a member of the Town Council gave him considerable influence with the Member of Parliament for the District of Burghs; and it was no doubt through that channel that his son was appointed to be an assistant-surgeon in the East India Company's service on the Bengal establishment. In those days of wars and prize money fortunes were rapidly made in India, and the term of service was not very long; but domestic circumstances seem to have detained him in India ten years longer than he intended. Judging from this, he probably went to India about 1780. Dr. Gray married perhaps somewhat late in life, and was unhappy in his matrimonial connection. By his will, dated at Calcutta, 1st March, 1807, he leaves directly for the establishment of an hospital in the town of Elgin £20,000, with sums in reversion, and which have since become available, amounting to about £10,000 farther. He also left directly and in reversion the sum of £3000, the interest to be used for the benefit of the reputed old maids in the town of Elgin, the daughters of respectable but decayed families. Dr. Gray's will is written in his own hand, and he expresses his mind in a very forcible manner, and with great bitterness of feeling, against his wife and other relatives, which shows that his temper was affected by domestic trials, and perhaps by bad health. He died the same year in which his will was executed, as it is proved at Calcutta the 4th August, 1807. Some difficulties occurred in carrying out the intentions of the testator from the opposition of his relatives, and the funds were lodged in Chancery; and it was not until the year 1816 that the hospital was erected, and the establishment put into operation. For the last sixty years it has proved a blessing to the district, and, as Dr. Gray predicted, it has saved the lives of thousands. Perhaps its benefits might be advantageously extended, and no doubt at some not very distant day they will be so. In the meantime, we record with gratitude the munificent bequest of the benevolent donor to his native place, and his name deserves to be remembered in all future generations.

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Scott's Fastl,
vol. III.

JAMES COULL of Ashgrove, M.D., was the son of the Rev. Alexander Coull, minister of Edinkillie. His father was ordained and settled 13th March, 1754. Of Dr. Coull's training I know nothing; but I have heard that he was early in Government service, from which he retired prior to the year 1792, at which time he settled in Elgin, when he purchased the lands of Ashgrove. He married, in 1792, Jean, daughter of Sir Alexander Dunbar of Northfield, Bart., by whom he had a family of four sons and five daughters. After he retired from public service, he only practised as a consulting physician, and when Gray's Hospital was established in 1816, he, along with Dr. Stephen, were the visiting physicians. Dr. Coull, with much medical skill, had a great aptitude for public business, and he acted as joint Sheriff-Substitute of the County of Elgin from 1807 to 1821, and principal Commissary from 1819 to 1823, when the office was abolished. He was also an active Justice of the Peace, and regularly attended as a Magistrate at these Courts, where, before the institution of the Sheriff Small Debt Court, an immense amount of business was transacted. Dr. Coull died 29th May, 1831.

JAMES STEPHEN of Bruceland, M.D., son of Dr. Thomas Stephen, was born in, or shortly after, 1780; was educated at the Elgin Burgh Schools, thereafter at Marischal College, Aberdeen, and took his degree at the University of Edinburgh, after which he became assistant to his father, on whose death, in 1819, he acquired the whole practice. Dr. Stephen had for many years a most extensive medical employment, and was a careful and successful physician. On the opening of Gray's Hospital he was appointed one of the visitors, which he retained to the close of his life. He had also other public situations. After an active life he retired to the villa of the Grove, on the banks of the Lossie, near Elgin, where he died, 13th May, 1861, aged about eighty. He married his cousin, Anna Robertson, daughter of James Robertson of the College, Elgin, by whom he had two sons and four daughters, of whom are now surviving one son, the Rev. Thomas Stephen, minister of the parish of Kinloss; a daughter, married to the Rev. Dr. George Gordon, minister of Birnie; and another, widow of the late Dr. Barclay, Inspector of Hospitals, long in India.

JOHN TURNER, surgeon, was born at Acharn, in the parish of Keith, or in Cairnie, Banffshire, in the year 1787. He settled in Elgin in 1812, and had considerable employment, which would no doubt have increased, but he died in 1826, at the early age of thirty-nine. His son and grandson both followed the medical profession, and settled in Keith, where they successively have had an extensive practice.

GEORGE BRANDER, surgeon, was a native of Aberdeenshire, and was for some time in the British Navy. At the close of the French War he settled in Elgin, and had for some time a considerable practice. He died about thirty years ago.

JOHN PAUL, M.D., son of John Paul, farmer at Hatton, in the parish of Kinloss, was born in 1794. He served an apprenticeship to Dr. Straith, of Forres, and probably took his degree in Edinburgh. He was for some time an assistant-surgeon in the Royal Navy, and on the close of the French War he settled in Elgin. He was specially famous as a surgeon, and for

his skill in that department was well known through Scotland. He had a large practice also as a physician. He was extremely active in his habits, of a strong and vigorous constitution, and never spared himself by day or night. He was very kind to the poor, and was as ready to attend them as the rich, often giving them charity instead of asking a fee. Besides being active in his own profession, Dr. Paul was well-read in the general literature of the day, and took a marked interest in politics. During the time of the Reform Bill he was a warm advocate of that measure, and frequently gave addresses at public meetings. He continued firmly attached to the side of progress up to the period of his death. He was also for some time a member of the Town Council of Elgin, and supported sanitary and other improvements within the burgh. Falling into bad health, he went to London to get the benefit of the best advice, and died there on 11th February, 1861. His body was brought to Elgin, and interred in the Elgin Cathedral burying-ground, on the 23d of that month. The funeral was a public one, the Provost and Magistrates attending in their corporate capacity. Dr. Paul was father of Dr. John Liston Paul, late an eminent Medical Professor at Madras, now in London.

ALEXANDER CRUICKSHANK, son of the Rev. John Cruickshank, minister of Glass, settled as a medical practitioner in Elgin about the year 1834. He married Eliza Walker, daughter of the Rev. Alexander Walker, one of the ministers of Elgin. He died about the year 1849.

JAMES FERGUSON, M.D., son of James Ferguson, East Grange. His mother was a daughter of John Paul, farmer, Hatton, and sister of the late Dr. John Paul, of Elgin. He was educated at Edinburgh, and took his degree there in 1856. He was surgeon at Gray's Hospital in 1857 and 1858, and entered the Navy in 1859. He settled in Elgin as a medical practitioner in 1861, and married, in 1865, a daughter of the late Dr. Bell, of Forres. He died at Falmouth, where he had gone for his health, on 23d September, 1872, aged thirty-seven.

WILLIAM ROBB, M.D., born 1800, was educated at the Elgin Academy; attended medical classes at Aberdeen University, where he took his degree. He was a skilful physician, and had a considerable practice. He died 15th February, 1873, in the seventy-third year of his age.

During the last fifty years medical practice has much changed. Bleeding, blistering, and large doses of aperient medicines were then the order of the day, and diseases were thought to be eradicated by reducing the body. Bleeding is now almost superseded, and medicines are given in very small doses, while nourishing diet and the use of wine and other stimulants for strengthening and supporting the system are much recommended. The modern system is the most agreeable to the patient, and appears to be more accordant with nature than the older practice. But there is a fashion in medicine like everything else, and new theories

may again soon arise, and the present practice give place to another.

The present medical gentlemen in Elgin are—James Ross, George Duff, James William Norris Mackay, George Whyte, and Charles Adam.

CHARITIES AND CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

The Roman Catholic clergy were very charitable, and, previous to the Reformation, the poor were very carefully attended to, and their wants amply supplied, the canons being frequently resident within the bounds of the Cathedral, and so many monastic institutions established in the town, with ample revenues. It was a duty enjoined by the Church on the clergy to care for the poor. In the days of Episcopacy this was also in some respects carried out, but the Church revenues being in a great measure secularised and given over to laymen, little remained for the personal support of the clergy, and they could ill spare any part of it for the poor. At the Revolution the Church property was farther dissipated, and the Presbyterian clergy had only a pittance out of the Teinds, and it devolved on charitable persons who had means to do something for the wants of the poor. Scotland, about the year 1688, and for a long period thereafter, was filled with wandering beggars and sorners, who did not scruple to steal, and even commit greater crimes, to supply their necessities, and in remote places they compelled both proprietors and tenants to give them food, as they frequently went in companies, and, when refused lodgings and victuals, took both at their own hands. The old Poor Laws of Scotland were almost a dead letter, and up to our own times the poor begged from door to door, sometimes singly, and occasionally in considerable bodies. Private individuals, compassionating these poor people, frequently by their wills, and sometimes in their own lifetime, founded charities for the relief of the destitute. In this respect Elgin has not been wanting, and various sums and lands have been mortified by pious and charitable persons for these purposes, some under charge of the Kirk-Session, and others under the Magistrates and Town Council.

The charities under charge of the Kirk-Session are as follows :—

1. Mortification of £1000 Scots by William Duff of Dipple for poor in Pluscarden, Quarrywood, and Dykeside, in Spynie, dated 7th May, 1720.
2. Mortification by John Murdoch for 200 merks Scots for the poor of Pluscarden.
3. Mortification by the Rev. James Thomson, minister of Elgin, of 600 merks Scots for Bibles to children of religious parents in town and parish. 1726.
4. Mortification by John Petrie, merchant in Elgin, of about ten acres of the Aughteen Part Lands for education of poor children of the name of Petrie and Murdoch.
5. Mortification by the said John Petrie of £30 for poor of the parish, and of £10 for a preacher at Pluscarden.
6. Mortification by the Rev. Dr. James Hay, minister of Elgin, of £100 for a preacher at Pluscarden. 6th March, 1783.
7. Mortification by George M'Cumming or M'Kimmie, of London, of £200, in Three Per Cent. Consols, for poor in parish not receiving alms.
8. Mortification by George Hossack, in Milton, and his spouse, for poor west of the Lossie. £68 6s. 1d.
9. Mortification by James Macandrew for poor inhabitants of the town and street beggars—natives to be preferred. £200.
10. Mortification by Mrs. Munro, of Newmill, for poor householders. £200.
11. Mortification by Mr. James Grant of the Royal Navy for coals to the most indigent poor of the town at Martinmas yearly. £200.
12. Mortification by John Allan, M.D., the interest to be divided in December yearly among the worthy poor of his native town and parish of Elgin, to be selected by the ministers. £500.
13. Mortification by William Innes, Elgin, for poor and decent householders in the town of Elgin. £250.
14. Mortification by John Jack, merchant in Elgin, the interest to be expended yearly in the purchase of coals for the poor of the town and parish of Elgin. £500.
15. Kirk-Session accumulated fund, interest applied for purchase of coals for the poor. £100.

CHARITIES UNDER MANAGEMENT OF THE MAGISTRATES AND TOWN COUNCIL.

1. The Lands of Maisondieu are held by the Magistrates under Royal Charters, to which I have already referred. Out of the revenues they give certain allowances to the teachers in the Academy, and £10 yearly to each of four Beadmen, trades' burgesses. They also erected a dwelling-house for the Beadmen in 1624, which, having become ruinous, was rebuilt in 1846.

2. **PITTULLIE'S MORTIFICATION.**—This charity was instituted by William Cuning of Auchry and Pittullie, son of George Cuning, Provost of Elgin, for four broken or decayed merchants, residents within the burgh and burgesses of Elgin. The Leper Lands and Hospital Croft were purchased for the charity, and a sum of £168 15s. is lodged in the hands of the Magistrates. The nett income is divided yearly among the recipients. Mr. Cuning also purchased a house at the west end of the burgh for the use of the incumbents of the charity, which, having in course of time become ruinous, was rebuilt in 1876, by authority of the Court of Session, and is now partly occupied by the recipients.

3. **DARKLAND'S MORTIFICATION.**—In the year 1698, John Innes of Darkland mortified £1000 Scots, the interest of which was to be divided among the poor of Elgin, Lhanbryd, and Birnie, in certain proportions. He also in 1707 mortified £1100 Scots, with which the Lands of the Shooting Acres were purchased, and the nett yearly rents were appointed to be divided in certain proportions among the poor of Elgin, Lhanbryd, St. Andrew's, Birnie, and Urquhart; and in 1713 he bequeathed 1000 merks Scots to the poor of the town and parish of Elgin and the parish of Lhanbryd in certain proportions.

John Innes of Dunkinty, in 1781, bequeathed £100 to the Magistrates and ministers of Elgin for behoof of the poor. Of this legacy only £42 have been recovered.

Accurate accounts of the above mortifications are kept in the town's books, and the portions falling to each parish annually divided, in terms of the donors' settlements.

4. **DICK'S MORTIFICATION.**—In 1719, Alexander Dick, glover in Elgin, mortified 1000 merks Scots to the poor of the town, which lies in the town's hands, and the interest is annually divided.

5. **GORDON'S MORTIFICATION.**—Bailie Charles Gordon, in 1733, bequeathed £200 Scots to the poor of the town. The money is invested in the Magistrates' hands, and the interest annually divided.

6. **CRAMOND'S MORTIFICATION.**—Bailie Cramond, in 1737, bequeathed the sum of £500 Scots to the poor of the town. The money is in the Magistrates' hands, and the interest is annually divided.

7. **DR. GEDDES' MORTIFICATION.**—Dr. William Geddes, by his settlement, dated in 1859, bequeathed £250 to the Provost and Magistrates, to accumulate until it amount to £500, when the annual proceeds of the fund shall be divided at Christmas yearly, to provide with shoes the most necessitous and deserving poor residing in Elgin. The accumulation has not yet reached £500.

8. **GENERAL ALVES' CHARITY.**—Major-General John Alves, by his settlement, conveyed to the Magistrates and Town Council of Elgin £500, in Three Per Cent. Consols, in trust, to use the annual interest for the behoof of five poor persons, in equal shares, of sixty-five years of age and upwards, who shall not be receiving parochial relief, and who shall be resident in the town of Elgin. The funds are annually divided as directed by the settlement.

I have already referred very particularly to Gray's Hospital, and it is not necessary to make any farther statement on the subject. It has proved a most useful institution to town and county. In 1834, a Pauper Lunatic Asylum was built near it, which is maintained by annual assessment for support of the fabric, and by each parish paying board for its own patients. The Asylum is carefully attended to, and kept in a clean and orderly state, and the patients well cared for. The situation of the building is, however, too public, and it would have been well had it been placed in a more retired position, and the patients kept from the public eye.

I have also referred before to Anderson's "Institution for the Support of Old Age and Education of Youth." This charity was founded and endowed by Major-General Andrew Anderson, a person of wonderful merit, who rose from being a common soldier to a high station. By his settlement, executed in 1815, he left a fortune of nearly £70,000 for erection of an Institution for the maintenance of indigent men and women; a School of Industry for the support and education of poor male and female children, and afterwards for fitting them for some trade or useful occupation; and a Free School for the education of such male and female children whose parents are in narrow circumstances, though still able to maintain and clothe them. The magnificent building was completed in 1831, and the Free School opened in October that year. The Hospital and School of Industry were opened in June, 1833. The Free School has proved a blessing to the community, as giving a cheap and useful education to the poor, but the other departments have not fulfilled the expectations of the benevolent founder. They are of a monastic nature, and not adapted to the spirit of the present age, but, like similar institutions in Edinburgh, Aberdeen, and elsewhere, may be placed on a more liberal footing.

The Elgin Guildry Fund Society was founded in 1714, and incorporated by Act of Parliament in 1850. It is conducted by a president and six managers, a treasurer, and clerk. From very small beginnings it has risen to be an important Corporation. Its funds have been carefully and economically managed for the last 160 years, and its

purchases of land, to which it owes its prosperity, have generally been cautiously and judiciously made. The Society have also been great improvers in the burgh, having laid off North and South Guildry Streets, and widened Reidhaven Street to the breadth of forty feet. By the increase of rental, and feuing of their ground, they have now a large annual revenue, and, after paying taxes and expenses, repairs of property, and adding to their sinking fund for liquidation of debt, they are able to divide upwards of £400 per annum among decayed members and widows and children. It is probable that in a few years the funds for annual division may be largely increased. The present office-bearers (1876) are—Dr. George Duff, Preses; Messrs. William Culbard, William Young, William Riach, F. J. Cruikshank, William Charles Young, and John Alexander Cooper, Managers; Alexander Russell, Treasurer; Robert Young, Clerk.

The Guildry Society have also under their charge two charities. The first consists of thirteen crofts of land and tails, mortified by William Duff of Braco, "for an honest poor and decayed Merchant Burgess and Guild Brother within the town of Elgin." The deed of conveyance is dated in 1729, in favour of the Provost, Bailies, Dean of Guild, and Treasurer of the Burgh, and the charge of the fund is committed to the managers of the Guildry Society, under whose care it has been for 147 years. There is a revenue from the charity, after paying taxes, &c., of about £30 per annum. The Earl of Fife, as representative of the Braco family, is the patron.

The second charity is that of a small piece of land called Laing's Cattails, which was mortified by Bailie John Laing, proprietor of Upper Manbeen, in the year 1775, for a decayed Merchant Burgess and Guild Brother. The present rental is £12 10s. The Magistrates and Town Council are the patrons, and the management is with the Preses and managers of the Elgin Guildry Fund Society.

Several small bequests were made to the Magistrates of Elgin last century for educational purposes. These we need not refer to, as they have merged into the salaries paid by the Magistrates to the teachers in the Academy. In the present century, John Duncan, Bishopmill, left the sum of

£25 to pay for educating a boy at the Elgin School for four years. Mr. James Macandrew by his will bequeathed the sum of £200, the interest to be applied as premiums for three boys, who at the public examination of the Latin School shall give the most approved specimen of their yearly progress ; and Dr. John Allan, a native of Elgin, bequeathed by his will the sum of £400, the interest to be used for three prizes, one in each of the Latin, Mathematical, and English classes, to the pupils who shall be found at the annual examination most proficient in their respective studies.

There are charities connected with the Incorporations of Trades, and many other private benevolent societies in the town for clothing and other purposes. In all the churches in the burgh large collections are made annually in January for providing coals for the poor. In cases of special distress collections of the most liberal nature are made ; and it is believed the charities of private individuals are dispensed with no sparing hand ; so that, independent of the sums raised for parochial relief, to which I have already referred, the wants of the poor are as much attended to in Elgin as in any burgh in Scotland.

OF THE CHANGES WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE PRESENT CENTURY.

In the progress of the present work I have frequently referred to the changes which have taken place from time to time, but in no period of its history has Elgin undergone more changes than since the beginning of the present century. In the year 1800, and for a long time previous, it had declined in population and in its buildings, and was in a very backgoing state. The town had no side pavements ; passengers had to walk in the centre of the causeway, which was highly raised, and the water fell to both sides. There was no drainage ; the greater part of the sewage of the town either evaporated into the open air, or lay in the sides of the streets and lanes until a flood came, when a considerable part was carried into what was called the Common Gutter, which flowed across the street near the east end of the

Commercial Bank, and was sometimes almost impassable. Another large gutter was near Lossie Wynd. There being no police arrangements, large dunghills lay in every lane opposite the doors of the houses, the effluvia from which were unhealthy and pestilential, fever often abounding. No water was in the town except a few public wells, and some had private wells in their gardens. The best wells were on the south side of the town, those on the north side being almost invariably bad, the reason of which it is not easy to explain. The best well was on the south side of the street, nearly opposite the Little Cross. As the well water was generally hard, it could not be used for washing, and rain water had either to be preserved in casks for washing purposes, or clothes had to be carried to the Lossie and washed there. Tea water had also to be carried from the Lossie, and large troops of domestic servants might be seen in the afternoons carrying pails of water for domestic purposes. This involved much labour and loss of time ; but it had its pleasures to domestics, who were otherwise much confined within doors, and gave them opportunities of talking with their friends and acquaintances engaged in similar duties. The river water was then pure, there being no sewage carried into it.

For the first thirty years of the present century we had no street lamps. An attempt was made in the latter part of last century to introduce them, but, after a brief trial, it entirely failed. In the long nights of winter, the only lights were from the feeble flicker of one or two candles, or a solitary lamp, from the shop windows, and when the shops closed at eight o'clock the streets were in total darkness, except when the moon and stars were bright. It was somewhat dangerous to walk at night, for many of the carters left their carts standing on the sides of the streets, and the unwary passenger was frequently brought to a stand by a blow on the head or breast received from running against one of these vehicles.

For the first ten or twelve years of this century we had no public conveyances to the north of Aberdeen. The mails were then carried on horseback. The post-bags were light, and, owing to the heavy postage, letters were few in number.

Passengers travelled principally on horseback. There were not more than two or three private carriages in the town, and scarcely any gigs. A few postchaises were kept at the principal inn for transport of passengers of the higher class. In consequence of this difficulty of transit, comparatively few persons left home. Farmers and cattle dealers who had occasion to go to the Southern markets always travelled on horseback, and for safety generally in bodies of four or five, and perhaps more in company. Those who went to London, or even Edinburgh, frequently took their passages by sea—the smacks trading from the Moray Firth having tolerable accommodation. If the winds were favourable, there was a quick passage, but, with cross winds or calms, much valuable time was lost in these voyages. Heavy goods from London and Leith were carried by sea; those from Aberdeen by carriers' carts.

Previous to the year 1800, the only street deserving the name was the High Street, and the only access from the south and north was by the School Wynd and Lossie Wynd. Immediately after the year 1800, Batchen Street was formed. It is little better than a lane, but was useful, although made at the sacrifice of the fine old castellated building, Thunderton House, and in that respect has not been an improvement. Many of the houses in High Street, particularly at the east and west ends, were then thatched, and the street was encumbered with old St. Giles' Church, and the Jail and Court-House. Although many memories of past ages were attached to old St. Giles, it had no beauty of architecture to recommend it, and was really an unseemly fabric. The Jail and Court-House had a picturesque appearance, but its accommodation was miserable, and the poor criminals and debtors—who were placed there in larger numbers than in the present day—truly experienced what in legal phrase is called *squalor carceris*. The dwelling-houses in the High Street were the best in the town, but the accommodation was generally limited, the rooms small, low in the ceiling, and ill-aired. The shops were also small and confined, with very little light, and no display of goods. Business was carried on in a very sleepy style, and with little of the activity of the present times. The merchants had no great turn over

of goods in the year ; but their shop rents and expenses were small, and they were contented. In many of the smaller shops, when the occupant went to dinner, he shut his door, and, not dreading any thieves, left the key in it.

The price of provisions in the early part of the present century was very moderate—beef and mutton at from 3d. to 4d. per lb.; fowls at 1s.; haddocks of small size at 6d. per dozen, and large ones at 1s. per dozen; cod from 4d. to 6d.; salmon at 9d. per lb.; and grilse from 4d. to 6d. Groceries were high. During the East India Company's monopoly the best tea was from 7s. to 8s. per lb., and loaf sugar as high as from 1s. 1d. to 1s. 4d.

Gentlemen in those days generally wore the best broad cloth, before tweeds were introduced, and there was a marked distinction between the higher and lower classes in that respect. The master tradesmen were fairly dressed, but the journeymen and apprentices wore fustians and corduroys. Blue cloth with gilt buttons was the prevailing dress for gentlemen, with knee-breeches, and top-boots or leggings. Black cloth was only worn for mournings and at funerals.

The wages of domestic servants were small. A cook could be had for from £4 to £5 per annum; housemaids at a somewhat lower rate. Their dress was very simple. No bonnets were worn. The younger servants were bare-headed; the elder wore caps. Bonnets began to be introduced between the years 1820 and 1825. The food of domestic servants was very plain. They got little butcher meat. Porridge was common for breakfast, and the remains of the teapot from the master's table. Milk, fish, and broth, varied the dinner diet, with occasionally a little butcher meat. They were generally very contented, and seldom, except for good reasons, changed their places. Labourers' wages were in winter from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d. per day; in summer, 2s.—seldom 2s. 6d. Artisans' wages were somewhat higher. These also lived on very plain diet—porridge and milk to breakfast, with fish, soup, potatoes, and such like to dinner. Butcher meat, although cheap, could not often be obtained.

Ladies' dresses have varied much since the beginning of the century. Up to about the year 1815, the waists were exceedingly short, as will be seen in the magazines of the

day. The hair was dressed in curls in front, and fastened in a roll on the top with a high comb. Bonnets were warm and comfortable. After this period the waists were for a good many years worn very long. It would be impossible to describe the various changes which have since so rapidly taken place. A few years ago, we were transported back to the days of our great-grandmothers—hoops and enormous dresses being introduced, so that a person could hardly pass a lady on the pavement. That fashion has happily passed away; but one more destructive to health has taken place in the use of small bonnets, perched on the top of the head, so that there is no shelter from the cold of winter, and hence rheumatism, neuralgia, and other kindred diseases, are the natural consequence.

The style of living among the upper classes in Elgin fifty or sixty years ago was plain. In their best entertainments soup, fish, and joints of meat only were used, with very little in the way of dessert. Wine was sparingly used—port and sherry; and on high occasions a bottle of Madeira was placed on the table. French and German wines, from the high duties, were never seen. After dinner, whisky punch was largely partaken of—up to about the year 1820 in bowls; after that period generally in tumblers. The dinner hours were early, often at three o'clock; seldom beyond four o'clock. The party generally broke up early; and, as there were no street conveyances, and few had carriages of their own, they walked home. In dark nights, a servant walked in front, carrying a glass lamp to light them on their way. There were a good many tea and card parties, at which the guests attended not later than six o'clock. About the year 1818, two sedan chairs were purchased in Edinburgh for conveying ladies to evening parties, but they did not come into very general use.

Up to the year 1812, we had no stage coaches, and Elgin must have been then much separated from the rest of the world. About 1818, a four-horse coach was started, to run from Aberdeen to Inverness, which was soon followed by a second one. In 1822, the first steamer of any importance appeared in the Moray Firth, but there was no regular trade for some years. It soon, however, developed itself, and in a

few years thereafter a regular weekly steamer sailed between Inverness and Leith. This was followed by a London steamer, which had a considerable trade in goods, cattle, and sheep, and was remunerative. This traffic continued until the establishment of railways.

In 1817, the town began to extend beyond its ancient limits, and a few villas were erected in the suburbs. This has continued ever since. Few of the better classes, except professional men, who are compelled to do so, now live in the High Street. They generally have their residences in the suburbs, or in some of the new streets. In 1821, North Street was formed. Since that time, King Street, Queen Street, Guildry Street, Reidhaven Street, Institution Road, and various others, have been laid out. The new Parish Church in 1828, the removal of the Jail, and the erection of Court-Houses, churches, banks, the Museum, and other public buildings, have added greatly to the beauty of the town. A print of the High Street was published in 1824, which shows the state of the town at that time. Another was prepared by Mr. Anderson, photographer, a few years ago. No person comparing them together would suppose it was the same place. In 1830, gas was introduced, and about 1850 a plentiful supply of water, which has since been largely increased. This was followed by extensive sewerage, which has proved beneficial, although, being carried into the Lossie on one side, and the rivulet of Tyock on the other, it has quite polluted these beautiful streams. Much enclosing of fields about the town has taken place, with plantations of belts of wood and rows of trees, tending both to shelter and to beautify the landscape. The gardens have also been enlarged and improved, the finest fruit trees introduced, with the cultivation of vines, melons, and cucumbers.

In the early part of the century money was scarce. A person with an income of from £200 to £300 per annum was considered in comfortable and very easy circumstances, and, provisions being cheap, could bring up and educate a family and fit them out in the world without being pinched. This is now quite changed. The formation of railways has brought a great influx of strangers, particularly sportsmen, many of them with great wealth, into the district, who have

raised the prices of provisions, of house rents, wages, and of all commodities, so that Elgin is now almost as costly a place to live in as any part of the United Kingdom; and the introduction of French and German wines, with the adoption of English habits, has made us quite a luxurious community. Some members of society of the more advanced period of life are apt to bewail the departure from the simplicity of their early days; but the world of progress rolls on, and must be submitted to.

The Elgin Academy, for the first forty years of its existence, brought many persons to the town for the education of their families. School fees were very moderate, and education was good. The formation of railways and easy travelling have combined to carry them elsewhere. Another feature of the burgh, and to which I have adverted before, is the introduction of the newspaper press. Up to the year 1827 we had no newspaper. We are now amply supplied in this respect, both by our two local newspapers and by the constant influx of daily journals from London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Aberdeen. We have also a large and important Reading Club, where newspapers and the leading periodicals are supplied to its members. One great fault of the press is the constant catering for news, and the tendency to pry into the private business of individuals. Thus the affairs of the living and the dead, their transactions and their lives, are brought before the public.

During the present century the numbers of the clergy have largely increased. In its opening years, the two Established ministers, one Episcopalian minister, and one of the Secession Church, did the whole ecclesiastical duties of the town and parish. Now we have ten clergymen of different denominations. With all this flood both of civil and ecclesiastical light flowing in upon us, it is hoped we may be growing wiser and better, and that the words of Solomon may not be realised in our experience, "that in much wisdom is much grief, and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow."

CHAPTER VIII.

NOTABLE FAMILIES IN THE PARISH AND BURGH.

I HAVE been wishful to give an account of some of the honourable and respectable families who have existed and flourished within the parish and burgh at different periods. The materials for doing so are very scanty, but I shall endeavour to state such facts as I have been able to gather from family papers and various authors who have treated the subject. I shall begin at the east end of the parish and proceed westward, and will close the subject with a notice of a few of the burgh families.

INNES OF BLACKHILLS.

This family occupied the eastern corner of the parish. I have made enquiries at various quarters for documents and papers regarding them, and, among others, at their present representative, but with no success. I have got absolutely nothing, and am entirely thrown upon my own scanty resources. The estate was originally of considerable size, extending from the eastern corner of the parish of Elgin, to the Burn of Auchinroath, in the parish of Rothes. The first of the family was Alexander Innes, second son of Robert Innes of Rothmakenzie, and brother of James Innes of Crombie. Robert Innes was the common ancestor of the family of Innes of that Ilk, now represented by the Duke of Roxburghe, and of the families of Blackhills, Leuchars, Redhall, and Cotts. The lands of Blackhills were first held in wadset, but afterwards became freeholds. The above Alexander Innes was succeeded by his son, John Innes, who is designed of Blackhills,* whose eldest son, Alexander, having made purchases of land in Banffshire, the succession to Blackhills fell to his uncle, Alexander, who is styled Captain of Orkney. In the year 1629, the estate belonged to James Innes, probably a son of the above Alexander, Captain of Orkney. He is mentioned in the valuation of teinds held that year as proprietor of the estate. Walter Innes was proprietor in 1685, and on the roll of Commissioners of

History of
Family of Innes,
page 201.

Family Tree of
House of Innes.

Family Tree.
History of the
House of Innes,
page 203.

* John Innes of Blackhills was father of Adam Innes of Redhall, who was father of James Innes of Redhall, whose daughter, Jane, married Thomas Pitt, Governor of Fort St. George, in the East Indies, and was grandmother of William Pitt, the great Earl of Chatham. This Jane Innes died 10th January, 1727.

Supply that year. He married Isabella Kinnaird, probably of the family of Culbin, and died in the year 1708. The date of his wife's death is not stated. They are both interred in the Elgin Cathedral burying-ground. The inscription, which is on a tablet in the enclosing wall, is very illegible, but seems to be as follows :—

In memoriam Valteri Innes de Blackhills, qui obiit sexto die Januarii, Millesimo Septingentesimo Octavo (1708), et Isabellæ Kinnaird, dulcissimæ conjugis, quæ obiit—

Robert Innes succeeded Walter Innes in the estate. He married Margaret Chalmers, daughter of James Chalmers of Pittensear. In the Valuation Roll of the County of Elgin in 1744 he is mentioned as the proprietor. He was succeeded by

Family Tree
of Chalmers.

Robert Innes, who married Anne Leslie, daughter of ——— Leslie of Belnageith, by whom he had two sons, William and John, and a daughter, Helen. In Shaw's History of Moray, published in 1775, Robert Innes is mentioned as the proprietor. The year of his death and his place of burial I have not discovered. He probably died some years before the time above noted.

William Innes, his eldest son, succeeded, but died shortly after, unmarried. He sold the lands of Barluack, being the part of the estate of Blackhills situated in the parish of Rothies, consisting of about 1000 acres, principally moor, to the Earl of Findlater, on 18th October, 1779, for the sum of £1250.

Titles of
Barluack.

John Innes, the only remaining brother, succeeded William. He married—first, Helen Donaldson, daughter of William Donaldson,* Morristown, by whom he had four sons and two daughters—viz., William, John, Alexander, Robert, Margaret, and Anne. Anne died young; William became a Writer to the Signet; John, Alexander, and Robert, went to Demarara; Margaret married Mr. Gunn, at Forres. He married—second, Anne Allan, daughter of Robert Allan, one of the Magistrates of Elgin, by whom he had five sons and four daughters—viz., Walter, James, Joseph, George, and Charles, Anne, Jane, Eliza, Clara. The sons of the second marriage went abroad. Of the daughters, Anne married Mr. Alexander Sutherland, the representative of an old cadent branch of the family of Duffus, and Jane married a Mr. Grant. John Innes, in the year 1796, sold the north part of the estate, embracing the mansion-house and the best portion of the land, to Sir Archibald Dunbar of Northfield, Baronet. Mr. Innes died at Elgin about forty years ago.

MS. Account of
Donaldson
Family.

William Innes, Writer to the Signet, his eldest son, represented the family. He married May Brown, daughter of George Brown, Linkwood, Provost of Elgin, by whom he had one child,

John Brown Innes, Writer to the Signet, the representative of the old family of Blackhills, who married, and has a family.

* This family of Donaldson are descended from the Macdonalds of Glencoe, they having changed their names after the massacre.

INNES OF COXTON.

This family, in addition to Coxtton, in Lhanbryd parish, had considerable possessions in the parish of Elgin, embracing Clackmarras, Whitewreath, Thornhill, and others. They are descended from the Invermarkie branch, which came off the parent stem of Innes at a very early date.

Douglas' Baronage, p. 78. Account of Family of Innes, page 43. Walter Innes, the first of the family of Invermarkie, was second son of Sir Robert Innes of that Ilk, and got possession of the lands of Invermarkie about the year 1480. He had three sons—1, Robert, his heir; 2, Walter, of Auchintoul; 3, Peter of Keam, ancestor of the family of Coxtton.

1. Peter of the Keam above-mentioned had a son,

2. Alexander, who was the first designed of Coxtton. He married Catharine Gordon, and got a charter under the Great Seal in favour of Alexander Innes de Coxtton et Catherina Gordon, his spouse, of various lands in the County of Elgin and Forres, dated 7th June, 1605. * By Catharine Gordon he had a son,

3. John, who got a charter under the Great Seal, dated 14th July, 1618. He had a son,

4. James, who predeceased his father, leaving two sons—1, Alexander, who became his grandfather's heir; 2, John of Culdrain.

5. Alexander, eldest son of James, and grandson of John Innes of Coxtton, succeeded his grandfather, and was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia in 1686. He was Provost of Elgin in 1687-88. He was twice married, but died without issue, and was succeeded by his nephew,

Account of Family of Innes, page 257. Alexander Innes, eldest son of John Innes of Culdrain, who became second Baronet. He married—first, Jane Rollo, daughter of Lord Rollo, by whom he had George, his heir; John, an advocate at the bar; and James, a captain in Queen Anne's army; a daughter, Elizabeth, married to John Ord, of Indochty. By his second wife, Jane Meldrum, daughter of Meldrum of Laitthers, he had a daughter, who died young. In the Account of the Family of Innes, I find the following remarks:—"This Sir Alexander Innes of Coxtton was esteemed by all that knew him to be one of the first gentlemen in Scotland, being a graceful person, and of fine natural parts, and a man of remarkable honour and undaunted courage."

Baird's Memoirs of the Duffs, pp. 66 and 67. 6. Sir George Innes succeeded his father, Sir Alexander. He married Elizabeth Gordon, daughter of John Gordon of Rothiemay, and Elizabeth Barclay, heiress of Towie, by whom he had Alexander, his heir to the title, John and James, and five daughters. Sir George got involved in debt, and sold the estate of Coxtton to William Duff of Dipple in 1714. Dipple, having received a disposition to the property, gave his bond to pay all Sir George Innes' debts, according to a list signed by him; but the list was found much under the actual amount. Dipple was prosecuted for the whole debts, and decree was given against him by the Court of Session; but it was reversed by the House of Lords, who found him only liable to pay according to Sir George's signed list. Sir George died at Perth in the winter of 1715.

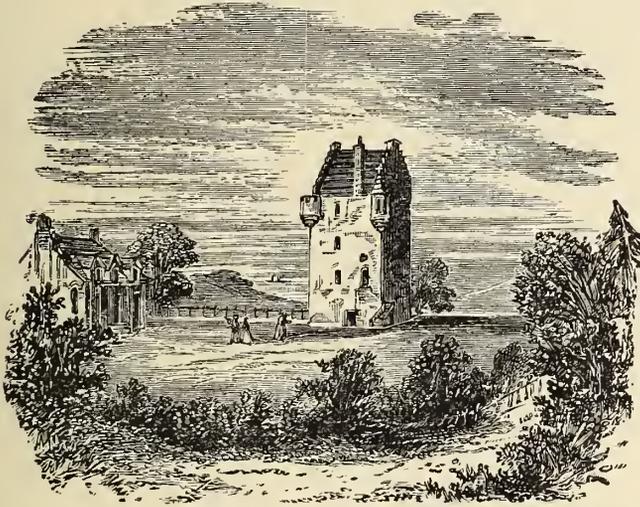
* Alexander Innes died in the year 1612, at the age of eighty, as appears by monumental inscription at Lhanbryd.

7. Sir Alexander, the eldest son, succeeded to the title. In right of his mother, who was heiress to the estate of Towie Barclay, he obtained that property, and, in addition to the name of Innes, he assumed that of Barclay of Towie. He was twice married—first, to Helen Duff, daughter of Duff of Crombie, by whom he had a daughter, named Jane, married to Dr. Dalrymple, of the family of North Berwick. Second, to Jane Ogilvie, daughter of Ogilvie of Balfour, by whom he had a daughter, Isobel, married to Captain Charles Maitland, brother of the Earl of Lauderdale. The family did not long hold the estate of Towie. Sir Alexander died without male issue, and the title of Baronet devolved on his brother,

Account of
Cadent
Branches of
House of Innes,
page 257.

8. Sir James Innes, fifth Baronet. He married Margaret Brodie, of the family of Muireisk, by whom he had five sons—George, James, David, Charles, and Joseph; and three daughters, Elizabeth, Margaret, and Ann. Sir James died at Achanasie, near Keith, on 3d June, 1798, and was buried at Lhanbryd.

9. David, the third son, succeeded, and was the sixth Baronet. He and all his brothers died unmarried, and the direct male line of the family became extinct.



TOWER OF COXTON.

The family is stated now to be represented by Sir George Innes, a collateral branch. He is styled in Oliver & Boyd's Almanac, for 1877, as a captain in the Hampshire Militia, and to have been born in 1834, and succeeded to the title in 1866; but, as he is not mentioned in the Baronetage, I am unable to trace his connection with the old family of Coxton.

Sir Robert Douglas had procured the genealogy of the Coxton family for the second volume of the Baronage of Scotland, which was preparing for the press when he died, and was never published. The want of this volume is quite a national loss.

I have written the above account from the Notes of the late Sir Hugh Innes of Lochalsh, Baronet, which he printed on a sheet of paper in the year 1819, at which time he claimed the Baronetcy, as being descended from the Rev. Beroald Innes,* minister of Alves (commonly called the Chanter of the Diocese of Moray), who is stated to have been the son of John Innes of Culdrain, and brother of Sir Alexander Innes, the second Baronet of Coxton. Sir Hugh was unsuccessful in obtaining the Coxton Baronetcy, but was himself created a Baronet of Great Britain. He purchased the estate of Lochalsh from the Seaforth Family, and was Member of Parliament for the County of Ross, the County of Sutherland, and the Northern Burghs, at different periods. He died without issue, and left his estate of Lochalsh to his grand-niece, Miss Catherine Innes Lindsay, who married Mr. Lillingstone. After being in possession for some years, they sold the estate to Mr. Alexander Mathieson, the present Member of Parliament for the County of Ross. Sir Hugh Innes' Account of the Coxton Family is stated to be principally taken from papers in possession of the Duke of Roxburghe, and other family documents, but it is evidently erroneous in many particulars.

Mr. William Hay, Coxton Cottage, Lhanbryd, has sent me a very neat drawing of the Arms on Coxton Tower. It bears the date 1644. On the top of the shield are the letters R.I. A.I., and on the bottom R. K.G. It is not very apparent to whom these letters apply, as they are somewhat inconsistent with Sir Hugh Innes' Account of the Family. Mr. Billings, in the statement annexed to his beautiful view of the Tower of Coxton, is of opinion that it may be a century older than the date it bears. I do not adopt this view. It bears evident marks of the architecture of the earlier part of the seventeenth century, and at this date Morayshire was in a very disturbed state, and a civil war raging, and such a place of defence was much required. The arms on the shield above referred to have on the first and third quarters three stars for Innes, on the second quarter a stag's head, and on the fourth quarter three boars' heads. On another part of the Tower, there is a small shield divided into two parts, having three stars above, and a stag's head below, with one star between the horns.

FAMILY OF KING OF NEWMILL.

This family for about 120 years held a very prominent position in the Burgh of Elgin. Two of them were Provosts. They were proprietors of the lands of Newmill and Panns, of part of the Aughteen Part Lands, and of houses and grounds within the burgh. They also were for some time owners of a considerable portion of the parish of Birnie. The family was distinguished for benevolence of character, charity to the poor, and very considerable ability. They were held in the greatest respect, and, although now extinct, their memory still lingers.

* The Rev. Beroald Innes, above referred to, was minister of Alves from 1676 to 1693, at which latter date he was deprived for not praying for King William and Queen Mary. He married Jean Falconer, daughter of Colin Falconer, Bishop of Moray, by whom he had a family of three sons and two daughters. He was proprietor of the lands of Inchstellie, in Alves, and died the 27th March, 1722. There is a monument to his memory on the wall of the Choir of the old Church of Alves.

The first of them I find is William King, tenant in Plewland. He was probably born about the year 1580, and he died in 1663, at a very advanced age, as appears by his confirmation, expedite before David Stewart, Commissary of Moray, on 23d January, 1664. He married Catherine Sinclair, who died in 1646, by whom he had one son, John King, and three daughters, Margaret, Janet, and Isabella, who were all married.

2. John King, born 1606, also occupied the farm of Plewland. He married Barbara Ellis, daughter of Adam Ellis in Kirktown of Duffus. Their contract of marriage is dated at Elgin, 25th February, 1626. Of this marriage were born William, on 28th February, 1637; James, Margaret, Janet, Isobel, Elspeth, Barbara, Catherine. The daughters were all married.

Sir Robert Gordon, son of Alexander Earl of Sutherland, acquired the estates now forming the Barony of Gordonstown, about the year 1639. John King was appointed his factor and commissioner, a duty which he discharged very ably. There is much of his hand-writing, which is extremely neat and careful, still in the Charter Room of Gordonstown. He seems to have continued in this office nearly to the close of his life. The Family Bible, which is still preserved, bears that he died "the 10th January, "being Friday, in the year 1670, between eight and nine hours in the "morning," having scarcely completed his sixty-fourth year. His wife, Barbara Ellis, died on Monday the 26th of same month and year, "about twelve hours at night."

3. William King, eldest son of John King, born at Plewland, 28th February, 1637. Settled at Kirktown of Duffus, succeeded his father in the management of the estate of Gordonstown, which he conducted with great prudence and judgment. During the period of his management, the family of Gordonstown acquired a considerable part of Duffus, and the estate of Dollas, and he probably continued to conduct the business until the death of Sir Ludovick, the second Baronet, in 1688. In 1684, he purchased from John Paterson, Bishop of Edinburgh, the lands of Newmill, the Chancellor's, Chanter's, Archdeacon's, and Dean's Crofts of the Cathedral Church of Moray, the Parsonage Crofts of Kinnore, and Spynie, Over and Nether Panns, the Mansion-House of Greyfriars, with Boyle's Orchard, and the half of the lands of Barflathills. The conveyance is dated 9th December, 1684. After this he took up his abode at Greyfriars, and entered largely into the affairs of the burgh. He was Provost from 1690 to 1700, and again from 1709 to 1711.

Mr. King was largely engaged in commercial business, both on his own account and jointly with Sir James Calder, William Duff of Dipple, and others, in which he was very successful. He married in early life, and had two sons, James and John, who were both engaged in mercantile business. His first wife, whose name I have not discovered, appears to have died young. On 29th April, 1682, he married Margaret Cuming, daughter of George Cuming of Lochtervandich, Provost of Elgin, by his wife, Marjory Leslie, of the family of Kininvie, by whom he had ten children, of whom five died young. William, who succeeded him, was born 1692. Margaret married William Gordon, merchant in Elgin, and was mother of

Admiral William Gordon, and other children. Barbara married James Anderson of Linkwood, Provost of Elgin (1706), and had a family. Agnes married James Craig, writer in Elgin, son of the Rev. Thomas Craig, minister of St. Andrew's. Jean married Alexander Falconar, merchant in Elgin, son of the Rev. William Falconar, minister of Dyke, in 1705, and was mother of William Falconar, Bishop of Moray, afterwards Bishop of Edinburgh, Primus of the Scotch Episcopal Church.

Mr. King died at the Greyfriars, Elgin, on 27th September, 1715, aged seventy-eight. His wife, Margaret Cuming, died 2d January, 1714, aged sixty-one. By disposition dated 31st December, 1712, he disposed the whole of his heritable property to his son, William King, who succeeded not only to the estate, but inherited his father's talents. The following monumental inscription was erected in the Greyfriars' Church to the memory of Mr. and Mrs. King :—

In resurrectionis beatæ spem, conduntur hic reliquiæ viri dignissimi Gulielmi King de Newmiln, urbis hujus Elgini quondam Præfecti qui 27 Septembr., A.Æ.C., 1715, Ætatis 77, animam Deo reddidit. Nec non reliquiæ mulieris spectatissimæ Margaretæ Cuming, filiæ viri meritissimi Georgii Cuming de Lochtervandich, urbis etiam hujus quondam Præfecti, præfati Gulielmi King, conjugis carissimæ, quæ 2do Januarii, A.Æ.C., 1714, Ætatis 61, animam efflavit.

Reliquiæ et liberorum his prognatorum.

4. William King succeeded his father in 1715. He was bred to the law, and was much engaged as an arbiter in settling disputes. He held a high position in the Burgh and County, and was on an intimate footing with the nobility and gentry. He was appointed Sheriff-Depute of the County of Elgin by the Earl of Moray in 1741, and was in office during the eventful years of 1745 and 1746. He resigned office in 1748, when the Heritable Sheriffship was abolished.* He seems also to have acted as Convener of the County. Mr. King married—first, Ann Tulloch, daughter of Thomas Tulloch of Tannachy, who died 1st September, 1716, aged twenty-one, and left no issue. She was interred in the Greyfriars' Church, where a monument was erected to her memory, with the following inscription :—

Hic requiescit quod reliquium est mulieris ornatissimæ Annæ Tulloch, filiæ viri spectatissimi Thomæ Tulloch de Tannachy, Gulielmi King, hodie de Newmiln nuptam datæ quæ, 1 September, A.Æ.C., 1716, Ætatis 21, ad cælestes obiit.

He married, in the year 1734—second, Marjory Gordon, daughter of Alexander Gordon of Dykeside, by his wife Margaret Brodie, by whom he had a family of ten children, of whom six died young. Those who attained maturity were as follows :—Margaret, born 19th September, 1735, married Dr. Alexander Munro, but had no family; William, afterwards of Newmill, born 6th October, 1736; Barbara, born 12th October, 1741, named after her aunt, Mrs. Anderson of Linkwood, married to William Stewart of Lesmurdie, and had issue, Francis, Alexander, and William,

* Mr. King's Exchequer account as Sheriff commences in April, 1741, and ends 25th March, 1748, which may be supposed to have been the period of endurance of his office.

and a daughter, Marjory, married to Peter Farquharson of Whitehouse; and Joseph, afterwards of Newmill, born 13th July, 1744. In addition to the property which Mr. King acquired as heir to his father, he in 1718 adjudged from James Stewart of Castlehill, the lands of Castlehill, Rashcrook, and Tomshill, in Birnie; and in 1741, through his wife, Marjory Gordon, he succeeded to the lands of Dykeside, Eastertown of Tullybardine, Hillhead, Newton of Birnie, and Mill of Birnie.

Mr. King, in his early days, was a strict Episcopalian, but finding that the clergy of that persuasion were generally disaffected to the Government, he became a Presbyterian, preferring his loyalty to his religion, and he brought up his family as Presbyterians. He died on 21st October, 1764, aged seventy-two, and was interred in the Greyfriars' Church. His wife, Marjory Gordon, survived him thirty-four years, having died on 7th March, 1798. She was also interred beside her husband in the Greyfriars, where a monument was erected to their memory, on which the following inscription was placed :—

To the Memory of WILLIAM KING of Newmiln,
who died the 21st day of October, 1764, aged seventy-two years ;
and of MARJORIE GORDON, his spouse,
who died the 7th day of March, 1798, aged eighty-six years.

This marble is dutifully inscribed by William King, now of Newmiln, their eldest son.

5. William King succeeded his father in 1764. He was an intelligent, able man, but of more retired habits than his father. Like him, he gave his assistance in settling disputes, and frequently acted as an arbiter. He associated much with the nobility and gentry, and was greatly esteemed by them. He was on terms of intimate friendship with the Duke of Gordon's family, and supported them in their politics. He also took much interest in the general politics of the County, and was a supporter of Mr. Pitt's Administration. He was a correspondent of the famous Jane Duchess of Gordon, and the confidential friend of Sir Alexander Penrose Gordon Cumming of Altyre. Mr. King never married, but lived with his mother, to whom he was greatly attached, and whose life was prolonged nearly to the period of his own death. He died at Aberdeen 21st July, 1800, aged sixty-five, and his body was interred in the Greyfriars' Church. He was succeeded by his only surviving brother,

6. Joseph King, born, as above stated, 13th July, 1744. He went to London in 1757, when thirteen years of age, and, when he grew up, commenced business in Long Lane, where he continued until the death of his brother William in 1800, at which time he returned to Elgin, and succeeded him in his estate. He was a cheerful, amiable person, and took a warm interest in the affairs of the burgh of Elgin, of which he was Provost from 1802 to 1803, and again from 1806 to 1809. On retiring from office that year, the Council put on record in their minutes a warm tribute of the esteem and respect they had for him, and their approbation of his conduct as Chief Magistrate of the burgh. He was the first person who took an interest in the ruins of the Elgin Cathedral, and used his best exertions to have them enclosed, in which he was successful. He also enlarged the park of

the Greyfriars by purchasing various gardens and tenements, and by acquiring from the Earl of Findlater, by excambion, a small field of land called Boyle's Yard, all which he added to the park.

Mr. King was never married, and in his latter days he lived at the Greyfriars with his sister, Mrs. Munro. He only lived about two months after retiring from the office of Provost, having died on 4th December, 1809, aged sixty-five, and with him ended the male line of this respectable family. He was interred in the Church of the Greyfriars, where his sister, Mrs. Munro, erected a monument to the memory of him and his brother William as follows :—

WILLIAM KING of Newmiln,
Died at Aberdeen, the 21st July, 1800, aged sixty-five years.

JOSEPH KING of Newmiln,
Died at his house, Greyfriars, the 4th December, 1809, aged sixty-four years.

This monument is erected by their sister, Mrs. Munro, to the memory of her much respected brothers.

7. Mrs. Munro succeeded. Like the rest of the family, she was a most charitable, benevolent person. She died at the Greyfriars, in the year 1818, in the eighty-third year of her age, and was interred in the Church there.

Major-General Francis Stewart King, her maternal nephew, succeeded to the property.

The venerable building of the Greyfriars, after going through many changes, is again about to be occupied by a member of the family, having been lately acquired by Captain Young Leslie of Kininvie, the great-grand-nephew of Mrs. Munro. Captain Leslie is executing extensive repairs, and is to make a family residence of it.

THE EARLS OF MORAY.

The Earls of Moray are the oldest heritors in the parish of Elgin. They possessed lands in it before we have any written records; and, although they parted with much of their land in the fifteenth century, they resumed possession in the seventeenth century, and still hold a very considerable estate in it.

The ancient Maormars or Kings of Moray were long the most powerful chieftains in Scotland, and were turbulent and troublesome rivals to the Royal Family. Their history is a very obscure one, and our historians differ much in opinion on the subject. It has been stated by some writers that King Malcolm II. was Maormar of Moray before he was king; that Finlay, Macbeth, his son, and Lulach, Macbeth's son, were Maormars, and all possessed of immense power. In the year 1120, during the reign of Alexander I., Angus Earl of Moray, the grandson of Lulach, laid claim to the Crown, and raised an insurrection, which was suppressed by the king in person. Ten years after, in the reign of David I., Earl Angus raised another rebellion, but was then defeated and slain at Strickathrow. In 1141, Wimond, an impostor, called by historians Malcolm Macheth, claimed

the Earldom as son of Angus, and raised several insurrections, but was at last seized, imprisoned in the Castle of Roxburgh, and his eyes put out. He had married a daughter of Somerled, the great Lord of Argyle, and, in the year 1153, that powerful chieftain invaded Scotland, bringing with him the sons of Wimond. The invasion, however, was fruitless. In the year 1160, the Moraymen again rebelled, and, King Malcolm IV., having gathered a large army, in the words of Fordun, "the king removed them all from the land of their birth, as of old Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, had dealt with the Jews, and scattered them throughout the other districts of Scotland, both beyond the hills and this side thereof, so that not even one native of that land abode there; and he installed therein his own peaceful people."

Fordun, Skene's
Edition, vol. II.,
page 252.

It seems very doubtful whether our ancient historian is correct in stating that the whole population was removed; but it is clear that the Province was taken possession of by loyal people, that no farther insurrections took place, and that the Earldom was forfeited to the Crown.

THE RANULPH OR RANDOLPH BRANCH.

1. Dunegal, the first of this great family, was proprietor of Stranit, in Nithsdale. He had four sons—1, Ranulphus; 2, Duncan, 3, Gillipatrick; 4, Dovenald.

2. Ranulph, the eldest son, married Bethoc, heiress of several manors, who gave her name to the parish of Bethocrule, now Bedrule. He and his wife made a gift of land to the Abbey of Jedburgh, and he also made a donation to the Monastery of Kelso. He lived in the reigns of Malcolm IV., David I., and William the Lyon. His family assumed the name of Ranulph from him.

Chalmers'
Caledonia, II.,
page 172.

3. Thomas Filius Ranulphi was one of the great Barons of Scotland, and much engaged in public affairs in the reigns of Alexander II. and Alexander III. Dying in 1262, he was interred at Melrose, and left by Juliana, his wife, a son,

4. Thomas Ranulph of Strathdon; was Sheriff of Roxburgh in 1266. He was Great Chamberlain, and held that office till 1278. He sat in the Parliament of Brigham in 1290. He married Lady Isabel Bruce, eldest daughter of Robert Earl of Carrick, and sister of King Robert Bruce, and by her had a son, Thomas, and a daughter Isabel, married to Sir William Murray, Knight.

5. Thomas Ranulph, usually called Randolph, was one of the chief associates of his uncle, King Robert Bruce, in his arduous attempt to restore the liberties of his country. He distinguished himself at the taking of Roxburgh Castle in 1312, and led the troops at the taking of Edinburgh Castle in 1313. He commanded the left wing of the army at Bannockburn on 24th June, 1314. King Robert rewarded his nephew with a gift of the Isle of Man, and large estates in Dumfriesshire, Berwick, Fife, and Nithsdale. He also conferred on him the Earldom of Moray, extending from the mouth of the Spey to the borders of Argyle and Ross, with feudal superiority over the burghs therein. In the years 1315 and 1318, he was

appointed Guardian of the Kingdom, in the event of the next heir being a minor. He and Douglas commanded the Scots army that invaded England in 1319. In 1323, he was Commissioner for a treaty with England, and the same year he went on a mission to the Pope at Avignon. In 1326, he was sent to France to form an alliance with Charles le Bel, King of France. He commanded the army which invaded England in July, 1327, and in 1329, on the death of his uncle, King Robert Bruce, he became Regent, and discharged his duties with the utmost zeal, so as to secure the public tranquillity. The English having invaded Scotland in 1332, he prepared to meet them, although suffering most excruciating pain from stone; but he died at Musselburgh 20th July, 1332, to the irreparable loss of his country, at a very critical period of its history. Sir Robert Douglas very justly remarks that he was "a man to be remembered, while integrity, prudence, and valour, are held in esteem among men." Barbour describes him as "of comely stature, broad visaged, and of countenance fair and pleasant, the friend of brave men, loyal, just, and munificent, and altogether made up of virtue." He married Isabel, only daughter of Sir John Stewart of Bonkyl, by whom he got the Barony of Garlies, and by her had issue—1, Thomas, second Earl of Moray; 2, John, third Earl of Moray; and a daughter, Agnes, married to Patrick, ninth Earl of Dunbar and March, who, in her right, became Earl of Moray.

Amidst all the cares of an anxious life, Earl Randolph found time to make frequent visits to his northern estates, where his name is still lovingly held in esteem and respect. Tradition reports that he built the great hall of Darnaway, but it is now supposed that this magnificent room is the work of the fifteenth century.

Old Statistical
Account, vol.
XVI., page 6.

Anno 1795.

Dr. Carlyle, in his Statistical Account of the Parish of Inveresk, remarks as follows:—"Tradition points out the house where Randolph Earl of Moray died, near the east end of the town, on the south side. It is a vaulted house, of two rooms on the ground floor. The rooms are about fourteen feet square, and the arch eight feet high, with a passage between them six feet wide. This might have well been the best house in the town 460 years ago. Tradition also states that the inhabitants formed a guard round the house during the illness of the great man."

6. Thomas, second Earl of Moray, succeeded his father, but enjoyed the title only twenty-three days. He had a chief command in the army, under the Earl of Mar, Regent of Scotland, at the Battle of Dupplin, 17th August, 1332, and behaved very gallantly, but had the misfortune to be there killed, with most of his followers. Having never been married, he was succeeded by his only brother,

7. John, third Earl of Moray. Though a very young man when his brother was killed, he immediately took arms in favour of King David II., and surprised and defeated Baliol at Annan in December, 1332. He commanded a portion of the Scotch army at the Battle of Halidonhill, on 19th July, 1333, and was of the few who escaped from the carnage of that bloody day. After that event he retired to France, but returned to Scotland the following year, when he and the High Steward were appointed Regents. In 1335, he was taken prisoner by the English, and was confined for some

time at Nottingham and the Tower of London ; afterwards at Windsor Castle. In 1341, he obtained his liberty, and in 1342 he was with the army of King David that invaded England. He commanded the right wing of the army at the Battle of Durham 17th October, 1346, and was there killed. He married his cousin, Isabella Stewart, only daughter of Sir Alexander Stewart of Bonkyl, widow of Donald Earl of Mar, but by her he had no issue.

In terms of the charter in favour of the first Earl, which limited the succession to heirs-male of his body, the Earldom and other estates should have reverted to the Crown ; but they were all taken possession of by Agnes Countess of Dunbar and March, the only sister of the two last Earls, perhaps with the tacit consent of the sovereign, on account of the great services and devoted conduct of the Countess to her king and country, which have given her an imperishable name.

THE DUNBAR BRANCH.

By the death of her brother, John Earl of Moray, Agnes Countess of Dunbar and March succeeded to the Earldom. By her husband, Patrick, ninth Earl of Dunbar and March, she had two sons—1, George, tenth Earl of Dunbar and March ; 2, John Earl of Moray.

1. John Dunbar, Earl of Moray, married Marjory, eldest daughter of King Robert II., and received a charter of the Earldom in favour of himself and the Princess Marjory, his spouse, and the longest liver of them, and the heirs lawfully procreated or to be procreated between them, of the whole Earldom of Moray, excepting Lochaber, Badenoch, and the Castle of Urquhart, and the great Customs of the Earldom. They had subsequent charters over other lands. The Earl was a person of considerable attainments, and was in the confidence of the king, his father-in-law. He was employed in much diplomatic business, and was engaged at the Battle of Otterburn in 1388. He was killed at a tourney with the Earl Marshal of England 1394. By the Princess Marjory he had two sons—1, Thomas, second Earl of Moray ; 2, Alexander Dunbar of Fren draught.

Douglas' Peerage, Wood's Edition, vol. II., page 252.

2. Thomas, second Earl of Moray, the eldest son, was one of the prisoners taken at the Battle of Homildon, 14th September, 1402. He was father of—

3. Thomas, the third Earl, who was one of the hostages for the return of King James I., and was as such detained some time in England. From thence he returned in 1425. I do not find whom he married, but he is said to have had a daughter married to Hugh Lord Lovat. This, however, may be doubtful. He was succeeded by his cousin, James Dunbar, son of Alexander Dunbar of Fren draught.

4. James, the fourth Earl, succeeded his cousin. He married—first, Isabella, daughter of Sir Walter Innes of Innes, his second cousin, by whom he had a son, Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield ; but she being within the forbidden degree, and having died before a Papal dispensation for their marriage could be obtained, the son was deprived of the succession to the Earldom. The Earl married—second, Lady Janet Gordon, eldest daughter

of Alexander, first Earl of Huntly, by whom he had two daughters—1, Lady Janet, married to James, second Lord Crichton, and carried the Barony of Frendraught into that family; and 2, Lady Mary, married to Archibald Douglas, third son of James, seventh Earl of Douglas.

Archibald Douglas, the husband of the youngest daughter, obtained the Earldom, to the prejudice of the elder sister and her husband, and to that of Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield, who was the heir-male. This earl was an able man, and, amidst the turmoils of that troubled time, devoted some attention to the improvement and embellishment of his estates, and, in particular, of his castles of Tarnua and Lochindorb, which he fortified and strengthened. He was also a benefactor to the burgh of Elgin, having, it is said, conveyed the Aughteen Part Lands to the Magistrates. It is also supposed that he settled one of his relatives in the Barony of Pittendreich, which were part of the constabulary lands of Elgin. He had the misfortune to be involved in the insurrection of his relatives of the Douglas family, considering it his duty to support them even against his sovereign, and he was killed in an action with the forces of King James II., at Arkinholm, in Dumfriesshire, 1st May, 1455. He was attainted after death, on 12th June, 1455, when the Earldom of Moray became vested in the Crown, and remained in the hands of the Sovereign until 1501.

THE FIRST FAMILY OF STEWART.

The Earldom of Moray, which had been vested in the Crown for about forty-six years, was conferred by King James IV. on his illegitimate son, James Stewart, by Janet, daughter of John Lord Kennedy, by charter dated 20th June, 1501, to him and the heirs-male of his body. He was educated in France, from whence he returned in 1519. It was intended that he should have married Lady Margaret Douglas, the daughter of the Queen Mother, but the marriage did not take place. He obtained charters of lands in various parts of the kingdom in 1524, 1528, 1529, 1530, 1532, 1538, and 1542. In 1532, he held the office of Lieutenant-General of the kingdom, and in 1535 proceeded to France to negotiate the marriage of King James V. He married Lady Elizabeth Campbell, only daughter of Colin, third Earl of Argyle, and by her (who married afterwards John, tenth Earl of Sutherland) had one daughter, Lady Mary, married to John, Master of Buchan, by whom she had no issue. The Earl of Moray died without male issue on 12th June, 1544, when the Earldom reverted to the Crown. It was granted to George Earl of Huntly, on 13th February, 1549, but that family only held it for a few years.

Great Seal
Register.

Douglas'
Peerage, Wood's
Edition,
vol. II., p. 254.

SECOND AND PRESENT FAMILY OF STEWART OR STUART, EARLS OF MORAY.

1. James Stewart, illegitimate son of King James V., by Margaret, daughter of John Earl of Mar, afterwards wife of Sir Robert Douglas of Lochleven, was brought up for the Church, and was appointed Prior of St. Andrew's in 1538, when a child. When he grew up, he first adhered to

the party of the Queen Regent, but being dissatisfied with her conduct, he joined the Lords of the Congregation in 1559, to whom he afterwards adhered. He went to France in 1561 to invite Queen Mary home, and became her Prime Minister. In 1561-2 he was created Earl of Moray. He defeated the Earl of Huntly at Corrichie in 1562. He opposed the Queen's marriage with Darnley. He went to France in 1567, with the intention of remaining there five years, but returned in the autumn of the same year, and was appointed Regent. He defeated the Queen's forces at Langside, 13th May, 1568. Having overpowered the Hamilton faction, he fell a victim to the revenge of Hamilton of Bothwellhaugh, by whom he was assassinated at Linlithgow on the 21st January, 1569-70, in the thirty-seventh year of his age, and was buried in St. Giles' Church, Edinburgh, where his monument still remains, having been lately restored by his descendant John, late Earl of Moray. He married, in February, 1561,* Lady Anne (or Annas) Keith, eldest daughter of William, fourth Earl Marischal (and who married—secondly, Colin, sixth Earl of Argyle), by whom he had two daughters—1, Lady Elizabeth, married to James Stewart, son of James Lord Doune, and who, in her right, became Earl of Moray; 2, Lady Margaret, married to Francis, ninth Earl of Errol, without issue.

2. James Stewart, eldest son of Sir James Stewart of Doune (afterwards Lord Doune), married Lady Elizabeth Stewart, eldest daughter of the Regent, in 1580, and immediately assumed the titles of Earl of Moray, in right of his wife. He is known in history by the name of the "Bonny Earl of Moray." He was much in good graces of Queen Anne, wife of James VI., and it is said the king was jealous of him. This earl was murdered by the Earl of Huntly, along with Dunbar, Sheriff of Moray, then residing with him, at Donibristle, on 7th February, 1591-2. By his wife, Lady Elizabeth Stewart, he had—1, James, afterwards Earl of Moray; 2, Sir Francis Stewart, Knight of the Bath. First daughter, Lady Margaret, married to Charles Howard, Earl of Nottingham, and afterwards to William Viscount Monson in Ireland; 2, Lady Mary, married to John, eighth Lord Abernethy of Saltoun; 3, Lady Grizel, married to Sir Robert Innes of Innes.

3. James succeeded his father as third Earl, and married Lady Anne Gordon, daughter of the Marquis of Huntly, the murderer of his father. This marriage was brought about by the king to heal the family feud. He got a new investiture of the title in favour of himself and the heirs-male of his body in 1611, and various charters of his estates. He died at Darnaway Castle, 6th August, 1638, and was buried next day at the Church of Dyke without any pomp, according to his own directions. By his wife, Lady Anne Gordon, he had one son, James, who succeeded him, and a daughter, Lady Margaret, who was married in 1640 to Sir James Grant of Grant.

4. James, fourth Earl, succeeded his father; was a Royalist, but kept himself retired in the country during the Civil War. He sold a considerable part of the estate in Morayshire, and the great lodging in Elgin, then called Moray House. He married Lady Margaret Home, eldest daughter

* The contract of marriage is dated 7th February, 1561. The Regent is therein designed Earl of Mar. It is signed by Queen Mary, James Stewart, Wilyam Erl Marschell, and Annas Keyth. The contract is in possession of the present Earl of Moray.

of Alexander Earl of Home, and by her had—1, James, Lord Doune, who died before his father, unmarried; 2, Alexander, fifth Earl of Moray; 3, Francis, who died without issue; 4, Archibald, of Dunearn, in Fife. First daughter, Lady Mary, married Archibald, ninth Earl of Argyle, and was mother of the first Duke; 2, Lady Margaret, married to Alexander Lord Duffus; 3, Lady Harriet, married to Sir Hugh Campbell of Calder; 4, Lady Anne, married to David Ross of Balnagowan. His Lordship died 4th March, 1653.

5. Alexander, the eldest surviving son, succeeded his father; was fined by Cromwell in the sum of £3500 in 1654. He was appointed one of the Lords of Treasury in 1678; Secretary of State, 1680; High Commissioner of the Parliament of Scotland, 1686; and Knight of the Thistle, 1687. At the Revolution, he was deprived of all his offices, and retired to his house of Donibristle, where he died 1st November, 1700. By his wife, Emilia, daughter of Sir William Balfour of Pitcullo, he had four sons—1, James Lord Doune, who died in 1685. He married Lady Catherine Talmash, daughter of the Duchess of Lauderdale, by whom he had two daughters—Elizabeth, married to Alexander Grant of Grant; and, second, Emilia, married—first, to Thomas Fraser of Strichen, and, second, to John Earl of Crawford; 2, Charles, sixth Earl of Moray; 3, Honourable John Stuart, who died without issue; 4, Francis, seventh Earl.

6. Charles, sixth Earl, was created a Baronet in 1681. His father, Alexander Earl of Moray, purchased for him, in 1683, the Barony of Pittendreich, which had formerly been a part of the Earldom. He succeeded his father in 1700. He purchased the Hereditary Sheriffship of Moray from Dunbar of Westfield in 1724. He married Lady Anne Campbell, eldest daughter of Archibald Earl of Argyle, widow of Richard, fourth Earl of Lauderdale. She died 1734. His Lordship died without issue at Donibristle, 7th October, 1735, in the seventy-sixth year of his age.

7. Francis, seventh Earl, born about 1673, succeeded his brother. He was called on to surrender himself in 1715, being suspected of disaffection to the Government. He married—first, Elizabeth, only daughter of Sir John Murray of Drumcairn, by whom he had no surviving issue; second, Jane, daughter of John Lord Balmerino, by whom he had five sons and two daughters, viz.:—1, James, eighth Earl of Moray; 2, John Stuart of Pittendreich, a General in the army; 3, Francis, Lieutenant-Colonel; 4, Archibald, a Captain in the Royal Navy; 5, Henry, a Major of Dragoons. First daughter, Lady Anne, married to John Stuart of Blairhall; second, Lady Amelia, married to Sir Peter Halket of Pitfirran, in Fife. His Lordship died at Donibristle, 11th December, 1739, in the sixty-sixth year of his age. His Countess died before him, 13th May same year.

8. James, eighth Earl, born about 1708; succeeded his father, 1739; was invested with the Order of the Thistle, 1741; chosen one of the Representative Peers, 1741; and again elected 1747, 1754, and 1761. He died at Donibristle, 5th July, 1767, in the fifty-ninth year of his age. He married—first, in December, 1734, Grace, daughter of George Lockhart of Carnwath. She died at Darnaway 17th November, 1738, leaving by the Earl of Moray a son and a daughter, viz.:—Francis, ninth Earl; Lady

Euphemia, died unmarried, 3d October, 1770. His Lordship married, secondly, 24th April, 1740, Lady Margaret Wemyss, second daughter of David, third Earl of Wemyss, who died at Drylaw, near Edinburgh, 31st August, 1779, and by her had two sons—1, The Honourable James Stuart, born 1741, Governor of Fort-George, Lieutenant-Colonel of the Sutherland Fencible Regiment. He died at Fort-George 4th May, 1808; 2, Honourable David Stuart, born about 1745; died 12th June, 1784.

9. Francis, ninth Earl, born 1737; completed his education abroad; succeeded his father, 1767; was a great improver. Within two years after his succession, he planted thirteen millions of trees at Donibristle, Doune, and Darnaway, whereof about one and a-half millions were oaks. He was chosen one of the Representative Peers for Scotland at the General Elections, 1784 and 1790; and in 1796 was created a British Peer by the title of Lord Stuart of Castle Stuart to him and the heirs-male of his body. He was Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Elgin, and died at Drumsheugh 28th August, 1810, in his seventy-fourth year, and was buried at Donibristle. His Lordship married, 28th June, 1763, Jane, eldest daughter of John, twelfth Lord Gray, who died 19th February, 1786, and by her had—1, James Lord Doune, who died 11th July, 1776; 2, John Lord Doune, born 11th February, 1768, died, unmarried, 6th July, 1791; 3, Francis, tenth Earl; 4, Honourable Archibald, born 2d February, 1771, twin brother of Francis, held a commission for some time in the Dragoon Guards, and was afterwards Lieutenant-Colonel in the Dorsetshire Local Militia. He married, 17th March, 1793, Cornelia, youngest daughter of Edmond Morton Pleydell of Milborn, St. Andrew, by whom he had six sons; 5, Honourable Charles, died young. First daughter, Lady Margaret, died, unmarried, at Darnaway, 2d September, 1788; 2, Lady Grace, married 1789 to George Douglas of Cavers, died 1846; 3, Lady Jane, who died young; 4, Lady Anne, died 1837. Shortly before this Earl's death, he rebuilt the Castle of Darnaway, but retained the ancient hall. The house may have gained in comfort, but has lost its fine romantic appearance, and it is a subject of regret that the old Castle was not preserved.

10. Francis, tenth Earl, succeeded his father. He married, 22d January, 1795, Lucy, second daughter of General John Scott of Balcomie. She died in 1798. By her he had two sons—Francis, born 7th November, 1795, eleventh Earl; Honourable John Stuart, born 25th January, 1797, twelfth Earl. His Lordship married, secondly, 7th January, 1801, Margaret Jane, eldest daughter of Sir Philip Ainslie of Pilton, by whom he had—James, born 1804, died 1840; Archibald George, thirteenth Earl, born 1810; Charles, born 1814, died 1847; George, born 1816, fourteenth Earl; Jane, married, first, to Sir John Archibald Stewart, Baronet; second, to Captain Lonsdale Pouden of Rossgrove, County of Wexford; Margaret Jane, died 1863; Anne Grace; Louisa, died 1864. His Lordship died 12th January, 1848.

11. Francis, eleventh Earl, born 1795, died unmarried, 6th May, 1859.

12. John, twelfth Earl, born 1797, died unmarried, 8th November, 1867.

13. Archibald George, thirteenth Earl, born 1810, succeeded his half brother. He died, unmarried, 1872.

14. George, fourteenth and present Earl, born 1816, and is unmarried.

The heir-presumptive is his Lordship's cousin, Edmund Archibald Stuart, born 1840.

The arms of the family are—Quarterly—1st and 4th Or, a lion rampant within a double tressure, flory, counter flory, gules, surrounded with a bordure, gobony, argent and azure (as a descendant of the Royal house of Stuart); 2d Or, a fesse, chequy, azure and argent, for Stewart of Doune; 3d Or, three cushions, two and one, of a lozenge form, within a double tressure, flory, counter flory, gules, for Randolph Earl of Moray. Crest—A pelican in her nest feeding her young, ppr. Supporters—Two greyhounds arg. collared, gules. Motto—"Salus per Christum redemptorem."

Creations—Earl, 30th January, 1561-2; New Charter, 17th April, 1611; Lord Doune, 24th November, 1581—all in Scotland. Baron, 4th June, 1796—in Great Britain.

Seats—Donibristle, in Fifeshire; Castle Stuart, in Inverness-shire; Darnaway Castle, in Elginshire; and Doune Castle, in Perthshire.

FAMILY OF BRODIE OF MILTON AND WINDYHILLS.

This much-respected family were long connected with the parish and burgh of Elgin. They were descended from David, thirteenth laird of Brodie, who married Janet Hay, youngest daughter of John Hay of Lochloy and Park. He was born in 1553, and died in 1626.

Family Tree of
the Brodies.

1. Francis Brodie, sixth son of David Brodie of Brodie, purchased the estate of Milton, in the parish of Elgin. He died 1673. He was succeeded by his son,

2. Francis, married—first, Miss Hay, daughter of Hugh Hay of Brightmony, by whom he had Joseph, his heir, Alexander, Ludovick of Whitefield, and Dr. David of Mayne, and four daughters, viz., Margaret, married to Alexander Gordon of Dykeside, and Jane, Catherine, and Lillias. He married—second, Barbara Johnson, sister of William Johnson of Monthagie, Regent of the University of Aberdeen, and by her had a daughter, Elizabeth, married to John Hay of Brightmony. He was fined £10,000 Scots by the Government of the day for refusing the test oath, but it is doubtful if the fine ever was fully exacted from him. He died in 1693.

3. Joseph Brodie, succeeded his father. He married, 1693, Margaret, daughter of Thomas Dunbar of Grange, by whom he had George, born 1694, died in Spain 1748, a Captain of Dragoons; Alexander, born 1701; Jane, married to the Rev. James Innes, minister of Banff; Catherine, married Sir Patrick Dunbar of Northfield, Baronet in the County of Caithness; Barbara, married in 1733, to James Robertson of Bishopmill, Provost of Elgin—died in 1776; and Elizabeth, who was unmarried. Joseph Brodie sold the estate of Milton to Lord Braco in 1730.

4. George Brodie, the eldest son of the family, succeeded to the estate of Windyhills, in the parish of Alves, in virtue of a disposition in his favour from James Brodie of Windyhills; but he died abroad, unmarried, as above-mentioned.

5. Alexander Brodie, his brother, succeeded, and was served heir to George Brodie of Windyhills in 1749. He resided in Elgin. He was Provost of the burgh from 1749 to 1752, and was five times re-elected, viz., in 1755, 1761, 1767, 1774, and 1778, having been in office for fourteen years, and took a great interest in the affairs of the town. He married Anne Dawson, daughter of William Dawson of Hempriggs, Provost of Forres, and one of the co-heiresses of that estate, by whom he had a son, William, who succeeded him, and a daughter, Margaret, who died in 1760. Alexander Brodie died in 1781, and was buried in Milton's Tomb in the Elgin Cathedral Churchyard.

6. William Brodie, the only son, succeeded his father. He also lived a good deal in Elgin, and was for some time a member of the Town Council of Elgin. He was served heir to his father, 18th July, 1781. He changed the name of the estate from Windyhills to Milton. He had by his wife one son, William, and a daughter, Eliza, on whom successively he executed a deed of entail, whom failing, on other substitutes therein mentioned. He died at Elgin in 1805, and was buried in the Milton Tomb.

7. William Brodie, advocate, born 1787, came into possession of the estate in 1805, but was only served heir of tailzie and provision to his father, 5th December, 1821. He died unmarried in 1826.

8. Eliza, his sister, succeeded her brother as his heiress of entail. She was born 1780. She married Henry Joseph Dun, who assumed the name of Brodie. Both she and her husband died in the year 1861 without issue.

9. The Rev. John Brodie Innes, descended from Joseph Brodie, the third of Milton, in the female line, succeeded as next heir of entail, and is now in possession of the estate.

EARLS OF DUNFERMLINE.

I have had occasion several times to refer to Alexander Seton, Earl of Dunfermline, in the preceding pages, as proprietor of the estate of Pluscarden, as a residenter in the town, and as Provost of the burgh; but it is proper now to state some more precise account of the family history.

1. Alexander Seton, third son of George, sixth Lord Seton, and brother of Robert, first Earl of Winton, was intended for the Church, and for that purpose was sent to Rome to pursue his studies; but the Reformation having occurred, he betook himself to the law, in which having perfected himself he returned to Scotland, and was appointed by King James VI. an Extraordinary Lord of Session 27th January, 1585. He took his seat on the bench by the style of Prior of Pluscarden. On 16th February, 1687, he was appointed an Ordinary Lord by the style of Lord Urquhart. Next year he had a grant of the whole lands and tithes of the Priory of Pluscarden. On 28th May, 1593, he became President of the Court of Session, and in 1595 was one of the eight Commissioners of the Treasury, called from their number Octavians. In 1598, he was created a Peer by the title of Lord Fyvie, and the Barony of Fyvie was erected into a free Lordship. In 1604, he was one of the Commissioners for a treaty of Union

Crawford's
Peerage,
Edition 1716,
page 111.
Douglas'
Peerage, vol. I.,
pages 480, 481,
482, Wood's
Edition.

with England, and the same year was appointed Chancellor of Scotland. In 1606, he was created Earl of Dunfermline, the grant being to him and his heirs-male. He was the King's Commissioner to the Parliament held at Edinburgh in 1612, and he held the office of Chancellor until the period of his death, which happened at his seat of Pinkie, near Musselburgh, on 16th June, 1622. He was buried at Dalgety, in Fife, with great solemnity on 19th July following.

He married—first, Lillias, second daughter of Patrick, third Lord Drummond, by whom he had six daughters—1, Lady Anne, married to Alexander Viscount of Fentoun; 2, Lady Isabella, married to John, first Earl of Lauderdale; 3, Margaret, born 16th June, 1590, died an infant; 4, Lady Margaret, born 8th August, 1599, married to Colin, first Earl of Seaforth; 5, Lady Sophia, married to David, first Lord Lindsay of Balcarres; 6, Lady Lillias, born 10th October, 1602, died unmarried. His Lordship married, second, Grizel Leslie, fourth daughter of James Master of Rothes, sister of John, sixth Earl of Rothes, and by her had a son, Charles Lord Fyvie, who died young, and a daughter, Lady Jane, married to John, first Earl of Tweeddale. He married, third, Margaret Hay, sister of John, first Earl of Tweeddale, by whom he had a son, Charles, second Earl of Dunfermline, and two daughters, Lady Mary, who died young, and Lady Grizel, who died unmarried. His Lordship is said to have been Provost of Elgin about the years 1591 and 1606, and to have resided a good deal in the town. He sold the whole Priory Lands of Pluscarden in 1595, but retained the Lordship of Urquhart and the mansion-house in Elgin. He was not only a great statesman and lawyer, but also an accomplished scholar, to which points of his character, as well as his sagacity and sound judgment, we have referred before.

2. Charles, second Earl of Dunfermline, succeeded his father, 1622, and was, like his father, a man of great talents. He took a prominent part in the history of his time. When King Charles I. proposed to invade Scotland, his Lordship was sent to request that a treaty might be entered into, which was granted by the king. The Parliament of Scotland the same year sent his Lordship and the Earl of Loudon to Court as Commissioners to vindicate their acts. They were both arrested by the king's orders, but suffered to return home. He was also sent by the Parliament to London in 1640. On his return he was nominated a Commissioner for the Treaty of Rippon in October the same year. The king appointed him his Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, which met at St. Andrew's in July, 1642. He was at Newcastle with the king in 1646, and offered, along with the Marquis of Argyle and the Chancellor, to go to London to treat with the Parliament of England for a mitigation of the articles proposed by them. After the execution of the king, his Lordship went abroad in 1649 to wait on King Charles II., with whom he returned to Scotland next year. At the Restoration, he was appointed a Privy Councillor; in 1669, an Extraordinary Lord of Session; and in 1671, Keeper of the Privy Seal. He died about 1673, and was buried at Dalgety. He married Lady Mary Douglas, third daughter of William Earl of Morton, and by her, who died at Fyvie about 1659, had—

1, Alexander, third Earl of Dunfermline ; 2, Charles, killed in a sea fight with the Dutch, 1672 ; 3, James, fourth Earl of Dunfermline ; and Lady Henrietta, married—first, to William Earl of Wigton ; second, to William, fifteenth Earl of Crawford.

3. Alexander, third Earl of Dunfermline, succeeded his father in 1673, but did not long survive. The title and estates devolved on his only brother,

4. James, fourth Earl of Dunfermline. In his younger days, he entered on a military life, and served with credit under the Prince of Orange ; but, on his succession to his brother, he returned home, and entered upon the possession of the estates, and had a charter of the Lordship of Urquhart 25th April, 1684. He resided a good deal at Elgin, and made repairs and additions to the family residence there. He is said to have lived in great splendour up to the Revolution of 1688. He married Lady Jane Gordon, third daughter of Lewis, third Marquis of Huntly, and sister of George, first Duke of Gordon. His connection with the Gordon family was the means of inducing him to adopt their strong Jacobite principles. He was one of the Scotch Peers who faithfully adhered to the fortunes of King James. He raised a troop of horse, and joined Viscount Dundee in 1689, and fought at their head at the Battle of Killiecrankie that year, for which he was outlawed and forfeited by the Parliament, 1690. He followed King James to St. Germain, where he died in 1694. He left no issue. The estates fell to the Crown ; those in Morayshire, with the house in Elgin, were eventually acquired by the Duke of Gordon.

Crawford's
Peerage, p. 112.

The arms of the family are—Quarterly—1st and 4th Or, three crescents within a double tressure, flowered and counter-flowered, gules ; 2d and 3d, argent, on a fess, gules, three cinque-foils of the first. Crest—A crescent, gules. Supporters—Two horses at liberty. Motto—"Semper."

DUFF EARL OF FIFE.

This family have been connected with Elgin for a period of more than one hundred and seventy years, and have always taken a kindly interest both in the burgh and country round. In particular, during the last sixty years, they have been the greatest benefactors we have ever had, using their utmost endeavours, and taking every opportunity to promote the good of the town, as well as the welfare of its inhabitants. This good feeling has been warmly reciprocated on the part of the people of Elgin. The Earl of Fife is also by far the largest heritor in the parish, both in rental and acreage, and takes the most prominent part as a landed proprietor. In my Account of the Parish of Spynie, published in 1871, I gave a very lengthened account of this family—the information being collected from every possible source—and I would not have again entered upon the subject, except for the reason that no account of the parish and burgh of Elgin can be complete without some reference to them, but which I shall now endeavour to do more briefly than in my previous work.

The Duff family claim a traditional descent from Macduff, Thane or Earl

of Fife, and to this they have adhered with the utmost tenacity, which is shown by their assuming the dignity of Earl of Fife in the Peerage as their first title, and that of Viscount Macduff as their second. They have a clear charter descent for about 500 years, and were settled as landed proprietors in Banffshire in the reign of King David II. The first of the family I find recorded was—

Cordiner's
Views in
Scotland.

1. John Duff of Muldavit, near Cullen. He died in 1404, and was buried in the Church of Cullen, where a monument was erected to his memory, which was removed to the Mausoleum at Duff House in 1790.

Douglas'
Baronage,
pp. 136 to 140.

2. David Duff of Muldavit married Mary Chalmers. He had various charters in favour of himself and his wife.

3. John Duff, son of the preceding, succeeded. He lived in the time of King James I.

4. John Duff of Muldavit and Craighead had a charter from King James II., dated 12th February, 1442. He wadset his lands to James Innes of that ilk.

5. John Duff, burghess of Cullen.

6. Andrew Duff of Muldavit redeemed the lands from the laird of Innes. He married Helen Hay, grandchild of John Hay, Lord of Forest of Boyne. He left two sons—1, John, his heir; and 2, George, a Churchman. He died 1519, and after his death his widow, Helen Hay, built an aisle on the south side of the Church of Cullen, long called Duff's Aisle.

7. John Duff succeeded, and was infeft on Chancery precept as heir to his father, Andrew, 16th May, 1520. He had two sons—1, George; 2, John.

8. George Duff was never married. He resigned his lands to his brother John.

9. John Duff of Muldavit and Craighead got a charter under the Great Seal, 26th November, 1550. He died about the year 1580.

10. John Duff, son of the preceding, succeeded; got a charter as heir-apparent on 10th July, 1575, which was renewed 24th February, 1610. He married Agnes Gordon, by whom he had a son, John. He sold the estate of Muldavit in 1626 to James Hay of Rannes. He died in 1627.

11. John Duff, his son, married—first, Isabella Allan, by whom he had a son, John; second, Margaret, daughter of John Gordon of Cairnburrow, by whom he had a son, Adam Duff of Clunybeg, and a daughter, Margaret, married to John Meldrum of Laithers.

12. John Duff, eldest son of the last John Duff, was a merchant in Aberdeen. He had a charter on half of the land of Boghall, and died in the reign of King Charles II.

13. John Duff, son of the preceding, was an advocate in Aberdeen, and very much respected as a man of business, as well as in private life. He died without issue in 1718, and in him ended the succession of John Duff of Muldavit (No. 11) by his first wife, Isabella Allan.*

14. Adam Duff of Clunybeg, son of John Duff of Muldavit (No. 11),

Baird's Memoirs
of the Duffs,
page 20.

* This John Duff engaged in the Rebellion of 1715, after which he retired to Holland for safety, where he died, as above noted, in 1718.

by his second wife, Margaret Gordon, was born 1598. He settled at Clunybeg, in Mortlach, and acquired a considerable fortune. He and his family strongly supported the Royalist cause in the troubles of the seventeenth century, for which he was fined in 500 merks. He married Beatrix Gordon, daughter of John Gordon of Birkenburn, by whom he had six sons and two daughters, viz.—Alexander, his heir; John, ancestor of Corsindae; William, Provost of Inverness, ancestor of the family of Drummuir and Crombie; George, ancestor of families of Duffs in Elgin. Two sons died unmarried. Two daughters, Jean and Helen, were married. Adam Duff of Clunybeg died in April, 1674, aged seventy-six.

15. Alexander Duff, eldest son of Adam Duff of Clunybeg, was wadsetter of the lands of Keithmore, where he resided. He acquired the lands of Balvenie, and much other landed property. He married Helen, daughter of Alexander Grant of Allachie, by whom he got a fortune of 100,000 merks Scots. By her he had three sons and four daughters, viz.—1, Alexander of Braco; 2, William Duff, merchant in Elgin and Inverness, afterwards of Dipple and Braco; 3, Patrick of Craigston, ancestor of Hatton. First daughter, Margaret, married to James Stewart of Lesmurdie; 2, Jean, married to George Meldrum of Crombie; 3, Mary, married—first, to Andrew Fraser, physician in Inverness, and, second, to Thomas Tulloch of Tannachy; 4, Elizabeth, married to a brother of Sir James Calder of Muirton. Alexander Duff of Keithmore died in 1700, aged seventy-six; his wife, Helen Grant, in 1694, aged sixty. They were interred in the Parish Church of Mortlach, where a monument was erected to their memory, which is still in good preservation.

16. Alexander Duff of Braco succeeded his father, but did not long survive him. He represented the County of Banff in the Parliament of Scotland, and strongly opposed the Union with England. He was an extensive purchaser of lands in Banffshire, and bears the name of being a hard man. He married Margaret, daughter of Sir William Gordon of Lesmoir, Baronet, by whom he had one son, William Duff of Braco, and three daughters, viz.—1, Margaret, married to Gordon of Glengerrack; 2, Helen, married to William Gordon of Farskine; 3, Mary, married to Alexander Abercrombie of Tullybodie, advocate. Braco died in the year 1705, two years before the Union, and was buried in the aisle of the Parish Church of Grange, where a monument was erected to his memory.

17. William Duff, only son of the preceding, was an amiable person of considerable accomplishments, a liberal landlord, and very kind to his tenantry. He improved his mind by travelling abroad. He married Helen Taylor, a person of very respectable character, but of humble condition, by whom he had a daughter, Margaret, married to Patrick Duff of Premnay, and afterwards to Udny of Udny. He died in the Castle of Balvenie in January, 1718, much regretted.

Baird's Memoirs
of the Family
Duff, pages 57,
58, 59.

18. William Duff of Dipple succeeded his nephew, William Duff of Braco, as heir-male. He was second son of Keithmore, and was only left by his father a small patrimony of 10,000 merks Scots (about £500 sterling). He was born about 1654. He became apprentice to his uncle, William Duff, Provost of Inverness, and eventually became his partner. He was a

prudent, honourable man, and acquired a considerable fortune, which he invested principally in the purchase of lands in Morayshire, to which he was much attached. He acquired, then, among others, the estates of Dipple, Pluscarden, Coxton, Quarrelwood, and Sheriffmill. He spent the last nineteen years of his life in Elgin, where he was a most useful member of society. He married—first, Helen Gordon, daughter of Sir George Gordon of Edinglassie. By her he had one son, William, afterwards Lord Braco and Earl of Fife, and four daughters, viz.—1, Helen, married, 1702, to the Honourable William Sutherland, third son of James Lord Duffus, by whom she had no issue (she long survived her husband); 2, Catherine, married to Alexander Duff of Hatton; 3, Elizabeth, married to Thomas Donaldson of Kinnairdie; 4, Isabella, married to Alexander Mackintosh of Blervie, to whom she had twenty-two children. He married—second, Jane, daughter of Sir William Dunbar of Durn, Baronet, by whom he had one son, Alexander, who died in 1721, aged five years, and four daughters, viz.—1, Anne, married to William Baird of Auchmedden;* 2, Janet, married to Sir James Kinloch of Kinloch; 3, Mary, married to General James Abercromby of Glassaugh; 4, Henrietta, died unmarried. Mr. Duff died in 1722, at Elgin, and was probably buried beside his father and mother at Mortlach; but of this I cannot speak with certainty. He was sixty-eight years of age at the period of his death. He is said to have left all the extensive family estates clear of debt, with £30,000 sterling in ready money, which was an enormous fortune for that time.

19. William Duff, only son of the preceding, succeeded his father. He was a large purchaser of land, and acquired extensive estates in Banff, Elgin, and Aberdeen. In the County of Elgin he purchased Blervie and Milton. He was Member of Parliament for the County of Banff in 1727. On 28th July, 1735, he was created a Peer of Ireland by the title of Baron Braco of Kilbride; and on 26th April, 1759, Earl of Fife and Viscount Macduff—the patent in both cases being limited to himself and the heirs-male of his body. He married—first, Lady Janet Ogilvie, second daughter of James, fourth Earl of Findlater, and first Earl of Seafield, Chancellor of Scotland, and widow of Hugh Forbes, younger of Craigievar, by whom he had no issue; second, Jane Grant, daughter of Sir James Grant of Grant, Baronet, by whom, who died 16th January, 1788, in the eighty-third year of her age, he had seven sons and seven daughters, viz.—1, William, who died unmarried, in London, 26th March, 1753, in his twenty-seventh year; 2, James, second Earl of Fife; 3, Alexander, third Earl of Fife; 4, Patrick, who died young; 5, George, long Convener of the County of Elgin (he died at Elgin at his residence, South College, 23d November, 1818); 6, Ludovick, who died at Blervie, without issue, 19th November, 1796; 7, Arthur, advocate, Comptroller of Excise for Scotland (he was Member of Parliament for the County of Elgin in 1774, and died, unmarried, at Orton, 26th April, 1805). William Earl of Fife left his third son, Alexander, the estate of Echt; to George, the fifth son,

* Mr. Baird of Auchmedden was the author of the Genealogical Memoirs of the Duffs, a most interesting and truthful family history. He engaged in the Rebellion in 1745. He died at Aberdeen in 1777, aged seventy-six, and is interred with his wife, Anne Duff, in St. Nicholas Churchyard.

the estates of Milton, Inverlochty, Barmuckity, and Bilbohall ; to Ludovick, his sixth son, the estate of Blervie ; and to Arthur, his seventh son, the estate of Orton. It is very remarkable that there are now no descendants of all these seven sons, except of Alexander the third son only. First daughter, Lady Anne, married to Alexander Duff of Hatton ; 2, Janet, married—first, to Sir William Gordon of Park, and, second, to George Hay of Mountblair ; 3, Lady Jane, married to Keith Urquhart of Meldrum ; 4, Lady Helen, married to Robert Duff of Logie and Fetteresso ; 5, Lady Sophia Henrietta, married to Thomas Wharton, Commissioner of Excise ; 6, Lady Catherine, died unmarried ; 7, Lady Margaret, married to James Brodie of Brodie. William Earl of Fife expended large sums in building, having erected, first, the new Castle or House of Balvenie, and thereafter the magnificent residence of Duff House. He also spent largely on politics, grudging no cost to support the interest of the family ; otherwise, he was a great economist. He died at Rothiemay on 8th September, 1763, aged sixty-six, and was interred in the Mausoleum at Duff House, where a monument was erected to his memory, and that of Jane Countess of Fife, his wife.

20. James, second Earl of Fife. He was born 29th September, 1729. He was elected Member of Parliament for the County of Banff in 1754, 1761, 1768, 1774, and 1780 ; and for the County of Elgin in 1784. He had immense political power, and, like his father, spared no expense in attaining his object. By judicious purchases of land in Aberdeen, Banff, and Moray, he nearly doubled the estates of the family during his time. He was also a great agriculturist and improver, and planted about 14,000 acres of barren ground. In Morayshire he acquired the estates of Innes, Inchbroom, Dunkinty, Leuchars, Ardgay, Leggat, Kintrae, Spynie, Monaughty, and Aslisk ; and, by the death of his brother Lewis, he succeeded to Blervie. His Lordship was Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Banff, and was created a British Peer by the title of Baron Fife, with limitation to the heirs-male of his own body. He married, 5th June, 1769, Lady Dorothea Sinclair, only child of Alexander, ninth Earl of Caithness, by whom he had no issue. He died at his house Whitehall, London, on 28th January, 1809, in the eightieth year of his age, and was interred in the Mausoleum at Duff House. His British Peerage became extinct.

21. Alexander Duff of Echt, the third son of his father, became, on his elder brother's death, third Earl of Fife. He was born 1731 ; was a member of the Faculty of Advocates, being admitted 1754. He married, at Careston, 17th August, 1775, Mary, eldest daughter of George Skene of Skene and Careston, by whom he had—James, fourth Earl of Fife ; Alexander, a General in the army, father of the fifth Earl ; Lady Jane, married on 2d December, 1802, to Major Alexander Francis Tayler ; Lady Anne, married 16th October, 1809, to Richard Wharton Duff of Orton. His Lordship died 7th April, 1811, and was succeeded by his eldest son,

22. James, fourth Earl, born 6th December, 1776. He married, 9th September, 1799, Maria Caroline Manners, second daughter of John Manners of Grantham Grange, and Louisa Countess of Dysart. She died 20th December, 1805, without issue. He entered the Spanish army, and was wounded at the Battle of Talavera in 1809, and again severely at the

storming of Matagorda in 1810. He was created a Peer of the United Kingdom in 1827, and the same year succeeded his uncle, Mr. Skene of Skene in his extensive estates. His Lordship was very popular, and a consummate politician. In his day he mixed much in the fashionable world, and was the personal friend of King George IV. In his latter years he lived in retirement at Duff House, and died there on 9th March, 1857. His remains were interred in the Mausoleum there.

23. James, fifth Earl of Fife, nephew to the preceding Earl, and eldest son of General Sir Alexander Duff of Delgaty, succeeded his uncle. His Lordship was born 6th July, 1814. He is Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Banff, and long represented that County in Parliament. He was created a Peer of the United Kingdom, by the title of Baron Skene, in 1857. He married, 16th March, 1846, Lady Agnes Georgiana Elizabeth Hay, daughter of William George, seventeenth Earl of Errol, by whom he has issue—Alexander William George Viscount Macduff, born 10th November, 1849, now Member of Parliament for the Counties of Elgin and Nairn, and Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Elgin since 1871; and four daughters. The Countess of Fife died on 18th December, 1869, and was interred in the Mausoleum at Duff House.

His Lordship's brother, the Honourable George Skene Duff, for some time represented in Parliament the Elgin District of Burghs. He and his brother, the present Earl of Fife, and his nephew, Viscount Macduff, are now the only male descendants of William, first Earl of Fife.

Burke's
Peerage.

The armorial bearings of the family are as follows:—Quarterly, 1st and 4th, Or, a lion rampant, gules, for Macduff; 2d and 3d, vert, a fesse dansette, ermine, between a hart's head cabossed in chief, and two escallops, in base, Or, for Duff. Crests—First, a horse in full gallop, argent, covered with a mantling, gules, bestrewed with escutcheons, Or, charged with a lion rampant of the second; on his back a knight in complete armour, with his sword drawn ppr., on his sinister arm a shield, charged as the escutcheons; on the helmet a wreath of the colours, thereon a demi-lion rampant, gules; second, a demi-lion rampant, gules, holding in the dexter paw a broad sword proper, hilted and pomelled, Or. Supporters—Two savages wreathed about the head and waist with laurel, and holding in their exterior hands branches of trees over their shoulders, all proper. Mottoes—"Deo Juvante;" over the second crest, "Deus juvat;" under the shield, "Virtute et opera."

Creations—Baron Braco, 28th July, 1735; Earl of Fife and Viscount Macduff, 26th April, 1759; Baron Skene of the United Kingdom, 1857.

FAMILY OF GRANT.

The family of Grant have been heritors in the parish of Elgin for about two centuries, and, during that period, have had a residence in the burgh, where they have occasionally lived. Sir James Grant represented the Elgin District of Burghs in Parliament from 1741 to 1746, and his great-grandson, Colonel Francis William Grant, from 1802 to 1806. Colonel

Grant was also Provost of the burgh from 1816 to 1819, and Member for the County of Elgin for many years. The family have done many acts of kindness to the burgh during their long and intimate connection with it, and no history of it should be written without attempting to give some account of them, which I shall endeavour to do as briefly as possible.

The Rev. James Chapman, minister of Cromdale, who lived in the early part of last century, left behind him a very curious manuscript history of the family of Grant, carrying them as far back as the sixth or seventh century, and bringing their descent from Odin, god of the Saxons. His information seems to have been taken from a Norwegian genealogist. It is very amusing as a traditional tale, but, in the present age of the world, we can only treat it as a piece of romance. I believe there is a copy of Mr. Chapman's work in the Advocates' Library in Edinburgh, and there is one also at Altyre, which I have perused. I understand it has lately been printed, for private circulation, by Sir Archibald Grant of Monymusk. As Mr. Chapman died in 1737, his history only comes down to that date.* I shall not attempt to go farther back than the thirteenth century—the information relating to the family since that time being pretty well authenticated.

1. Gregory de Grant is stated to have been Sheriff of Inverness in the reign of King Alexander II. He married Mary Bisset, a daughter of the family of Lovat, with whom he got the lands of Stratherrick, and by her had two sons—1, Sir Lawrence, his heir; 2, Robert. Gregory died in the beginning of the reign of King Alexander III.

Douglas' Baronage, p. 341

2. Sir Lawrence de Grant is mentioned in a competition between Archibald Bishop of Moray and John Bisset of Lovat in 1258. His brother, Robert, is also there mentioned. Sir Lawrence had two sons—1, Sir John, his heir; 2, Radulphus, who, having opposed the English invasion, was carried to England a prisoner by King Edward I. in 1296.

Registrum Moraviense, pages 133, 135.

3. Sir John de Grant, who, having joined Sir William Wallace, was apprehended and carried to England a prisoner about 1296, but he and his brother were liberated in 1297. He married Bigla, daughter of Cumming of Glenchernick, with whom he got the lands of Glenchernick, Dullanside, and others. By her he had three sons—1, Sir John, his heir; 2, Sir Allan, progenitor of the tribe of the Grants, called Clan Allan, of whom the family of Auchernick was the head; 3, Thomas, of whom some families of Grants are descended. Sir John died in the end of the reign of King Robert Bruce.

4. Sir John succeeded. He and his brother, Allan, are said to be referred to in Hemingford's History as valiant Knights in the Scottish army, 1333.

5. Sir John, son of the preceding, was one of the ambassadors sent to the Court of France, to renew the ancient league, in 1359. He had also

* The Rev. James Chapman, A.M., was son of Robert Chapman, merchant in Inverness. He had his degree from King's College, Aberdeen, 1695; licensed, ordained, and settled as minister of Cawdor, 1699; translated to Cromdale, 14th October, 1702. He died in December, 1737, aged about sixty-three, in the thirty-ninth year of his ministry. He bears the character of having been a very worthy, pious minister. He planted the churchyard of Cromdale around with trees, which are said to be still flourishing and very ornamental.

Scott's Fasti, vol. III., pages 231, 248.

safe conducts from King Edward III. to travel into England in 1363 and 1366. By his wife, Elizabeth, he had Sir Robert, his heir, and a daughter, Agnes, married to Sir Richard Cumming of Altyre. He died in the end of the reign of King David II.

6. Sir Robert, is said to have been a brave and able man, and distinguished himself as the head of his family. He died in the beginning of the reign of King Robert III.

7. Malcolm, son of Sir Robert, is mentioned in a Convention for settling differences between Thomas Earl of Moray and Alexander de Insulis, Dominus de Lochaber, 1394. He died in the end of the reign of King James I., or beginning of that of King James II. He was succeeded by his son,

8. Sir Duncan. He is the first designed of that Ilk and Freuchie, in a charter under the Great Seal, 1442. He was arbiter in a submission between Duncan Mackintosh, Captain of Clan Chattan, and Hugh Rose of Kilravock, 1479. He married Muriel, daughter of Malcolm Laird of Mackintosh, by whom he had two sons and one daughter—viz., 1, John, his heir ; 2, Patrick, ancestor of the old family of Ballindalloch and Dalvey, and others ; and a daughter, Catharine, married to Duncan Mackintosh of that Ilk.

9. John Grant of that Ilk and Freuchie was a supporter of King James III. against his rebellious nobles. He got a Crown Charter of the lands and Barony of Freuchie, 4th January, 1493. He married Margaret, daughter of Sir James Ogilvie of Deskford, by whom he had three sons and one daughter—1, John, his heir ; 2, Peter, said to have been progenitor of the family of Tullochgorm ; 3, Duncan, progenitor of the tribe called Clan Donachie ; and a daughter, married to Hector, son of Ferquhard Mackintosh of that Ilk. He had another son called John, ancestor of the Grants of Glenmorrison. He died in the year 1508.

10. John, called the Bard, because he was a poet, succeeded his father, and got a Crown Charter of the Barony of Urquhart and many other lands in 1509. He married Elizabeth, daughter of John, sixth Lord Forbes, by whom he had—1, James, his heir ; 2, John, of whom the Grants of Corriemonie, Sheuglie, &c., are descended ; 3, a son, of whom the Grants of Bonhard are descended. First daughter, Catherine, married—first, to John Halyburton of Pitcur ; and, second, to Hugh, fourth Lord Lovat, and had issue to both ; 2, Isabel, married to Sir Archibald Campbell of Calder ; 3, a daughter, married to Alexander Gordon of Strathavon. He died about the year 1525, and was succeeded by his eldest son,

11. James Grant of that Ilk. He got a Crown Charter of various lands in the Counties of Inverness and Ross, 1548. He married—first, Lady Janet Leslie, daughter of George, fourth Earl of Rothes, widow of Crichton of Naughton, by whom he had no issue ; second, Barbara Erskine, of the family of Mar, by whom he had two sons and two daughters—1, John, his heir ; 2, Archibald, progenitor of the Grants of Cullen, Monymusk, &c. First daughter, Anne, married to Allan Cameron of Lochiel ; 2, Janet, married to William Sutherland of Duffus.

12. John, eldest son of the preceding. He got a Crown Charter 25th

October, 1557. He early embraced the Protestant faith, and was a Member of the Convention of 1560, which abolished the Roman Catholic religion in Scotland. He married—first, Lady Marjory Stewart, daughter of John, third Earl of Athol, by whom he had two sons and three daughters—1, Duncan; 2, Patrick, ancestor of the family of Rothiemurchus, and others. First daughter, Barbara, married to Colin Mackenzie of Kintail; 2, Lillias, married to Innes of Balvenie; 3, Elspeth, married to William Fraser of Strowie, tutor of Lovat. He married—second, Isabel, daughter of Barclay of Towie. He died in the year 1585.

13. Duncan, his eldest son, got a charter of lands in Inverness-shire in 1580, and of lands in Banffshire in 1581. He married Margaret, daughter of William Mackintosh, Captain of Clan Chattan, by whom he had four sons—1, John, his heir; 2, Robert, progenitor of the family of Lurg; 3, Patrick, ancestor of the Grants of Easter Elchies; 4, James, of whom the Grants of Moyness were descended. He died before his father, and was succeeded by his eldest son,

14. John. He got a charter, under the Great Seal, of various lands in 1592, and again of other lands in 1609. He supported the King's General with a battalion of his clan against the rebel Earls of Huntly, Angus, and Errol, in 1594. He was offered a patent of honour in 1610, but declined it. He married Lady Lillias Murray, daughter of John Earl of Tullybardine, by whom he had one son, John, his heir, and two daughters—1, Anne, married to Sir Lachlan Mackintosh of that Ilk, Captain of Clan Chattan; 2, Jane, married to William Sutherland of Duffus. He died in or shortly after the year 1614.

15. John, had charters of lands in Inverness, Elgin, and Banff, in 1615, 1616, and 1621, and had the honour of Knighthood conferred on him by King James VI. He married Mary Ogilvie, daughter of Walter Lord Ogilvie of Deskford, and had issue, eight sons and four daughters—1, James, his heir; 2, John, who was Colonel of a regiment, and died in Holland without issue; 3, Patrick, Lieutenant-Colonel in the army; 4, Robert of Muckrach; 5, George, Major in the army, and Governor of Dumbarton Castle; 6, Alexander, died without male issue; 7, Mungo, of whom the Grants of Knockando, Ballogie, and others are descended; 8, Thomas of Balmacaan—he married, and had two sons, Ludovick and Patrick. First daughter, Lillias, married to John Byres of Cotes; 2, Isabella, married—first, to Lewis, third Marquis of Huntly, by whom the Duke of Gordon was descended, and, second, to James, second Earl of Airly, to whom she had no issue; 3, Margaret, married to Mackenzie of Gairloch; 4, a daughter, married to Sir Robert Innes of Balvenie. He had another son, Duncan, ancestor of Grant of Clairie. Sir John died at Edinburgh in April, 1637, and was succeeded by his eldest son,

16. James Grant; was a good deal involved in the troubles which occurred during his time, when the country was engaged in civil war. He married Lady Margaret Stewart, daughter of James Earl of Moray, by his wife, Lady Anne Gordon, daughter of the Earl of Huntly, by whom he had two sons and three daughters—1, Ludovick, his heir; 2, Patrick, of whom the Grants of Wester Elchies are descended. First daughter, Mary,

married to Patrick Ogilvie of Boyne ; 2, —, married to Sir Alexander Hamilton of Haggis ; 3, Margaret, married to Roderick Mackenzie of Redcastle. He died at Edinburgh, 1663, and was buried in the Abbey Church there.

Wodrow's
History, vol.
IV., page 193.

17. Ludovick Grant succeeded his father. He strongly disapproved of the Government measures in the reigns of King Charles II. and James VII., and supported the Presbyterian interest, for which he was fined in the sum of £42,500 Scots in the year 1685. He took a warm part in the Revolution of 1688, and by King William was appointed to be Colonel of a regiment of foot, and Sheriff-Principal of Inverness. He joined the Government forces with 600 men, and took part in the battle at Cromdale in 1690. He got his lands erected into a Regality in 1690, and, being a Member of the Scots Parliament, steadily supported the Government. He married—first, Janet, only daughter of Alexander Brodie of Lethen, by whom he had four sons and four daughters—1, Alexander, his heir ; 2, James, who eventually carried on the line of the family ; 3, George, a Major in the army ; 4, Ludovick, a Colonel in the army. First daughter, Elizabeth, married to Hugh Rose of Kilravock ; 2, Anne, married to Colonel William Grant of Ballindalloch ; 3, Janet, married to Sir Roderick Mackenzie of Scatwell ; 4, Margaret, married to Simon Lord Lovat. He married—second, Jane, daughter of Sir John Houston of that Ilk. He died at Edinburgh, in the year 1717, and was buried in the Abbey Church.

Shaw's History,
Edition 1775,
page 261.

In the year 1677, Alexander Brodie of Lethen purchased the Barony of Pluscarden for James Grant, second son of the family, for £5000 sterling, and it was no doubt at this time that the family of Grant began to occupy the Laird of Pluscarden's house in Elgin as a winter residence.

18. Alexander Grant of Grant, had the command of a regiment of foot, was Governor of Sheerness, and rose to the rank of Brigadier-General. He supported the Government strenuously during the Rebellion of 1715, and was Lord-Lieutenant of the Counties of Inverness and Elgin. He was one of the Scotch Members of the British Parliament for many years. He married—first, Elizabeth Stuart, eldest daughter of James Lord Doune, son and apparent heir of Alexander Earl of Moray ; second, Anne, daughter of the Right Honourable John Smith, Speaker of the House of Commons, one of the Maids of Honour to Queen Anne, but had no surviving children by either. He died at Edinburgh, 1719, and was buried in the Abbey Church. He was succeeded by his brother,

18. James, second son of Ludovick Grant, No. 17, was for some time designed of Pluscarden, and was several times a Member of Parliament. He married, in 1702, Anne Colquhoun, sole heiress of Sir Humphry Colquhoun of Luss, and, in virtue of the settlement of that estate, made by his father-in-law, he succeeded to the estate and Baronetcy of Luss, and took the name of Colquhoun ; but, upon the death of his brother, Alexander, he resumed the name of Grant, and took possession of the Grant estate, retaining the Baronetcy ; and the estate of Luss, in virtue of the entail of that estate, went to his second surviving son, James. By his wife, Anne Colquhoun, he had five sons and five daughters—1, Humphry, who died, unmarried, 1732 ; 2, Ludovick, afterwards Sir Ludovick Grant ; 3, James,

afterwards Sir James Colquhoun of Luss ; 4, Colonel Francis Grant ; 5, Captain Charles Cathcart Grant of the Royal Navy. First daughter, Jane, married to William Earl of Fife ; 2, Anne, married to Sir Harry Innes of Innes ; 3, Sophia, unmarried ; 4, Penuel, married to Captain Alexander Grant of Ballindalloch ; 5, Clementina, married to Sir William Dunbar of Durn. Sir James, who was then Member for the Elgin District of Burghs, died at London, 16th January, 1747, and was succeeded in the estate of Grant by his eldest surviving son,

19. Sir Ludovick Grant of Grant, Baronet. He married—first, Marion, daughter of Sir Hew Dalrymple of North Berwick, Lord President of the Court of Session, by whom he had one daughter, who died young ; second, Lady Margaret Ogilvie, eldest daughter of James Earl of Findlater and Seafield, by whom he had one son and six daughters—James, afterwards Sir James Grant. First daughter, Sophia Hope, died young ; 2, Marion, died at Coulnakyle, 28th March, 1807 ; 3, Anne Hope, married to the Rev. Robert Darby Waddilove, D.D., Dean of Ripon (she died 1797) ; 4, Penuel, married to Henry Mackenzie, the author of the *Man of Feeling* and other literary works ; 5, Helen, married, 9th September, 1773, to Sir Alexander Penrose Gordon Cumming of Altyre and Gordonstown, Baronet ; 6, Elizabeth, died, unmarried, 27th March, 1804. Sir Ludovick was Member of Parliament for the County of Elgin from 1741 to 1761. He died at Castle Grant, 18th March, 1773, very much regretted. He was a true specimen of a Highland Chief. In the “*Scots Magazine*” for 1773, there are some verses to his memory containing the following lines :—

Thee, too, lov'd chieftain, shall await that meed,
Those grateful honours that embalm the dead.
Grav'd on the heart, thy virtues long shall live,
Through years and ages undecay'd survive ;
For thine each winning, each endearing art,
That or attracted, or engaged the heart.

20. Sir James Grant, only son of Sir Ludovick, succeeded his father. He was born 19th May, 1738, and was elected Member of Parliament for the County of Elgin in 1761, and for Banffshire in 1790, which he vacated in 1795. He raised a fencible regiment in 1793. He married at Bath, 4th January, 1763, Jane, only daughter of Alexander Duff of Hatton, who died at Castle Grant, 15th February, 1805, by whom he had seven sons and six daughters—1, Lewis Alexander, afterwards Earl of Seafield ; 2, Alexander, died at Castle Grant, 21st March, 1772 ; 3, James Thomas, of the Bengal Civil Service, died, Judge of Furrackabad, 18th July, 1804 ; 4, Francis William, Colonel of the Inverness Militia, Member of Parliament for the Elgin District of Burghs in 1802, for the Inverness District of Burghs in 1806 and in 1807, and for many successive Parliaments for the County of Elgin, thereafter Earl of Seafield ; 5, Robert Henry ; 6, Alexander Hope, died at Castle Grant, 1793 ; 7, Dundas Charles, died at Castle Grant, 1788. First daughter, Anne Margaret, a most dignified lady, who long resided at Grant Lodge, Elgin ; 2, Margaret, married at Edinburgh, 10th June, 1795, to Francis Stewart of Lesmurdie, thereafter

Major-General Francis Stewart ; 3, Jane ; 4, Penuel ; 5, Christina Teresa, died at Elgin, 16th July, 1793 ; 6, Mary Sophia, died at Castle Grant, 26th February, 1788. Sir James died 18th February, 1811. The younger children of Sir James Grant obtained, in 1822, the rank and precedence of an Earl's junior issue.

21. Sir Lewis Alexander Grant succeeded his father in February, 1811, and, on 5th October, 1811, by the death of James, seventh Earl of Findlater, and fourth Earl of Seafield, he succeeded to the honours of Earl of Seafield, and to his Lordship's extensive estates. He died, unmarried, in 1840, and was succeeded by his next surviving brother,

21. Francis William, sixth Earl of Seafield, born 6th March, 1778. He married—first, 20th May, 1811, Mary Anne, only daughter of John Charles Dunn, Esquire of Higham House, and by her, who died 27th February, 1840, had issue—1, Francis William, born 5th October, 1814, died, unmarried, 11th March, 1840 ; 2, John Charles, present Earl ; 3, James, born 27th December, 1817, three times married, and has issue, one son surviving by each of his two first marriages ; 4, Lewis Alexander, born 18th September, 1820, married, and has issue ; 5, George Henry Essex, born 13th February, 1825, married, and had two sons and two daughters ; 6, Edward Alexander, born 17th June, 1833, died in 1844. Daughter, Jane, married 20th July, 1843, to Major-General Edward Walter Forester Walker, C.B., died 16th September, 1861. He married—second, 17th August, 1843, Louisa Emma, second daughter of the late Robert George Maunsell, Esquire of Limerick, without issue. His Lordship died 30th July, 1853.

22. Sir John Charles Grant Ogilvie succeeded his father as seventh Earl of Seafield in 1853 ; was created a Peer of the United Kingdom by the title of Baron Strathspey, 14th August, 1858. His Lordship married, 12th August, 1850, the Honourable Caroline Stuart, youngest daughter of Walter Robert, eleventh Lord Blantyre, and has John Charles Viscount Reidhaven, officer in the 1st Life Guards ; born 7th October, 1851.

Creations—Earl, 24th June, 1701 ; Baron Strathspey, 14th August, 1858 ; Baronet, 1704.

Douglas'
Baronage.

Arms of Grant—Gules, three antique crowns, Or, with the badge of a Baronet. Crest—A burning hill proper. Supporters—Two savages Or, naked men proper. Motto—"Stand fast."

Burke's
Peerage, 1870,
page 991.

Arms of Seafield and Grant united—Quarterly, 1st and 4th grand quarters ; quarterly 1st and 4th, argent, a lion passant guardant, gules, imperially crowned, ppr., for Ogilvie ; 2d and 3d, argent, a cross engrailed sable, for Sinclair ; 2d and 3d grand quarters, gules, three antique crowns, Or, for Grant. Crests—1st, a lion rampant, gules, holding between the paws a plumb rule erect, ppr., for Ogilvie ; 2d, a mountain in flames, ppr., for Grant. Supporters—Dexter, a lion guardant, Or ; Sinister, a naked man, ppr., wreathed about the head and middle with laurel, and in his exterior hand a club. Mottoes—Over first crest, "Tout jour ;" over second crest, "Craigellachie."

Shaw's History,
Edition 1775,
page 21.

There are several old branches of the family of Grant—viz., the Clan Allan, or family of Auchernick ; the Clan Chiaran, or family of Dellachaple ; and the Clan Phadrick, or family of Tullochgorm, who contend that they

sprang from the main stem of Grant before they came from Stratherrick into Strathspey. The lands of these once flourishing branches have now all passed from them, and have merged into the estate of the Chief. Our local, and generally accurate historian, Mr. Shaw, is of opinion that the Grant family moved to Speyside about the year 1400.

THE FAMILY OF GORDON.

This great family have been long connected with Elgin. They had a residence in the burgh in the sixteenth century, and perhaps much earlier. I find that George Earl of Huntly, "hæres Georgii Comitis de Huntly," was retoured to his father "in tenemento, messuagio de infra burgum de Elgyn," 20th July, 1373. This certainly was the house on the north side of College Street, the site of which is now within the Grant Lodge grounds, and which was the occasional residence of members of the Gordon family for a long period. The Gordon family took a great interest in the politics of the Elgin District of Burghs during last century, and the husband of Catherine Duchess of Gordon represented them in Parliament from 1774 to 1784. Until the death of Duke Alexander in 1827 they were heritors in the burgh, and they have had their principal burial place within St. Mary's Aisle in the Elgin Cathedral since the death of Alexander, first Earl of Huntly, in 1470.

Abbreviatio
Retornatarum,
Head, Elgin and
Forres.

There are various old histories of the family of Gordon, one by John Ferrerius, Monk of Kinloss, written in the year 1545; an account of them by Sir Robert Gordon of Gordonstown in his Genealogy of the Earls of Sutherland; and a work by William Gordon, of Old Aberdeen, published by Thomas Ruddiman at Edinburgh in 1716, entituled, "The History of the Ancient, Noble, and Illustrious Family of Gordon, from their first arrival in Scotland in Malcolm the Third's time to the year 1690." Robert Gordon of Straloch is stated also to have written a history of the Gordons. These writers give a very remote antiquity to the Gordon family, carrying them back to the time of Charlemagne, and even to that of Julius Cæsar. On these subjects we shall not enter. They seem to have taken their name from the territory of Gordon in Berwickshire.

According to Chalmers, the above territory of Gordon was granted in the reign of David I. to an Anglo-Norman settler, who assumed from it the name of Gordon. He had two sons, Richard and Adam.

Chalmers'
Caledonia.

1. Richard de Gordon, the first of this family, granted to the monks of Kelso a right of pasture and meadow between the years 1150 and 1160.

Gordon's
History, vol. I.,
page 385.

2. Thomas de Gordon, confirmed to God and the Church of St. Mary, Kelso, and the monks serving God there, the donations of his father Richard.

3. Sir Thomas de Gordon, with consent of his wife, Marjory, also gave grants to the Church of Kelso, and confirmed those of his father and grandfather, and in return he got a right of burial in the cemetery of the Abbey of Kelso. He was alive on 28th August, 1258, but died shortly thereafter, leaving an only daughter,

Gordon's
History.

Chalmers'
Caledonia.

4. Alicia de Gordon, who married her cousin Adam de Gordon, supposed to be the grandson of Adam, brother of Richard, and thus united the two branches of the family. He made some donations to the monks of Dryburgh. He accompanied the Earls of Athol and Carrick in the expedition of Louis IX. of France to Palestine, and died there. Alicia survived her husband.

5. Adam de Gordon, son of Adam and Alicia, succeeded his father and mother, and seems to have been engaged in the struggles which occurred in the war of independence which ensued on the death of Alexander III. He died in the troublous year 1296. His wife, having sworn fealty to King Edward I., obtained restitution of her husband's estates, 3d September, 1296.

6. Sir Adam de Gordon, son of Adam and Marjory, joined Sir William Wallace, 1297, and was one of the Wardens of the Marches, 1300. Between this date and the year 1313, despairing of the liberties of his country, he had embraced the English side; but at this latter date he joined the standard of King Robert Bruce, to which he faithfully adhered thereafter. He obtained from Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray, a grant of the Barony of Stichell, in Roxburghshire, which was confirmed by King Robert, 28th June, 1315. He was one of the ambassadors to Rome in 1320. He got a grant of the Barony of Strathbogie, in Aberdeenshire, forfeited by David Earl of Athol; but possession does not seem to have followed until the reign of David II. Sir Adam was killed at Halidonhill, 19th July, 1333. He left issue—1, Sir Alexander, his successor; 2, William, ancestor of the Viscounts of Kenmure; 3 and 4, John and Robert, who took holy orders; daughter, Mary, said to have married Walter Fitzgilbert.

7. Sir Alexander de Gordon is said to have been killed at the Battle of Durham, 17th October, 1346.

8. Sir John de Gordon, son of the preceding, was taken prisoner at the Battle of Durham, and not released until 1357. He obtained from King David II. a charter of confirmation of the lands of Strathbogie, dated 20th March, 1358, and probably had possession at this period.

9. Sir John de Gordon succeeded his father, and obtained from King Robert II., 16th June, 1376, a farther confirmation of the lands and Barony of Strathbogie. He was deeply engaged in the Border wars in the years 1377 and 1378, and fell at the Battle of Otterburn, 19th August, 1388. He left a son,

10. Sir Adam de Gordon,* who is the first designed of Huntly. The family had evidently now got possession of the lands of Strathbogie, and had changed the name to Huntly from their estates in the South of Scotland, and which long continued their chief title. He had a charter from King Robert III. of the lands of Gordon and others in Berwickshire, and was killed at the Battle of Homildon, 14th September, 1402. By his wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Keith, Marischal of Scotland, he left an only child,

* Besides the above Sir Adam, Sir John de Gordon left two sons, known in tradition by the names of Jock and Tan—the former ancestor of the Gordons of Pitlurg, the latter of the families of Lesmoir and Craig.

11. Elizabeth de Gordon, who married Alexander Seton, son of Sir William Seton of Seton. They obtained charters of the Baronies of Gordon, Huntly, and others in Berwickshire, and of the lands of Strathbogie and others in Aberdeenshire, 20th July, 1408, to William Seton and Elizabeth de Gordon in liferent, and to the heirs to be procreated between them, whom failing, to the heirs whomsoever of the said Elizabeth de Gordon. Alexander Seton was at the Battle of Harlaw in 1411, and in the wars in France, 1421. He was one of the Commissioners sent to England for the release of King James I., and one of the hostages for his ransom, 1424. He had issue by Elizabeth, his wife—1, Alexander, the heir; 2, William, ancestor of the Setons of Meldrum; and Elizabeth, married to Alexander Earl of Ross.

12. Alexander de Seton, Lord of Gordon, the eldest son, accompanied Margaret of Scotland to France in 1436, on her marriage to the Dauphin. He was ambassador to England in 1437. He was created Earl of Huntly by King James II., from whom he obtained charters, in 1450, of the Earldom of Huntly, the Lordship of Strathbogie, and other lands in the shire of Aberdeen, of the Lordship of Gordon in Roxburghshire, and others. He defeated the Earl of Crawford, then in rebellion, at the Battle of Brechin, 18th May, 1452. He also took arms against the Earls of Moray and Ormond, also in rebellion against their Sovereign, in 1454. He died in 1470, and was buried in St. Mary's Aisle in the Elgin Cathedral. He married—first, Jane, daughter and heiress of Robert de Keith, grandson and heir-apparent of Sir William de Keith, Marischal of Scotland, by whom he had no issue; second, Egidia, daughter and heiress of Sir John Hay of Tullybody, by whom he had a son, Alexander Seton, who succeeded to his mother's estate, and was ancestor of the Setons of Touch. He married—third, Elizabeth, eldest daughter of William Lord Crichton, Chancellor of Scotland, by whom he had—1, George, second Earl of Huntly; 2, Sir Alexander Gordon of Midmar, ancestor of Abergeldie; 3, Adam, Dean of Caithness, who died in 1528, and was buried at Elgin—from whom, among others, are descended the Gordons of Beldornie and Drummure. First daughter, Lady Janet, married to James Earl of Moray; 2, Lady Elizabeth, married—first, to the Earl of Errol; and, second, to John Lord Kennedy; 3, Lady Christian, married to William, third Lord Forbes.

13. George, second Earl of Huntly, had charters in 1460, 1470, 1473, 1485, and 1490. He adhered to the party of King James IV., and was by him appointed Lieutenant of the North of Scotland, and also Lord Chancellor. He died about the year 1502 at Stirling, and was buried at Cambuskenneth. He married Annabella, daughter of King James I., and had issue by her—1, Alexander, third Earl of Huntly; 2, Adam Lord of Aboyne, who married Elizabeth Countess of Sutherland, and became Earl of Sutherland in her right—he is ancestor in the female line of the Duke of Sutherland; 3, Sir William, ancestor of the Gordons of Gight—was killed at Flodden, 9th September, 1513; 4, Sir James Gordon of Letterfourie, Admiral of the Fleet. First daughter, Lady Catherine, called the White Rose of Scotland, married in 1496 to Perkin Warbeck, pretended Duke of York, and, second, to Sir Matthew Craddock in Wales, ancestor of the

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Earls of Pembroke ; 2, Lady Janet, married, first, to Alexander Master of Crawford, and, second, to Patrick Lord Gray ; 3, Lady Mary, married to Sir William Sinclair of Westerhall ; 4, Lady Sophia, married to Sir Gilbert Hay of Kilmalloch ; 5, Lady Elizabeth, married to William Earl Marischal ; 6, Lady Isobel, married to William, third Earl of Errol. The Earl of Huntly married, second, Lady Elizabeth Hay, eldest daughter of William, first Earl of Errol, widow of Patrick Master of Gray, by whom he had no issue. This Earl built and endowed the Priory of Kingussie, also St. Peter's Church in Elgin. He founded and finished the Castle of Bog of Gight, now called Gordon Castle, upon the banks of the Spey.

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14. Alexander, third Earl of Huntly, besides charters received in his father's lifetime, also had charters to himself of various lands in 1502, 1503, and 1506, and many subsequent dates, up to 1516. He, along with the Earl of Home, commanded the left wing of the Scottish army at the Battle of Flodden in 1513, and was one of the few who escaped from the carnage of that fatal day. In the minority of King James V. he was regarded as chief leader in the North. He supported the Queen Regent, and was one of the Council of Regency in 1517. He died at Perth, 16th January, 1523-4, and was buried in the convent of the Dominican Friars there. He married, first, Lady Johanna or Janet, eldest daughter of John Earl of Athol, uterine brother of King James II. By her he had issue—1, George, who died young ; 2, John Lord Gordon ; 3, Alexander, ancestor of the Gordons of Cluny ; 4, William, Bishop of Aberdeen from 1547 to 1577. First daughter, Lady Janet, married to Colin, third Earl of Argyle ; 2, Lady Christian, married to Sir Robert Menzies of Weem. The Earl married, second, Elizabeth, daughter of Andrew Lord Gray, widow of John, sixth Lord Glamis. By her he had no family.

15. John Lord Gordon, eldest surviving son, had a charter of Badenoch in 1510. He is said to have been free of ambition, and endowed with liberal principles and virtuous feelings. He accompanied the Duke of Albany to France in 1517, and, returning home the same year, he died at the Abbey of Kinloss, 5th December, 1517, and was buried there. He married Margaret, natural daughter of King James IV., by Margaret, eldest daughter of John Lord Drummond, and by her he had two sons—1, George, fourth Earl of Huntly ; 2, Alexander, first Bishop of the Isles, and translated to the See of Galloway, 1558. He embraced Reformation principles, and died in 1576.

16. George, fourth Earl of Huntly, succeeded his grandfather. He was one of the Regents of Scotland in 1536 ; was one of the commanders at the Battle of Pinkie in 1547, and was there taken prisoner by the English, carried into England, and there imprisoned, but escaped in 1548. In February, 1549, he got a grant of the Earldom of Moray. In 1562, Queen Mary, being on a Royal progress to the North, the Earl of Huntly, on account of a dispute which had arisen about his son, Sir John Gordon, with the Queen and her Ministers of State, took arms against his Sovereign, and was defeated by the Earl of Moray at Corrichie, 28th October, 1562. The Earl was trampled to death or smothered in his armour, and his body carried to Edinburgh. His sons, Sir John and Adam, were taken prisoners

—the former was beheaded at Aberdeen on 31st October, 1562, and the latter was pardoned. The Earl was attainted, and his estates and honours forfeited. He married Elizabeth, sister of William, fourth Earl Marischal, by whom he had—1, Alexander Lord Gordon, who died before his father; 2, George, fifth Earl of Huntly; 3, Sir John Gordon, beheaded at Aberdeen. He is said to have aspired to the hand of Queen Mary, and his ambition was his ruin; 4, William, intended for the Church, died at Paris before the year 1567; 5, James, a Jesuit, died at Paris, 1620; 6, Sir Adam Gordon of Auchindoun, died at Perth, 1580; 7, Sir Patrick Gordon of Auchindoun, killed at the Battle of Glenlivet, 3d October, 1594; 8, Robert, who was killed accidentally, 25th April, 1572; 9, Thomas, who died in Edinburgh, and was buried in St. Giles' Church. First daughter, Lady Elizabeth, married to John, fourth Earl of Athol; 2, Lady Margaret, married to John, eighth Lord Forbes; 3, Lady Jane, married—first, to James, fourth Earl of Bothwell, which marriage was annulled May, 1567, to make way for his nuptials with Queen Mary; second, 13th December, 1573, to Alexander, eleventh Earl of Sutherland; third, to Alexander Ogilvie of Boyne. She died in 1629, aged eighty-four.

17. George, fifth Earl of Huntly, second surviving son, was involved in his father's treason, tried and convicted 8th February, 1563, and sentenced to be executed, but, through the favour of Queen Mary, was eventually set at liberty. In 1567 his forfeiture was remitted, and he recovered his estates. He shifted sides frequently in these uncertain times, being at one time in favour of King James, and at another with Queen Mary, his inclination both in a civil and religious point of view being with the Queen. Wearied with these troubles and broils to which he had been exposed all his life, he retired to Strathbogie to settle his private affairs, and died there suddenly from an attack of apoplexy in May, 1576, and was interred in the family burying ground in the Elgin Cathedral. His Lordship married Lady Anne Hamilton, daughter of James Duke of Chatelherault, by whom he had—1, George, sixth Earl of Huntly; 2, Alexander of Strathdown; 3, William, who became an ecclesiastic in France. Daughter—Lady Jane, married to George, fifth Earl of Caithness.

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18. George, sixth Earl of Huntly, had even more than the usual ambition of the family. He gratified his private revenge by attacking and murdering the Earl of Moray, and burning his house of Donibristle, on 8th February, 1592, for which heinous crime he was pardoned through the favour of the king. He entered into treasonable correspondence with Spain in 1588 and 1593. On 3d October, 1594, he and the Earl of Errol defeated the king's forces, led by the Earl of Argyle, at the Battle of Glenlivet; but the king having advanced against them in person, they made their submission. The Earl was again received into the Royal favour, and was created Marquis, by patent dated 17th April, 1599. Being strongly attached to the Roman Catholic religion, he was excommunicated by the General Assembly in 1606, and was not restored until 1616, when he promised to adhere to the Protestant faith, a promise which was probably never fulfilled. In 1630, his son, Viscount Melgum, was burnt in the Castle of Frendraught, which caused a violent feud between the Gordons

and Crichtons. The lands of the Fren draught family were plundered and their cattle carried off by the Gordons. For these proceedings the Marquis was imprisoned in the Castle of Edinburgh in 1635, but released in a few weeks. He died at Dundee on his way home on 13th June, 1636, in the seventy-fourth year of his age, and his remains were interred in the Elgin Cathedral. He married Lady Henrietta Stewart, eldest daughter of Esme Duke of Lennox, a rigid Roman Catholic, who was obliged to leave Scotland for her religion in 1641, and died in France the following year. By her he had issue—1, George, second Marquis of Huntly; 2, John Viscount of Melgum; 3, Lord Francis; 4, Lord Lawrence; 5, Lord Adam Gordon of Auchindoun. First daughter, Lady Anne, married to James, fourth Earl of Moray; 2, Lady Elizabeth, married Alexander, second Earl of Linlithgow; 3, Lady Mary, married to William, first Marquis of Douglas; 4, Lady Jane, married to Claud Lord Strabane.

19. George, second Marquis of Huntly, in his early days took military service in France. On the death of his father, in 1636, he returned to Scotland. When the civil war broke out, he took arms for the king, and, after various reverses of fortune, was taken prisoner, and carried to the Castle of Edinburgh, in 1647. He was tried in March, 1649, and beheaded at the Market Cross of Edinburgh on the 22d of that month. He married Lady Anne Campbell, eldest daughter of Archibald, seventh Earl of Argyle, and by her, who died at Aberdeen, 14th June, 1638, had issue—1, George Lord Gordon, killed at the Battle of Alford, 2d July, 1645; 2, James Viscount of Aboyne, who died at Paris, unmarried, 1649; 3, Lewis, third Marquis of Huntly; 4, Charles Earl of Aboyne, ancestor of the present Marquis of Huntly; 5, Lord Henry, who went into the service of the King of Poland, and, on his return to Scotland, died at Strathbogie. First daughter, Lady Anne, married, 1639, to James, third Earl of Perth; 2, Lady Henrietta, married—first, to George Lord Seton, and, second, to John, second Earl of Traquair; 3, Lady Jane, married, 1640, to Thomas, second Earl of Haddington; 4, Lady Mary, married, 1643, to Alexander Irvine of Drum; 5, Lady Catherine, married to Count Morstain, a Polish nobleman.

20. Lewis, third Marquis of Huntly, succeeded his father, 1649; was restored to the family honours by King Charles II. in 1651. He died in December, 1653. He married Isabella, daughter of Sir James Grant of Grant, by whom he had—George, fourth Marquis of Huntly, and three daughters. First, Lady Anne, married to Count de Croll; 2, Lady Mary, married—first, to Adam Urquhart of Meldrum, and, second, to James, fourth Earl of Perth; 3, Lady Jane, married to James, fourth Earl of Dunfermline.

21. George, fourth Marquis of Huntly, succeeded his father in 1653; had the forfeiture of his grandfather rescinded in 1661, and his estates restored. He was brought up a strict Roman Catholic, to which profession the family had always been attached. He spent his early days abroad—in France, Italy, and Germany. He was for some time in the French military service, and afterwards in that of the Prince of Orange. He was created, by King Charles II., Duke of Gordon, by patent dated 1st November, 1684. On the accession of King James VII., in 1685, he was appointed a Privy

Councillor, Lord of the Treasury, and Governor of Edinburgh Castle. At the Revolution, 1688, he held the Castle for King James, and stood a siege until 14th June of the following year, when he surrendered with honour. He afterwards made his submission to King William, but, during his reign, had a very uncomfortable life. On the accession of George I., he was confined in Edinburgh on his parole, and remained there during the Rebellion of 1715 and 1716. He died at Leith on 7th December, 1716, aged about sixty-seven. His Grace married, in October, 1676, Lady Elizabeth Howard, second daughter of Henry Duke of Norfolk and Earl of Norwich, by whom he had—Alexander, second Duke of Gordon; Lady Jane, married, 5th October, 1706, to James, fifth Earl of Perth, styled Duke of Perth. Elizabeth Duchess of Gordon retired to a convent in Flanders before her husband's death, which distressed him much. She eventually returned to Scotland, and survived her husband sixteen years. She died at Edinburgh, 16th July, 1732, and was buried in the Elgin Cathedral.

22. Alexander, second Duke of Gordon, was strongly imbued with the Jacobite feelings of the family. He attended the Earl of Mar at Braemar in August, 1715, and afterwards joined the Pretender's standard with a large body of horse and foot at Perth on 6th October, and was at the Battle of Sheriffmuir, 13th November same year, after which he returned home, and capitulated with his relative the Earl of Sutherland. If it had not been for the great influence of the Earl of Sutherland with the Government of the day, it is extremely probable the Duke would have been attainted, and forfeited both estates and honours. As it was, he made a very narrow escape, and it taught him and his family a salutary lesson. He was, however, brought up from the North to Edinburgh in 1716, and committed a prisoner to the Castle, but no farther proceedings were taken against him. He succeeded his father the same year. His Grace was a strict Roman Catholic, as his ancestors had been before him. He died on the 28th November, 1728, and was buried in the Elgin Cathedral in the following month of December. He married, in 1706, Lady Henrietta Mordaunt, daughter of the celebrated Charles Earl of Peterborough and Monmouth, by whom he had—1, Cosmo George, third Duke of Gordon; 2, Lord Charles, a Captain in the army; 3, Lord Lewis, a Lieutenant in the navy—joined the Rebellion in 1745—was present at the Battle of Culloden—escaped abroad—was attainted, and died at Montreuil, 1754, unmarried; 4, Lord Adam, a distinguished officer in the army, attained the rank of General, and was Commander-in-Chief in Scotland from 1789 to 1798. He was long Member of Parliament for the County of Aberdeen, and after of Kincardine. He married Jane Dowager Duchess of Athol, but had no issue. He died at his seat of the Burn, 13th August, 1801, and was buried at Inveresk. Daughters—Ladies Henrietta, Mary, Jane, and Charlotte, all died unmarried; Lady Anne, married to William, third Earl of Aberdeen; Lady Elizabeth, married to the Rev. Mr. Skelly, a clergyman of the Church of England; Lady Catherine, married to Francis Earl of Wemyss. The Duchess of Gordon was a person of great talents, and managed the estates with prudence during the minority of her son. She brought up her family in the Protestant religion. She had long a pension

of £1000 per annum from Government for the better support of herself and children. She died at Prestonhall, near Edinburgh, on 11th October, 1760, and was buried at Elgin. A marble medallion is erected to her memory in St. Mary's Aisle in the Cathedral. She survived her husband for thirty-two years.

23. Cosmo George, third Duke of Gordon, is said to have received his name from Cosmo, Grand Duke of Tuscany, who was a personal friend of his father's. He succeeded in 1728, when only eight years of age. He was chosen a representative Peer of Scotland in 1747, and invested with the Order of the Thistle 1748. His death took place at Breteuil, near Amiens, in France, on 5th August, 1752, in the thirty-second year of his age, and he was buried in the Elgin Cathedral. He married, 3d September, 1741, Lady Catherine Gordon, only daughter of William, second Earl of Aberdeen, by his second wife, Lady Susan Murray, daughter of John, first Duke of Athol. By her he had—1, Alexander, fourth Duke of Gordon; 2, Lord William Gordon, Vice-Admiral of Scotland, and Member of Parliament for the County of Elgin in 1780, and for Inverness in 1784; 3, Lord George Gordon, who was connected with the great riots in London against Popery in 1780, for which he was tried and acquitted on 5th February, 1781. He died, unmarried, 1793. First daughter, Lady Susan, married, first, to John, ninth Earl of Westmoreland, and, second, to Lieutenant-Colonel John Woodford; 2, Lady Anne, married to the Rev. Alexander Chalmers; 3, Lady Catherine, married to Thomas Booker, Esquire. The Duchess married, second, General Staats Long Morris, who was Member of Parliament for the Elgin District of Burghs from 1774 to 1784.

24. Alexander, fourth Duke of Gordon, born 18th June, 1743 (Old Style), succeeded his father, 1752. He raised a regiment of foot in 1759, which was commanded by his step-father, General Long Morris. He travelled abroad, visiting Italy in 1763. In 1778 and 1793 he raised fencible regiments. His Grace was a representative Peer for Scotland from 1767 to 1784. In this latter year he was created a British Peer by the title of Earl of Norwich—a revival of a title which had been originally given to his great-great-grandfather, Henry, Duke of Norfolk, in 1672. He was keeper of the Great Seal of Scotland from 1794 to 1806, and it was restored to him again in 1807. He was also a Knight of the Thistle and Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Aberdeen, which he resigned to his son, the Marquis of Huntly, in 1808. His Grace married, 25th October, 1767, Jane, second daughter of Sir William Maxwell of Monreith, and by her had seven children—1, George, fifth Duke of Gordon; 2, Lord Alexander Gordon, born 8th November, 1785, was an officer in the British army, and Major of the Aberdeenshire Militia—he died at Edinburgh, 8th January, 1808, and his remains were interred in the Elgin Cathedral. First daughter, Lady Charlotte, born 20th September, 1768; married, 9th September, 1789, to Charles, fourth Duke of Richmond and Lennox; 2, Lady Madelina, married, first, to Sir Robert Sinclair of Stevenston and Murkle, and, second, to Charles Palmer of Luckley Park in Berkshire; 3, Lady Susan, born 2d February, 1774, married, 7th October, 1793, to William Duke of Manchester; 4, Lady Louisa, born 12th September, 1776, married, 17th April, 1797,

to Charles, second Marquis of Cornwallis ; 5, Lady Georgina, born 18th July, 1781, married, 23d June, 1803, to John Duke of Bedford. Alexander, fourth Duke of Gordon, died at London on 17th June, 1827, aged eighty-four, having been in possession of the honours and estates for seventy-five years. His body was removed to Aberdeen, where it lay for some days, and from thence carried to Elgin, and interred in St. Mary's Aisle in the Cathedral. Jane Duchess of Gordon died 11th April, 1812, and was interred at Kinrara, her favourite Highland residence, on the banks of the Spey.

George, fifth Duke of Gordon, born at Edinburgh, 1st February, 1770, succeeded his father, 1827. He entered the army in 1791, and was actively engaged in the service both at home and abroad for many years. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant-General ; was Colonel of the 42d Regiment ; afterwards of the 1st Regiment of Foot ; and Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Aberdeen from 1808. In the year 1807 he was created a British Peer by the title of Baron Gordon of Huntly. He married, 11th December, 1813, Elizabeth Brodie, only child of Alexander Brodie of Arnhall, by whom he had no issue. His Grace died at London, 28th May, 1836, and his body was carried by sea in one of the king's ships to the coast near Gordon Castle, and there landed. The remains were interred in the Elgin Cathedral on 10th June. The funeral was largely attended by the nobility and gentry from this and the neighbouring counties, and the general public. With him the Dukedom in the direct male line expired. The Earl of Aboyne, descended from the fourth son of George, second Marquis of Huntly, became Marquis of Huntly as nearest heir-male ; and the estates, under the deed of entail of Alexander, fourth Duke of Gordon, fell to Charles Duke of Richmond, his grandson, and nephew of the last Duke.

Elizabeth Duchess of Gordon died at Huntly Lodge on 31st January, 1864, in the seventieth year of her age, and her body was also interred in the family vault in the Elgin Cathedral—the last member of this ancient and noble family whose remains will ever repose there.

Arms of the family of Gordon—Quarterly, 1st, azure, three boars' heads coupé, Or, for Gordon ; 2d, Or, three lions' heads erased, gules, langued, azure, as Lord of Badenoch ; 3d, Or, three crescents, within a double tressure, gules, for Seton ; 4th, azure, three cinque foils, argent, for Fraser. Crest—A buck's head coupé, proper, attired, Or. Supporters—Two deerhounds, proper, collared, gules, charged with three buckles, Or. Mottoes—on crest, "Bydand ;" on arms, "Animo non astutia."

Charles Duke of Richmond, the successor in the estates of George, fifth Duke of Gordon, died 21st October, 1860, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Charles, present Duke of Richmond and Lennox, President of Her Majesty's Council. In the year 1876, the title of Duke of Gordon was revived in his person, which was very gratifying to all the friends of the family, as well as to the public generally. The Dukes of Richmond have been worthy successors of the noble family of Gordon.

SUTHERLANDS OF DUFFUS.

This noble family were much connected with the burgh of Elgin. From the year 1650 until 1705, they had their principal residence in the town, and exercised almost supreme authority over it, having the Town Council much under their control. James Lord Duffus was Provost from 1700 to 1705, when he died, and his son, William Sutherland, succeeded him in office from 1705 to 1709.

Registrum
Moraviense,
Preface, p. 34.

Sir Robert
Gordon's
Earldom of
Sutherland,
page 49.

The family are descended from Kenneth, third Earl of Sutherland, who was killed at the Battle of Halidonhill in 1333. He had two sons, William, fourth Earl of Sutherland, and Nicholas, the first of the family of Duffus. At that time the Earls of Sutherland had not given up the ancient name of de Moravia, to which they long tenaciously clung. William Earl of Sutherland still called himself de Moravia or de Murref, and his eldest son, during his father's life, was designed William de Murref. Earl William died at Dunrobin Castle in the year 1370. He was married to Margaret Bruce, daughter of King Robert Bruce, and at one period expected that his eldest son would have succeeded to the throne; but in this he was disappointed, the House of Stewart being preferred.

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Gordon, page 52.

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Nicholas Sutherland obtained from his brother, William, the fourth Earl, a charter of sixteen davochs of land within the Earldom of Sutherland, in a free Barony called Torboll, to be held by him and the heirs of his body, of the Earl and his heirs for ever, for one Knight's service, which was confirmed by King David II., 17th October, 1362. He married Mary Cheyne, one of the co-heiresses of Reginald Cheyne of Duffus, and by her he got one-third of the estate of Duffus, and a third of the extensive lands of the Cheynes in Caithness. In consequence of this marriage with Mary Cheyne, he added the arms of that family to his paternal coat of Sutherland. By her he had two sons—1, John, who died without issue; 2, Henry.

2. Henry Sutherland of Duffus had a charter of the Barony of Torboll from the Earl of Sutherland, in the reign of Robert III. He was succeeded by his son,

3. Alexander Sutherland of Duffus. He married Morella, daughter and heiress of Chisholm of that Ilk, with whom he got the Barony of Quarrelwood and other lands, and thereupon added to his armorial bearings a boar's head erased, being part of the arms of Chisholm. He had issue—1, Alexander, whose only daughter and heiress, Christian Sutherland, married William Oliphant of Berriedale; 2, William. Daughter, Isabel, married to Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield. He died in the year 1479, and is interred with his wife in the churchyard of Duffus.

There is an old tombstone at Duffus with the following inscription:—

Hic jacent duo nobili Alexr. Sutherland, olim Dominus de Duffus — Chisholm, Domina de Quarrelwood, ejus Sponsa, qui obiit 12th October, 1479.

It is presumed the above date applies to the husband's death.

4. William Sutherland, the second son, inherited his mother's lands of Quarrelwood, and left a son, William.

5. William Sutherland of Quarrelwood, on the death of his uncle, Alexander, took possession of his estates in Duffus and Caithness, and also of the lands in Sutherland, and of the estate of Strabrock, in the County of Linlithgow, an old inheritance of the Cheynes, on the ground of Christian, his uncle's daughter, being illegitimate. A long litigation followed both in Scotland and at Rome. The matter was at length adjusted in this manner, viz.—Christian got the extensive estates in Caithness, and William Sutherland got the estate of Duffus and the lands in Sutherland. The lands of Strabrock were acquired by Crichton of Sanquhar, ancestor of the Earl of Dumfries. William Sutherland was killed at Thurso by the Clan Gunn in the year 1529. He married Janet, daughter of Alexander Innes of Innes, and had issue—1, William; 2, Alexander, Rector of Duffus, and Dean of Caithness.

Sir Robert Gordon, p. 102.

6. William Sutherland of Duffus, the eldest son, succeeded his father. In an Instrument of Sasine of the lands of Quarrelwood, dated 12th June, 1529, he is designed lawful heir of William Sutherland of Duffus. He had a charter to himself and Elizabeth Stewart, his wife, of the lands of Leggat and Quarrelwood, dated 6th July, 1542. He had a son, Alexander, who succeeded, and a daughter, Elizabeth, who was married to Archibald Douglas of Pittendreich.

Great Seal
Regr. L. 28, No. 349.

7. Alexander Sutherland of Duffus was in possession of the estates in 1555, as he granted, on 1st June of that year, a charter of the Ecclesiastical Lands of Duffus in favour of John Sutherland and Margaret Dumbreck, his wife. He is said to have been the father of

Great Seal
Regr. L. 31, No. 279.

8. William Sutherland of Duffus. In the year 1588, the lands of Duffus, Quarrelwood, Grieshop, Brightmony, and Kinsteary were all erected into the Barony of Duffus by Crown Precept in favour of this laird, dated 2d August that year. He had also charters of various lands in the County of Elgin in 1604, and of part of Saltcots and the Holmes in the same county, 1st August, 1605. He died in March, 1616, leaving a son,

Writings at
Duffus.

9. William Sutherland of Duffus, who was served heir to his father, and died at an early age in October, 1626. Sir Robert Gordon records of him as follows:—"The laird of Duffus died in the moneth of October, 1626 "yeirs, leaveing his eldest sone, Alexander, of the aige of four yeirs and ten "moneths, whereby his lands in Sutherland did ward to his superiour, the "Earle of Sutherland his hands, for the space of sixteen yeirs and a-half."

10. Alexander Sutherland of Duffus was a child when his father died, and his uncle, James Sutherland, was served tutor-at-law to him on 11th January, 1627. There was a long minority, and the tutor's management seems to have been a careful one. The Sutherlands of Duffus at this time had only one-third of the estate of Duffus, and the tutor purchased from Keith, Rector of Duffus, another third, and from William Earl Marischal, in 1631, the remaining third, so that the whole barony was now united together, after a disjunction of several centuries. He was one of the Committee of Estates, 20th March, 1647, and one of the Colonels for arming the kingdom, 15th February, 1649. He was created a Peer by the title of Lord Duffus, 8th December, 1650. He was Governor of Perth for King Charles II., 1651, when it was invested by Cromwell, and to avoid a general assault

he was compelled to surrender, and was fined £1500 for his political conduct and adherence to the Royal cause in 1654. He married—first, Lady Margaret Mackenzie, eldest daughter of Colin, first Earl of Seaforth, widow of John Lord Berriedale, who died 1639, without issue; second, the fifth daughter of Sir Robert Innes of Innes, Bart., who also died without issue; third, Lady Margaret Stewart, second daughter of James, fifth Earl of Moray, by whom he had a son, James, second Lord Duffus, and two daughters—1, Honourable Henrietta Sutherland, married to George, fourth Earl of Linlithgow; 2, Honourable Mary Sutherland, married to Sir James Sinclair of Mey. His Lordship married—fourth, Margaret, eldest daughter of William, eleventh Lord Forbes, by whom he had no issue. She married for her second husband Sir Robert Gordon, the third Baronet of Gordons-town, by whom she had one daughter, married to John Forbes of Culloden. He purchased or acquired from his father-in-law, James Earl of Moray, the lands of Ardgay, Leggat, Kintrae, and others, and the Earl of Moray's house in Elgin, called the Great Lodging, which he enlarged and beautified, and which for some time became the principal residence of the family. At this period the family estate was large, consisting of the whole parish of Duffus, Quarrelwood, Ardgay, Kintrae, and others in the County of Elgin, and Skelbo, Torboll, Morvich, &c., in the County of Sutherland. They had a residence at Skelbo constructed much in the same style as the old Castle of Duffus. Alexander Lord Duffus died 31st August, 1674, and was succeeded by his only son,

Douglas'
Baronage, p. 9.

11. James, second Lord Duffus. He was admitted a Privy Councillor 4th May, 1686. He had the misfortune to kill Ross of Kindeace in a sudden quarrel, under great provocation, and had for some time to leave the country in consequence. He was a great supporter of the Government of King Charles II. and King James VII., in all their arbitrary proceedings, and was a warm advocate for high prerogative. He resided much in Elgin, in a very extravagant manner, his furniture and equipage being far beyond his means. He took a great interest in the affairs of the burgh, and exercised much control over the Magistrates and Town Council, whom he impressed with his own views both in Church and State. He was much opposed to the Revolution, and prevented the settlement of a Presbyterian minister in Elgin for many years after that event. He was himself Provost of the burgh from 1700 to 1705. As already detailed, he brought up his family in the same high principles as he adopted for himself. He married Lady Margaret Mackenzie, eldest daughter of Kenneth, third Earl of Seaforth, by whom he had issue—1, Kenneth, third Lord Duffus; 2, Honourable James Sutherland, who married Elizabeth, only surviving child and heiress of Sir William Dunbar of Hempriggs, in the County of Caithness, widow of Sir Robert Gordon, third Baronet of Gordonstown. He thereupon changed his name to Dunbar, and was created a Baronet, 10th December, 1706. He had a son, Sir William,* father of Sir Benjamin, who married Jane, eldest daughter of George Mackay of Bighouse, 10th December, 1784, and had among others the late Sir George Dunbar, born 1799; 3, Honour-

Burke's
Peerage, 1828,
page 192.

* Sir William Dunbar of Hempriggs had no fewer than twenty-five children. He was three times married. Of all his numerous family only one son and two daughters came to maturity.

able William Sutherland of Roscommon, who, having engaged in the Rebellion, 1715, was forfeited by Act of Parliament. He married, 1702, Helen Duff, daughter of William Duff of Dipple, and sister of William, first Earl of Fife, by whom he had no issue; 4, Honourable John Sutherland. James Lord Duffus died 24th September, 1705. Previous to his death, feeling himself deeply embarrassed, he sold his estate to his second son, James Sutherland, as a temporary arrangement. He borrowed the money to pay the price from Archibald Dunbar of Thunderton, under condition of either repaying the money within a certain specified date, or, otherwise, conveying the estate to him. He found himself unable to repay the sum borrowed, and, therefore, in 1708, disposed the Morayshire estate to Mr. Dunbar absolutely. About the same time, or shortly after, the estate in Sutherland, which was also heavily mortgaged, was sold, and it eventually became absorbed in the extensive property of the Earl of Sutherland, from whom it was originally derived. The fine house in Elgin also fell into other hands, and the splendid furniture, of which an inventory has been preserved, was disposed of by public sale.

Notes on
Burghead,
pages 82 to 89.

12. Kenneth, third Lord Duffus, took his seat in Parliament, 28th October, 1706, and supported the Treaty of Union with England. He entered the British navy, in which he rose to the rank of Captain, and for some time commanded a 46-gun frigate, in which, 29th June, 1711, he engaged eight French privateers, and, after a desperate resistance, in which he was severely wounded, he was taken prisoner. Like his brother, William, he had the misfortune to engage in the Rebellion of 1715, in consequence of which he was included in the Act of Attainder 1st Geo. I., cap. 43. He was imprisoned for some time in the Tower of London, but was eventually set at liberty in 1717, without having been brought to trial. He afterwards entered into the Russian naval service, in which he became a Flag-Officer. He died before the year 1734. He married Charlotte Christina, daughter of Eric de Sioblade, Governor of Gottenburgh in Sweden, and had a son,

13. Eric Sutherland, who was baptised at Twickenham on 29th August, 1710. He presented to the king, in 1734, a petition to be restored to the honours of the Peerage, which, being remitted to the House of Lords, was heard by counsel in presence of the Committee of Privileges and the Judges, and rejected. He had an ensigncy in Colonel Disney's Regiment, 1731, and a company in the Earl of Sutherland's Regiment, 1759, and died at Skibo, on the 28th of August, 1768, in the fifty-eighth year of his age. He married his cousin-german, Elizabeth, third daughter of his uncle, Sir James Dunbar of Hempriggs, and by her, who survived him thirty-two years, had issue—1, James; 2, Axley. First daughter, Elizabeth, married, first, to Mr. St. Clair, second, on 5th December, 1772, to the Rev. James Rudd, Rector of Newton Kyme and Full Sutton, in Yorkshire, and had two sons, the Rev. Eric Rudd, and James Sutherland Rudd; 2, Charlotte, married to Sir John Sinclair of Mey, and was mother of James, twelfth Earl of Caithness; 3, Anne, married, in 1776, to the Honourable George Mackay of Skibo, and was mother of Eric, seventh Lord Reay.

14. James Sutherland, born 8th June, 1747, was an officer in the army.

The family honours were restored to him by Act of Parliament, 26th May, 1826. He died unmarried, 30th January, 1827, in the eightieth year of his age. On his death, the title was assumed by his cousin, Sir Benjamin Dunbar of Hempriggs, as heir-male, but was disputed by the Rev. Mr. Rudd, as heir-general of the last lord. The question does not appear to have been settled, and was dropped. Sir Benjamin died in 1843, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir George Sutherland Dunbar, born in 1799, who was the undoubted heir-male of this ancient family. Sir George died in 1875, unmarried, and disposed his estates to his grand-nephew, Mr. Garden Duff of the family of Hatton, who has now assumed the name of Dunbar. It is believed all the heirs-male of this family are now extinct, but the female heirs are numerous. The estates in Caithness now possessed by Mr. Duff Dunbar, are valued at £11,000 per annum and upwards. The family residence is at Ackergill Castle, in the parish of Wick.

Valuation,
1872-73.

Arms of Lord Duffus—Quarterly, 1st and 4th, gules, three stars, Or, for Sutherland; 2nd, azure, three cross crosslets, fitchee, argent, for Cheyne; 3d, azure, a boar's head erased, argent, for Chisholm. Crest—A cat, sejant, proper. Supporters—Two savages, proper, each wreathed about the head and middle with laurel, and armed with a baton. Motto—"Without fear."

THE TWO DUNBARS, PROVOSTS OF ELGIN, AND THEIR HEIRS-MALE.

The Dunbars are descended in the male line through the Dunbars, Earls of Moray, March, and Dunbar, from Gospatric, who was Earl of Northumberland, in 1068. Gospatric had a grant of the lands of Dunbar in Lothian in 1072, from his kinsman Malcolm III. (Canmore), King of Scotland, and his descendants took their name from those lands when surnames came into use. The Dunbars first became connected with Moray when Earl Patrick Dunbar (the ninth Earl) married Lady Agnes Ranulph, daughter of Sir Thomas Ranulph, first Earl of Moray. [The Papal Dispensation for the marriage is dated Avignon, 16th January, 1323-4.]

Archibald Dunbar of Newtoun in Moray, of Thundertoun in Aberdeenshire, and of Achmadies in Banffshire, married—first, contract dated 12th May, 1666, Elizabeth, youngest daughter and co-heir of Walter Hacket of Mayen [by his wife, Janet, elder daughter of George Leslie of Burdbank, grandson of George, fourth Earl of Rothes]. Elizabeth Hacket died 27th July, 1678. He married—secondly, at Spynie, 28th April, 1681, Katherine, daughter of Sir Walter Innes of Balvenie, Baronet, without proclamation, having received an order from the Bishop. Katherine Innes died 4th February, 1686. Archibald Dunbar of Newtoun and Thundertoun died 3d May, 1689. By his first wife, he had, with other issue, two sons, viz.—

1. Robert of Newtoun, of whom hereafter.
2. Archibald of Thundertoun and Duffus, Patron of the parish of Duffus; M.A., Aberdeen; J.P., D.L., and Sheriff-Principal of the County of Elgin. Baptised, 29th

October, 1671. Being Master of Arts, he was generally styled "Mister," as was customary in those days. On the 15th December, 1697, he got a disposition of the estate of Thundertoun in Aberdeenshire from his brother. In February, 1701, he took a lease of the Inland Excise of Scotland from the Lords of the Treasury, for which he agreed to pay thirty thousand pounds sterling annually. He married—first, contract dated 9th August, 1703, Rebecca, widow of Robert Menzies, W.S., and only daughter of the Rev. James Adamson, minister of Ettrick. On the 12th August, 1704, he got from the Honourable James Sutherland a disposition of the estate of Duffus, which was confirmed in March, 1708. On the 28th April, 1711, his wife, Rebecca, died. On the 17th September, 1712, he sold the estate of Thundertoun in Aberdeenshire to Mr. Charles Gordon of Buthlaw [notwithstanding which he continued to be universally known as "the Laird of Thundertoun" till his death, which did not occur until twenty years afterwards; and the designation "of Thundertoun" was frequently applied to the subsequent proprietors of Duffus]. On the 28th September, 1714, he was elected Provost of Elgin, which office he held for three years. On the 11th September, 1716, the Presbytery of Elgin unanimously agreed to give in an information against Mr. Archibald Dunbar of Thundertoun, Justice of the Peace and Provost of Elgin, as a "hearer" (Episcopalian), "and favourable to the Pretender." He married—secondly, Phillas Walker, who held house property in St. James' Street, Westminster. She was the "Lady Thundertoun" alluded to by the Duke and Duchess of Gordon in their letters (1723-8) printed in "Social Life in Former Days." She died in April, 1730, without surviving issue. Mr. Archibald Dunbar died in Edinburgh, 16th April, 1733, aged sixty-two, and was buried in the Greyfriars' Churchyard there. He left no male issue, but Rebeckah and Helen, daughters, by his first wife, survived him.

(a.) Rebeckah married—first, contract dated 4th June, 1729, Robert Gordon of Haughs [elder son of Lewis Gordon of Edinveel, who was the second son of Sir Ludovic Gordon of Gordonstown], and became a widow on the 1st March, 1732. She married—secondly, in 1735, Alexander Anderson of Arradoul, but became a widow a second time in 1739. "Lady Arradoul," as she was called, was a devoted Jacobite, and lived latterly at Thundertoun House in Elgin, where she entertained Prince Charles Edward Stuart for some days in March, 1746. The sheets in which "Prince Charlie" had slept were carefully preserved by her, and on her death, twenty-five years afterwards, she was buried in one of them, in accordance with her express wish on the subject.

(b.) Helen, married, in 1735, her first cousin, Archibald Dunbar, then younger of Newtown and Duffus.

Archibald Dunbar of Newtown and Thundertoun had no issue by his second wife, Katherine Innes, and was succeeded by the elder son of his first marriage,

Robert Dunbar of Newtown in Moray, and of Thundertoun in Aberdeenshire, J.P., Co. Elgin. Baptised, 13th February, 1670. Married, 27th November, 1690, Margaret, only daughter of Colin Mackenzie of Pluscarden. [Colin was brother uterine to the first Lord Duffus, and eldest son of the Honourable Thomas Mackenzie of Pluscarden, who was third son of the first Lord Kintail, and next younger brother to George, second Earl of Seaforth.] On the death of his brother, Archibald, 16th April, 1733, Robert Dunbar of Newtown succeeded, as heir-male, to the estate of Duffus, and also to the patronage of the parish of Duffus. He died in September, 1742, aged seventy-two, and was buried at Alves on the 29th of the same month. His widow survived him only three months. He had, with other issue, two sons, viz.—

1. Archibald of Newtown and Duffus, of whom hereafter.
2. William, Captain H.M. 43d Regiment, died at St. Pierre, near New York, in March, 1763. By his will, dated 12th February, 1757, and registered in the Pre-rogative Court, Canterbury, he left to his wife, Jane, all his property, including his "houses and tenements situate near South Port, in his Majesties Garrison of Gibraltar."

Robert Dunbar of Newtown and Duffus was succeeded by his elder son,

Archibald Dunbar of Newtown and Duffus, Patron of the parish of Duffus, J.P., Co. Elgin. Born, 15th December, 1693. His father and forefathers, from 1371, like most of the other descendants of John Dunbar Earl of Moray, bore for arms—"Argent, three cushions, gules," [with a difference]. Notwithstanding which, without any apparent reason, another coat of arms [Quarterly—1st and 4th, Dunbar Earl of Dunbar; 2d and 3d, Ranulph Earl of Moray, within a bordure; Crest—a dexter hand reaching at an astral crown] was matriculated in the Lyon Register on the 16th July, 1734, for him, under the designation of "Archibald Dunbar of Newtown," although his father, Robert Dunbar of Newtown, was still alive! He married—first, in 1735, Helen, younger daughter and co-heir of his then deceased uncle, Mr. Archibald Dunbar of Thundertoun. She died, 10th April, 1748. He married—secondly, in 1750, Anne Bayne, who survived him. Archibald Dunbar of Newtown and Duffus died in London, 13th July, 1769, aged seventy-six, and was buried in the Parish Church of St. Anne's, Soho, Westminster, on the 23d of the same month. By his first wife, he had, with other issue, three sons, viz.—

1. Archibald, Captain-Lieutenant in the Highland Battalion [which was afterwards numbered the 89th Regiment]; died, unmarried, at Madras, 4th March, 1762.
2. Robert, died, unmarried, at Duffus, 4th February, 1762.
3. Alexander, afterwards Sir Alexander of Northfield, of whom hereafter.

By his second wife he had, with other issue, two sons, viz.—

4. William, settled at Richmond, on the Mississippi, thirty-five leagues above New Orleans. His descendants owned considerable landed property in America.
5. Thomas, a Major-General in the army, was twice married, and died, without surviving issue, at West Park, Elgin, 20th December, 1815.

Archibald Dunbar of Newtown and Duffus was succeeded by the only surviving son of his first marriage,

Sir Alexander Dunbar of Northfield, fourth Baronet, born 12th January, 1742; admitted Advocate at the Scotch Bar, 4th July, 1767; married, 21st April, 1769, the Honourable Margaret Arbuthnott, second daughter of John, sixth Viscount of Arbuthnott; served heir to his father, 29th September, 1769, as "Alexander Dunbar of Newtown, Esquire, Advocate." On the 23d February, 1770, he had a Royal Charter of the estate of Duffus, and of the patronage of the parish of Duffus, Chaplaincy of Unthank, &c. The charter, which is in Latin, styles him "Alexander Dunbar of Thundertoun, Advocate," and erects his estate, hitherto called "Duffus," into "the Barony of Thundertoun." On the 8th October, 1776,

he was served and retoured "nearest and lawful heir-male general" to the deceased Sir Patrick Dunbar of Northfield, in Caithness, third Baronet, and thus became Sir Alexander Dunbar of Northfield, fourth Baronet. He died, 20th December, 1791, in his fiftieth year, and was buried at Duffus. His widow, the Honourable Margaret Lady Dunbar, died, 8th June, 1801. Sir Alexander had, with other issue, two sons, viz.—

1. Archibald, fifth Baronet, of whom hereafter.
2. John, Captain in the 33d Light Dragoons, and in the 6th Dragoon Guards, from which last regiment he sold out. He afterwards re-entered the army, and served in the 78th Highlanders until 1812, when he died, unmarried, at Cuddalore, Madras.

Sir Alexander was succeeded by his elder son,

Sir Archibald Dunbar of Northfield, fifth Baronet, patron of the parish of Duffus, J.P., D.L., Convener of the County of Elgin, and Lieutenant-Colonel of the Local Militia, born 30th June, 1772; married—first, 6th November, 1794, Helen Pennel, second daughter of Colonel Alexander Penrose-Cumming of Altyre, by his wife Helen, second daughter of Sir Ludovic and Lady Margaret Grant of Grant [on the death of Sir William Gordon of Gordonstown, Colonel Penrose-Cumming succeeded by entail to the Gordonstown and Dallas estates, and was created a Baronet as Sir Alexander Penrose-Cumming-Gordon on the 21st May, 1804.] Sir Archibald Dunbar was unanimously elected member of Council of the burgh of Forres on the 29th September, 1795, and continued a member for thirty-seven years. He was unanimously elected Provost of Nairn, 29th September, 1800, and in subsequent years was frequently re-elected to the same office. Helen Lady Dunbar died 16th March, 1819. Sir Archibald was elected Provost of Elgin 28th September, 1819, and held office till the following year. He married, secondly, 26th September, 1822, Mary, only surviving daughter of John Brander of Pitgaveny. Sir Archibald died 29th March, 1847, in his seventy-fifth year, and was buried at Duffus. On the 23d March, 1854, his widow succeeded to the estate of Pitgaveny, and took the additional surname and arms of Brander [by entail, upon the death of her brother, Lieutenant-Colonel James Brander]. An entry in the Lyon Register records that the armorial bearings of "Dame Mary "Dunbar-Brander of Pitgaveny, relict of the late Sir Archibald Dunbar of "Northfield, Baronet, of Nova Scotia," were matriculated on the 15th November, 1854. Mary Lady Dunbar-Brander died 5th May, 1869.

By his first wife, Sir Archibald had, with other issue, seven sons, viz.—

1. Alexander, died unmarried, at Duffus, 26th January, 1818.
2. Archibald, sixth and present Baronet, of whom hereafter.
3. John, J.P., Co. Elgin, one of the Sudder Judges at Calcutta, where he died, 1st November, 1856, having married, 20th December, 1825, Anna Sophie, second daughter of the Rev. George Hagar, by whom he had, with other issue, three sons, viz.—
 - (a.) Penrose John, formerly Major 3d Buffs.
 - (b.) Rothes Lennox, Captain 42d Highlanders, died unmarried, at Hastings, 1st February, 1857.
 - (c.) Arbuthnott, P.B.S., Lieutenant 92d Highlanders.

4. William Gordon Cumming, an officer in the 5th Madras Light Cavalry, died unmarried, at Trichinopoly, Madras, 27th November, 1824.

5. Charles Cumming, Lieutenant 59th Bengal Native Infantry, died unmarried at Barrackpore, Bengal, 2d July, 1828.

6. Thomas, died unmarried in Edinburgh, 31st January, 1831.

7. Edward, of Glen Rothes, J.P. and D.L., Co. Elgin, author of "Social Life in Former Days," formerly Captain in H.M.'s 22d and 21st Regiments, married, 17th October, 1848, Phœbe, youngest daughter of Duncan Dunbar, merchant in London, sister and heir by entail to John Dunbar of Seapark. Captain Edward Dunbar, after his marriage, having obtained authority from the Court of Session, took the additional surname of Dunbar, and has a son,

John Archibald, M.A., Oxford, in holy orders, J.P., Co. Elgin.

By his second wife, Sir Archibald had, with other issue, a son,

8. James Brander, J.P. and D.L., Co. Elgin, formerly an officer in the 3d Madras Light Cavalry, afterwards Captain in the Scots Greys. On his mother's death he succeeded to the estate of Pitgaveny, and took the additional surname of Brander. He married 23d December, 1874, Alice, youngest daughter of James Grant, solicitor [and some time Provost of], Elgin, and has two sons,

James and Archibald.

Sir Archibald was succeeded by the eldest surviving son of his first marriage,

Sir Archibald Dunbar of Northfield, sixth Baronet, J.P., D.L., and Convener of the County of Elgin; born 5th July, 1803; formerly an officer in H.M.'s 22d Regiment; married—first, 12th June, 1827, Keith Alicia, daughter of George Ramsay of Barnton [by his wife the Honourable Jean Hamilton, second daughter of Robert, sixth Lord Belhaven]. She died 15th March, 1836. He married—secondly, 5th November, 1840, Sophia, youngest daughter of George Orred of Tranmere Hall, Cheshire. He succeeded his father as sixth Baronet and patron of the parish of Duffus on 29th March, 1847. By his first wife Sir Archibald had, with other issue, two sons, viz.—

1. Archibald Hamilton, J.P. and D.L., Co. Elgin, formerly Captain H.M.'s 66th Regiment, married, 15th July, 1865, Isabella Mary, elder daughter of Charles Eyre of Welford Park, Berks, by his first wife Mary Anne, elder daughter of Major-General Leyborne Popham of Littlecote, Wilts. [Mr. Eyre, originally Charles Archer-Houblon, is second son of the late John Archer-Houblon of Hallingbury, M.P. for Essex, and took the name of Eyre only, under sign manual, when he succeeded to the estate of Welford on his father's death in 1831.]

2. George Ramsay, educated as founder's kin at Winchester, gold medallist there in 1851; Fellow of New College, and M.A., Oxford; admitted advocate at the Scotch Bar, 1st June, 1858; died unmarried at Nice, 30th April, 1862.

By his second wife, Sir Archibald had three sons, viz.—

3. Randolph John Edward, died unmarried at Surbiton, 16th August, 1862.

4. Charles Gordon Cumming, in holy orders, formerly Archdeacon of Grenada, married, 17th October, 1872, Edith, youngest daughter of the late W. C. Wentworth, formerly President of the Legislative Council, Sydney.

5. William James Colquhoun, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Bombay.

Sir Archibald Dunbar of Northfield is the representative of the

Dunbars of Newtown, the only family of the name whose forefathers have been continuously landowners in this county ever since a branch of the Dunbars first settled in Moray, upwards of five hundred years ago.

CUMMING OR CUMINE OF LOCHTERVANDICH
AND AUCHRY.

George Cumming of Lochtervandich was a merchant in Elgin in the seventeenth century, and carried on a large and flourishing business there. He was the first Dean of Guild of the burgh, having been elected to that office in 1643. He was Provost in 1663, and held the same office from 1670 to 1687. His eldest son, William Cumming, was also long a merchant in Elgin, and acquired a considerable fortune. He purchased the large estates of Auchry and Pittulie, in Aberdeenshire, and retired there in the latter days of his life. He purchased also some lands, and founded a charity for four decayed burgesses in the burgh, which still flourishes, and yields a habitation and a comfortable subsistence to the objects of it. The family name is still green, and kept in remembrance in the town. The immediate ancestor was Sir Richard Cumming of Altyre, who lived in the reign of King David Bruce, and married Agnes, daughter of Sir John Grant of that Ilk, by whom he had two sons—1, Ferquhard, his successor, who carried on the line of the house of Altyre; 2, Duncan, the first of this family.

1. Duncan Cumming, second son of Sir Richard of Altyre, got from his father a considerable estate, viz., the lands of Lochtervandich, also the half davoch of Auchmore, in Glenrinnes, the davochs of Ruthven, Tomoclaggan, Glenconlas, in Strathaven, the davochs of Enoch and Pitglassie, in Auchindoun, and others. He married a daughter of William Mackintosh of that Ilk, and died in the beginning of the reign of King Robert III., leaving issue, a son,

2. Ferquhard Cumming of Lochtervandich. He married a daughter of the Earl of Mar, by whom he had a son, Robert, his heir. He died in the year 1406, and was buried at Mortlach. His tombstone is now, or was lately, to be seen there, within the church.

Mrs. C. Bruce,
page 454.

3. Robert Cumming of Lochtervandich, eldest son of Ferquhard, was usually called Robert Farquharson. He married a daughter of Gordon of Invercharroch, by whom he had a son, and probably others. He was certainly buried at Mortlach, where his tombstone remains, but is extremely indistinct. The inscription seems to be something like as follows :—

Hic jacet honorabilis vir Robertus Farquharson de Lauchtivany, qui obiit Mar. die quint^o merid^o anno Dni m^o qu^o xi^o sexto, cum sua propinquiis.

which may be translated—

Jervise's
Epitaphs, First
Series, p. 330.

Here rests, with his kindred, an honourable man, Robert Farquharson of Lauchtivany, who died at noon on the 5th of March, 1417.

4. Alexander Cumming succeeded his father, Robert. He married a daughter of the Laird of Benwall, in Buchan, and by her had six sons, of

whom several families of the name of Cumming are descended—1, Ferquhard, his heir; 2, son, settled at Kinloss; 3, son, settled in Urquhart; 4, son, progenitor of Cummings in Strathaven; 5, son, ancestor of Cummings in Badenoch; 6, son, settled in Buchan, and was ancestor of the Cumines of Birness, Kinninmont, and others in that district.

5. Ferquhard Cumming of Lochtervandich. He married a daughter of Walter Leslie of Kininvie, by whom he had three sons and seven daughters—1, George, his heir; 2, John, settled in Banff, where he married and had a family; 3, Robert, of whom there is no succession. The daughters are said to have been all respectably married.

6. George Cumming of Lochtervandich. He married—first, Margaret Grant, said to have been a niece of Grant of Freuchie, by whom he had two sons—1, Duncan, his heir; 2, George, who carried on the line of the family. He married—second (in the eightieth year of his age), a daughter of Thomas Gordon of Davin, son of the Laird of Haddo, ancestor of the Earl of Aberdeen, and by her had two sons—1, William, who settled in the parish of Mortlach, where he married and had a son, William Cumming, a clergyman in England; 2, Robert, who also settled in Mortlach, and acquired the lands of Reclatich. George Cumming was succeeded by his eldest son,

7. Duncan Cumming of Lochtervandich, who died without issue, and was succeeded by his brother,

7. George Cumming, who was probably settled in a mercantile business in Elgin long before his brother's death, when the succession opened to him. He took a very prominent part in the affairs of the burgh, and was long Provost during a very difficult period. He married—first, Marjory Leslie, daughter of William Leslie, of the family of Kininvie, by whom he had—1, William, his heir; 2, George, minister at Essel, who married a daughter of Archibald Geddes of Essel, by whom he had two sons, George and Archibald, both clergymen in England; 3, a son, of whom there is no succession. His first wife, Marjory Leslie, died in September, 1656. He married—secondly, Lucretia Gordon, daughter of a respectable burgher of Elgin, by whom he had three daughters—1, daughter, Margaret, married to William King of Newmill, Provost of Elgin; 2, Barbara, married to Thomas Kay, minister of Auldearn, Dean of Moray; 3, daughter, also married. Lucretia Gordon, his second wife, died in September, 1668. George Cumming died on 20th September, 1689, and was buried in the south transept of the Elgin Cathedral.

8. William Cumming succeeded his father. He was also long engaged in mercantile business in Elgin, in which he was successful. He sold the estate of Lochtervandich to Duff of Braco, and his lands in Glenlivet and Auchindoun passed to the family of Gordon. He purchased the fine estates of Pittulie and Auchry in the County of Aberdeen, where he resided in his latter days. He entertained at Auchry, on 30th June, 1686, General Patrick Gordon of Auleuchries, the famous Russian Commander, who refers to it in his diary. In 1693, he mortified the Leper Lands and Hospital Croft for behoof of four decayed merchants in the burgh of Elgin, and built a house at the west end of the town for them to dwell in. He

General
Gordon's Diary,
page 147.

married—first, Isabella, daughter of John Gordon, Provost of Banff, by whom he had one son, John, who succeeded to the estate of Auchry; second, Jean, daughter of James Sandilands of Cotton, by whom he had no family; third, he married Christian, daughter of Sir Henry Guthrie of King-Edward, by whom he had one son, George, to whom he left the estate of Pittulie, and the joint patronage of the Mortification in Elgin, along with the Magistrates of Elgin. Mr. Cumming built the fine old house on the south side of the High Street of Elgin, called “Pittulie’s House,” which was long possessed by Mr. King of Newmill, where the Caledonian Bank now stands, a sketch of which is preserved in Dr. Rhind’s work, page 117. He also, at his own expense, rebuilt the Parish Church of Monquhitter. He died in the year 1707, in the seventy-fourth year of his age, and a monument, bearing the following inscription, was erected to his memory by his third wife, Christian Guthrie:—

Memoria viri optimi Gulielmi Cuming, de Auchry et Pittulie, Elgini, quondam Consulis, qui ptochodochium quatuor inopum mercatorum, ibidem mortificavit, ac postea hoc templum impensis suis condidit, ac 29 Octob., A.D., 1707, ætat 74, pie obiit. Monumentum hoc posuit uxor ejus delectissima, Christiana Guthry.

Observa integrum et aspice rectum, finem illius viri esse pacem. Ps. 37 et 37.

Vive memor Lethi, fugit hora.

After settling in Aberdeenshire the family changed the spelling of their name, which had never previously been fixed, to “Cumine,” which it has ever since been their practice to follow. He was succeeded by his eldest son, John.

9. John Cumine of Auchry in 1707 succeeded his father in the estate of Auchry. By his first wife he had no family. By his second wife, Christian, daughter of Forbes of Pitnacaddell, he had a son, Joseph, his heir, and a daughter, Mary, married to William Forbes of Blacktown. He died in the year 1739, and was succeeded by

10. Joseph Cumine, only son of the preceding. He was a person of an active, vigorous mind and sound judgment. When he assumed the management on the death of his father in 1739, great part of the estate was covered with heath, and the rents were small and very ill paid. He laid out extensive plantations round his house, subdivided the home farm with ornamental enclosures, introduced a superior breed of cattle, founded the village of Cuminstown, and established a linen manufactory there, encouraged his tenants to drain and lime their lands, and set them an example of improvement and active industry. By these exertions he changed the appearance of the country, and eventually quadrupled the rental of the estate. During his life he was an object of general esteem. He married a daughter of Alexander Garden of Troup, by whom he had four sons and four daughters, viz., John, Francis, Peter, Archibald; Jane Anne, Sally, Helen. By the predecease of the other sons, Archibald, the youngest, eventually succeeded.

Old Statistical Account, vol. VI., pages, 127, 128, 129.

Pratt’s History of Buchan, 2d Edition, p. 490.

Douglas’ Baronage, page 338.

11. Archibald Cumine married Miss Robertson, Banff, and had at least three sons, John, William, and James, and a daughter. He sold the estate of Auchry in lots in the year 1830. The rental was then about £2500 per

New Statistical Account, vol. XII., page 767.
Pratt's History, page 491.

annum. The principal lot was purchased by the late Mr. James Lumsden, who has continued the improvements of his predecessors. Mr. Cumine died shortly after the sale of the estate. His eldest son, John, married Jane, second daughter of the late Archibald Young Leslie of Kininvie, and had one son, Archibald Cumine. John Cumine died before his father.

12. Archibald Cumine, grandson of the preceding, a very promising young man, was a Captain in the East India Company's Service, and died some years ago in India, unmarried, very much regretted.

13. William Cumine, second son of Archibald Cumine of Auchry, was a merchant, and resided near Glasgow. He emigrated to New Zealand about twenty years ago, and acquired a fine estate near Dunedin, in the Province of Otago, which is now possessed by his family. Mr. Cumine had several sons and three daughters. He died some years ago at his property in New Zealand, from the effects of an accident. His family are the direct descendants and representatives of George Cuming of Lochter-vandich, Provost of Elgin.

Arms of the family—Azure, a buckle in fess between three garbs, Or. Crest—a sword and dagger saltier ways, proper. Motto—"Courage."

The family of Pittulie, who hold the patronage of the charity in Elgin, founded by William Cumine of Auchry, are descended from George Cumine, the son of William Cumine of Auchry, by his third wife, Christian Guthrie, above-mentioned. The estate of Pittulie is situated in the parish of Pitsligo, about four or five miles from Fraserburgh. It is of considerable extent, and, from its situation and quality of the soil, very valuable. It seems to have been the first purchase of land made by Mr. Cumine, and the best. He acquired it about the year 1674. He was succeeded, as above-mentioned, by his youngest son, George, who married a daughter of Robert Urquhart of Burdsyards, and was the father of William Cumine of Pittulie. The last named proprietor sold the estate to Sir William Forbes of Pitsligo, Baronet, banker in Edinburgh, with whose descendants it still remains. Captain Adam Cumine, the son, I believe, of William Cumine of Pittulie, entered the naval service of the East India Company, and acquired a considerable fortune. On his return home he purchased the estate of Rattray, which is partly situated in the County of Aberdeen and partly in Banffshire. He married a daughter of Mr. Burnett of Monboddo, and was succeeded by his son, James Cumine, now of Rattray, who is the representative of the Pittulie branch of the Cumines, and the joint patron of the Elgin charity founded by his ancestor.

Douglas' Baronage, page 337.

Old Statistical Account, vol. V., pages 102, 103.

Pratt's History of Buchan, 2d Edition, pages 182, 183.

The Castle of Pittulie, now in ruins, is situated a few miles from Fraserburgh. It would seem to have been built by the Saltoun family, as their coat-of-arms, carved in stone, is still to be seen on the original part of the building. It was, however, afterwards enlarged by the Cumines, in whose possession it remained for upwards of a century. The castle, which is within half-a-mile of the sea, faces the south, and is an irregular building, with a front about sixty feet in length. Turrets spring from the corners, at about twelve feet from the ground, the corbelled bases of which are still remaining. At the north-west angle there is a square tower, with small angular corbelled turrets on the two corners next the sea, pierced by windows

lighting what is called the Laird's Room. The tower seems to be of a more recent period than the other parts of the structure—the respective dates of these older portions, as recorded on the walls, being 1674 and 1727. The first date evidently refers to the time when the estate was acquired by William Cumine.

The Cumines of Pittulie were attached to the Royal House of Stuart, and to the Episcopal Church of Scotland, as most of the proprietors in Buchan then were. George Cumine, who married Miss Urquhart of Burdsyards, kept up a warm intimacy with his friends in Morayshire, and I have seen many letters addressed by him to Mr. King of Newmill, his near relative. He was a person of a contemplative mind, and, along with his friend and neighbour, Lord Pitsligo, adopted the views of the "Quietists."* He wrote a volume of letters addressed to his daughters on these peculiar views.

STUART OR STEWART OF LESMURDIE.

For the last century this family, now extinct in the male line, have been well known in Elgin, which arises in great measure from their connection with the Kings of Newmill. They are said to be descended from the Stewarts, Earls of Athol.

The Stewarts, Earls of Athol, are descended from Sir James Stewart, the Black Knight of Lorn, third son of Sir John Stewart of Lorn and Innermeath. He married Joanna, Dowager of King James I. of Scotland, and by her had three sons—1, Sir John; 2, Sir James, created Earl of Buchan; 3, Andrew Bishop of Moray.

Sir John, the eldest son, was created Earl of Athol, 1457. He married Lady Margaret Douglas, only daughter of Archibald, fifth Earl of Douglas, and by her he got the Barony of Balveny, then in the hands of the Crown, by the forfeiture of Sir John Douglas, the former proprietor. The Earldom of Athol continued with the Stewarts until the year 1629, when, through failure of male heirs, it fell to the Earls of Tullybardine, who were connected by marriage with the Athol family, and who are the ancestors of the present Duke of Athol. The Stewarts, Earls of Athol, were the founders or restorers of the Castle of Balveny, which was one of their chief seats, and the arms of the family very distinctly appear on the ruins at the present time. The name of Stewart is still very common in Strathspay and Glenlivat and the surrounding district, and those bearing that name are no doubt descended from the parent stock of Athol.

* The Rev. John B. Pratt, in his interesting and valuable History of Buchan (from which I have extracted, as above stated, a good deal about the Cumine family), makes the following remarks about the "Quietists":—"The leading tenets of this school were that the whole of religion consists in the perfect calm and tranquillity of a mind removed from all external and finite things, and centered in God, and in such a pure love of the Supreme Being, as is independent of all prospect of interest or reward. Among the leading supporters of these transcendental doctrines are to be enumerated Fenelon Archbishop of Cambray, and Madame de Guion. Bossuet brought the whole force of his genius against these tenets, but his arguments were ineffectual, when opposed to the seductive influence of Madame de Guion, and the pathetic eloquence of the pure and spiritual Fenelon."

Illustrations of
Antiquities,
Shires of
Aberdeen and
Banff, vol. IV.,
pp. 461, 462, 463.

The estate of Lesmurdie belonged formerly to the ancient family of Strachan, from whom the Stewarts are descended in the female line. They were probably a branch of the Strachans of Thornton, in Kincardineshire. There are charters in favour of different generations of this family, of the following dates:—To George Strachan of Lesmurdie from King James III., dated 3d March, 1473; from King James V. to Alexander Strachan of Lesmurdie, George Strachan, his eldest son, and Margaret Gordon his wife, dated at Elgin, 3d March, 1527; a charter of confirmation by the same king, in favour of George Strachan, dated at Edinburgh, 14th February, 1539; and a charter of confirmation by Queen Mary, in favour of James Strachan of Lesmurdie and Elizabeth Abercromby his wife, dated at Edinburgh, 1st November, 1549.

Alexander Strachan of Lesmurdie, the last heir-male of this family, died in the reign of King Charles I., and was succeeded by five granddaughters, viz., Elizabeth, Margaret, Jean, Isabella, and Helen Strachan. They were served heiresses-portioners to their grandfather before Alexander Abernethy, Sheriff-Depute of Banffshire, on 10th December, 1663. Elizabeth Strachan, the eldest daughter, was married to James Stuart, said to have been a cadet of the family of Athol, and he obtained a disposition of the estate of Lesmurdie from the whole heiresses-portioners in his favour, dated 8th September, 1664.

1. James Stuart, by his wife, Elizabeth Strachan, had two sons—1, Alexander, who married Margaret Crichton, and had a son named John; and 2, James, designed of Auchorachan. Alexander, the eldest son, disposed the estate to James of Auchorachan in life-rent, and Alexander Stuart, his eldest son, in fee, by disposition, dated 29th April, 1697.

Douglas'
Baronage,
page 139.

2. James Stuart of Auchorachan, thereafter of Lesmurdie, married Margaret, eldest daughter of Alexander Duff of Keithmore, and aunt of William, first Earl of Fife, and by her had a son, Alexander, who succeeded him and others, and a daughter, Elizabeth, who married the Rev. Walter Syme, minister, first at Glass, afterwards at Mortlach.*

3. Alexander Stuart succeeded his father, James, and married—first, Elizabeth Gordon, daughter of Francis Gordon of Craig, and, second, Helen Chalmers. By these marriages he had the following children:—1, Francis, his heir; 2, William of Auchorachan; 3, Patrick of Tininver; 4, Alexander, minister, first, of the parish of Grange, where he was settled on 12th March, 1741; translated to Leslie, in the Presbytery of Garioch, 3d June, 1752. He died 25th March, 1801, in the eighty-fifth year of his age, and sixty-first of his ministry. First daughter, Helen, married to James Leslie of Kininvie; second daughter married to Robert Reid of Newmill. Alexander Stuart died in the year 1758. Helen Chalmers, his second wife, died 13th January, 1759.

Presby. Records
of Strathbogie.
Fasti, vol. III.,
pages 199, 210.
Old Statis. Acct.
of Mortlach,
vol. XVII., pp.
437, 438.

* The Rev. Walter Syme was ordained and admitted minister of Glass, within the bounds of the Presbytery of Strathbogie, on 23d September, 1714. He was translated to Mortlach, 23d April, 1734. He married Elizabeth Stuart, daughter of James Stuart of Lesmurdie, 22d April, 1729, by whom he had five children, viz.—Anne, married to the Rev. Alexander Chalmers, minister of Glass; Margaret, married to James Gordon, in Clunymore; and three sons, John, George, and Alexander. Mr. Syme died on 6th January, 1763, of a putrid fever then raging in the parish. He was one of the thirteen bodies remaining unburied at one time, owing to the intensity of the frost then prevailing. Fires had to be kindled in the churchyard to soften the ground for digging the graves. His wife, Elizabeth Stuart, died 31st March, 1775.

4. Francis Stuart of Lesmurdie, eldest son of the preceding proprietor. He changed the spelling of the family name to Stewart, for what reason I have not discovered. He married Elspeth Gordon, daughter of William Gordon of Farsken, as appears by contract of marriage, dated 21st April, 1726, and by her had—1, Alexander; 2, William, merchant in Gottenburgh, afterwards of Lesmurdie. First daughter, Helen, married to Alexander Grant of Mundole; second, Elizabeth, married to Alexander Innes of Dorlathiers; third, Jane, married to her cousin, Archibald Duff, Sheriff-Clerk of Elginshire. Francis Stewart sold the estate of Lesmurdie to William Stewart, his second son, and died about the year 1772.

5. William Stewart, the second son, entered upon the possession of the estate in his father's lifetime. He married Barbara King, daughter of William King of Newmill, as appears by contract of marriage, dated 4th February, 1763, and by her had the following children—1, Francis, Major-General in the army; 2, Alexander, entered the army, but died abroad at an early age; 3, William, Major-General in the army, died 20th June, 1836. A daughter, Marjory, married to Peter Farquharson of Whitehouse, by whom she had two sons and two daughters. Of these are now surviving—Andrew Farquharson of Whitehouse, Jane Stewart, and Margaret, who married Major Farquharson of Corrachrie.

William Stewart of Lesmurdie predeceased his father, having died on 12th August, 1771. His body was interred in the Elgin Cathedral burying ground. He was succeeded by his eldest son,

6. Francis Stewart, who entered the army as above-mentioned, rose to the rank of Major, as per commission dated 19th February, 1807, and eventually became a Major-General. He married, on 10th June, 1795, Margaret, daughter of Sir James Grant of Grant, Baronet. The post-nuptial contract of marriage is dated 6th and 14th July, 1795.* By this marriage he had—1, James, a Captain in the army, his heir; 2, William, Captain in the 71st Regiment; 3, Francis, Writer to the Signet; 4, Joseph, Captain in the army; 5, Alexander, died young. Daughter, Barbara, unmarried. Major-General Francis Stewart died 25th April, 1824, aged sixty, and was buried in his father's tomb, in the Elgin Cathedral Churchyard. His wife, Lady Margaret Stewart, died 3d December, 1830.

7. Captain James Stewart succeeded his father. He entered the army, and was a Lieutenant in the 47th Regiment, and was with it engaged in the Burmese War in Ava, and received medals for good service. He had a commission as Captain, unattached, 1st October, 1830, and a commission in the 96th Regiment 20th December, 1832. He died at his house, Friars' Park, Elgin, on 23d December, 1874, unmarried. His four brothers, and his only sister, Barbara, had also previously died unmarried, and the heirs-male of the family now became extinct.

6. William Stewart, third and youngest son of William Stewart of Lesmurdie, also entered the army. He was long in the West Indies, where he rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, and eventually became Major-

* Major-General Francis Stewart succeeded his uncle, Joseph King, in one-half of the estate of Newmill in 1809, and his aunt, Mrs. Munro, in the other half in 1818.

General. He married, in 1812, Mary, second daughter of George Brown, Linkwood, Provost of Elgin, and by her had one son, Thomas Hislop Stewart, who perished at sea, on board the ship "Lady Grant," on a voyage from Bombay to China, in the year 1843, unmarried. First daughter, Margaret, married to Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Fraser Mackenzie, of the Madras Cavalry, and of Mountgerald, in the County of Ross, by whom she had a daughter, Mary Stewart Mackenzie (Mrs. Mackenzie died at Bellary in 1843); 2, Georgina Brown, married, 1865, to Mr. James Lyon Fraser (she died, without issue, 1867); 3, Barbara King, married to George Abercromby Young Leslie of Kininvie in 1841 (she died in the year 1853, and left surviving three sons—viz., Archibald Young Leslie, Captain in the 79th Regiment; William and George, both in India; and two daughters). Major-General William Stewart died 20th June, 1836. Mary Brown, his wife, survived him thirty-eight years. She died in the year 1874. Both are interred in the Lesmurdie Tomb, in the Elgin Cathedral.

On the death of Captain James Stewart, who died intestate, his cousins, Mary Stewart Mackenzie, and Archibald Young Leslie, succeeded to his estates of Lesmurdie and Newmill as heirs-portioners.

BRODIE OF MAYNE.

The estate of Mayne, in the beginning of the seventeenth century, belonged to a branch of the family of Innes. About the middle of the same century, it was purchased by the Rev. Joseph Brodie, seventh son of David Brodie of Brodie. He was minister, first, of the parish of Keith, where he was settled, 23d June, 1631, and translated to Forres, 6th October, 1646. He died, 27th October, 1656. He married Nicola Guthrie, daughter of John Guthrie, Bishop of Moray, by whom he had a son, Alexander, who succeeded him, and a daughter, Janet, who married the Rev. Robert Gordon.

Scott's Fasti,
vol. III., pages
176, 177, 205.

Family Tree of
Brodies.

Alexander succeeded. He married Lillias Forbes, daughter of William Forbes of Logie, by whom he had a son, Joseph, who succeeded him in the estate of Muiresk, two other sons, William and Alexander, and a daughter, Jane, married to William Forbes, younger of Blackton. He sold the estate of Mayne to his cousin, David Brodie of Pitgaveny, and purchased the estate of Muiresk. He died in 1695.

The estate of Mayne eventually fell as an inheritance to David Brodie, son of Francis Brodie of Milton, by his first wife, daughter of Hugh Hay of Brightmony. He was born in the year 1687, and married, 1723, Margaret, daughter of Alexander Brodie of Lethen, by whom he had a son, Alexander, and a daughter, Anne, married to the Rev. James Hay, minister of Dallas.* David Brodie of Mayne was long a physician in Inverness, and died at Elgin in the year 1782.

Alexander Brodie succeeded his father. He was a physician in Elgin. He was born about the year 1724, and died, at Elgin, in the year 1806,

* The late Colonel Alexander Hay of Westerton was a son of the Rev. James Hay, by his wife Anne Brodie.

unmarried. He sold the estate of Mayne in the latter part of last century to the Earl of Findlater.

ANDERSON OF LINKWOOD.

The Andersons of Linkwood took a very leading part in the affairs of the burgh of Elgin during the latter part of the seventeenth century, and up to the middle of the eighteenth century; and their connection with the town did not finally cease until within the memory of parties still alive.

1. The first of this family, who can be traced, is Thomas Anderson. He lived at Barmuckity, in the parish of St. Andrew's, and was born about or shortly after the year 1600. He was a man of business, and in the employment of the famous Sir George Mackenzie, King's Advocate, in the reign of King Charles II., then proprietor of the estate of Pluscarden. There is a deed of gift still in existence by Sir George in his favour, dated at Elgin, 3d October, 1669, of 282 merks Scots, out of the lands of White-tree, Barnhill, and others in Pluscarden, which proceeds on the narrative of onerous causes—gratitude and deeds done by Thomas Anderson to the granter. He died, 4th May, 1674, and was buried in the Elgin Cathedral on the north side of St. Mary's Aisle. He had three sons—1, James, who lived at Barmuckity, and married, in 1677, Jean Gordon, daughter of Alexander Gordon, senior, in Kinneddar, ancestor of Cairnfield; 2, Robert, who was long a Magistrate of the burgh of Elgin, and Town-Clerk, and Commissary-Clerk; 3, Thomas, of whom there is no farther account.

2. Robert Anderson was apprentice to John Chalmers, Town-Clerk of Elgin, and trained to business by him. He was made a burgess of Forres on 12th April, 1665, for some good service. The burgess ticket is still in existence. He was long a Magistrate of the burgh of Elgin. He succeeded Alexander Dunbar as Commissary-Clerk, and was joint Town-Clerk of the burgh of Elgin along with George Chalmers, and afterwards with David Stewart. He retired from business in the year 1703, in favour of his son. He died on 17th October, 1715, supposed to have been about seventy-five years of age. He married Janet Hepburn, daughter of Major James Hepburn of Tearie. She died 10th March, 1692. By her he had the following children:—1, James Anderson of Linkwood; 2, Robert, who entered into a mercantile and seafaring life. He married Margaret Craig, daughter of the Rev. Thomas Craig, minister of St. Andrew's, and by her had one son, Robert Anderson, afterwards Sheriff-Substitute and Commissary-Clerk of Moray; a daughter, Janet, married to John Mackean, merchant in Elgin.*

3. James Anderson, born 1680, succeeded his father, Robert Anderson, as Town-Clerk and Commissary-Clerk of Moray about the year 1703. Besides these offices, he acted as Sheriff-Substitute, and had otherwise a very extensive business, being factor or agent for many of the leading

* The Mackeans were long merchants and traders in Elgin, and acquired a good deal of burgh property. They intermarried with the Donaldsons of Kinnairdie, and other respectable families in the town. James Mackean, son of John Mackean and Janet Anderson, was a writer in Edinburgh in 1752.

Council
Minutes.

Family Bible of
Andersons.

proprietors of the County. He long acted as one of the Magistrates of the burgh, and became Provost in September, 1729. He died, after a very short illness, on the 28th of August, 1731. It appears by the records of the Town Council that he had been present at a meeting of the Magistrates on the 9th of the same month. He married, 10th September, 1706, Barbara King, daughter of William King of Newmill, Provost of Elgin, by whom he had—William Anderson, his successor, born 19th September, 1707; Robert, born 14th April, 1716, afterwards of Linkwood; Charles, born 7th June, 1725, became a Writer to the Signet; and five other sons, most of whom died young; and three daughters, Margaret, Marjory, and Janet. His wife, Barbara King, died 18th July, 1744, aged fifty-six. Mr. Anderson bought the estate of Linkwood from John Dunbar of Burgie on 31st May, 1727, and but for his premature death would have probably added to his landed purchases. He and his wife were both interred in the family burying ground, on the north side of St. Mary's Aisle in the Elgin Cathedral.

4. William Anderson of Linkwood succeeded his father in the estate of Linkwood, and, although barely twenty-four years of age at the time of his father's death, he continued all his business. He retained the office of Town-Clerk and Commissary-Clerk, and was a person of very considerable talents. He was Provost of Elgin from 1740 to 1743, having attained to office at the early age of thirty-three. He was in his time a very leading person in the burgh, and would have continued to be so, had his life been spared. He was prematurely cut off on 13th June, 1745, in the thirty-eighth year of his age. He never was married.

5. Robert Anderson, his brother, succeeded. He married Margaret Gordon, daughter of Alexander Gordon of Cairnfield, and by her had—1, Alexander, Captain in the 69th Regiment (he died at Limerick, 30th May, 1791); 2, James, writer in Edinburgh, was a prosperous man, having succeeded to the fortune of his uncle, Charles Anderson, Writer to the Signet (he lived in considerable style for these times, and died at Edinburgh, 20th May, 1808, aged fifty-one, unmarried); 3, Charles Anderson, settled at Huntly. Robert Anderson of Linkwood died 4th March, 1777, aged sixty-one. His wife, Margaret Gordon, died 6th April, 1773, aged fifty-one. He sold the estate of Linkwood to the Earl of Findlater about the year 1767, and it still continues to be a part of the extensive possessions of the Earl of Seafield, the successor of the Findlater family.

6. Charles Anderson, youngest son of Robert Anderson of Linkwood, settled at Huntly. He married Clementina Gordon, daughter of Mr. Gordon, New Seat, a connexion of the family of Abergeldie, by whom he had one son—Charles Anderson; a daughter, Margaret, married to Dr. Charles Skene, physician in Aberdeen; daughter, Clementina, married to William Pirie of Cotton. Both daughters had families.

7. Charles Anderson was for some time Vice-Consul at Naples, and afterwards in a Government situation in the Mauritius; a person of considerable accomplishments, and of extensive acquaintance in the upper circles of society. He married Harriet Routh, an English lady, but had no family. Both he and his wife died some years ago, and were buried at

Aberdeen. He is supposed to have been the last known male descendant of this family. The female branches are very numerous.

The family house in Elgin, which had been occupied by the Andersons for at least a century, was sold about the year 1812 to Mr. Brodie of Arnhall, and, as already mentioned, the western Court-House was erected on the site.

This was the last remnant of the property the Linkwood family had, and their last connection with the burgh of Elgin.

LESLIE OF THE GLEN OF ROTHES.

Andrew Leslie of the Glen of Rothies was engaged in business in Elgin about the middle of the seventeenth century, a Magistrate and member of the Town Council, and a leading person in the town. He represented the burgh in the Parliament of Scotland in the years 1661, 1662, and 1663. He has left his initials and armorial bearings upon the tower of the house, which was possessed by the late Mr. Isaac Forsyth, as well as by Mr. Forsyth's father and brother, for more than a century, and now belongs to Dr. Mackay. Any account I can give of this family is very meagre. The Leslies of the Glen of Rothies are descended from the family of Leslie of Bucharn, who are sprung from the Wardes branch of the Barons of Balquhain.

1. Andrew Leslie, first Laird of Bucharn, was the fourth son of John Leslie, second Baron of Wardes, and his eldest son by his fourth wife, Agnes Gordon of Haddo. He married Violet Menzies, daughter of Thomas Menzies of Pitfodels, Provost of Aberdeen from 1525 to 1535, and by her had twelve sons, named after the twelve apostles, and six daughters. Of these children there is record only of the following:—1, Andrew, who succeeded to the lands of Bucharn; 2, Bartholomew, who married—first, Marjory Dun of Kettle, and had a son, Robert, and a daughter, Isabella. He married—secondly, Elizabeth Garioch of Carstairs, by whom he had two sons, Alexander and William; 3, Philip, who went to France, and was progenitor of the Leslies of Clisson there.

2. Andrew Leslie, second Laird of Bucharn, succeeded on the death of his father. He married Jane Keith, daughter of the Laird of Pittendrum, a son of the Earl Marischal, and had issue—1, Alexander, his successor; 2, George of Hillbrae, who married Marjory Annand, and had three sons, William, Andrew, and Alexander, who all died without issue, and two daughters, Jane and Margaret; 3, William, of whom hereafter. Andrew Leslie, second Laird of Bucharn, had other three sons and two daughters, but of them there is no record. He was succeeded by his eldest son,

3. Alexander Leslie, third Laird of Bucharn, who appears to have sold the estate—at least, it soon thereafter went out of the family.

3. William Leslie, third son of Andrew Leslie, second Laird of Bucharn, was a merchant in Elgin. He purchased the Glen of Rothies, to be held in feu from the Earl of Rothies. By his first wife he had a son, Andrew, who succeeded him. He married—second, Margaret, daughter of John Innes of Auchluncart, and by her had a son, George, and four daughters.

Records of
Family of Leslie,
vol. III., pages
321, 322.

Records of
the Family of
Leslie, vol. III.,
page 322.

Douglas'
Baronage,
page 366.

4. Andrew Leslie succeeded his father in the Glen of Rothies. He was also proprietor of Bogs, in the parish of Elgin. He was long a member of the Town Council, and some time a Bailie of the burgh, and a Commissioner of Supply in 1667. He also represented Elgin in the Parliament of Scotland for at least three years, as above-mentioned, and carried on a large mercantile business. He married Margaret Hay, by whom he had a son, James, and probably others. He had also a daughter, Margaret, who married Robert Cumming of Logie, to whom she had three sons—Alexander, James, and William. As above-mentioned, Mr. Leslie resided in the old house in the High Street of Elgin, which bears his initials and arms, and the date 1634, and of which he was either the builder or renovator. He disposed the estate of Glen of Rothies to his son-in-law, Robert Cumming of Logie, with whose descendants it remained until the year 1869, when it was sold by the present proprietor of Logie to the Trustees of John Dunbar, Esquire, and it now belongs to Captain and Mrs. Dunbar Dunbar of Seapark.

Of the further fortunes of this branch of the family of Leslie I can trace nothing. In the male line they are probably long extinct.

NOTE.—The family of Cumming of Logie, who acquired and long held the Glen of Rothies, as before stated, are descended as follows :—

Robert Cumming, the twelfth Baron of Altyre, by his wife, Isobel Innes, daughter of Sir Robert Innes of Balvenie, had two sons—Robert, his successor in the estate of Altyre ; and John, the first of this family.

1. John Cumming, second son of Robert Cumming of Altyre, obtained from his brother Robert the lands of Pittyveach in the parish of Mortlach, which he afterwards sold, and purchased the estate of Logie, in the parish of Edinkillie. He was a Major in the British army, and a Commissioner of Supply for the County of Elgin in 1678 and 1685. He married Barbara, a daughter of Cumming of Birness, by whom he had three sons and three daughters, viz.—1, Robert, his heir ; 2, William, who was a minister of the Church of England, and had a benefice in that country (he married there, and had a son, William, a doctor of medicine) ; 3, David, died unmarried. First daughter, Jane, married to William Sutherland of Rosehaugh ; second, Barbara, died without issue ; third, a daughter, married to Robert Innes of Mundole. He was succeeded by his eldest son,

2. Robert Cumming of Logie, who married Margaret, daughter of Andrew Leslie of Glen of Rothies and Bogs, by whom he had three sons—1, Alexander, his heir ; 2, James, died unmarried ; 3, William, who married and had issue.

3. Alexander Cumming of Logie succeeded his father. He married—first, Lucy, daughter of Dunbar of Burgie, by whom he had no surviving issue ; second, Grace, eldest daughter of James Grant of Rothiemurchus, by whom he had one son, Robert, and several daughters. The eldest daughter was married to John Rose of Holme.

4. Robert Cumming of Logie, only son of the preceding. He married Leslie Baillie, daughter of Robert Baillie of Mayville, an Ayrshire proprietor. Her beauty and accomplishments have been immortalised by Robert

Burns. By her he had five sons and one daughter—1, Alexander, his heir; 2, Robert, an officer in India; 3, George, doctor of medicine in India; 4, John, Lieutenant-Colonel in the East Indian Company's Service; 5, William, doctor of medicine; daughter, Anne, married—first, to Captain Fraser, and, second, to Sir James Coxe, M.D. Mr. Cumming's five sons all went to India, and most of them died there at an early age. The only survivor of the sons is Dr. William Cumming, who resides in Edinburgh, is an accomplished scholar, and the author of several literary works. Mrs. Cumming long survived her husband, and was much esteemed for her benevolence of character, kindness of disposition, and agreeable manners.

5. Alexander Cumming of Logie, who went to India, married Louisa, daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel Martin White, Commandant in Bengal, and had three daughters, among whom were Leslie and Emily Frances. He died at an early age. His eldest daughter succeeded. She was accidentally burnt to death in consequence of her dress taking fire. She was succeeded by her sister, Emily Frances.

6. Emily Frances, married to Captain Valiant Cumming, younger son of Sir Thomas Valiant, who, on his marriage, assumed the name of Cumming, and by whom she has issue. Her husband died at Bath in the year 1866, from the effects of an accident.

TULLOCH OF TANNACHY.

Thomas Tulloch of Tannachy acted for some time as Sheriff of the County of Elgin. He was also joint Commissary with David Stewart of Newton, and succeeded him in that office, which he held alone from 1705 to 1715. He was a leading man in the county at that time, and, in virtue of his office, very much in the burgh of Elgin, for a good many years in the end of the seventeenth and beginning of the eighteenth centuries.

This family, although never possessed of a large estate in the County, took a considerable position in it. A hundred years and upwards have passed since their estate was sold, and all their papers are now scattered and entirely lost, so that it is impossible to give any connected account of them.

The Tullochs are said to have been from Orkney, and to have come to Morayshire with William Tulloch, Bishop of Orkney—who was translated to the Diocese of Moray in 1477, and died in 1482—and to have been related to that prelate. Mr. Shaw states, in his History of Moray, which was composed in the early part of last century, although not published until the year 1775, that the Tullochs had possessed their estate for 250 years, which would carry them back to Bishop Tulloch's time.

The family were possessed of the estate of Tannachy, the lands of Logie St. John, now called Cothall, and other lands about Forres, and they had a mansion-house in the burgh of Forres. The head of the family often held the office of Provost in Forres, and exercised much control over its affairs. At the meeting of Convention of Burghs, held at Kirkcaldy in 1592, Robert Tulloch, whom I suppose to have been of this family, represented Forres as its Commissioner.

Wodrow's
History, vol.
IV., page 196.

Shaw's History,
First Edition,
page 89.

Minutes of
Convention,
1592.

Alexander Tulloch was proprietor of Tannachy in the middle of the seventeenth century. He is referred to in the Brodie Diary, 5th March, 1656. At page 327 of the Diary, 14th April, 1672, there is the following entry:—"I heard that Grant, the Jesuit, was in Tanachi, and that som of "ther children inclined to poperie." On 24th September, 1681, he is referred to "as old Tannachy;" and again on 11th April, 1682. Notices are also stated on 24th May and 11th June, 1684, and on 28th October, the same year. Alexander Tulloch of Tannachy's wife died 12th January, 1679. The following entries occur in the Diary of Alexander Brodie of Brodie:—"1679, 12th Januarie.—I heard the goodwyf of Tanachy died. "(17th.) I went to the burial of the goodwyf of Tanachi, and was glad to "heare of the good report of her death." In 1661, Alexander Tulloch was a Government Commissioner for the County of Elgin, appointed by the first Parliament of King Charles II. The year of his death I have not discovered. It was probably about 1685.

Brodie Diary,
pages 175, 327,
460, 467, 489,
490, 501.

Brodie Diary,
page 407.

Scots Acts,
vol. II.

Brodie Diary,
pages 297, 457,
481, 483, 490,
491.

Scots Acts,
vol. II.

Douglas'
Baronage,
page 139.

Baird's Memoirs
of the Family
of Duff, p. 32.

Shaw's History,
First Edition,
page 190.

Papers in
possession of
Captain E.
Dunbar Dunbar.

Thomas Tulloch, his son, succeeded. He is referred to in the Brodie Diary as early as 14th May, 1663, and must have been then a very young man. Again, on 13th June, 1681; 22d January, 1684; 4th February same year; also on 11th, 13th, and 25th June, 1684. The Tullochs, both father and son, were evidently disliked by Alexander and James Brodie of Brodie, and the dislike is freely expressed in the Diary. The families were on opposite sides both in Church and State. Thomas Tulloch was a Government Commissioner for the County of Elgin in 1685, appointed by Act of Parliament, and much in favour with the ruling powers. He married Mary, third daughter of Alexander Duff of Keithmore, aunt of William, first Earl of Fife, widow of Andrew Fraser, physician in Inverness. By her he had one son and two daughters, viz.—Alexander Tulloch, who succeeded him; Ann, married to William King of Newmill (she died 1st September, 1716, at the early age of twenty-one); Elizabeth, married to Alexander Cuming of Craigmill, to whom she had two sons and five daughters. Mr. Cuming was engaged in the Rebellion, 1745, was taken prisoner at Culloden, and is said to have died in jail at Carlisle in 1746. Thomas Tulloch died in the early part of last century, and was succeeded by his son,

Alexander Tulloch. He married a daughter of William Dawson of Hempriggs, Provost of Forres. He is on the roll of Freeholders for the County of Elgin for the year 1760. The family were now in a declining state. The pretty property of Logie St. John was sold to Sir James Grant of Grant, who changed the name to Cothall, and it eventually came to Sir Alexander Penrose Gordon Cumming of Ayltre, who married Helen, fifth daughter of Sir James Grant. The mansion-house and grounds in Forres were sold to Sir Alexander Cumming, and became the residence of his family; and in the year 1772, with consent of Elizabeth Dawson, his wife, and of James Earl of Fife, General James Abercromby of Glassaugh and Andrew Hay of Rannes, his trustees, for the price of £6101 18s. 1d., he sold to Alexander Urquhart of St. Mary's County, in Maryland, then residing in Forres, the remainder of the estate, consisting of "all and whole, "the lands of Meikle and Little Tannachies, Mackslippet, with the meadows "and pertinents thereof, and the Windmill of Tannachy, with the multures,

“sucken, and sequels thereof, and hail parts, pendicles, and pertinents of “the same.” The old family was thus entirely extinguished, after a long and very respectable position in the County of Elgin. Whether any direct male heirs exist I have not discovered. The present Mr. Tulloch of Burgie is said to be descended from the Tullochs of Bogton, a cadet of Tannachy.

The estate of Tannachy was purchased by Alexander Urquhart in 1772, and he, having died without issue, was succeeded by his brother, Robert Urquhart, whose Trustees sold the property in 1817 to General James Grant, and his representatives sold it in 1834 to Colonel Grant Peterkin, the present proprietor, who has changed the name to Invererne.

The arms of the Tullochs are as follows :—Or, on a fess between three cross crosslets, fitched, gules, as many stars, argent. Nisbet, in his *Heraldry*, Edition 1722, page 131, makes the following remarks :—“I have seen a “transumpt of an old charter, taken before William Tulloch, Bishop of “Moray, to which his seal of office was appended, having the image of a “Churchman in his proper habit, holding with both his hands before his “breast a crucifix, and below his feet was the shield of arms of Bishop “Tulloch, ‘a fess charged with two stars between three cross crosslets, “fitched.’ The date of this transumpt was in the year 1401. The “witnesses were Sir Thomas Moodie and Sir Martine Tulloch.”

There are various other families, both in the parish and burgh of Elgin, of whom some interesting memorials might be gathered, but the subject has already reached much larger proportions than was intended, and I must now bring this part of my work to a close.

CHAPTER IX.

THE ELGIN CATHEDRAL CHURCHYARD.

MR. ADDISON, in his famous essay on Westminster Abbey, No. 26 of "Spectator," dated 30th March, 1711, concludes as follows:—"When I look upon the tombs of the great, every emotion of envy dies in me; when I read the epitaphs of the beautiful, every inordinate desire goes out; when I meet with the grief of parents upon a tombstone, my heart melts with compassion; when I see the tomb of the parents themselves, I consider the vanity of grieving for those whom we must quickly follow; when I see kings lying by those who deposed them; when I consider rival wits placed side by side, or the holy men that divided the world with their contests and disputes, I reflect with sorrow and astonishment on the little competitions, factions, and debates of mankind. When I read the several dates of the tombs, of some that died yesterday, and some six hundred years ago, I consider that great day when we shall all of us be contemporaries, and make our appearance together."

While we cannot compare the tombs in the Elgin Cathedral to those of the sovereigns, statesmen, poets, and philosophers which crowd the grand old Abbey of Westminster, probably the most interesting cemetery in the world, still there is much to instruct, elevate the feelings, and improve the mind in spending a few hours in the Cathedral burying ground, where we have the graves of many prelates, some of the nobility, knights, and gentry of former ages, who made a figure in their day, as well as of honourable citizens of the town, who discharged their duties in an efficient manner; and some of our contemporaries and friends, with whom we were familiar in our own time, and who have passed away before us to the shadowy land.

It would require a volume to note the tombstones in the

Cathedral, and I do not attempt anything of the kind; I merely wish to preserve a few of the older monuments which are fast mouldering, and may soon be entirely ruinous, and a small selection of those of later date, some of them our friends and acquaintances.

In the account of the Bishops which I have already given, I have stated the most of their places of interment, but there is hardly an inscription on any of their tombs, and, except in a few instances, the exact spots in which they were interred are unknown.

Up to the period of the Reformation, only the Bishops and a few of their favoured friends were permitted to be interred within the walls of the Cathedral. The usual place of sepulture in the town was the burying ground round St. Giles' Church in the High Street of Elgin, which was then enclosed with a wall, and it was not until about the year 1600 that the inhabitants began to resort to the Cathedral as the general cemetery for the town.

Perhaps the oldest monument, except one, of a layman within the Cathedral is that of William Hay of Lochloy. It stands in the south transept, near the entrance to St. Mary's Aisle. It consists of a stone chest or sarcophagus, with the figure of a knight on the top in complete armour, with a lion couchant at his feet. His dirk and spurs are quite distinct. The stone is highly ornamented, and bears the following inscription:—

Hic jacet Wills. de la Hay, quonda dns. de Lochloy, qui obiit viiio. die mensis Decembris, anno Dom. M CCCC XXI.

There is a neat copperplate of this stone in Dr. Rhind's Sketches of Moray, page 98.

The family of Hay of Lochloy is a very ancient branch of the great house of Errol, and are said to have acquired lands in Nairn, Ross, and Sutherland, as early as the year 1350. William Hay, whose stone we have above referred to, was the second son of Sir John de Hay of Tillybothville, who married Margaret, niece of King Robert II., by whom he had three sons. William married Janet Mackintosh, and left a son, John de Hay, Lord of Lochloy, who was contracted to marry a daughter of Thomas Dunbar, Earl of Moray, but the marriage did not take place, and he eventually connected himself with a daughter of Donald Thane of Calder at Elgin, the 15th February, 1422. He died in 1431, and left a son, William the Hay of Lochloy, Dollas, and Park. The family continued to flourish for several centuries, and were connected by marriage with the Urquharts of Cromarty, Sutherlands of Duffus, Roses of Kilravock,

[Diary of]
Alexander
Brodie of
Brodie, p. 128.

Cummings of Altyre, and others holding a good position in the country. Their place of residence was the Castle of Inshoch, strongly protected by a morass, of which the ruins still exist. In early times it may have been clothed with wood; it now looks bare and dreary. I find that John Hay of Park was served heir to David Hay of Lochloy, his father, in January, 1640, and he was succeeded by his son, John Hay of Lochloy, in 1679. The last of the family I find noted is Colonel William Hay of Lochloy, who was proprietor in 1704. Shortly after this time, the Hays being in a declining condition, the lands of Lochloy and Park were sold to Alexander Brodie of Brodie, Lord Lyon, and they still continue in the possession of the Brodie family. The Hay family then ceased to have any territorial existence, but many of them lingered in the country after that period, and some may still do so.

Bishop John Innes was consecrated, 23d January, 1407. He died, 25th April, 1414, and was buried at the foot of the north-west pillar, which supported the great steeple. The monument erected and the inscription upon it were destroyed by the fall of the great steeple in 1711, but the latter is preserved in Monteith's Theatre of Mortality, published in 1704, and is as follows:—

Monteith's
Theatre of
Mortality,
page 251.

Hic jacet Reverendus in Christo Pater, D.D., Joannes de Innes, hujus ecclesie quondam Episcopus Moraviensis, qui hoc notabile opus extruxit, et per septennium Episcopale munus tenuit.

Some members of the family of Innes are interred in the south transept of the Cathedral, commonly called St. Peter's and St. Paul's Aisle. There are in the wall the effigies of two knights in armour. These are usually stated to belong to the family of Innes of Invermarkie, but as there is no inscription it cannot be certainly known. There is, however, a carved stone on the wall bearing the arms of Innes of that Ilk, and the initials R.I. and E.E., which refer to Robert Innes of Innes and his wife, Elizabeth Elphinstone; and I am therefore inclined to be of opinion that this was the burying place of the head of the family of Innes, and not of the branch of Invermarkie. The monumental inscription was probably destroyed by the fall of the great steeple, but is preserved by Monteith, as after stated.

Monteith's
Theatre of
Mortality,
page 252.

Requiescunt hic Robertus Innes ab eodem, et Elizabetha Elphinstone, ejus conjux, qui fatis concesserunt, 25 Septemb. et 26 Febr., anno sal. hum. 1597 et 1610. Ideo que in piam gratamque memoriam charissimorum parentum, hoc monumentum extruendum curavit Robertus filius.

The translation may be stated thus—

Here rest Robert Innes of that Ilk, and Elizabeth Elphinstone, his sponse, who died 25th September and 26th February, in the years of man's salvation, 1597 and 1610; and, therefore, Robert Innes, their son, caused this monument to be erected to the pious and gracious memory of his dearest parents.

The families of Innes of that Ilk and Invermarkie could scarcely have

been interred in the same tomb, for they were at deadly feud in the year 1582; and Alexander Innes, the Chief, was cruelly murdered by Robert Innes of Invermarkie, in Aberdeen, at that time. His son and heir narrowly escaped the same fate, and only saved himself by fleeing to the South, where he put himself under protection of Lord Elphinstone, whose daughter he married. Robert Innes of Invermarkie was himself outlawed, and within two years thereafter was killed within the house of Edinglassie, by Alexander Innes of Cotts. The family of Invermarkie never throve after the murder of their Chief. In the early part of the seventeenth century they had the fine estates of Invermarkie, Balvenie, Ogston, and Plewland. These they rapidly lost one after the other, and, long before the close of the century, the whole property was sold, and the direct male line of the family had failed.

Account of
the Family of
Innes,
pages 31 & 35.
Douglas'
Baronage,
pages 17 & 78.

Sir Andrew Moray of Bothwell, the great Regent of Scotland during the minority of King David Bruce, and who died at his Castle of Avoch, in Ross, in the year 1338, had a monument in the Elgin Cathedral. Monteith states that the monument was a handsome one, and upon the south pillar, but even in his time, 1704, was reduced to rubbish. The Regent's body was, according to Buchanan and Wyntoun, buried in the Cathedral of Ross, at Rosemarkie, and it seems very doubtful if it ever was removed to Elgin. A monument, however, might naturally be placed in the Cathedral here, the land of his forefathers, to commemorate his virtues and services to his country.

Monteith's
Theatre, p. 247.
Buchanan,
Edition 1715,
vol. I., page 62.
Wyntoun's
Chronicle, vol.
II., pages 437,
438, 439.

In the north transept, called St. Thomas the Martyr's (Becket's) Aisle, are the monuments of several members of the Dunbar family.

1. Columba Dunbar, son of George, tenth Earl of March, and brother of George, eleventh Earl. He was Bishop of Moray in 1429 or 1430, and died in the Castle of Spynie, on his return from the Council of Basle, in 1435. There is a recumbent statue of the Bishop in his Episcopal robes, with some faint traces of armorial bearings on his breast.

Keith's Bishops,
Russell's
Edition, p. 143.

2. Near the above is the recumbent statue of Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield, Knight, son of James Dunbar, fifth Earl of Moray, born about 1425, and died on the 10th March, 1498. The figure is clothed in complete armour, and upon his breastplate are his armorial bearings. His widow, Dame Isabel Sutherland, daughter of Alexander Sutherland of Duffus, died on 11th November, 1505.

Both these monumental stones are much dilapidated by the fall of the great steeple.

Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield had by his wife, Isabel Sutherland, eight sons, of whom two died young. The following sons grew up, and were the ancestors of the most important families of Dunbars in Scotland:—1, Sir James Dunbar of Cumnock and Westfield, Heritable Sheriff of Moray, died 20th April, 1504; 2, Sir John of Mochrum, Steward of Kirkcudbright, was killed in 1503 by Alexander Gordon, heir-apparent of Lochinvar;

3, Alexander of Kilbuiack, ancestor of the family of Northfield, was killed in March, 1498, by Alexander Sutherland of Dalred; 4, Gavin, Bishop of Aberdeen, died 9th March, 1532; 5, David of Durris, ancestor of the family of Grangehill, died 23d February, 1521-22; 6, Patrick, Chancellor of Aberdeen and Caithness, ancestor of the Dunbars of Bennagefield, in the County of Ross (he died on the 8th September, 1525).

Keith's Bishops,
page 121.

On the west wall of the north transept, there is a tablet to the Dunbars of Bennagefield, with the following inscription:—

Hic jacent Mr. John Dunbar de Bennethfield, qui obiit 2 Decr., 1590, et Mar. et Issob. Dunbars, ejus conjuges, quæ obierunt 3 Novr., 1570, et 4 Decr. 1603, et Nicol Dunbar, filius dicti Mr. Ion, quondam Balivus de Elgin, qui obiit 31 Janri. 1651, et Griss. Mavor, ejus spousa, que obiit 21 Juli., 1648, et Ione Dunbar, spousa Joh. Dunbar, filii dicti Nicol, que obiit 8 Septr., 1648; ideoque hoc instruendum curavit Joh. filius.

which is translated as follows:—

Here lie Mr. John Dunbar of Bennethfield, who died 2d of December, 1590, and Mar. and Issob. Dunbars, his spouses, who died 3d of November, 1570, and 4th of December, 1603, and Nicol Dunbar, son of the said Mr. Ion, late Bailie of Elgin, who died 31st of Janry, 1651, and Griss. Mavor, his wife, who died 21st of July, 1648, and Jone Dunbar, wife of John Dunbar, son of the said Nicol, who died 8th of September, 1648; and, therefore, John, the son, ordered this to be built.

Above the inscription are two shields bearing coats of arms. On both shields are three cushions for Dunbars.

The family of Dunbar of Bennagefield or Bennetsfield, in the parish of Avoch and County of Ross, are descended from Patrick Dunbar, Chancellor of Aberdeen and Caithness, sixth son of Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield. They acquired the estate of Bennagefield in the sixteenth century, and held it for several generations. In the Valuation of the Shire of Ross, in 1644, Alexander Dunbar of Bennetsfield is entered as proprietor of a rental of £810 6s. 8d. Scots, a very considerable one for that period. In the year 1673, David Dunbar was proprietor, and Alexander Dunbar, his son, was heir-apparent. They both seem to have been intimate friends of Alexander Brodie of Brodie, and are referred to in his Diary, May 10, September 5 and 19, and 20th October, 1673, as consulting with him about their affairs. The exact time when the property was sold I have not discovered. Last century it belonged to a family of the name of Matheson, who, having disposed of part of it previously, sold the remainder to Sir James Matheson of Lewis about thirty-five years ago, who resold it about ten years since to James Fletcher, Esquire of Rosehaugh, and it now forms part of his extensive estate. It is a very pretty little property, beautifully situated on the Bay of Munloch, and well clothed with plantations of considerable age.

Fraser
Mackintosh's
Antiquarian
Notes, p. 344.

Brodie Diary,
pages 339, 345,
346, 347.

In the east wall of the north transept a stone has been placed with the inscription underwritten—

Monumentum D. Rot. Dunbar de Grangehill, Durrsiorum Trib. Princeps, 1675.
In memoriam charissime conjugis curavit marit.

(The monument of Sir Robert Dunbar of Grangehill, chief of the Durris family, 1675. The husband erected this in memory of his dearest wife.)

A holy virgin in hir younger lyff,
 And nixt, a prudent and a faithful wyf,
 A pious mother, who, with Christian care,
 Informed hir children with the love and fear
 Of God and vertuous acts; who can express
 More (reader) by a volume from the press.

The Dunbars of Grangehill are descended from David Dunbar, fifth son of Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield. He got from his father, in patri-
 mony, the lands of Durris and others in Inverness-shire, conform to charter
 under the Great Seal, dated 27th October, 1495. He was succeeded by his
 son, Alexander Dunbar, who was served (21st May, 1523) as heir to his
 father. (3.) Robert Dunbar of Durris had charters in 1526 and 1564.
 He married Christian Learmonth, and lived to a great age. His son and
 successor was (4.) David Dunbar, who obtained a charter of erection of
 Durris into a Barony on 17th December, 1569. (5.) Mark Dunbar of
 Durris was served heir to his father, 21st April, 1592. He sold the estate
 of Durris to Sir John Campbell of Calder, 4th August, 1603, and purchased
 from the Earl of Dunfermline, in 1608, the lands of Grangehill, in the
 parish of Dyke, which had, before the Reformation, pertained to the Priory
 of Pluscarden. (6.) Ninian Dunbar succeeded his father, and had charters
 in 1616 and 1642. He married—first, a daughter of Lord Banff, by whom
 he had Robert, his heir, and David; second, a daughter of Dunbar of
 Bennagefield, by whom he had also two sons. (7.) Robert was knighted
 by King Charles II. He married Grizel, only daughter of Alexander
 Brodie of Brodie. She is the person referred to in the above monumental
 stone “as the dearest wife” of Sir Robert Dunbar of Grangehill. By his
 above-named wife he had two sons—Robert, his heir, and James. (8.)
 Robert, married, 1682, Katharine Brodie, eldest daughter of James Brodie
 of Brodie, by his wife, Lady Mary Kerr. By her he had three sons, Robert,
 who predeceased his father, Alexander, William, and a daughter, Katharine.
 (9.) Alexander, married Mary, daughter of Mr. James Fraser, and had two
 sons—James, who died without issue, and Thomas, who succeeded. (10.)
 Thomas, married Janet Dunbar, heiress of Westfield. In 1749, he sold the
 estate of Grangehill to Sir Alexander Grant of Dalvey, Bart., who changed
 the name to Dalvey, which it still continues to bear. He and his wife also
 sold the estate of Westfield to Sir James Grant of Grant, Bart., and the
 family became extinct as landed proprietors in the year 1769.

In the south transept is a flat stone bearing the name and arms of
 George Cuming of Lochtervandich, long Provost of Elgin, in the seven-
 teenth century, and to whom and his family I have had often occasion to
 refer in the preceding pages. The stone was crushed by the fall of the
 great steeple, and entirely buried in the ruins. It was only recovered when
 the rubbish was removed, and the fragments carefully cemented together.
 It bears the following words:—

Here lyes George Cuming of Lochtervandich, sometime Provost of Elgin, who died the 20th of September, 1689, and his spouse, Marjorie Leslie, who died in September, the yeir of God 1656.

Mr. Cuming's second wife, Lucretia Gordon, is buried within the Duke of Gordon's Tomb in St. Mary's Aisle, and she may have been in some way related to that family. The stone is a flat one, but the words are clear and distinct—

Here lyes the body of Lucretia Gordon, spouse to George Cuming, sometime Provost of Elgin, who died in September, 1668.

The arms on this stone are the same as those of the Gordons of Kinneddar, and probably she had also been connected with them.

I have endeavoured already to give some account of Mr. Cuming and his family from the best materials I could procure. There are many inaccuracies in what is contained about them in Douglas' Baronage of Scotland.

On the south side of St Mary's Aisle, affixed to the wall with iron clasps, is a very large stone, consisting of one slab, on which is engraved the names of successive generations of the Andersons of Linkwood. It is almost like a family history. The material is of very hard close-grained sandstone, and greatly resembles the Covesea Quarry.

This is the burial place of Thomas Anderson in Barmuckity, who died the 4th day of May, 1674; and of Robert Anderson, Commissary-Clerk of Murray, his son, who died the 17th October, 1715; and of Janet Hepburn, his spouse, who died the 10th March, 1692; and of James Anderson of Linkwood, Provost of Elgin, who died the 28th of August, 1731, aged 51; and of Barbara King, his spouse, who died the 18th July, 1744, aged 56; and of William Anderson of Linkwood, Provost of Elgin, their son, who died the 13th of June, 1745, aged 33. Likeways of Margaret Gordon, daughter of Alexr. Gordon of Cairnfield, spouse of Robert Anderson of Linkwood; also their son, who died the 6th April, 1777, aged 51; and of the said Robert Anderson, who died 4th March, 1797, aged 61; and of Charles Anderson, Manufacturer in Huntly, youngest son of Robert Anderson of Linkwood, who died 1st November, 1790, aged 30. Captain Alex. Anderson, of the 69th Regiment, eldest son of Robert Anderson of Linkwood, who died at Limerick, in Ireland, the 30th May, 1791, aged 38; and of James Anderson, Esq., second son of Robert Anderson of Linkwood, who died at Edinburgh the 20th May, 1803, aged 51; and of Clementina Gordon, daughter of Mr. Gordon in Newseat, spouse of the said Charles Anderson, who died 25th Oct., 1813, aged 52. Charles Anderson, their son, and Harriet Routh, his spouse, who both died and were buried at Aberdeen.

On another stone, nearly adjoining the above, is the following inscription:—

In memory of Robert Anderson, Sheriff-Substitute and Commissary-Clerk of Moray, who died the 6th December, 1766; Elizabeth Mackintosh, daughter of William Mackintosh of Blervie, his first wife; Marjory Anderson, daughter of James Anderson of Linkwood, his second wife, who died 1761; Barbara Anderson, spouse of James Thurnburn, in Drum, his daughter, who died 26th February, 1809; Lieutenant Robert Anderson, their son, who died at Bishopmill the 21st August, 1835, aged 80, and Isabella Thurnburn, daughter of the above James Thurnburn and Barbara Anderson, who died 7th September, 1845, aged 59.

On the above stone the arms of the Andersons are neatly cut. Argent—A saltier engrailed sable, between four mullets, gules. Crest—A dexter hand, coupé above the wrist, holding an arrow. Motto—"Remember the end."

Having already referred to the family of the Andersons, who were leading persons in Elgin last century, it is not necessary that I should now make any farther statement about them.

Not far from the High Altar is a detached beautifully carved stone, bearing on the shield a buck's head, and under it the sun shining, with the letters M B O M L M and the motto, "Cælum fide cerno." The stone evidently refers to the Rev. Murdo Mackenzie, Bishop of Moray, who was consecrated 18th January, 1662, and translated to the See of Orkney, 14th February, 1677-78. The letters L M are not very intelligible.

Keith's Bishops,
Russell's
Edition, p. 153.

GORDON FAMILY.

Within St. Mary's Aisle are interred the remains of many members of the illustrious family of Gordon. It was a high honour and a peculiar favour from the Church, for laymen to be permitted to have sepulture within the precincts of a Cathedral Church, and it was a privilege only granted to the noblest of the land. The first of the family interred here was Alexander de Seton, Lord of Gordon, created Earl of Huntly by King James II. He died 1470. His body is placed under a stone sarcophagus, which contains on the top the statue of a knight in armour. The inscription is—

Hic jacet nobilis et potens Dominus Alexander Gordon, primus Comes de Huntly, Dominus de Gordon et Badzenoth, qui obiit apud Huntly, 15 Julii, anno Domini 1470.

In the same Aisle are placed the remains of Adam Gordon, Dean of Caithness, who died in 1528; George fifth Earl of Huntly, who died at Strathbogie in May, 1576; George, first Marquis of Huntly, who died 13th June, 1636; Lady Anne Gordon, Countess of Moray, who died at Elgin, 19th January, 1640; Alexander, second Duke of Gordon, who died 28th November, 1728; Elizabeth Howard, first Duchess of Gordon, who died at Edinburgh, 16th July, 1732; Henrietta Mordaunt, second Duchess of Gordon, who died at Prestonhall, 11th October, 1760; Cosmo George, third Duke of Gordon, who died at Breuil in France, 5th August, 1752; Katherine, Duchess of Gordon, his wife, who died 16th December, 1777; Alexander, fourth Duke of Gordon, who died at London, 17th June, 1827, aged eighty-four; Lord Alexander Gordon, who died 8th January, 1808, aged twenty-two; George, fifth Duke of Gordon, who died at London, 28th May, 1836; Elizabeth Brodie, wife of George, fifth Duke, who died at Huntly Lodge, 31st January, 1864.

There are few inscriptions on the Gordon family. The only one of importance is to the memory of Henrietta Mordaunt, second Duchess of

Gordon, a person eminent for her abilities, and who exercised great influence over the North of Scotland for many years. It consists of an elegant marble medallion, containing a statue of Her Grace, probably an exact likeness, remarkably well executed. By exposure to the weather, it has become very much dilapidated, and, unless speedily repaired, will soon be entirely decayed. The inscription is as follows :—

Sacred to the memory of Her Grace Henrietta Duchess of Gordon, who was the only daughter of Charles Mordaunt, Earl of Peterborough and Monmouth, who conquered Spain.* She was born April 3, 1682, and married in 1706 to Alexander Marquis of Huntly, afterwards Duke of Gordon, to whom she bare five sons and seven daughters. She died at Prestonhall, the 11th day of October, 1760, aged seventy-eight years.

On another stone, near the above, are the following words :—

Near this tablet, in the tomb of their ancestors, lie the remains of Alexander, Duke of Gordon, who died in June, 1827, and of his son, George, fifth and last Duke of Gordon, who died 28th May, 1836 ; also Elizabeth, widow of George, fifth and last Duke of Gordon, who died 31st of January, 1864, aged sixty-nine years.

In St. Mary's Aisle are interred the following Bishops :—John Winchester, who died in 1458 ; William Tulloch, who died in 1482 ; and James Hepburn, who died in 1524. There are two recumbent figures of these Bishops in the north wall of the Aisle. The one nearest the first Earl of Huntly's Tomb is said to be that of Bishop James Hepburn.

Keith's Bishops,
Russell's
Edition, p. 148.

In the Chapter House there are several monumental tablets of some interest placed in the wall, which, being in some degree protected from the weather, are tolerably well preserved :—

Hic requiescunt exuviae Margaretæ M'Aulay, Murdochi, miseratione divina, Moraviensis quondam, nunc Orcadam episcopi, carissimæ conjugis, quæ fatis concessit mense Maii, anno Dom. 1676 ; nec non Davidis Mackenzie, prædicti episcopi filii natu minimi. Ideoque in piam gratamque memoriam monumentum hoc extruendum curarunt superstites.

Here rest the remains of Margaret M'Aulay, the dearest wife of Murdoch, by the divine mercy late Bishop of Moray, now of Orkney, who died in the month of May, the year of our Lord, 1676 ; also, of David Mackenzie, youngest son to the said Bishop. Therefore this monument is erected by the survivors to their pious and grateful memory.

BISHOP COLIN FALCONER.

This monument erected by Coline Falconer, minister of Forres, for himself and Lillias Rose, his spouse, and their posteritie, Jany. 13th, 1676. Job, 19th chap. 25 and 26 verses.

* Charles Mordaunt, Earl of Peterborough and Monmouth, the father of Henrietta Duchess of Gordon, was born 1658. He was undoubtedly a man of great and brilliant genius, and his services in Spain during the war of succession might have led to the conquest of the country by the house of Austria, if his advice had been followed, but to say that he conquered the country is inconsistent with historical facts. He was the friend of Pope, Swift, and other great authors, and died 1735.

Near the above is erected, in the same wall, a marble tablet to the memory of Colin Falconer, who was consecrated Bishop of Moray 1680—

Sacred to the memory of Colin Falconer, son of William Falconer of Downtuff, and Beatrix Dunbar, who was the daughter of J. Dunbar of Bogs, in the County of Moray, and grandson of Alexander Falconer of Halkerton, and Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Archibald Douglas of Glenbervie. He was born in the year 1623, and was married in 1648, to a daughter of Rose of Clava. He was elected to the See of Argyle 1679, and in 1680 he was consecrated Bishop of Moray. He died 11th November, 1686, and was buried in the Aisle of St. Giles' Church of Elgin.

This monument was erected by Hugh Innes, Esquire of Lochalsh, M.P. for the County of Ross, anno 1812, his g. grandson.

The above monument is now very black with age, and one can scarcely discover that its materials are pure white marble. It is much in want of cleaning, but there is now no descendant of the worthy Bishop to look after it. Hugh Innes of Lochalsh, afterwards Sir Hugh Innes, Baronet, was descended from the Rev. Beroald Innes, minister of Alves, by his wife, Jean Falconer, a daughter of Bishop Falconer.

The family of Falconer of Halkerton was settled in the North as early as the year 1295, and had then possession of the Barony of Lethen, in the parish of Auldearn, which was retained by the Falconers until about the year 1600, when it was sold to John Grant of Freuchie. His son, Sir John Grant, sold Lethen about 1622, to Alexander Brodie, second son of David Brodie of Brodie, with whose descendants it still remains. The family of Falconer of Halkerton and Lethen is now represented by the Earl of Kintore.

Shaw's History,
First Edition,
page 109.
Douglas'
Peerage, vol.
II., pp. 53 to 58.

MONUMENT OF ELIZABETH PATERSON, WIFE OF THE
REV. JAMES THOMSON, MINISTER OF ELGIN.

*Memoriæ carissimæ conjugis Elisabethæ Paterson, dignissimis parentibus, ecclesie
Scoticanae ministris fidelissimis oriundæ; monumentum hoc extruendum curavit
superstes maritus, dominus Jacobus Thomson, pastor, Elginensis.*

Corpore præstanti, vultuque, animoque serena

Et bis nupta viro, hic suavis Eliza jacet;

Fæmina labe vacans, piis que parentibus orta

Virtute et meritis laude et honore nitens;

Terdenos vixit sex et ferme insuper annos

Fide viris, mundo mortus, cara Deo.

Decessit 12 die Augusti, 1698. Ætatis 36.

Elizabeth here lyes, who led her life

Unstained while virgin, and twice married wife;

She was her parents' image—her did grace

All the illustrious honours of the face,

With eminent piety and complaisance,

All the decorements of exalted sense.

David's swan song much in her mouth she had,

More on her heart, on it established,

Departed hence it being her desire

And delight, just when she did expire.

By all bewailed, she in the flower of age,
 As Jacob's Rachel, was turned off the stage.
 Ane only child beside death by his sting
 Unto this urn within three days did bring.

The Rev. James Thomson, her husband, a most exemplary clergyman, died on 1st June, 1726, in the thirty-third year of his ministry.

THE REV. ROBERT LANGLANDS' MONUMENT.

On the same wall with Elizabeth Paterson is the monument of Mr. Langlands, a very eminent preacher, who was admitted minister of Elgin, 21st June, 1696, and died 12th August the same year, to the great regret of the people of the parish and burgh.

Hic requiescit vir pius ac reverendus, Dominus Robertus Langlands, fulgentissimum quondam ecclesie sidus, mellifluus verbi præco fidelis mysteriorum Dei æconomus, ecclesie Glasguensis per annos aliquot pastor vigilantissimus; et ad Elginum paulo ante obitum, Generalis hujus Ecclesie Synodi decreto translatus. Ubi pie ac placide obiit pridie idus Augusti, anno Dom., 1696, in cujus memoriam monumentum hoc extruendum curarunt amici et Reverendus Collega, Dominus Jacobus Thomson.

Hac situs est humili clarus Langlandius urna
 Flebilis heu cunctis occidit ille probis,
 Preco pius reserans sacri mysteria verbi,
 Et docuit populum sedulus usque suum
 Doctrinæ laudes variæ, prudentia rerum
 Ornabant animum consiliumque sagax,
 Et licet Elginum teneat quam Glasgva quondam
 Dilexit proprium vindicat ipse polus.

The above inscription is translated by Monteith as follows :—

Monteith's
 Theatre of
 Mortality,
 pages 253, 254.

Here rests a reverend and godly man, Mr. Robert Langlands, lately a most bright star of the Church, a most sweet preacher of the Word, a faithful steward of the mysteries of God, a most vigilant minister at Glasgow for some years, and by an act of the General Assembly of the Church translated to Elgine, a little before his death. He died piously and pleasantly 12th August, 1690, to whose memory his friends and his reverend colleague, Mr. James Thomson, caused this monument to be erected.

In this small grave the famous Langlands lies,
 All good men mourn for his sad obsequies;
 A faithful preacher, opening mysteries;
 Not slothful, but was teaching everywhere
 His people with sedulity and care.
 His various learning, and his counsel sound,
 With prudence great, adorned well his mind;
 Tho' Elgine holds, whom Glasgow loved before,
 Yet heaven itself him claimeth for its glore.

Next to the above is a monumental tablet to the memory of the Rev. Alexander King, who was settled as Collegiate Minister of Elgin on 27th April, 1701, and died 22d December, 1715.

All these stones, being under the roof of the Chapter House, have been

well protected from the weather, and, although they have stood nearly 200 years, are almost as fresh as when erected, and may stand for centuries to come.

On the High Altar, in the Chancel, is a beautiful slab of red granite, placed here in 1868, to the memory of the Rev. Lachlan Shaw, Historian of Moray, by a few subscribers, admirers of his talents and worth. It was a tardy act of justice to a man to whom the Province of Moray is under a very deep debt of gratitude. Having already, in a previous part of this work, quoted the inscription, I do not here repeat it; but I record my satisfaction that this substantial and elegant tribute of respect has been paid.

On the east end of the Chapter House was placed, and only lately removed, an old tomb, which had been handsomely and strongly erected 157 years ago, and bore the name of Warden's Tomb, with the following inscription :—

WARDEN'S TOMB, 1720.

Time flyeth, death pursueth, mind mortality, conquer eternity. Grant us all so to do.

This is the burial place of James Warden, Merchant Burgess in Elgin, who departed this life 19th day of June, 1720. Erected in memory of his spouse, Elizabeth Donaldson, who died the 28th day of November, 1719, aged 19 years; and their child, Elizabeth.

There were no traces of any other inscriptions on this tomb, and the family is said to have left Elgin and settled in Forres, and some members, having gone abroad, attained positions of considerable importance. The tomb, therefore, gradually became ruinous, and has lately been entirely removed, which is an improvement, as opening up a view of the Chapter House. The carved stones are left on the ground; but, being unprotected, will likely be lost or destroyed. A writer of the present day, contemplating the ruinous and deserted state of the tomb, has written a piece of poetry on the subject, and concludes with the following verses :—

Who sleep beneath this spot of earth
None know, and none o'er them now weep;
They lie forgot—their name, their birth,
Lie buried in their last long sleep.
But when the Archangel's awful voice
Shall call us from earth's dismal womb,
And rending earth obey that noise,
These dead shall wake from Warden's Tomb.

Soon, soon, sad heart (a few short years),
And thou in death shalt pass away;
Thy struggles, and thy anxious cares,
Will be forgot like yesterday.
Then, weary soul, no longer rove
By crystal streams; seek evening's gloom.
The prayer of faith, the tear of love,
Drop silently o'er Warden's Tomb.

At the east end of the Milton Tomb, and placed in the wall of it, is a remarkably well-preserved stone, upon an old and respected Elgin family. The monument bears the following lines :—

This is the burial place of Thomas Stephen, merchant in Elgin, who died the 19th of June, 1728; and of Elspeth Dunbar, his spouse, who died the 20th of December, 1721; and of their son, Provost James Stephen, who died the 25th of February, 1779, aged seventy-eight; and his spouse, Anna Innes, daughter of Sir Harry Innes of Innes, who died the 7th July, 1777, aged sixty-nine.

James Stephen was Provost of Elgin from 1743 to 1746, and, being a person of intelligence, he acted as Sheriff-Substitute from 1749 to 1751.

DR. THOMAS STEPHEN.

On a flat stone, placed near the above, is an inscription as follows :—

Under this stone are interred the remains of Doctor Thomas Stephen, son of Provost James Stephen, and Ann Innes of Innes. He died the 6th day of May, 1819, in the seventy-sixth year of his age. He was eminent for his erudition and professional skill, and respected by all for his humanity, benevolence, and manly independence.

On the Milton Tomb wall is also a monumental tablet to the memory of Dr. James Stephen, son of Dr. Thomas Stephen, who died 13th May, 1861, and Mrs. Anna Robertson or Stephen, his wife.

PROVOST ALEXANDER BRANDER.

On the south side of the Cathedral, and near the centre of the church-yard, is an obelisk of freestone, with a marble tablet inscribed thus—

This monument is erected to the memory of Provost Alexander Brander, who died the 28th February, 1807, aged seventy years.

An honest man !!

Provost Brander was an honourable and upright man, a most estimable citizen, long a member of the Town Council, to which he devoted much time and attention. He filled the office of Provost from 1792 to 1795, and again from 1798 to 1799, when he resigned, on account of his advanced period of life.

BLACKHILLS' TOMB.

On the south enclosure wall is the burial place of the family of Innes of Blackhills. There is a tablet on the wall very illegible, but its substance is preserved by Monteith as follows :—

Memoriæ sacrum honorabilis viri, Valteri Innes a Blackhills, qui obiit sexto die Februarii, 1708, et dulcissimæ conjugis, Isabellæ Kinnaird, quæ obiit et posterorum.

Sacred to the memory of an honourable man, Walter Innes of Blackhills, who died the sixth day of February, 1708; and of his dearest wife, Isabella Kinnaird, who died and their posterity.

On the above tablet there is carved a shield, divided into two compartments, each compartment having at the top three stars for Innes, and at the bottom three crescents for Kinnaird.

There are several old stones upon the ground quite illegible. If cleaned, they might throw some light upon the family history, which is in a great measure lost. Monteith has preserved one of these stones—

Sub-hoc cippo conduntur in spem beatæ resurrectionis, exuviæ Roberti Innes, filii lectissimi honorandi viri, Valteri Innes de Blackhills, qui morte abruptus in flore juventutis, animi vere generosi candore, vultus ingenui nitore, morum probitate, vitæ integritate, erga omnes caritate, veritatis ac pacis cultu semper conspicuus, magnum apud omnes sui desiderium reliquit. Pie ac placide in Christo abdormivit, April 23d, 1705.

Monteith,
pages 252, 253.

Under this gravestone are laid up, in hopes of a blessed resurrection, the remains of Robert Innes, most choice son of an honourable man, Walter Innes of Blackhills, who, being always notable for the candour of a truly generous mind, the brightness of an ingenuous countenance, for the probity of his manners, integrity of his life, his charity towards all persons, and for his respect to truth and peace, was taken away by death in the flower of his youth, and left a great love for himself with all people. He fell asleep piously and pleasantly in the Lord, the 23d April, 1705.

On the same wall is the monument of John Geddes, date 1687—

Heir is the burial place appointed for John Geddes, glover, burgess in Elgin, and Isabell M'Kean, his spouse, and their relations.

Grace me guide, in hope I byde.

Memento mori. 1687.

This world is a cite full of streets,
And death is the mercat that all men meets ;
If lyfe were a thing that monie could buy,
The poor could not live, and the rich would not die.

A very neat etching of the above monument has been preserved by Mr. Donald Alexander, the accomplished artist, who has done so much for the old buildings of Elgin. To the sketch he has very appropriately affixed a striking likeness of John Shanks, the late keeper of the Cathedral, in his working clothes, with a spade in his hand.

The poetry attached to the tablet is not original. It seems to have been common about the end of the seventeenth century. A friend told me lately that he had seen it on a monument in a graveyard on the banks of the Thames.

DONALDSON'S TOMB.

Near the south enclosing wall is the tomb of the respectable family of the Donaldsons, long connected with the burgh of Elgin. It is very much dilapidated, and the stone railing has fallen down. The inscriptions are almost concealed by a very luxuriant growth of ivy. The tomb is much in want of repair. The only stone within my limit is as under—

Here lyes the body of James Donaldson, merchant in Elgin, who died 13th day of December, 1698.

J. D.

And Jean Mackean, his spouse, who died the 20th day of August, 1702.

The above James Donaldson long carried on business in that house in Lossie Wynd fronting the High Street, belonging to the heirs of the late Bailie Alexander Sivewright. The old house, which had a bartizan, and rather an imposing appearance, has been long removed. The initials of Mr. Donaldson and his wife, and the date 1689, are still preserved on a stone built into the back wall of the modern house. I have stated before that their son, Thomas Donaldson, purchased the estate of Kinnairdie, in the parish of Marnoch, and married Elizabeth Duff, daughter of William Duff of Dipple, and sister of William, first Earl of Fife. The family of Donaldson is probably extinct in the male line, but many female descendants exist.

JOHN ANDERSON'S MONUMENT.

Immediately to the east of Donaldson's Tomb is a large sarcophagus, erected to the memory of John Anderson, long teacher of the Sang School, thereafter of the Latin School in the Elgin Academy. It is inscribed on both sides.

North side—

John Anderson, A.M., who during a period of 42 years was teacher of the Greek and Latin classics in the Academy of Elgin, died the 28th day of June, 1815, aged 76.

This monument, a pious tribute to his cherished memory, was raised by a few of his scholars, who, living to enjoy his friendship, and appreciate his early care, were anxious to record their gratitude, and to commemorate the virtues of their revered master.

On south side—

He was a man eminently qualified to discharge the important line of his duties, for to profound erudition and great scientific attainments, he united that rare felicity of talent which can command obedience and conciliate affection. In his manners he was meek, sincere, and unassuming. Piety and devotion dignified and strengthened his moral habits, and, while he was unsolicitous of worldly distinctions, he zealously dedicated his life and talents to the performance of the grave and sacred duties of his profession.

Mr. Anderson, who was highly deserving of the above eulogium, was a native of Aberdeenshire, and had been previously schoolmaster at Fyvie. He was master of the Sang School from 1773 to 1802, and classical teacher in the Elgin Academy from 1802 to 1815. The monument much requires cleaning, and the inscription is fast fading.

Next to Donaldson's Tomb is the burial place of William Young of Burghead—

Sacred to the memory of William Young of Burghead, who died at Maryhill the 20th March, 1842, aged 78.

On the same stone is recorded the death of Ann Young, his sister, who died 5th August, 1858, aged 89.

On an adjoining stone his parents, Alexander Young, who died 22d April, 1783, aged 59, and Marjory M^cWilliam, who died 20th August, 1805, aged 79 ; and next thereto a tablet to the memory of Robert Young, his brother, who died at Palmerscross, 27th September, 1823, aged 57, and Margaret Milne, his wife, who died 15th May, 1854, aged 80 ; also other members of the family.

Next to the above is the Tomb of Thomas Stephen, Provost of Elgin, which bears the date of 1781. In it are interred—

Thomas Stephen, Provost of Elgin, who died February, 1801, aged 78, and Elizabeth Forsyth, his wife, who died 20th July, 1782, aged 44 ; James Miln of Milnfield, died 4th February, 1829, aged 85 ; Elizabeth Stephen, his wife, died 5th August, 1828, aged 67 ; their daughters, Ann and Elizabeth Miln ; and their son, Thomas Miln of Milnfield, merchant of Batavia, who died 7th May, 1870, aged 87.

Thomas Stephen was Provost of the burgh in 1770, and was the first bank agent in Elgin ; the representative of an old Elgin family, the heirs-male of which are now settled in Canada.

I have ventured to abbreviate the above inscription, the original being very long.

On the south side of the west steeple is an obelisk of red granite, on the east side of which is engraved as follows :—

Erected to the memory of William Grigor of Blackfriars' Haugh, solicitor, Elgin, Procurator-Fiscal for the County, who died on the 8th September, 1872, aged 68.

On the opposite side of the obelisk are the names of Mr. Grigor's father and mother, and some other members of the family.

LESMURDIE TOMB.

On the north enclosure wall is the burial-place of some of the later members of the family of Stewart of Lesmurdie. On a freestone slab in the wall is inscribed—

Here lies William Stewart of Lesmurdie, who died the 12th day of August, 1771, and Barbara King, his spouse, who died the 8th day of December, 1794.

Upon a granite tablet in the north wall, enclosed in freestone, with the Lesmurdie crest on it, is the following inscription :—

Sacred to the memory of Major-General Francis Stewart of Lesmurdie and Newmill, who departed this life on the 25th April, 1824, aged 60 years ; also, to that of his wife, the Lady Margaret Stewart, who followed him on the 3d December, 1830 ; likewise their daughter, Barbara, who died unmarried, and their sons, James, William, Joseph, Francis, and Alexander, all of whom left no issue. The eldest, James, his father's successor, having survived his brothers, died at Elgin the 23d December, 1874, aged 77 years, being the last male representative of the Stewarts of Lesmurdie, Banffshire.

This tablet is erected as a tribute of esteem and respect, by their nearest surviving male relations, Andrew Farquharson of Whitehouse, Aberdeenshire, and Archibald Young Leslie of Kiuiuivie, Banffshire. 1876.

On a marble wall-plate are the under-written lines :—

Sacred to the memory of Major-General William Stewart, C.B., who died at Elgin on the 20th June, 1836, aged 65 years, and to Georgina Brown Stewart, his daughter, wife of J. Lyon-Fraser, late of Ceylon, who died on the 26th day of May, 1867, aged 49 years; also, to Mary Brown, her mother, relict of Major-General William Stewart, who died on the 16th day of March, 1874, aged 88 years.

BISHOP DOUGLAS' MONUMENT.

Theatre of
Mortality, page
247.

Bishop Alexander Douglas died at Elgin in 1623, and was buried in the South Aisle of the Church of St. Giles, in a vault built by his widow, who also erected a handsome monument to his memory in that church. When the old Church of St. Giles was removed in 1828, the monument was conveyed to the Elgin Cathedral, and is now built into the north enclosing wall. Monteith states that Bishop Douglas married for a second wife Mary Innes, daughter of Robert Innes of that ilk. He also mentions, when he wrote (1704), that the inscription was not then legible. Perhaps he saw it in the darkness of the vault in St. Giles' Church. Now that it is in the open air, it is distinct enough, although, by continued exposure to the weather, it may probably soon fade.

Parish of
Spynie, p. 321.

Hic dormit in Domino Reverendus in Christo pater, M. Alexander Douglas, Præsul vigilantissimus qui summa cum laude huic Urbi pastor, totique Moraviæ Episcopus profuit et præfuit 41 annos. Obit ætatis suæ anno 62, et Christi, 1623, Maii 11. Relictis Alexandro et Maria liberis, uxoreque grævida femina, non minus vere religiosa, quam geuerosa, cujus sumptibus hoc mausoleum structum est.

Semper vigila, ut si nescias quando veniet, paratum te inveniat, beati merientes in Domino, hæc corruptia induet incorruptionem. B.M. A.D., 1623.

O death, quhar is thy sting ! O grave, quhar is thy victory !

Bishop Douglas was probably of the family of Pittendreich. He was proprietor of the lands of Morristown, Spynie, and Burghbriggs, which he conveyed to Mary Innes, his wife, and Alexander Douglas, his son. The Douglas family conveyed Morristown and Burghbriggs to Robert Martin, writer in Edinburgh, about the year 1668, and sold the lands of Spynie to James Brodie of Whitehill, ancestor of the present Mr. Brodie of Brodie, about the close of the seventeenth century.

TOMB OF THOMAS SELLAR OF WESTFIELD.

Sacred to the memory of Thomas Sellar of Westfield, who died there the 6th, and was buried here the 9th July, 1817; also of Jane Plenderleath, his spouse, who died in Elgin, the 2d, and was buried the 5th January, 1877.

On an adjoining wall-tablet—

Sacred to the memory of Patrick Sellar of Westfield, who died in Elgin, the 28th October, and was buried here the 1st November, 1851.

On a third tablet—

Sacred to the memory of Ann Craig, wife of Patrick Sellar, Esquire of Westfield, born November 22d, 1793, died February 1st, 1875.
Her children rise up and call her blessed.

WILLIAM GRANT, GRANTSGREEN.

On the north enclosing wall is a tomb with tablets erected by William Grant of Grantsgreen, to the memory of his two wives, as follows:—

This monument is erected by William Grant, in memory of Elizabeth Stephen, his spouse. She was born at Elgiu, 22d Feb., 1749, and died at Grantsgreen, 3d July, 1768, on the 14th day after the birth of her first and only child.

O, what avail fair beauty's finest forms,
Harmonious features and attractive charms !
With modest wit, good nature, stedly sense,
A heart of kindness, truth, and innocence,
Which feels and shares a neighbour's joy and woe,
Nor knows a thought but all mankind might know.
When sweet Eliza meets an early fall—
Just shewn and lov'd, call'd off, and mourned by all.
Alas ! no more our ravish'd breasts to move
With looks and smiles of innocence and love.
Why laboured nature so profusely, say,
To form so fine a flower to last a day ?
Yet she was formed to teach our thoughts to rise,
And called to draw and fix them to the skies ;
Upright, approv'd, and pure to leave the stage,
To shun infectioun in a wicked age ;
And with blest bands an endless day employ,
In scenes of beauty, virtue, love, and joy.

This monument is erected by William Grant, in memory of Elizabeth Brodie, his second spouse. She was born at Elgin, April, 1735, and died at Grantsgreen, 18th August, 1777.

She was remarkable for
Exact, prudent, genteel economy ;
Ready equal good sence,
A constant flow of cheerful spirits,
An uncommon sweetness of natural temper,
A great warmth of heart affection,
And an early and continued piety.

Tho' these qualities, displayed daily in her manner and actions, could not fail of gaining esteem and affection, yet strict justice demands this tribute to her memory.

The above Elizabeth Brodie is said to have been a daughter of Dr. David Brodie of Mayne, but as I have discovered no distinct evidence to prove it, I have not inserted it in the genealogy of the Mayne Family.

Mr. Grant carried on a bleaching business at Grantsgreen, for which it was well suited, there being then an unlimited supply of pure water from the rivulet of the Tayock, before the pollution of sewage was known. He died shortly after the year 1790, when the property was sold to Dr. James Coull, who changed the name to Ashgrove, which it still retains.

DR. JAMES COULL.

On the same wall is the burial place of Dr. James Coull and his family—

Sacred to the memory of Dr. James Coull of Ashgrove, who died on the 29th day of May, 1831, aged 73 years; and Mrs. Jean Dunbar or Coull, his spouse, daughter of Sir Alexander Dunbar of Northfield, Baronet, who died on the 27th day of January, 1851, aged 86 years; and their children, Margaret, Eliza, and Archibald, who all died in infancy; and their four sons, who died in India—Alexander Dunbar, Thomas, Archibald Dunbar, and James.

About the centre of the north wall of the Cathedral Churchyard there is a tomb containing the following inscription:—

In memory of Major Robert Duff of Ladyhill, late Honble. E. I. Comps. Service, who died 11th February, 1828, aged 72 years.

This family is about the oldest in the town of Elgin, and in a direct male line from father to son have been resident in the burgh for nearly two centuries. They are descended from Adam Duff of Clunybeg, the common ancestor of all the first families of the name of Duff in the North of Scotland. I find that Robert Duff, perhaps the third in descent from Clunybeg, was settled in Elgin as a merchant and trader in the beginning of last century, and was for many years a Magistrate and member of the Town Council. He was also Dean of Guild in 1719 and 1725. He married Johanna Sutherland, daughter of John Sutherland of Greenhall. She died 13th May, 1730. I do not find the date of his own death. By Johanna Sutherland, he had two sons, viz., John Duff, afterwards merchant in Elgin, born 1719; and Patrick Duff, the first Town-Clerk of Elgin of that name. John Duff succeeded his father, and was long a merchant in the burgh. He married Janet Gordon, daughter of James Gordon, merchant in Dundee, 11th April, 1747. He was Dean of Guild in 1750 and 1756, and Provost of the burgh for many years, as we mentioned before, and held that office at the time of his death. He died in 1792. Major Robert Duff, son of Provost John Duff, entered the Hon. East India Company's Service in early life, and, after completing his service, returned to Elgin to spend the evening of his days in his native place. He married—first, a Miss Stuart, by whom he had no surviving family; second, Marjory, daughter of the Rev. George Daun, minister of Inch, by whom he had three sons and one daughter, viz., John, who died young; George, who studied medicine, and was for some time settled in London and Genoa, and is now practising in Elgin, a worthy member of our town society; Robert, a merchant in Liverpool; and Anne, who married the late Rev. John Walker, minister of St. Andrew's-Lhanbryd.

ALEXANDER FORSYTH, MERCHANT, ELGIN, AND HIS FAMILY.

This is the bureing place of Alex. Forsyth, merchant in Elgin, who died the 7th day of Nov., 1779, aged seventy-three years, and Margaret Ross, his spous, who died the 17th September, 1757, and their children.

The tyrant Death, he triumphs here,
 His trophies spread around,
 And heaps of dust and bones appear
 Thro' all the hollow ground.

But where the souls, those deathless things,
 That left this dying clay?
 My thoughts, now stretch out all your wings,
 And trace eternity.

* * * * *

On a tablet on the east side of the above is inscribed the name of Ann Harrold, Mr. Forsyth's second wife, who died 17th July, 1807, aged 81; and next thereto a stone—

In memory of Isaac Forsyth, bookseller, Elgin, born 12th September, 1768, died 19th May, 1859.

On the same stone are the names of various members of Mr. Isaac Forsyth's family.

On a stone on the west side of Alexander Forsyth's tablet is an inscription to the memory of John Forsyth, merchant in Elgin, a son by his marriage with Margaret Ross, his first wife, and various members of his family.

Alexander Forsyth had by his first wife, Margaret Ross, fifteen children, most of whom died young, and by his second wife, Ann Harrold, seven children, among whom were the eminent scholar, Joseph Forsyth, the author of the elegant work, "On the Antiquities, Arts, and Letters of Italy," born 18th February, 1763, died 20th September, 1815; and Isaac Forsyth, our late worthy fellow-citizen, who died in 1859, in the ninety-first year of his age—named after the great Nonconformist divine, Dr. Isaac Watts, the friend of his father.

Mr. Forsyth's
 Family Bible.

Ann Harrold, the second wife of Mr. Alexander Forsyth, was the daughter of Mr. Harrold, tenant at Mill of Dallas. He went to Perthshire with Mr. Cuming of Craigmill, and took a farm from the Duke of Perth, and, along with Mr. Cuming, he followed the Duke in the unfortunate Rebellion in 1745. With Mr. Cuming, he was present at the Battle of Culloden in April, 1846, where both were taken prisoners. Mr. Harrold was put on board ship at Inverness, to be carried to England for trial, where, doubtless, he would have suffered with other prisoners, but he died on the passage.

LINKWOOD TOMB.

On the north enclosing wall are various marble tablets. On the centre one is inscribed—

In memory of George Brown of Linkwood, who died on the 16th June, 1816, aged sixty-nine, and his wife, Margaret Clerk, who died 26th January, 1808.

On the same tablet are the names of various members of their family. On the stone immediately west of the above are engraved the names of

Peter Brown of Linkwood, who died at Linkwood 29th August, 1868, aged seventy-six years, and Helen Leslie, his wife, who died at Kininvie, September 19th, 1873, aged seventy.

On the same tablet, and the immediately adjoining one, are the names of several of their children, with the dates of their deaths.

And on the eastern tablet—

In memory of Sir George Brown, G.C.B., K.H., third son of George Brown and Margaret Clerk, born at Linkwood, 3d July, 1790, and died there, August 27th, 1865, aged 75 years; and of his wife, Maria Bowes Macdonell, who died at Paris, November 23d, 1866, aged 57 years, whose remains are here interred.

In the entrance to the Chancel is a marble tablet on the north wall, having the following lines :—

This tablet is placed by Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Hay of Westerton, in grateful and affectionate remembrance of Marion Macleod, his wife, who died at Madeira, where she had gone for her health, on the 13th of January, and was interred here on the 28th February, 1822, aged 27 years.

On a flat stone, near the foot of the North Chancel wall, is inscribed—

In memory of Lieutenant-Colonel Hay of Westerton, who died at Elgin, the 8th March, 1845, aged 73 years.

On the same and adjoining stones are the names of his three sons, Alexander, David, and James Hay, who all died in early life.

In the south-east corner of the churchyard is a marble tablet to the memory of the late Mr. Patrick Cameron, Sheriff-Substitute of Elgin—

Sacred to the memory of Patrick Cameron, Esq., Sheriff-Substitute of the County of Elgin for a period of upwards of thirty-four years, who died at Elgin on the 16th day of November, 1865, in the 73d year of his age, and whose remains are interred in front of this tablet.

DR. ALEXANDER SUTHERLAND.

In a tomb on the south enclosing wall is a monumental tablet inscribed as follows :—

Doctor Alexander Sutherland, some time Doctor of Medicine at Bath, born November, 1710, died at Elgin, May 5th, 1773, to whose memory this tomb is built by Alexander Gray, wheelwright and guild brother in Elgin; Janet Sutherland, his spouse, sister-german to the above Doctor Sutherland; and their children, James, William, Alexander, Lillias, and Isabella Grays, as a mark how dearly they remember the happiness they enjoyed in the sincere friendship of so worthy and honest a man, whose virtue, candour, and judgment, gained him the love and esteem of all who knew him.

Dr. Sutherland, from the above inscription, appears to have been the maternal uncle of Dr. Alexander Gray, the founder of Gray's Hospital, for whose magnificent bequest Elgin owes so large a debt of gratitude.

On the east enclosing wall is a tablet inscribed thus—

Sacred to the memory of Alexander Brown, Procurator-Fiscal for the County of Moray, who died January, 1853, aged 60.

And upon the same stone—

Here also are interred the remains of Catherine Geddes, wife of Alexander Brown, who died at Elgin, 23d November, 1857, aged 58.

The names of several of their children are placed on the same stone.

On the south enclosing wall—

Sacred to the memory of John Paul, M.D., who died at London, 11th February, 1861, aged 67 years.

BAILIE JOHN FORSYTH.

Near the south steeple there is a neat Gothic-shaped stone of Peterhead granite, with the following lines engraved on it :—

Sacred to the memory of John Forsyth, merchant in Elgin, who died 29th December, 1848, and Elizabeth Laing, his spouse, who died 28th May, 1844; also, their daughter, Charlotte Polson, who died 4th April, 1805.

FENTON TOMB.

On the south side of the Cathedral, and attached to the wall of the building, is a tomb railed in, belonging to the Fentons, an old Elgin family, now extinct in the male line. There are three tablets, on which are the following lines :—

(1.) Sacred to the memory of Bailie John Fenton, sometime merchant in Elgin; Elspeth Young, his spouse, and their children; Christian Fenton, sister to the said John Fenton, who departed this life 1720.

(2.) This monument is erected by Provost George Fenton in memory of Bailie Andrew Fenton, sometime merchant in Elgin, his father, who died 1st July, 1787, aged 75 years; and of Ann Sanders, his mother, who died 11th October, 1802, aged 74 years; and of James Fenton, his son, who died 21st January, 1796, aged 6 years.

(3.) Sacred to the memory of Mrs. Ann Fenton, spouse of Patrick Cameron, Esquire, writer in Elgin, who departed this life 16th November, 1824, aged 35 years. She was a dutiful daughter, an affectionate wife, and died much and justly regretted.

There are many more inscriptions in the Cathedral Churchyard, both ancient and modern, which I would have wished to record in these pages; indeed, it is a subject on which I have a strong desire to linger, and I have a difficulty to take leave of it; but space fails me, and I must with reluctance conclude.

Preface, page 25.

The learned editor of the Chartulary of Moray makes the following remarks upon the changes which have occurred in Elgin :—

“Elgin, the seat of the Bishoprick, long retained a strong impress of its ecclesiastical origin. Within the memory of some yet alive, it presented the appearance of a little Cathedral city, very unusual among the burghs of Presbyterian Scotland. There was an antique fashion of building, and withal a certain solemn, drowsy air about the town and its inhabitants, that almost prepared a stranger to meet some church procession, or some imposing ceremonial of the picturesque old religion. The town is much changed of late. The Church of St. Giles, of venerable antiquity, has given way to a gay new edifice. The dwellings of the citizens have put on a modern, trim look, which does not satisfy the eye so well as the sober, grey walls of their fathers. Numerous hospitals, the fruits of mixed charity and vanity, surround the town, and with their gaudy white domes and porticos, contrast offensively with the mellow colouring and chaste proportions of the ancient structures. If the present taste continues, there will soon be nothing remaining of the reverend antique town but the ruins of its magnificent Cathedral.”

The above was published in the year 1837, some forty years ago, and the anticipations of the writer have been almost entirely realised, for, except the Cathedral, the Greyfriars', and the ruins on Ladyhill, hardly a remnant of the old town now remains. Considering the subject from an antiquarian point of view, we can entirely sympathise with these remarks. The picturesque old houses, with their steep roofs, crow-stepped gables, and grey slates, are almost entirely gone; but when we see, in their places, the fine airy buildings which have since been erected, combining ample accommodation with cleanliness, health, and comfort, we cannot regret that modern improvement has taken the place of the ancient order of things.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

I. EXCERPT FROM ORIGINES PAROCHIALES SCOTIÆ,
VOL. I., PAGE 20.

“PARISH, Parochia, meaning any district, was at first appropriated to the diocese of a Bishop. In 1179, it is used as synonymous with *diocesis*, and applied to the Bishopric of Glasgow. In some instances it would seem to mean the jurisdiction rather than the district. King William the Lyon, in a charter to the monks of Kelso, speaks of the waste of Selekyrke, to which he had transferred his men of Elrehope, as being the parish of his Vil of Selekyrke; but the term soon began in Scotland to be applied, though not technically and exclusively, to the baptismal Church territory. In the middle of the twelfth century, Herbert Bishop of Glasgow confirmed to the monks of Kelso the Church of Molle, which Uctred, the son of Liulf, gave them, with the lands and parishes and all rights belonging to that Church. Before the middle of the following century, the parish of Molle seems to have been territorially defined, and in a controversy between Melrose and Kelso concerning it in 1269, the words parish and parishioners (*parochia et parochiani*) are used much in their present sense. In the year 1220, the Churches belonging to the Abbey of Jedburgh are termed parishes (*parochie*), and the Church of Jedburgh is styled *parochialis ecclesia*. Abbot Aildred, in describing the successful preaching of Saint Ninian among the Picts of Galloway, the crowding to his baptism of rich and poor, young and old, renouncing Satan and joining the army of the Faithful, represents him as ordaining priests, consecrating bishops, and conferring the other dignities of ecclesiastical orders, and, finally, dividing the whole land into parishes—*totam terram per certas parochias dividere*. It is scarcely necessary to remark that Aildred, in speaking of the acts of Saint Ninian, uses the language of his own time. Indeed, that life is of little value, written in rhetorical style, and bearing few marks of being compiled from ancient materials. Bede speaks more correctly, when he says of Saint Cedd that he erected churches in many places (*fecit per loca ecclesias*), and ordained priests and deacons to assist him in preaching the faith and administering baptism.

“The word Shire (*schira, scyra*), so common in our older Church records, is often equivalent to parish, but sometimes applies to some other division which we cannot now define.”

II. THE MORAYSHIRE FARMER CLUB.

The Morayshire Farmer Club, which has conferred so many agricultural benefits both on the County and with it the Burgh of Elgin, was commenced on 14th December, 1798, and is perhaps the oldest local society of the kind in Scotland. The first members enrolled were—Messrs. Thomas Sellar; John Forsyth, banker; William Robertson, late of Auchinroath; James Duncan, Morristown; John Gordon, Boghead; Thomas Craig; Robert Ray; Robert Young; John Proctor; James M'William, writer; Alexander Russell; John Nicoll, Lossiemouth; Andrew Pearey; Alexander Allan, writer; James Tod; Alexander Grant; Patrick Duff; Isaac Forsyth; Alexander Johnston.

The early minutes are as follows :—

Pearey's (Inn), 14th December, 1798.

A few friends having dined at Mr. Pearey's, it was proposed that a meeting of *farmers* should be held monthly on the first Friday of each month (harvest excepted), beginning with Friday, the fourth of January next. The company present have subscribed to that resolution, and hope that those to whom this paper shall be presented will also subscribe thereto. At the first meeting regulations for forming the Society will be proposed.

Signed by—THO. SELLAR; JOHN FORSYTH, for self and Mr. WM. ROBERTSON; JA. DUNCAN, and for Mr. Gordon, Boghead, and Mr. Lawson—JOHN GORDON, JOHN LAWSON; THOS. CRAIG, and for Mr. Ray and Mr. Robt. Young—ROBT. YOUNG, ROBERT RAY; JOHN PROCTOR; JAS. M'WILLIAM; ALEXR. RUSSELL; JOHN NICOLL; ANDREW PEAREY; ALEXR. ALLAN; JAMES TOD; A. GRANT, for self and Mr. P. Duff—PAT. DUFF; ISAAC FORSYTH; A. JOHNSTON.

Pearey's, 4th January, 1799.

At a meeting of fifteen of the persons within-mentioned, they adopted the following preliminary resolutions :—That they shall dine at Pearey's the first Friday of each month, with the exception of August, September, and October, at four o'clock, and each member to pay one shilling and sixpence for dinner, whether present or absent. The bill shall be brought by Mr. Pearey at six o'clock each day, and the expense shall not exceed three shillings and sixpence to each member; and the present minutes are signed by Mr. Gordon of Boghead, as Præsides of the meeting.

They further resolve that the within persons shall be considered as the constituted members of the Society, and that no new members shall be admitted but such as are recommended by two of the then members at a meeting; and the person recommended shall be balloted for at next meeting, and will be admitted, unless four black balls are against him; and no ballot shall take place unless there be twelve members present.

JOHN GORDON.

Pearey's, 1st February, 1799.

At a meeting of the Club—Mr. Sellar in the chair—Mr. Lawson and Mr. Robert Young proposed that Mr. William Young at Lossiemouth should be admitted as a member. The meeting consider Mr. Young as an unexceptionable member, and agree that he should be balloted for at next meeting, in terms of the foregoing regulations.

THO. SELLAR.

Thereupon the meeting considered that it would be proper to name a Præsides for the next meeting, and, the vote being put, Mr. Duncan at Morristown was unanimously named Præsides for the meeting to be held the first Friday of March.

THO. SELLAR.

Pearey's, 5th July, 1799.

Mr. Lawson, Præses. Mr. William Young, Sir Archibald Dunbar, and Provost Brander were balloted for as members, and admitted accordingly.

(Signed) JOHN LAWSON.

4th April, 1800.

Mr. Craig, Præses, when Messrs. George Watson at Ardivot, and John Grant at Muirtown, having been proposed at last meeting, were balloted for this day, and admitted accordingly.

THOS. CRAIG.

4th July, 1800.

Mr. Robertson, Præses. Dr. Thomas Stephen, physician in Elgin, and George Brown, Esq., residing at Linkwood, having been proposed at last meeting, were balloted for this day, and admitted accordingly.

WILL. ROBERTSON.

The above are all the early minutes of the Club. The farther records, up to the year 1822, having been lost, I have thought it proper to record the foregoing as the beginning of an institution which has long proved its own usefulness, and now stands prominently forward in the eye of the general public.

III. SUPERSTITIONS.

I have referred in the text to the superstitions which prevailed in the country fifty years ago, but which are now dying out. The belief in spirits, witches, and fairies was then considerable. William Hay, in a song composed for the Edinburgh Morayshire Society within the above period, refers to his native county as follows :—

'Tis the land of the famed Knock of Alves,
Where fairies and 'spirits repair
To revel and dance in the moonbeams,
Or trip it o'er meadows of air !

The Rev. Lachlan Shaw, who composed his *History of the Province of Moray* in the early part of last century, makes the following remarks on the ignorance and superstition which existed in his early days :—

“Such prevailing ignorance was attended with much superstition and credulity. *Shaw's History, First Edition,* chapels were frequent; apparitions were everywhere talked of and believed; *pages 306 & 307.* particular families were said to be haunted by certain demons—the good or bad genii of these families—such as, on Speyside, the family of Rothiemurchus by “*Bodach an Dun, i.e.,* the ghost of the Dune; the Baron of Kincardine's family by “*Red Hand,* or a ghost, one of whose hands was blood red; * Gartinbeg by *Bodach*

* The forest of Glenmore is said to be haunted by the spectre or demon called Lhamdearg, or Red Hand. Sir Walter Scott, in a short poem called the Bard's Incantation, written in the year 1804, refers to the subject as follows :—

The forest of Glenmore is drear,
It is all of black pine and the dark oak tree ;
And the midnight wind, to the mountain deer,
Is whistling the forest lullaby.
The moon looks through the drifting storm,
But the troubled lake reflects not her form,

“*Gartin* ; Glenlochie by *Brownie* ; Tullochgorm by *Maag Moulach*, one with the left hand all over hairy. I find in the Synod records of Moray frequent orders to the Presbyteries of Aberlour and Abernethie to enquire into the truth of *Maag Moulach's* appearing ; but they could make no discovery, only that one or two men declared they once saw in the evening a young girl whose left hand was all hairy, and who instantly disappeared.

“Almost every large common was said to have a circle of fairies belonging to it. Separate hillocks upon plains were called *Sigh-an*, *i.e.*, fairy hills. Scarce a shepherd but had seen apparitions and ghosts. Charms, casting nativities, curing diseases by enchantments, fortune-telling, were commonly practised and firmly believed. Witches were said to hold their nocturnal meetings in churches, church-yards, or in lonely places ; and to be often transformed into hares, mares, cats ; to ride through the regions of the air, and to travel into distant countries ; to inflict diseases, raise storms and tempests ; and for such incredible feats many were tried, tortured, and burnt. If any one was afflicted with hysterics, hypochondria, rheumatisms, or the like acute diseases, it was called witchcraft ; and it was sufficient to suspect a woman for witchcraft if she was poor, old, ignorant, and ugly. These effects of ignorance were so frequent, within my memory, that I have often seen all persons above twelve years of age solemnly sworn four times in the year that they would practise no witchcraft, charms, spells, &c.

“It was likewise believed that ghosts or departed souls often returned to this world to warn their friends of approaching danger, to discover murders, to find lost goods, &c. ; that children dying unbaptized, called Tarans, wandered in woods and solitudes, lamenting their hard fate, and were often seen.”

In farther reference to this subject, the Rev. Robert Kirke, who was minister at Aberfoyle from 1685 to 1692, and who had been previously minister at Balquhiddier, wrote a work entitled, “An Essay of the Nature and Actions of the Subterranean and Invisible People, the Elves, Fauns, or Fairies or the lyke, among the Low Country Scots, as they are described by those who have the second sight, and now, to occasion farther enquiry, collected and compared by a circumspect enquirer residing among the Scottish Irish (*i.e.*, the Gael, or Highlanders) in Scotland.” This book was printed with the author’s name in 1691, and was re-printed at Edinburgh in 1815 for Longman & Co., London. The only copy of it I have seen was in the Castle of Dunvegan in Skye, and it was the gift of Sir Walter Scott to the Laird of Macleod. Mr. Kirke was a learned man, and an accomplished Gaelic scholar. He published the Psalms in Gaelic at

Scott’s Fasti,
vol. II., pages
718 and 719.

For the waves roll whitening to the land,
And dash against the shelvy strand.

There is a voice among the trees
That mingles with the groaning oak—
That mingles with the stormy breeze,
And the lake waves dashing against the rock.

There is a voice within the wood,
The voice of the bard in fitful mood ;
His song was louder than the blast,
As the bard of Glenmore through the forest passed.

Wake ye from your sleep of death,
Minstrels and bards of other days ;
For the midnight wind is on the heath,
And the midnight meteors dimly blaze.
The spectre with his bloody hand
Is wandering through the wild wood land ;
The owl and the raven are mute for dread,
And the time is meet to awake the dead !

Edinburgh in 1684, and was employed to superintend the publication of the Gaelic Bible at London in 1689. He seems to have been strongly tinged with the superstitious of the age. Sir Walter Scott makes the following remarks on Mr. Kirke's work :—

“ In this discourse the author, with undoubting mind, describes the fairy race as a sort of astral spirits, of a kind between humanity and angels—says that they have children, nurses, marriages, deaths, and burials, like mortals in appearance ; that in some respects they represent mortal men, and that individual apparitions, or double men, are found among them, corresponding with mortals existing on earth. Mr. Kirke accuses them of stealing the milk from the cows, and of carrying away what is more material, the women in pregnancy, and new-born children from their nurses. The remedy is easy in both cases. The milk cannot be stolen if the mouth of the calf, before he is permitted to suck, be rubbed with a certain balsam, very easily come by ; and the woman in travail is safe if a piece of cold iron is put into the bed. Mr. Kirke accounts for this by informing us that the great Northern mines of iron, lying adjacent to the place of eternal punishment, have a savour odious to these *fascinating creatures*. They have, says the reverend author, what one would not expect, many light toyish books (novels and plays, doubtless), others on Rosycrucian subjects, and of an abstruse mystical character ; but they have no Bibles, or works of devotion. The essayist fails not to mention the elf arrow-heads, which have something of the subtilty of thunderbolts, and can mortally wound the vital parts without breaking the skin. These wounds, he says, he has himself observed in beasts, and felt the fatal lacerations which he could not see.

Sir Walter Scott on Demonology and Witchcraft, Tegg's Edition, pp. 163, 164, 165.

“ It was by no means to be supposed that the elves, so jealous and irritable a race as to be incensed against those who spoke of them under their proper names, should be less than mortally offended at the temerity of the reverend author, who pried so deeply into their mysteries for the purpose of giving them to the public. Although, therefore, the learned divine's monument, with his name duly inscribed, is to be seen at the east end of the churchyard of Aberfoyle, yet those acquainted with his real history do not believe that he enjoys the natural repose of the tomb. His successor, the Rev. Dr. Graham, has informed us of the general belief that as Mr. Kirke was walking one evening in his night-gown upon a *dun-shi*, or fairy mount, in the vicinity of the Manse or Parsonage, behold ! he sunk down in what seemed to be a fit of apoplexy, which the unenlightened took for death, while the more understanding knew it to be a swoon produced by the supernatural influence of the people whose precincts he had violated. After the ceremony of a seeming funeral, the form of the Rev. Robert Kirke appeared to a relation, and commanded him to go to Graham of Duchray, ancestor of the present General Graham, Stirling. “ Say to Duchray, who is my cousin as well as your own, that I am not dead, but a captive in Fairy Land, and only one chance remains for my liberation. When the posthumous child of which my wife has been delivered, since my disappearance, shall be brought to baptism, I will appear in the room, when, if Duchray shall throw over my head the knife or dirk which he holds in his hand, I may be restored to society ; but if this opportunity is neglected, I am lost for ever.’ Duchray was apprized of what was to be done. The ceremony took place, and the apparition of Mr. Kirke was visibly seen while they were seated at table ; but Graham of Duchray, in his astonishment, failed to perform the ceremony enjoined, and it is to be feared that Mr. Kirke still ‘drees his weird in Fairy Land’—the Elfin State declaring to him—‘Thou hast proclaimed our power—be thou our prey.’”

Mr. Baird of Auchmedden, in his Genealogical Memoirs of the Family of Duff, relates the following curious story of Alexander Duff of Keithmore (grandfather of William, first Earl of Fife), relative to the birth of his son, the well-known William Duff of Dipple :—

Baird's Memoirs
page 60.

"It was Keithmore's custom to sit beside his lady the first night after she was delivered. The night succeeding Dipple's birth, he was placed near the fire with a candle burning before him, and reading the Bible. About midnight a tall big woman appeared on the floor, clad in a green gown, and walked up to the cradle in which the child was laid, and stretched out her hand over it, upon which Keithmore rose, ran to the bedside, and made the sign of the Cross first on his lady and then on the infant, saying — 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, may my wife and my child be preserved from all evil,' upon which the apparition immediately vanished."

I have made these excerpts as illustrative of the picturesque superstitions which formerly prevailed, but are now almost entirely extinct.

IV. CHARTER GRANTED BY WILLIAM THE LYON TO RICHARD BISHOP OF MORAY.

King William the Lyon was frequently in Elgin, and granted there various charters, almost entirely to Richard Bishop of Moray, who was in high favour with his sovereign. I shall only quote one short writ—

DE TOFTIS IN BANEF, INVERCULAN, ELGIN, FORES, EREN,
ET INVERNIS.

Registrum
Moraviense,
page 11.

Willielmus, Dei gratia Rex Scottorum, omnibus probis hominibus tocius terræ sue clericis et laicis salutem. Sciatis me dedisse et concessisse et hac carta mea confirmasse Ricardo, episcopo Moravie et successoribus ejus, in liberam et perpetuam elemosinam unum toftum in Banef, unum in Inverculan, unum in Elgin, unum in Forays, unum in Eren, unum in Inuernys. Tenenda ita libere, quiete, plenarie et honorifice, sicut alii episcopi in terra mea tofta sua in burgis meis liberius, quociens, plenius et honorificentius tenent. Testibus Hugone Cancellario meo, A. Abbate de Dumfermelyn, Comite Duncano, Comite Gilberto, Ricardo de Prebenda clerico meo, Willielmo filio Freskini, Petro de Polloc, Willielmo de Laclese. Apud Elgin.

This and the other charters in favour of Bishop Richard must have been granted between the years 1187 and 1203, the period of his episcopate.

V. FOUNDATION OF A CHAPLAINRY BY ALEXANDER II. FOR THE SOUL OF KING DUNCAN, &c.

FUNDATIO CAPELLANIE PRO ANIMA REGIS DUNCANI.

Registrum
Moraviense,
page 30.

Alexander, Dei gratia Rex Scottorum, omnibus probis hominibus tocius terre sue salutem. Sciatis presentes et futuri nos pro salute anime nostre et antecessorum nostrorum dedisse concessisse et hac presenti carta nostra confirmasse, ad sustentationem unius Capellani pro anima Regis Duncani et animabus fidelium divina celebrantis in ecclesia Cathedrali de Elgyn, tres marcas singulis annis percipiendas de firma burgi nostri de Elgyn. Quare volumus et firmiter precipimus ut illi qui pro tempore fuerint firmarii burgi nostri de Elgyn habere faciant singulis annis dicto capellano tres marcas medietatem at Pentecosten et aliam medietatem at festum Sancti Martini. Testibus Willielmo Episcopo Glasguensi Cancellario, Willielmo Cumyn, Comite de Myneteth, Johanne de Macuswel, Willielmo Byseth, Eymero de Macuswel. Apud Castrum puellarum 21 die Aprilis, anno regni domini Regis xxi.

VI. CHARTER OF GUILD BY KING ALEXANDER II. TO
THE BURGH OF ELGIN.

Alexander, Dei gratia Rex Scottorum, omnibus probis hominibus. totius terræ suæ salutem. Sciatis nos concessisse, et hac carta nostra confirmasse Burgensibus nostris de Elgyn, ut ipsi ad meliorationem Burgi nostri de Elgyn habeant in eodem Burgo Guildam suam mercatoriam adeo libere, et sicut aliqui Burgorum nostrorum in toto regno nostro Guildam suam habent. Testibus Alano Hostiario, Reginaldo de Cheyn Camerario; Hugone de Abernethie; Willielmo et Bernardo de Monte Alto; Alexandro de Moravia, et Willielmo Bisset. Apud Elgyn, vigesimo octavo die Novembris, anno regni nostro vigesimo, 1234.

Shaw's History,
First Edition,
page 193.

VII. EXCERPT FROM CHARTER BY KING ROBERT BRUCE
IN FAVOUR OF THOMAS RANDOLPH.

The family of Randolph Earl of Moray, as I have stated in the text, held feudal superiority over the burgh of Elgin, which is proved from the following excerpts contained in the charter granted by King Robert Bruce in favour of Thomas Randolph :—

Robertus, Dei gratia Rex Scotorum, omnibus probis hominibus tocius terre sue salutem. Sciatis nos dedisse, concessisse et hac presenti carta nostra confirmasse Thome Ranulphy, militi dilecto nepoti nostro prohomagio et servicio suo, omnes terras nostras in Moravia sicut fuerunt in manu domini Alexandri Regis Scocie predecessoris nostri ultimo defuncti, unacum omnibus aliis terris adjacentibus infra metas et divisas subscriptas contentis. Incipiendo videlicet ad aquam de Spee sicut cadit in mare, et ascendendo per eandam aquam. . . . Usque ad marchias de Badenach . . . et sic sequendo marchiam de Badenach usque ad marchiam de Louchabre, et sic includendo terras de Loucabre, de Maymer, del Logharkech, de Glengarech, et de Glenelg cum pertinenciis per suas rectas metas et divisas, et sic sequendo marchiam de Glenelg usque ad mare versus occidentem, et sic per mare usque ad marchiam borealis Ergadie que est Comitiss de Ros, et sic per marchias illas usque ad marchias Rossie, et sic per marchias Rossie quousque perveniatur ad aquam de Forne, et sic per aquam de Forne quousque perveniatur ad mare orientale. Tenendas et habendas dicto Thome et heredibus suis masculis de corpore suo legitime procreatis seu procreandis de nobis et heredibus nostris in feodo et hereditate in libero comitatu ac in libera regalitate. . . . Volumusque et concedimus quod dictus Thomas et heredes sui predicti habeant, teneant et possideant dictum comitatum cum manerio de Elgyn quod pro capitali mansione comitatus Moravie de cetero teneri volumus et vocari, et cum omnibus aliis maneriis, burgis, villis, thanagiis et omnibus terris nostris dominicis fermis et exitibus infra predictas metas contentis. . . . Volumus insuper et concedimus quod Burgi et Burgensis sui de Elgyn, de Fores, et de Inwirmarne easdem libertates habeant et exerceant quas tempore domini Alexandri Regis Scocie predicti et nostro habuerunt, hoc solum salvo quod de nobis tenebant sine medio et nunc de eodem Comite tenent cum eisdem libertatibus. . . . In cujus rei testimonium presenti Cartae nostre sigillum nostrum precepimus apponi. Testibus venerabilibus patribus Willelmo Sancti Andree, Willelmo Dunkeldensi, Henrico Aberdonensi Dei gratia Episcopis, Bernardo Abbate de Aberbrothocce cancellario nostro, Malcolmo Comite Lavenax, Gilberto de Haya, Roberto de Keith Marescallo Scocie, Alexandro Meygners, et Henrico de Sancto Claro, militibus.

Registrum
Moraviense,
pp. 342, 343, 344.

This charter has no date, but is supposed to have been granted in the

year 1312. It confines the destination to the heirs-male of the body of Thomas Randolph; and, on the death of Earl John, his youngest son, in 1346, the Earldom, with all its rights and privileges, should have reverted to the Crown. Lady Agnes Randolph, sister of the last Earl, and wife of Patrick, ninth Earl of Dunbar and March, took possession of the honours and estates on the death of her brother, seemingly with the tacit consent of the king, but without any express authority; and her second son, John Dunbar, having married the Princess Marjory, daughter of King Robert II., obtained a fresh grant of the Earldom with all its feudal rights, excepting Badenoch and Lochaber, the Castle of Urquhart, and the great customs of the Earldom.

Douglas' Peerage, Wood's Edition, vol. II., p. 252.

Great Seal Register, pages 88, 140.

Inventory of Burgh Papers.

Thomas Dunbar, Earl of Moray, who succeeded his father, John, in 1394, confirmed the Charter of Guild granted by King Alexander II. by a fresh grant executed by him in the year 1396. Another charter of confirmation appears to have been granted by Archibald Douglas, Earl of Moray; and King James II. granted a charter confirming all the rights and privileges of the burgh on 5th November, 1457.

VIII. KING JAMES IV. IN ELGIN.

In the accounts of the Lord Treasurer of Scotland, various entries occur which show that King James IV. was in Elgin on his way to St. Duthac's Sanctuary at Tain, in October, 1497, and January, 1498.

On 8th October, 1497, the following entries are stated:—

Lord High Treasurer's Accounts, vol. I., pages 362, 363, 375.

Item to the Feriar of Spey, 18 shillings.

Item to the Blak Freris of Elgin, 13s 4d.

Item to William Balfour in Elgin, to by him ane hors with, be the kingis command, ane unicornne, ane Scottis croune, summa 30s 4d.

January, 1498—

Item to Blak of the Chamir to ga before to Elgin to grath the kingis chamiris.

IX. LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL AND PLUSCARDEN PRIORY.

Register of Privy Council, pages 673, 674.

A meeting of the Lords of the Privy Council was held at Elgin on 24th June, 1569, at which various matters of business were arranged, and among others the following relative to the Priory of Pluscarden:—

Apud Elgin, xxiii. Junii, anno 1569.

Sederunt—Jacobus Dominus Regens, Jacobus Comes de Mortoun, Joannes Comes de Atholl, Patricius Dominus Lindesay, Joannes Dominus Glammis, Dominus Gray, Joannes Dominus Invermeyth, Commendatarius Dunfermling, Commendatarius Balmernoch, Clericus Registri Balnaves.

Anent the complaint maid to my Lord Regentis Grace and Lordis of Seceit Counsale be James Lindesay, collectour of Murray, makand mention that the thrid

of the Priorie of Pluscardin is restand awand of the croppis and yeris of God, Jm. Vc. lxxvii. lxxviii., and of the Witsunday term Jm. Vc. lxxix. yeir instant, quhairof the said collectour can get na payment to the relief and sustentatioun of the precheouris and utheris travelling the charge of ministerie within the kirk of God. Upoun quhilk complaint my Lord Regentis Grace and Lordis foirsaidis causit call ane greit nowmer of the tenentis of the said Pryorie, and als James Seyton, servitour to George Lord Seytoun; and eftir ressoning the mater in presence of the saidis tenentis, and James, my Lord Regentis Grace, with avise of the saidis Lordis, ordanis lettres to be direct to fense and arreist all and sindry males, fermis proffetit and dewitis of the said Pryorie, to remane in the handis of the tenentis, fewaris, and possessouris of the landis, teindis, fisheingis, and possessionis perteneing thairto, ay and quhill the said collectour be satisfiit and payit, of the thrid of the said Priorie of the saidis yeris and terme bigane restand awand unpayit; and to that effect that ye command and charge all and sindry the saidis tenentis, fewaris, and possessouris of the landis, teindis, fisheingis, and possessionis perteneing to the said Priorie, to answer and mak payment of the first and reddiest thairto to the said collectour, ay and quhill he be payit of the said thrid of the yeris and term above written, within ten days nixt eftir that be chargeit thairto, under the pane of rebellion and putting of thame to the horne; and gif thai failye thairin, the saidis ten dayis being past, to denunce thame rebellis, and put thame to the horne and to escheit, &c.

X. LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL AND THE LEAD ON THE ELGIN CATHEDRAL.

On the 7th February, 1567, the Lords of the Privy Council ordered the lead on the Cathedrals of Aberdeen and Elgin to be taken off and sold for the public behoof. The Lords present at this meeting, which was held at Edinburgh, were—James Earl of Moray, Lord Regent; James Earl of Morton, John Earl of Athol, George Earl of Caithness, the Master of Graham, Patrick Lord Lindsay, John Lord Glammis, Robert Lord Boyd, Alan Lord Cathcart, Alexander Lord Saltoun, Andrew Lord Ochiltree, the Bishop of Orkney, the Bishop of Galloway, the Commendator of Coldingham, the Secretary, and the Clerk Register. As the reasons for taking off the lead are stated differently in this minute from those generally received, I shall here give a correct excerpt from the record—

The saidis Lordis, understanding that the leid upoun the Cathedrall Kirkis of Aberdene and Elgine, is for ane greit part be diverse personis thiftuouslie stowin and takin away, na commoditie of the samyn cumand to the commoun weill of this realme, thairfoir, devysit, ordanit, and concludit be the saidis Lordis, that the leidis of the saidis kirakis sal be takin down with diligence, and sauld and dispoit upoun, for interteneing and sustentatioun of the men of weir and utheris neidfull chargeis of the commoun weill of this realme, sa far as the samyn extendis to, at the discretioun of my said Lord Regent, lyke as at mair lenth is contenit in the Act of Parliament maid thairupoun. Quhairfoir, my said Lord Regent, with avise of the saidis Lordis of Secreit Counsale, hes gevin, grantit, and committit, and be thir presentis gevis, grantis, and committis full, fre, and plane power, speciall command, express bidding and charge, to Alexander Clerk and William Birny, burgessis of Edinburgh, to pas to the saidis Cathedrall Kirkis, and thair tak down the leid being thairupoun, the samyn to transport, sell, and dispone at thair plesour, the profeit and pryce thairto to inbring and mak compt to our Soverane Lordis commoditie, to the effect above written. Attour to command and charge George Erll of Huntlie, Sheref-Principall of Abirdene;

Register of
Privy Council,
vol. I., page 609.

William Leslie of Balquhane, Sheref-Depute thairof; and utheris Sheref-Deputtis of the samyn; Alexander Dunbar of Cumnok, Knycht, Sheref of Elgine and Fores, and his Deputtis; William Bischof of Abirdene; Patrik Bischof of Murray; Thomas Menzies of Petfoddellis, Provost of Abirdene; Johnne Annand, Provost of Elgin; the Baillies of the saidis burrowis; and als the Baillies and inhabitantis of the toun of Auld Abirdene—that thai fortifie, manteine, defend, assist, and further the saidis Alexander Clerk and William Birny, their factouris, partinaris, and servandis in thair naimis, in the dountaking, intronissiou, keping, careing, conveying, and disponing of the said leid, and na wayis to suffer thame be hinderit, stoppit, or delayit, or to ressave any harne, greif, or injurie thairin, in bodiis or gudis, but caus thame be furnissit of meit, drink, servandis, workmen, and utheris thingis necessar at thair ressonabill expensiss. Certifeing the personis quhatsumevir doand to the contrair, or that beis fund remisse or negligent in the premissis, thai sall be estemit, callit, persewit, and puneist, na utherwayis nor gif thai committit the offence thame selffis in thair propr personis; and forder to answer upoun thair dewitie and allegeance, according to the lawis of this realme, and band contenit in the generall band.

XI. THE PRIVY COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION TO REPAIR THE CATHEDRAL.

It is well known that the Privy Council of Scotland, in the year 1567, ordered the lead of the Elgin Cathedral to be taken off and sold, and the price to be used for national purposes; but it is not generally known that in 1569, two years thereafter, the same body resolved to repair the Cathedral. I shall here insert verbatim the minute of the Privy Council to that effect—

Register of
Privy Council,
vol. I., page 677.

Apud Abirdene, octavo die mensis Julii, Jm. Vc. lxxix.

Sederunt—Jacobus Dominus Regens, Jacobus Comes de Mortoun, Joannes Comes de Atholl, Patricius Dominus Lindesay, Magister de Marscheall, Commendatarius Dunfermling, Commendatarius Balmernoch, Thesaurarius, Clericus Registri, Clericus Justiciarie.

Forsamekill as my Lord Regentis Grace, ane Reverend Fader in God, Patrik Bischof of Murray, the Chantour, Thesaurare, and diverse utheris Channonis of the Cathedrall Kirk of Murray, willing to repair the samyn, hes condescendit to satisfie, content, and pay ane ressonabill contributioun, for mending, theking, and reparaling of the Cathedrall Kirk of Murray, to the effect that the same may be a convenient place to convene the people for hering of the Word of God; and, considering that thai frelie and liberallie hes condescendit to this lovabill werk, tending to the commoun weill, the furthsetting of Goddis glorie, and decoriatioun of the Cuntie, it is ressonabill that the Prelattis, Channonis, and beneficent men within the Diocie of Murray contribute with thame that hes ellis willinglie offerit contributioun, swa that the support of mony concurring togidder, the burding may be the mair tollerabill to the haill. Quhairfoir, and to the effect that the weill willing may be rememberit, and the obstinat constrenit to thair dewitie, my Lord Regentis Grace, with avise of the Lordis of Secreit Counsale, ordanis lettres to be direct, chargeing Walter Abbott of Kinloss, Pryour or Yconomus of Pluscardin, the Dene, utheris Channonis, Personis, Vicars, and utheris beneficent men within the boundis of the said Diocie of Murray, that thai, and ilk ane of them, within the space of xv. dayis nixt eftir the charge, be thame selfis or thair sufficient procuratour in thair name, pass to the town of Elgin, to Maister Hew Cragy, Person of Innerkething, appointit maister of the said werk, and ressaver of the said contributioun, and thair enter in roll, and nominat quhat speciall and certain sowme that thai will gif to the help and support of the said werk, according to the rait and quantitie of thair benefices, and as utheris hes grantit unto of the lyke qualitie;

and, in caise of thair failie herein, with power to the said Reverend Fader, with samony of the Channonis of the said Cathedrall Kirk as sall happin to be present with him, the saidis xv. dayis being bipast, to taxt, set, and imput ane ressonabill contributioun upoun everie persoun failyeand, quhilk thai sal be na les detbund to pay, nor gif thai had grantit the samyn thame selfis; and the saidis sowmes being anis appointit—owther be thair awin consentis, or in caise of their failye, be the said Reverend Faderis and Channonis present with him, taxatioun and modificatioun—that than thai charge thame to mak payment of the saidis sowmes to the said Maister Hew Cragy, ressaver and maister of werk foirsaid, at sic termis as sal be appointit be the said Reverend Fader and Channonis, and as the werk sall proceid, and pas furthwart under the pane of rebellious, and putting of thame to the horne; and, gif thai failye thairin, the termis of payment being bipast, to denunce thame rebellis, and put thame to the horne, and to escheit, &c.

There can be no doubt that, if the death of the Earl of Moray had not taken place shortly after this event (21st January, 1570), the repair of the Cathedral would have taken place, and it might, like Glasgow, have been complete to the present day. The Regent's untimely fate, however, put a stop to this good work, and no one had the influence to get it resumed again.

XII. CHARTERS OF THE BURGH.

I have already referred to various charters of the burgh. There were subsequent important ones granted, viz.—

1. Charter by King James VI. to the burgesses of the burgh of Elgin, and the Provost, Bailies, Councillors, and community of the same and their successors, of all and whole the said burgh of Elgin, with all and singular lands, tenements, yards, tofts, crofts, annual rents, and dues belonging to the same, within the bounds and marches thereof; and also the Hospital of Maisondieu, with lands, tenements, and pertinents thereto belonging; which charter is dated at Holyrood House, the 22d March, 1594.

2. Charter by King James VI. of the lands and Preceptory of Maisondieu, with the crofts and pertinents thereof; the lands of Over and Nether Monben, and Haugh of Manbeen; the lands of Over and Nether Cardells, and Over and Nether Pittenscar, lying within the Sherifdom of Elgin and Forres. Dated the last day of February, 1620, being the fifty-third year of the king's reign in Scotland and seventeenth in England.

3. Charter by King Charles I., commonly called the Town's Great Charter, confirming all previous rights, and conveying the lands anew, with the Hospital and Preceptory of Maisondieu; with the privilege of holding markets, creating officers, holding courts, and enjoying all privileges and immunities belonging to royal burghs. Dated 8th October, 1633.

4. Charter by King Charles I., dated 15th November, 1641, and ratified in Parliament 8th March, 1645, in favour of the Magistrates of Elgin, of various lands, and of the right of patronage of two ministers in the Collegiate Church of the parish and burgh of Elgin.

This last charter and relative Act of Parliament were annulled by the Rescissory Act of the first Parliament of King Charles II., 1661; and the Magistrates lost the patronage of the Parish Church of Elgin, which was never restored to them.

XIII. CHARTER OR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN
COUNCIL AND TRADES INCORPORATIONS,
COMMENCING 1657.

At Elgin, the fifth day of October, one thousand six hundred and fifty-seven years. Convened in Council—Master John Douglas, Provost of the said burgh; George Cuming, Thomas Calder, and Walter Hay, Bailies; Mr. John Hay, John Chalmer, Robert Dunbar, Mr. William Coban, Andrew Leslie, John Dunbar, John Ogilvie, David Brodie, Alexander Petrie, Councillors.

Articles of Condescendance betwixt the Magistrates and Council of Elgin, and the crafts of the said burgh, anent Deaconry to be therein; but prejudice allways of the former priviledges and libertys of the said burgh.

In the First.—It is condescended and agreed that each distinct craft within the said burgh, whereof there are seven burgesses and freemen of the same, to make a compleat Council, shall have a Deaconry.

Secondly.—That the Deacon to be chosen yearly for each craft shall be elected be the Council of the craft—being two or three on the leets—and chosen be the Magistrates and Council of the burgh, who shall be sworn to be loyall to their Magistrates and Council, and faithful to their craft.

Thirdly.—As for their Deacon Conveener, he is to be chosen yearly thereafter by the Magistrates and Council of the burgh, out of the number of the respective Deacons.

Fourthly.—And ilk Deacon to have six freemen to bear Council to him, and he with consent of his Council to recive none to be freemen in their craft but those that be essay shew themselves able to be qualified therein, being always first burgesses.

Fifthly.—Each Deacon and his Council has liberty to fyne all faults relating to his craft, and if imprisonment be desired of the faultier, the reason being cleared to the Magistrates that he deserves so, the Magistrate gives order to do the same; and in case any party fynyed by the Deacon and his Council find himself wronged, in that case he is to have recourse to the Deacon Conveener and his Council; and in case none satisfaction from them, to have his recourse to the Council of the burgh; and that each Deacon have all the apprentices and servants of his craft presented to him and booked before he enter to his craft.

Sixth.—As for the price of the entry of freemen to the craft or booking prentices and servants, to be agreed upon be the Deacon Conveener and the Deacons, and thereafter to be approven by the Council of the said burgh.

Seventhly.—As for the fines and entries above specified to be collected and kepted by each Deacon or Boxmaster of the craft, he is comptable to the Council of the craft and Deacon Conveener; and these accompts to be presented to the Council of the burgh once in the year, when they are called, that they may know they have been disposed of for the good of the craft.

Eighthly.—As for the last article, it is agreed that no craft encroach upon another's liberty; and as for the selling of boots and shoes by merchants, itt is condescendit that the merchants enjoy their wonted liberty in selling the same untill it be declared what is the freedom of the merchants in selling boots and shoes in the burgh of St. Johnstown, Dundee, and Aberdeen, or any two of them. As for the selling of saddle graith and lorimer work, the merchants to have their wonted liberty.

This agreed and condescended on the fifth day of October, Jm. VIc. and fifty-seven years, and is ordained to be put in ample form, which is subscribed by the Provost, Bailies, and Council, and also by the Deacon Conveener and respective

Deacons presently nominated and chosen in name of their respective crafts, for them and their successors. Subscribed thus—

JO. DOUGLAS, Provost.

GEORGE CUMMING, Bailie.

THOS. CALDER, Bailie.

W. HAY, Bailie.

ROBERT DUNBAR, one of the Council.

WM. COBAN, one of the Council.

ANDREW LESLIE, one of Council.

DAVID BRODIE, one of the Council.

JO. OGILVIE, Deacon Conveener.

WALTER GILZEAN, Deacon of the Hammermen.

JOHN CHALMER, Deacon of the Glovers.

THOMAS OGILVIE, Deacon of the Taylors.

ANDW. KAY, Deacon of the Shoemakers.

THOMAS COCK, Deacon of the Weavers.

JOHN THOMSON, Deacon of the Butchers.

With our hauds led by ALEXR. HAY,

Nottar, at our command, specially

required hereto, because we cannot

write ourselves.

ALEXR. HAY, Noty.

JAMES DICK, Deacon of the Wrights and

Masons.

XIV. CHARTER OF TRADES' PRIVILEGES.

At Elgin, the fifteenth day of February, sixteen hundred and fifty-eight years.

Convened in Council—Mr. John Douglas, Provost of the said burgh; George Cumming, Thomas Calder, and Walter Hay, Bailies thereof; David Brodie, Dean of Guild; Alexander Dunbar, Andrew Leslie, John Ogilvie, Deacon Conveener; Walter Gilzean, John Chalmer, Andrew Kay, and Thomas Cock, four of the Deacons.

The which day, in reference to that ordinance of the Council of the said burgh, dated the fifteenth day of the said month and year foresaid, the whole of the persons above nominate and appointed for settling and composing certain differs arising betwixt the merchants, skinnors, and other crafts within the said burgh, the said Provost, Bailies, Councillors, and Deacons above mentioned, having convened for that effect, did unanimously condescend upon the articles under written, and did appoint the same to be observed in all time coming by the foresaid merchants and craftsmen withiu the said burgh, as their respective privileges relating and belonging to them specially, as is under exprest, viz. :—

First.—It is agreed upon that merchants living in the said burgh may buy wool skins and sell the same, without liberty to them to pluck them or steep them, but only to sell them in the same quality they buy them; and that skinnors within the said burgh may also buy wool skins and may pluck them, and sell the wool and alm the skins, and sell the same within the nation, without power to them to sell whole fleeced skins either within or without the nation in small or in great; without power also to the said skinnors to sell any allomed leather without the natiou, or send the same aboard over seas.

Skinnors'
Priviledges.

Secondly.—It is agreed that no craftsman within the said burgh shall buy to be sold by them any outland commodities, except so much as will serve themselves, their familys, and their uses.

Thirdly.—It is agreed likewise that any sadlers may buy and sell all kinds of sadler claith and lorimer work pertinent to their craft, providing he do not sell the same in gross, but by way of retailing to persous having necessity to make use thereof, and not to any persons who will sell the same thereafter.

Saddlers.

Fourthly.—It is agreed that smiths of all sorts may buy quantity of iron and steell, to be wrought by them in their shops allenarly, without power to them to sell any quantity of iron and steel unwrought to any person whatsoever.

Smiths'
Priviledges.

Fifthly.—It is agreed that mettalers of all sorts, such as pewtarirs, braisiers, tinkers, or other workers of mettall, may buy quantitys of all sorts of mettalls belonging to their respective crafts, to be wrought by them in their severall shops and

work houses allenarly, without power to them to sell any quantity of unwrought mettall to any person quhatsoever.

Taylors'
Priviledges.

Sixthly.—It is agreed that taylors, within the said burgh, shall neither buy nor sell any merchandize except so much plaiding, hare lining, linen, tweedling, stenting, bleached or unbleached thread, and all sorts of Scots linings and buckrom, with so much silk not exceeding the weight of two pounds, with silk ribbons not exceeding the value of thirty pounds Scots, with silk buttons not exceeding the value of fifteen pounds Scots, and with one stone weight of balling; and that they sell no quantity of the saids commodoties, nor lend out the same to any of their craft in small nor in great, or make any exchange thereof, but allenarly make use of the same in made work to those persons who does employ them, or being of the taylors craft.

Seventhly.—It is agreed that shoemakers, within the said burgh, may tann and sell sufficient barked leather, or make boots and shoes of the same to be sold by them without prejudice to the merchants of the said burgh, to buy and sell sufficient tanned and barket leather to any person they please, with power and priviledge to the shoemakers of the said burgh to buy and sell tanned or barked leather, boots and shoes in any place of the nation, as freely as the merchants within the said burgh; and in case any person, free or unfree, not being resident within the said burgh, bring any quantity of barked leather to be sold within the said burgh, that the first offer to buy the same shall be made to the Dean of Gild and Deacon of the shoemakers, with power to the said Deacon to buy the same in whole or in part for the use and behooff of the whole shoemakers within the said burgh, at least so much of them as shall please to buy, to be divided amongst them at the same price and no higher, as the said Deacon buys the same at first. Also condescended that in case any person whatsoever offer to sell tanned or barked leather within the said burgh, after he has made the said offer, shall be obliged for the sufficiency of the said barked leather, and the stranger to set caution acted in the Town Court Books for that effect, and for making up of all prejudice to the parties damnified by the insufficiency of the leather; and, further, to be censured by the Magistrates and Council of the said burgh.

Weavers.

Eighthly.—It is agreed that weavers may buy and sell wool and yarn and other commoditys for their own use, to make cloath thereof, and sell the same in great, but not to retail the same but upon public market days.

Butchers.

Ninthly.—It is agreed that no butcher, within the said burgh, shall buy any number of cows or oxen brought to the burgh, to be sold betwixt publick market days, untill first the offer of such cows or oxen be made to the Dean of Gild of the said burgh, and Deacon of the butchers, and published by his order to the inhabitants of the said burgh, that they may buy of the said cows or oxen for their particular use, and till that time the said butchers do not presume to bargain for the same; and, also, that no butcher buy or sell any hides or skins but such as they kill themselves, but prejudice to them to go to Ross or Sutherland, or anywhere else, to buy cows, oxen, or sheep, as they are able.

Tenthly.—It is agreed that no craftsman, within the said burgh, not being an merchant, shall buy to sell any commodoties except so much as shall serve and be applied to their owu particular uses as saidis; and these presents are ordained to be registrated in the Coucill Books of the said burgh, and in testimony of this agreement the severall persous have subscribed the same day, year, month, and place, foresaid. Subscribed thus—

J. DOUGLAS.
T. CALDER.
W. HAY.
A. DUNBAR.
A. LESLIE.

DAVID BRODIE.
JN. OGILVIE.
WALTER GILZEAN.
JOHN CHALMER.

At command of the above-written Andrew Kay and Thomas Cock, Deacous, I, Alexander Dunbar, notar publick, have subscribed thir presents, because they cannot write.

ALEXR. DUNBAR, N.P.

XV. ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNCIL
AND THE TRADES.

Att Elgin, the sixteenth day of September, one thousand seven hundred years. Conveened in Councill—William King of Newmiln, Provost ; James Stewart, Robert Anderson, and William Douglas, Baillies ; James Innes, Dean of Gild ; Andrew Ogilvie, Treasurer ; John Sutherland, James Warden, Thomas Calder, George Gordon, and Thomas Donaldson.

The said day, the Councill, having considered the petition and address made to them by the Deacon Conveener, in name of the crafts, they grant warrand to the Provost, Baillies, Dean of Gild, and such other of the Councill as please to meet with them, to meet and commune with the crafts anent the proposals made by them, and to report the same with their opinion thereof to the Councill betwixt this and Saturday next.

Att Elgin, the eighteenth day of September, one thousand seven hundred years. Conveened in Councill—William King of Newmiln, Provost there ; James Stewart, Robert Anderson, and William Douglas, Baillies ; Andrew Ogilvie, Thomas Donaldson, John Sutherland, James Warden, Alexander Fordyce, Thomas Calder, and George Gordon.

The said day, the Magistrates, and those delegate by the Councill for meeting, communing with the crafts of instructions for settling their Deaconries and hail debates arising therefrom, reported that they had, upon the sixteenth instant, met and communed with the crafts, and drawing articles of agreement with them, and which articles the crafts had subscribed, and now they presented them to be received and approved of be the Councill, or not approved, as they should think just and proper for the town's interest ; which Articles of Agreement, being at length read, heard, seen, and considered by the saids Magistrates and Councill, they unanimously ratify, approve, and confirm the same in the hail heads, clauses, articles, and conditions thereof, and appointed and ordained the same to be recorded, and extracts thereof to be given to all parties concerned, of which Articles of Agreement the tenor follows :—

Articles of Agreement condescended upon betwixt those commissioned by the Town Councill of the burgh of Elgin, for settling all debates and controversies betwixt them and the crafts of the said burgh, and by the crafts and those commissioned by the respective incorporations of the said crafts after-mentioned, for settling all debates and controversies with the Town Councill and Gildrie of the said burgh, anent the settlement and establishment of their Deaconries :—

Primo.—It is agreed upon that the old Deaconries settled betwixt the Town Councill of the said burgh, and the crafts thereof, in the year of God, one thousand six hundred and fifty-seven years, and all other contracts, concessions, agreements, and priviledges made, past, and granted of before, and since syne, be restored to them, and they reponed against all former renunciations thereof—the weaver craft being allways excluded dureing the Town Councill's pleasure, because they have made no present application.

Secundo.—It is agreed that, notwithstanding by the settlement of the said old Deaconry, ilk craft was obliged yearly to give in a leet of three, out of which the Magistrates and Councill were to choose one to their Deacon—viz., that the Magistrates and Town Councill dispence, likeas they do hereby dispence therewith, and allows ilk craft herein comprehended to choise their own Deacon yearly, providing ilk craft have the two full third parts of their masters of craft consenting to his election, and, if otherwise, the Magistrates and Councill may make choise either of him or any other of the two leeted with him to be that year's Deacon.

Tertio.—That it shall not be in the powers of any of the crafts to continue their Deacon in that office for two years successive without the Magistrates attest and acquiesce therein.

Quarto.—That, in time coming, the Magistrates and Town Council may choose any of their number to oversee the crafts yearly elections of their Deacons, and to sitt with them thereat, for preventing disturbance—the crafts being hereby obliged to give up their notice of the times and places of their respective elections the Council day immediately preceeding, and, if any election be made by them, or either of them, in other terms, the Magistrates and Council may nominate a Deacon to any craft so behaving for that year, and the intimation being so made to the Town Council, and none appearing to oversee their election as said is, they may proceed to elect their Deacons as is allowed.

Quinto.—That the old custom of leeting three for the Deacon Conveener be given in yearly to the Town Council, out of which three they are to choose one to be Deacon Conveener, who may still sitt and vote with them, as one of the members of the Town Council.

Sexto.—That out of the number of the remanent Deacons who are to be so regularly chosen yearly, the Magistrates and Council are to choose other two, who are likewise to sitt and vote with the Conveener in the Town Council, the Conveener being allways allowed to be one who may oversee the clearing of the Town's accompts, not excluding the other two Deacons.

Septimo.—That the Magistrates and Council have full freedom, liberty, and allowance once in the two years to receive any stranger to the freedom of this burgh, upon payment making of such money to town and crafts as they shall modify, he being of a trade not as yet practised within this place, or one who can work either in mettals or others to a perfection not as yet attained to in this place.

Octavo.—In respect there are several factious and seditious tradesmen amongst the respective crafts who have made it their study to sett the Town Council, Gildrie, and crafts of this burgh at variance, it is agreed upon by the Town Council and crafts, that the Incorporations of the crafts shall exclude from their publick offices and meetings all such as the Magistrates and Town Council shall name and make appear to them to have been such, the number condescended on and named not being above ten persons amongst the hail crafts.

And lastly.—The Trades herein comprehended are declared to be the Hammermen Craft, Glovers, Shoemakers, Wrights, and Taylors, the Weavers not being included, for the reasons above mentioned.

In testimony that these articles are unanimously agreed to, the whole delegates from the Town Council and Crafts have subscribed the same at Elgin, the sixteenth day of September, one thousand seven hundred years. Sic subscribitur :—

W. KING, Provost.
 JAMES STEWART, B.
 ROBERT ANDERSON, B.
 WILLIAM DOUGLAS, B.
 ANDREW OGILVIE, Treasurer.
 THOMAS DONALDSON, one of the Council.
 JOHN SUTHERLAND, one of the Council.
 THOMAS CALDER, of the Council.
 ALEXANDER FORDYCE, one of the Council.
 GEORGE CHALMERS, Clerk.
 JAMES WARDEN, Conveener.
 JOHN BURGESS, for the Hammermen.

JOHN WALKER, for the Hammermen.
 WM. CHALMER, Deacon for the Glovers.
 PETER GAIRN, for the Glovers.
 JAMES FORSYTH, for the Wrights.
 ALEX. LEE, for the Wrights.
 JOHN GORDON, for the Shoemakers.
 JOHN GILZEAN, for the Shoemakers.
 JAMES BANNERMAN, for the Shoemakers.
 JOHN SINCLAIR, for the Taylors.
 JAMES MELEN, for the Taylors.
 ALEX. INNES, for the Taylors.
 WILLIAM SANDERS, Clerk to the Crafts.

XVI. ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT RATIFIED.

Att Elgin, the eighth day of October, one thousand seven hundred years.
 Convened in Council—Ane noble Lord James Lord Duffus, Provost ;

Kenneth Mackenzie, Robert Anderson, William Douglas, and Thomas Donaldson, Baillies; Andrew Ogilvie, Treasurer; William King, John Sutherland, James Stewart, William Gordon, James Warden, George Gordon, Alexander Fordyce; William Chalmer, Conveener; James Bannerman and John Burges, Deacons.

The said day, the Council unanimously ratifies and approves of the late Articles of Agreement made betwixt the Magistrates, Town Council, and Crafts of this burgh, upon the sixteenth day of September last bypast, and ordains ane extract thereof, under the hand of the Town-Clerk and Common Seal of the said burgh, to be given them. Extracted furth of the Town Council's Books of the burgh of Elgin, and sealed and signed.

GEO. CHALMER, C.B.E.

XVII. PETITION BY THE TRADES TO THE COUNCIL.

At Elgin, the seventeenth day of September, one thousand seven hundred and five years. Convened in Council—Robert Anderson and Thomas Calder, Baillies; William Gordon, Treasurer; Kenneth Mackenzie, James Innes, Andrew Ogilvie, William Douglas, George and John Gordons, Alexander Cato, William Innes, and John Walker.

The said day, there was a petition given in to the Council, whereof the tenor follows:—“Unto the Right Honorable the Magistrates and persons of Council of the burgh of Elgin, the petition of the respective incorporations of the crafts of the said burgh, humbly sheweth, that whereby the late agreement betwixt your honours and your petitioners anent the establishment of their Deaconries, there is a faculty reserved to the Town Council to lay aside ten of the crafts yearly frae having the power of election, and the Deacons yearly should be chosen and elected by two-third parts of the burgesses and freemen of the craft, with the oversight of one of the Magistrates; and, seeing these conditions are burdensome not only to your honours and successors, and also to your petitioners, and now all differences are removed by the Committee of Burrows, and these only above represented yet remain to be done away and removed, may it therefore please your Honours, on consideration of the premises, to rescind and annull the foresaid faculty of laying aside the said number of our incorporations frae having power of voting in the election, and to be elected, and that it may be declared that the plurality of burgesses may choise yearly hereafter the Deacons, Boxmasters, and other office-bearers of the incorporations, without the oversight of ane Magistrate, unless called thereto, and ane Act of the Town Council made thereupon; and your Honours' answer, and we shall ever pray. (Sic subscribitur) WILL. SANDERS, Clerk to the Crafts; at their demand, ALEXR. CATO, Conveener; JOHN WALKER, Deacon to the Hammermen; WILLIAM JAMES, Deacon to the Shoemakers.”

Whereto the Council gave this deliverance, viz., they unanimously grant the desire of the foresaid petition as to these two heads, viz., they rescind the eighth article of the late Agreement betwixt the Town Council and Trades, whereby the Trades are obliged to debar from their meetings and offices the number of ten persons for the causes therein exprest, and they hereby repone any persons secluded by virtue of that article, as fully as if the same had never been made; and, secundo, they rescind, cass, and annull that part of the second article of the said Agreement, wherein two-thirds of the votes are ordained to go towards the choosing of the Deacons—otherways that the Council might name the Deacon; and they hereby allow and declare that the majority of each craft shall have power to choise their own Deacon, providing always they be burgesses of the burgh, as well as freemen to the Trade; and if it be objected against any of them that they are not burgesses, they shall be obliged to produce their burges bill for removing the objection, otherways they have no vote. And as to the third head of the petition, the Council declares

they will not pass from their own privilege in nominating some of their number to oversee the annual election of the Deacons; but that the fourth article of the late Agreement subsists and continues in full force thereanent.

Extracted from the Councill Book of Elgin, by (sic subscriptur)

JAMES ANDERSON, C.T.C.

I have inserted the above agreements between the Magistrates and Trades very fully, as showing the struggle made by the latter for more than half a century for their privileges, in which they finally prevailed. The saddlers and butchers are not included among the Incorporations. The weavers, who were at this time excluded, were afterwards admitted, and the six Incorporated Trades—smiths, glovers, shoemakers, wrights, tailors, and weavers—continued to maintain their rights with great vigour, and to the exclusion of all competition, up to the year 1834, when all ancient privileges were abolished and freedom of trade introduced. The ancient system may have been useful in its day, but is not suitable to the wants and requirements of the present time, and was wisely removed for the public benefit.

XVIII. LATIN POEM ON THE TOWN OF ELGIN.

I have referred in the body of this work more than once to the elegant poem of Arthur Johnston on the town of Elgin, annexed to Slezer's View in the *Theatrum Scotiae*, published in 1693. Since that time I have been so fortunate as to procure a correct translation from Dr. Macdonald of Ayr, which I insert along with the original Latin version for the benefit of the reader:—

DE ELGINA, CARMEN ARCTURI JONSTONI.

Laudibus Elginæ: cedunt Peneia Tempe
 Et Baiæ veteres, Hesperidumque nemus,
 Hinc Maris, inde vides prædivitis æquora campi.
 Frugibus hæc populum, piscibus illa beant,
 Huc sua Phæaces miserunt poma: Damasci
 Pruna nec hic desunt, vel Corasuntis opes,
 Attica mellifici liquistis tecta volucres;
 Et juvat hic pressis cogere mella favis
 Æmulus argento fæcundos Loxa per agros
 Errat et obliquis in mare serpit aquis,
 Arcibus Heroum nitibus urbs cingitur, intus
 Plebei radiant, nobiliumque lares
 Omnia delectant, veteris sed rudera Templi
 Dum spectas lachrymis, Scotia, tinge genas.

TRANSLATION.

To the praises of Elgin. Penean Tempe⁽¹⁾, ancient Baiæ⁽²⁾, and the grove of the Hesperides⁽³⁾, yield the palm. On this side one sees an expanse of ocean, on that an extent of very rich corn land—the latter gladdening men's hearts with the fruits of

the earth, the former with fish. Hither the Phaeacians(4) have sent their apples ; nor are the plums of Damascus(5), or the treasures of Cerasus(6) wanting here. Ye honey-making winged insects have left your Attic homes(7), and delight to gather here your sweets in well-filled combs, rivalling silver in brightness. The Lossie wanders through fertile fields, its winding waters stealing gently to the sea. With glittering stronghold(8) of heroes the city is encircled, while within gleam the dwellings of the humble and the mansions of the great. Everything pleases, but, oh Scotland, moisten your cheeks with tears as you gaze on the ruins of your ancient Fane(9).*

Very few poets have celebrated Elgin, and we are therefore the more indebted to the author of the elegant Latin lines above quoted.

Dr. Arthur Johnston was the fifth son of George Johnston of that Ilk, and was born at Caskieben, his father's seat, near Aberdeen, in 1587. He is said to have studied at Marischal College, Aberdeen, and from thence proceeded to Rome and Padua. At the latter place he acquired some celebrity for his earlier Latin poems, and took the degree of Doctor of Medicine. He afterwards travelled through Germany, Holland, and Denmark, and finally fixed his abode in France, where he remained twenty years. He was there twice married, and had a large family. He returned to Britain in 1632, and, through the influence of Archbishop Laud, who was his friend, he was appointed physician to King Charles I. In the first edition of his *Parerga and Epigrammata*, published in Aberdeen in 1632, he calls himself "Medicus Regius." His best known work, the translation of the Psalms into Latin verse, was published, with advice of his friend Laud, at London and Aberdeen in 1637. He is said to have been jealous of Buchanan's translation, and attempted to excel him. His work is a very able one, but not in the least to be compared with Buchanan in elegance or variety of versification. Various editions, however, have been published, but none of a late date. Besides the above works Johnston wrote *Musæ Aulicæ*, translated Solomon's Song, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer, and edited the *Delitiæ Poetarum Scotorum*, in which he introduced not a few of his own productions. He died at Oxford in 1641, where he had gone on a visit to a daughter, married to a clergyman of the Church of England. His works were published in a very inaccurate manner at Middleburg in 1642, by his friend Scott of Scotstarvet. Although immeasurably below Buchanan, yet perhaps next to him he is one of the best modern Latin poets. He is now almost entirely forgotten, yet his memory deserves to be much respected by his countrymen.

* (1) A beautiful valley in the north of Thessaly, between Mounts Olympus and Ossa, through which the Peneus flows into the sea.

(2) A town in Campania, the favourite watering place of the Romans.

(3) Where grew the golden apples, to obtain possession of which was one of the labours of Hercules.

(4) A fabulous people of luxurious habits, spoken of in the *Odyssey*.

(5) The fruits of Damascus were celebrated in ancient as in modern times.

(6) On the coast of Pontus, from which Europe obtained both the cherry and its name.

(7) The honey of Mount Hymettus, in Attica, was very celebrated in ancient times.

(8) In reference probably to the castle on Ladyhill, but if so, the statement is exaggerated.

(9) The Cathedral.

XIX. DONATION BY WILLIAM EARL OF ROSS IN FAVOUR
OF THE FRATRES MINORES IN ELGIN.

Registrum
Moraviense,
page 281.

Omnibus Christi fidelibus hoc scriptum visures vel auditures Willielmus Comes de Ross, salutem in Domino. Noverit universitas vestra me pro salute anime mee; Uxoris mee; liberorum meorum; et omnium untecessorum et successorum meorum; et in compensationem dampnorum, injuriarum ac lesionum in ecclesias de Petyn et de Brachuli mihi et meis a venerabili patre Archebaldo Episcopo Moraviensi impositam, dedisse concessisse et hac carta mea confirmasse Deo et Sancte Trinitati de Elgyn et Archebaldo Episcopo et omnibus Episcopis Moraviensibus sibi successuris ac capitulo ejusdem loci in puram et perpetuam elemosinam duas dauatas terre in Ross, que vocantur Kattepoll (Cadboll), et unum quarterium terre qui vocatur Petkenny, per rectas divisas suas et cum omnibus pertinentiis suis ad victum et sustentationem Fratrum Minorum qui pro tempore apud Elgyn in domo eorundem prope Ecclesiam Cathedralem habitaverint vel in posterum habitaturi fuerint, ita videlicet quod Episcopus Moraviensis qui pro tempore de consilie capituli sui constituat et deputabit aliquem virum discretum et fidelem distributorem qui singulis annis in terminis suis omnimodam firmam dictarum terrarum plenius recipiet: et eundem in exhibitionem et usus necessarios dictorum fratrum salubriter prout melius viderit expedire distribuet. Quod si dicti fratres minores ibidem non fuerint vel manere noluerint, firma dictarum terrarum per consilium dicti Episcopi et successorum suorum ac Capituli Moraviensis in sustentationem duorum Capellanorum in Ecclesia Cathedrali de Elgyn, pro animabus omnium fidelium defunctorum in perpetuum ministraturorum penitus convetetur manente penes dictum Episcopum et ejus successores institutione et destitutione dictorum Capellanorum. In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti scripto sigillum meum apposui, hiis testibus Domino Roberto, Dei gratia Episcopo Rossensi; Domino Colino Abbate de Nova Ferina, Magistro Ada de Derlingtun, procentore Rossensi; Domino Matheo, succentore Rossensi; Magistro Rogero, succentore Ecclesie Moraviensis; Domino Willielmo de Monte Alto; Domino Johanne de Cambrun; Domino de Dundemør Militibus, et aliis multis.

The above deed has no date, but as Robert Bishop of Ross died about 1273, it must have been granted previous to that time. The lands of Cadboll still pay a feu-duty to the Crown as coming in place of the Bishop of Moray.

XX.—GIFT BY HUGH HEROCK, BURGESS OF ELGIN,

For Chaplains at the Altar of St. Nicholas, in the Church of the Holy Trinity in Elgin, and at the Altar of the Holy Cross, in the Parish Church of Elgin. Dated 1286.

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Moraviense,
page 283.

Omnibus Christi fidelibus hoc scriptum visuris vel audituris Hugo Herock, burgensis de Elgin, salutem in Domino. Noverit universitas vestra me in bona prosperitate constitutum, de consensu et voluntate Margarete, uxoris mee, divine caritatis intuitu, et pro salute anime mee et anime dicte Margarete et pro salute animarum parentum et liberorum nostrorum, necnon et specialiter pro salute anime Alexandri, tertii illustris Regis Scotie, et pro salute venerabilis patris Domini Archebaldi, Dei gratia Moraviensis episcopi, et omnium successorum suorum episcoporum Moraviensium, dedisse concessisse et hac presenti carta mea confirmasse in puram et perpetuam elemosinam de me et heredibus meis Deo et beate Marie et omnibus Sanctis necnon et Ecclesie Sancte Trinitatis de Elgin, et predicto Archebaldo episcopo

Moraviensi sibi successuris et Decano et Capitulo Ecclesie Sancte Trinitatis, totam terram meam de Daldeleyt per rectas divisas suas et cum omnibus pertinentiis suis in bosco et plano, in pratis et pascuis, in moris et maresiis, in aquis piscariis et molendinis omnibus aliis rectitudinibus, juribus et asiamentis ad dictam terram pertinentibus vel de jure in posterum pertinere valentibus, ad sustentationem duorum capellanorum perpetuo pro animabus nostris et pro animabus omnium fidelium defunctorum divina celebratorum. Ita scilicet ut unus teneatur perpetuo divina celebrare ad Altare Sancti Nicholai in Ecclesia Sancte Trinitatis de Elgyn, et alter ad Altare Sancte Crucis in Ecclesia Parochiali de Elgin, ille vero capellanus qui pro tempore celebraturus est divina ad Altare Sancte Nicholai erit in omnibus et singulis obediens Decano et Capitulo sicut et ceteri capellani qui in capellis dicte ecclesie Sancte Trinitatis celebrantes dicto Decano et Capitulo teneantur obedire et acquiescere. Quibus duobus Capellanis volo et concedo ut de firma predicte terre per Episcopum Moraviensem qui pro tempore fuerit et decanum et capitulum ecclesie Cathedralis singulis annis ad duos terminos Pentecostes, videlicet et Sancti Martini in hyeme pro salariis eorundem Capellanorum et sustentatione duodecim marce sterlingorum ministrantur, sex videlicet uni, et sex alteri. Si vero contingat quod firma dicte terre predictam summam duodecim marcarum excedat volo ut quantum excesserit de eadem in usum dictorum altarium quo ad ornamenta eorundem et necessaria plenius cedat et convertatur. Quare volo et concedo quod predicta ecclesia Sancte Trinitatis de Elgyn, prefatus Archebaldus Moravicus Episcopus et omnes successores sui Moraviensis episcopi et Decanus et capitulum Moraviensis ecclesie totam terram preuominatam de Daldeleyt cum omnibus pertinentiis suis libertatibus et aliis asiamentis ad predictam terram spectantibus in puram et perpetuam elemosinam ad sustentationem dictorum capellanorum, ut superius expressum est adeo libere, quiete, plenarie et honorifice habeant, teneant et possideant in perpetuum sicut aliqua elemosina in regno Scotie ab aliquo liberius, quietius et honorificentius tenetur et possidetur. Salvo domino Regi forinseco servitio quantum ad dictam terram pertinet. Et ut hæc mea donatio, concessio et carte mea confirmatio rata stabilis et inconcussa permaneat presenti scripto sigillum meum una cum sigillo dicte Margarete, sponse mee est appesum. Hiis testibus domino Andrea Abbate de Kynlos; Domino Simone, Priore de Pluscardy; Domino Willielmo, Priore de Urcharde; Domino Willielmo de Doleys, milite; Willielmo Wysman; Willielmo de Breuneth, dicto; Tatenel Ada, filio Stephani, burgensi de Elgyn; Magistro Rogero de Inner-narryn; Domino Roberto, vicario de Dufhus; Domino Nicholao Capellano, vicario de Dundurkhus, et multis aliis. Datum apud Elgyn, die Dominica in festo Nativitatis beate Virginis, anno Domini Mo. CC^{mo}. octogesimo sexto.

The above foundation was made in 1286, the year after the death of King Alexander III., a monarch who was so long affectionately remembered by the Scottish nation, and whose then recent death was so fresh in their memories; hence the desire that prayers should specially be made for the peace of his soul.

XXI. EXCERPT FROM GIFT BY WILLIAM DE SOREYS,
BURGESS OF ELGIN,

For service at the Altar of the Blessed Virgin, in the Parish Church of
Elgin, 20th October, 1363.

Omnibus hanc cartam visuris vel auditoris Willelmus de Soreys, Burgensis de Elgyn, salutem in Domino sempiternam. Quia notum est omnibus quod omnis caro vertetur in cinerem et nihil post mortem nisi ille qui est vera salus et qui humanum genus in cruce redemit misericorditer reperitur, hinc est quod omnibus notum facio

Registrum
Moraviense,
pages 310, 311.

per presentes me dedisse concessisse et hac presenti carta confirmasse pro salute anime mee et animarum antecessorum et successorum meorum ac omnium fidelium defunctorum quinque solidos annui redditus quos mihi annuatim solvere tenetur Henricus filius Roberti et heredes sui vel assignati pro quadam perticata burgagij jacente ex parte australi burgi de Elgin. Inter terram Alexandri Bur ex parte orientali, et terram predicti Henrici filij Roberti ex parte occidentali, cum area ejusdem se extendente ad quaudam viam retro gardinas predictae burgi, ad augmentationem cultus divini faciendam in perpetuum ad Altare gloriose Virginis Marie Dei genetricis in ecclesia Sancti Egidij de Elgyn. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum meum presentibus apposui et sigilla Reverendi in Christo Patris Domini Alexandri Dei gratia Moraviensis Episcopi una cum sigillo communi ecclesie supradicte ac communi sigillo burgi de Elgyn apponi presentibus procuravi. Datum apud Elgyn, xx die Octobris, anno gratie millesimo trecentesimo sexagesimo tertio.

XXII. EXCERPT FROM GIFT BY WILLIAM POP,

For service at the Altar of the Blessed Virgin in the Church of St. Giles, Elgin, 12th November, 1363.

Registrum
Moraviense,
pages 312, 313.

Noverint universi quod Ego Willelmus Pop, filius et heres Willelmi Pop, burgensis de Elgyn pia devotione ad hoc inductus pro salute anime mee antecessorum et successorum meorum ac omnium fidelium defunctorum, dedi et concessi, do concedo et hac presenti carta mea confirmo unam perticatam terre cum crofto jacentem ex parte australi ville de Elgyn inter terram Henrici Scyphard ex parte occidentali, et terram Osberti fabri ex parte orientali se extendentem in longum ad marresium petarum et tres rodas terre jacentes in prepositura de Elgyn infra la *Bifaptung*, et dimidiam acram terre jacentam infra le Blaremore, et quinque solidos sterlingorum annui redditus quos mihi annuatim solvere teuetur Willelmus de Haya et heredes sui de quadam perticata terre cum crofto jacente ex parte australi ville de Elgyn inter terram Andree Wythewyde ex parte occidentali et terram Rogerij filij Ade ex parte orientali. Et sex solidos annui redditus quos mihi tenetur solvere Johannes Blayk et heredes sui de una perticata terre cum crofto jacente ex parte boreali ville de Elgyn. Inter terram dicti Johannes Blayk ex parte orientali et communem vicum quo pergitur ad fratres predicatores. Deo et gloriose Virgini Marie, matri sue ad sustentationem et sustentationis partem Capellani in perpetuum celebraturi ad Altare ejusdem Virginis gloriose in ecclesia Sancti Egidij confessoris de Elgyn. Recognoscens ipsam refugium singulare fidelium et cunctorum perpetuam adjutricem, in matre filium et in filio matrem reverenter cupiens honorare. . . . Datum et actum in ecclesia beati Egidij de Elgyu coram Altari ejusdem Virginis gloriose, xii^o die Novembris, anno Domini M^o. CCC^o. sexagesimo tertio, presentibus venerabilibus et discretis viris dominis et magistris Johanne de Dufhus succentore, Malcolmo de Measwyu et Willelmo de Spyny, canonicis ecclesie Moraviensis; Malcolmo de Alues decano Cathaunensi Ricardo nato Johannis; Willelmo Ydyl et Thoma Vitruarij burgensibus de Elgyn testibus ad premissa specialiter requisitis.

XXIII. EXCERPT FROM DEED OF FOUNDATION FOR A
CHAPLAIN

At the Altar of Saint Mary, in the Church of St. Giles of Elgin, dated in the Feast of Saint Gregory the Pope, 1365, granted by Richard, the son of John Burgess of Elgin.

Registrum
Moraviense,
pp. 313, 314, 315.

Omnibus hoc scriptum visuris vel auditoris Ricardus, filius Johannis, burgeusis de Elgyn, salutem in domino sempiternam. Noverit uiversitas vestra me pia ductum

devotione, cum consensu, assensu et mera voluntate Reverendi in Christo Patris ac domini domini Alexandri Dei gratia Moraviensis episcopi et capituli, fundasse unum capellanum ad Altare beate Marie Virginis in ecclesia Sancti Egidij de Elgyn, perpetuo celebraturum pro anima mea, Elizote, sponse mee, pro animabus Johannis et Emme patris et matris mee, et animabus omnium fidelium defuكتورorum. Qui quidem capellanus qui pro tempore fuerit decenter et honeste deserviet et recipiet annuatim ad terminos Penthecostes et Sancti Martini proportionaliter centum solidos sterlingorum de firmis sex botharum sitarum et jam de novo edificatarum in foro inter botham quondam Magistri Henrici de Sorebroun ex parte occidentali et stratam commuam ex parte orientali, de septem bothis quas concedente domino infra breve faciam edificari, videlicet tres bothas super terram que jacet inter forum commune ex parte occidentali, et botham supradictam predicti Magistri Henrici ex parte orientali, et quatuor bothas super terram que jacet juxta crucem ligneam inter terram Alexandri Femayster, ex parte occidentali et commune forum ex parte orientali, ac etiam de omnibus et singulis redditibus quos annuatim jam percipio vel in futurum percipere potero qualitercuque et de quibuscumque burgagiis infra Burgum de Elgyn, nec non de firmis viginti croftorum jacentium inter croftos de Elgyn ex parte australi ejusdem usque ad marisiam petarum se extendentium. . . . Preterea do concedo et per presentes confirmo dicto capellano qui pro tempore fuerit et omnibus capellanis sibi successuris unum burgagium edificatum cum area, jacens inter terram Thome Stul ex parte occidentali et terram quondam, Symonis Burr ex parte orientali, pro habitaculo suo tenendum et unum croftum ipsi habitaculo assignatum annexum et unitum jacentem inter croftos de Elgyn ex parte australi, inter terram Johanuis Blac ex parte orientali et terram, Anne Brun ex parte occidentali, ad usum suum proprium et dispositionem converteudum iu perpetuum a me et heredibus meis, nichil inde solvendo preter quinque denarios domino Regi. Hoc in super adjecto quod capellanus supradictus et successores sui tenebuntur singulis annis in perpetuum post decessum meum anniversarium meum et Elizote Myser, uxoris mee supradicte die obitus mei sumptibus suis in ecclesia Sancti Egidij supradicta cum nota solemniter prout moris est recolere et celebrare. Iu cuius rei testimonium sigillum meum presenti fundationi et carte mee est appensum et sigilla prefati domini Episcopi et reverendorum virorum capituli ejusdem una cum sigillo communi Burgi de Elgyn, in testimonium premissorum presentibus apponi cum instantia procuravi. Datum apud Elgyn die Jovis in festo Sancti Gregorii Pape, anno gratie millesimo tricentesimo sexagesimo quinto.

XXIV. EXCERPTS FROM LORD HIGH TREASURER'S ACCOUNTS.

The Lord High Treasurer's accounts of Scotland give an interesting account of various matters relating to Elgin and its vicinity.

At a Circuit Court of Justiciary, held at Elgin on the last day of October, 1494, the following fines, among others, were imposed for crimes, the nature of which is not stated :—

In primis, a remission to Johne Gillimichell and otheris, his complices, £56 ; to Andrew Fresell and divers otheris, his complices, £6 13s. 4d. ; to Duucane Cumin and his complices, £16 ; to Androw Geddas and his complices, £13 6s. 8d. ; to Johne Fresell, 10 shillings ; to Andro Geddes, zounger, £10 13s. 4d.

Page 213.

In 1497, the accounts bear as follows :—

Item ressavit of compositionis of remissionis of certane personis in the Justice Airis of Elgin, halden in Februar, the zear 1497, £128 10s.

Page 318.

In 1498, the following entry is stated :—

Page 389. Item to the Shiref of Abirdene to send the extretis of the Airis of Elgin and Banf to Schireffis of thaim, 10s.

In 1494 are the following :—

Page 240. Item to Master Alexander Schawis expensis to pass to Abirdene, Elgin, and Bamff, for the inbringing of certane soumez awand to the king, £4.

Page 241. A.D. 1494.—Item gevin to Johne Keyre to pass to the Schireffes of Abirdene, Elgin, Banff, and Innerness, for the inbringing of the kingis dettis, 26s. 8d.

Page 267. A.D. 1495.—Item to Jhonne of Kere, curror, to pas with lettres to Banf, Elgin, and Aberdein, for inbringing of the kingis dettis, 30s.

Page 268. Same year.—Item to Ormond, pursevant, to pas with lettres to Banf, Aherdene, Elgin, and Innerness, for the inbringing of the kingis dettis, 53s

Page 238. A.D. 1494. -Item gevin to Richert Wallas, currou, to pass with lettres to summond the barones and frehaukdiris of the Schirefdomes of Elgin, Forrais, Bamff, and Abirdene, to the seruing of the breif of ydeotrye upone the Erle of Suddirland in Inuernes, 20s.

Page 269. A.D. 1496.—Item to Johnne Keir, curror, that past with lettres to Abirdene, Banf, Elgin, Inuernes, and Caitnes for the meiting of the king at Lawder, 40s.

Page 315. Item the 13th day of Januar (1497).—I resavit fra Maister Adam Gordoun, Chantour of Murray, of his taxt to quhilk he was for the passuge in the Ilis, £33 6s. 8d.

Item the 7th day of Februar.—I resavit fra Alexander Cummyng of Altir, for his landis that were prisit to the king, £120.

Item the penult day of Februar, I resavit fra my Lord Gordoun for his compositioun of the assediatioun and tak of Dernvay, and the forest of the samyne, and the Schireffschip of Elgin and Forres, £666 13s. 4d.

Item the 6th day of March, I resavit fra the Erl Marschael, in payment of Johne Cummyng of Ernside, his unlaw of £100, in quhilk he was in the Ald Justice Air, and for the Erl Marschael his thankfull and reddey payment, £66 13s. 4d.

Page 316. Anno 1498.—The 6th day of Junii, I resavit fra Schir James of Dumbar of Cumnok, Knight, for the compositioun of the office of Schireffschip of Elgin and Forres, and the Castell Hill of Forres, gifin to him in heretage, £500.

Page 312. Anno 1496.—Resavit for the Tax on Spears, from James Douglas of Pittendreich, for Elgin and Forres, £13.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VOLUME OF ABBREVIATIO RETORNATARUM,

Relative to persons connected with the parish and burgh of Elgin.

I have made a few extracts from this valuable work, published under charge of the Lord Clerk-Register, in the expectation that they may be found useful for reference.

July 20, 1573—

Georgius Comes de Huntlie, hæres Georgii Comitis de Huntlie, patris, in tenemento messuagii, &c., infra Burgum de Elgyn.

November 19, 1599—

Thomas Urquhart de Burris zairdis, hæres Willielmi Urquhart de Burris zairdis, patris, in terris de Burris zairdis, Half Hillbank, Little Cruik, Mekill Cruik, et Wysmannis Aikers.

May 22, 1604—

Magister Petrus Zoung, hæres Alexandri Young de Eastfield, fratris, in crofta terræ vocatæ Doucat Croft, inter terras Hospitalis Mansionis divinæ vocatæ Maisondieu fundatæ prope Burgum de Elgin. Altera crofta terræ de Grene, vocato ad ollam ordinis vulgo the Orderpot, nunc destructa, terrarum tenementis et mansione Egidii, et terrarum tenementis inter publicam viam regiam quæ tendot ad molendinum vocatum Bishopmiln, croftis terrarum vocatis St. Catherine's Croftis, quæ perprius ad Capellanos Ecclesiæ Cathedralis de Elgyne, pertinuerunt infra territorium Burgi de Elgin; pecia terræ et tenemento ex australi latere Collegii Cathedralis Ecclesiæ de Murray; tenemento terræ ædificato infra immunitatem et bondas Collegii de Murray; una pecia sive ruda terræ vaste mansionis Capellani Sancti Egidii, terris mansionis rectorii de Douchall cum horto infra Collegiam prædictæ Cathedralis ecclesiæ de Murray; tenemento et pecia vocato Rynie Manse; tenemento et pecia terræ vocato St. Ann's Manse tam ædificato quam vasto, cum hortis infra libertatem Burgi de Elgin; tenementis et terris vocatis Moy Manse infra mansionis Collegii de Elgyn; crofta terræ vocata Abdie Croft (Advie); croftis terræ vocatis St. Peter's Crofts infra territorium Burgi de Elgyn.

The person above referred to is Sir Peter Young of Easter Seton, who was joint tutor with George Buchanan to King James VI. He enjoyed the Royal favour much more than Buchanan, and obtained both lands and honours from the king. He had a very prosperous life, and died at his house of Easter Seton, near Arbroath, 7th January, 1628, aged eighty-four. A monument was erected to his memory in the Church of St. Vigean's, which still remains.

The mysterious pool called the Orderpot, at the east end of the burgh, is mentioned in the above retour. It is stated to have been then destroyed in 1604. It seems to me that it had been used at an early period by the Magistrates of Elgin as a place where the last penalty of the law had been inflicted upon criminals by drowning. It must have originally been of great depth, although now reduced to a shred by quantities of rubbish poured into it. It has still a dangerous appearance.

July 28, 1609—

Alexander Sinclair, hæres Alexandri Sinclair, incolæ Collegii ecclesiæ Cathedralis Moraviensis, patris, in Manso, vulgo nuncapato Sanct Jeillis Manse, infra Collegium de Elgin.

October 6, 1615—

Andreas Cowie, hæres Andreae Cowie, mercatoris Burgensis de Dundee, in iv. quinque partibus villæ et terrarum de Nether Linkwoode infra Baroniam de Barmuckatie.

August 10, 1619—

Willielmus Rig, Mercator Burgensis de Edinburgh, hæres Willielmi Rig, mercatoris Burgensis de Edinburgh, patris, in tenemento terræ infra Burgum de Elgin.

The above William Rig was a member of the Town Council of Edinburgh, and a person of great wealth and importance in his time. He was a man of a strong religious frame of mind, and much opposed to the changes introduced by King James VI. and Charles I. in the forms of

worship, upon which he expressed himself very freely. For his religious principles he was for some time imprisoned in the Castle of Blackness, in the year 1624. He is described by his contemporary, John Livingstone, as "much exercised in spirit, and of great experience in the ways of God, and that he spent his income chiefly on pious uses."

January 14, 1620—

Georgius Mackenzie, hæres Masculus Kennethi, Domini Mackenzie de Kintail, patris, in terris Baronia, &c., subtus specificatis, viz., Manerie de Pluscarden, terris dominicalibus de Pluscarden, Villa occidentali de Westertown, Quheitruff, Barnhill, Overtown, Inchellon, Drinkinghill, Incharnock, Crosleyis, Croy, Auchtertyre, Forresterseat, Netherbyre, Hillis, Eister and Wester Rudvie, Bellilone, Apilward, Molendino de Pluscarden, cum decimis garbalibus, in valle lie Glen de Pluscarden, cum molendinis de Elgin, et libera regalitate capella et cancellaria, et advocacione et jure patronatus ecclesiæ de Dingwall.

May 26, 1620—

Magister Alexander Bonnyman, minister verbi Dei apud ecclesiam de Bensted, in patria Angliæ hæres Joannis Bonnyman, mercatoris burgensis de Elgyne, patris, in tribuscroftis terrarum jacentibus ex australi parte burgi de Elgyne, una acra terræ vocata Our Lady Aker, infra terras vocatas the Graifshepe dicti burgi.

May 17, 1625—

Jacobus Douglas, hæres Jacobi Douglas de Bogysd, patris, in villa et terris lie Maynes de Petendreich, pendiculis lie seattis vocatis Broomhills, et duobus Kilcruikis cum molendino de Petendreich, infra parochiam de Elgyne, villa et terris Bogysd cum molendino infra parochiam de Elgyne.

January 9, 1629—

Robertus Innes, hæres Joannis Innes, Senioris, burgensis de Elgyne, patris, in ruda terræ et manso Divi Diuchati capellani fundata infra ecclesiam parochialem de Elgyn.

December 9, 1636—

Georgius Comes de Seaforth, hæres Alexandri Mackenzie, fratris germani, in terris de Loganes Hauch, in parochia de Elgyne.

September 8, 1640—

Margareta Douglas, sponsa Joannis Ross de Leyis, hæres Jacobi Douglas de Pittendreiche, fratris, in villa et terris lie Maynes de Pittendreiche cum pendiculis, et specialiter, twa seattis callit the Broomhillis, and two Heill Cruikis cum molendinis de Pittendreiche, infra parochiam de Elgin.

Margaret Douglas and her husband sold their interest in the estate of Pittendreich to Alexander Earl of Moray on 13th September, 1680, and the respectable family of Douglas of Pittendreich was then extinguished as landed proprietors. No trace of their descendants can now be found.

January 29, 1641—

Magister Gulielmus Leslie de Aikenway, hæres Johannis Leslie, patris, in villa et terris Wester Quhyturay (Whitewreath), cum molendinis de Langmorgane infra Comitatum Moraviæ.

April 18, 1644—

Magister Thomas Rig de Athernie, hæres Gulielmi Rig de Atherni, patris, in tenemento infra burgum de Elgin.

Thomas Rig was the son and heir of William Rig, merchant in Edinburgh, above referred to. Besides the fine estate of Athernie in Fife, he succeeded to extensive properties in Stirling, Ross, Cromarty, and Edinburgh. By the valuation roll of the shire of Ross, of the year 1644, he is entered as proprietor of a yearly rental of—

In the Parish of Nigg	£1666 13 4
In the Parish of Logie-Easter	266 13 4
In the Parish of Kilmuir-Easter	933 6 8
Total rental in Ross-shire	£2866 13 4

It is probable that Thomas Rig had adopted the strong religious feelings of his father. I have not discovered the future fate of this wealthy family, but it is not improbable that their extreme views may have brought about their downfall in these troublesome and uncertain times, when liberty of opinion was not permitted to be exercised.

January 24, 1655—

Sir George Mackenzie of Tarbat, Knight, Baronet, heir-male of Sir George Mackenzie of Tarbat, Knight, Baronet, his father, in, inter alia, the lands and barony of Pluscarden, Auchtertyre, Crossleys, Forster Seat, Incharnock, Inshellon, Torhead, Barnhill, Overton, Easterton, Redavie, Deholl, Nether Byres, Easter and Westerhills, Whytree, Druickhill, all lyand in the Glen of Pluscarden. A great tenement in Elgin, the Leperlands within the territory of Elgin, the auld mylnes of Elgin, the lands of Levanshauch, right of patronages of kirks, &c.

December 7, 1655—

Alexander Sutherland of Torbo, heir of John Sutherland of Easter and Wester Kellas, his brother-german, in the lands of Easter and Wester Kellas and Corponich, called the Frie, within the Regality of Spynie, and parochins of Elgin and Dollas.

September 4, 1661—

Hieronimus Spens, hæres Hieronymi Spens de Mylnetown de Inverlochtie, patris, in terris de Little Innerlochtie, alias vocetis the Mylnetown of Innerlochtie, cum molendinis, granario infra Regalitem de Spynie.

February 14, 1662—

Robertus Gibson de Linkwood, hæres Roberti Gibson, patris, in villis et terris de Linkwoodes, Over et Nether, comprehendentibus omnes 5 quintas partes earundem cum molendino, terris de Boggs, Glassgreen, Hill of Wood, vulgo vocato Hillawood, in Baronia de Barmuckatie.

November 22, 1665—

Magister Jacobus Dunbar, Praco evangelii Domini nostri Jesu Christi apud Watton, hæres Georgii Dunbar, filii Alexandri Dunbar de Boath, patru, in manso Capellanæ divæ Catherinæ infra ecclesiam Moraviensem Cathedralẽ fundatæ.

January 16, 1668—

Adamus Gardine, filius legitimus Adami Gardine, Chirurgi Burgensis de Edin-burgh, in, inter alia, equali dimidiate villæ et terrarum de Bishopmylne.

October 11, 1672—

Joannes Muirson, hæres Patricii Muirson, Burgensis de Elgin, patris, in 4 rigis seu croftis terræ quæ ab antiquo pertinuerunt ad capellaniam divæ Catherinæ fundatum infra Cathedralē ecclesiam Moraviæ, infra territorium Burgi de Elgin.

February 27, 1675—

Thomas Urquhart de Burrisyards, hæres Joannis Urquhart de Burrisyards, patris, in terris de Burrisyards, Halfhillbank, Littlecruik, Meiklecruik, et Wysman's Aikers, villa et terris de Sanqhar, quatuor sex decem partibus piscationum aquæ dulcis de Findorne cum pendiculo vocato the Half-long Pool.

Although the Urquharts of Burdsyards had at this time no property in the parish or burgh of Elgin, I have inserted the above abstract retour, as illustrative of the history of a family subsequently connected with the town of Elgin.

December 12, 1679—

Jacobus Chalmer de Pittensear, hæres Walteri Chalmer de Pittensear, patris, in villa et terris de Clackmarris, cum decimis garbalibus, common pasturage, &c., in parochia de Elgie.

The above James Chalmers was probably the grandfather of the well-known antiquary, George Chalmers, author of Caledonia.

November 4, 1684—

Robertus Gibson de Linkwood, hæres Roberti Gibson de Linkwood, patris, in villa et terris de Linkwoods, Over et Nether, comprehendentibus 5 quintas partes earundem, villas et terras de Boigis, Glassgreen, Hill of Wood, vulgo nuncupat Hillawood in Baronia de Barmuckatie, et vicecomitatu de Murray, vocato de Elgin et Forres.

This was the last laird of Linkwood of the family of Gibson. His unfortunate career I have already stated.

July 27, 1686—

Alexander Dunbar de Westfield, hæres masculus Roberti Dunbar de Westfield, patris, in, inter alia, terris de Westfield et Iushagertie et custumis Burgi de Elgin, vocat Sanct Geills Day.

May 6, 1687—

Colinus Mackenzie de Pluscarden, hæres masculus Thomæ Mackenzie de Pluscarden, patris, in molendino de Elgin, vocatis Molendinis de Maistowie et Kingsmills, Manerie de Pluscarden, terris Dominicalibus de Pluscarden, terris et Baronia de Pluscarden, compreheuden Westerton, Whitruff, Barnhill, Overton, Inshellon, Drinkinghill, Incharnock, Crossleys, Croy, Auchtertyre, Hills, Easter and Wester Redavie, Ballaloan, Aplyward, cum Moleudino de Pluscarden decimis dictarum, terrarum et Baroniæ de Pluscarden, in villa lie Glen de Pluscarden, cum privilegio regalitatis iufra omnes bondas earundem, omnibus unitis iu Baroniā et Regalitatē de Pluscardē, terris de Logans Haugh, infra parochiam de Elgin.

Jacobus Chalmers, Clericus Burgi de Elgin, hæres musculus provisiona, Joannis Chalmers de Milntoun de Linkwood, patris, in molendino de Nether Linkwood, cum multuris terrarum de Nether Linkwood, Over Linkwood, Bogs, Glassgreen, et Hillawood, cum communitate in mora de Barmuckatie, infra Baroniam de Barmuckatie.

September 11, 1691—

Willielmus Baillie, Mercator Burgensis de Dundee, hæres masculus Willielmi Baillie, aliquando de Rosehaugh, patris, in tenemento terræ cum horto communiter vocato Mansionem de Unthank et Duffus, in Collegii de Elgin, pecia terræ lie piece waste ground, quæ est pars dictæ Mansionis in dicto Collegio de Elgin.

December 1, 1691—

Joannes Martine, hæres Magistri Roberti Martine, nuper Clerici Curie Justiciariæ, patris, in, inter alia, castro lie Ladyhill de Elgine nuncupato.

The family of Martin of Moraystown held the ground of Ladyhill in wadset from the Earl of Moray. The exact period of redemption I have not found out.

November 10, 1696—

Jacobus Comes de Linlithgow et Callander, hæres Georgii Comitis de Linlithgow, fratris, in, inter alii, Mansione Precinctus de Murray, infra Templum Cathedrale de Murray, et Regalitem de Spynie, Mansione horto et Columbario Vicarii de Elgine, infra Cathedrale Collegium de Elgin.

July 12, 1700—

Lillias et Elizabetha Steinsons, hæredes portionariæ et provisionis Gulielmi Steinson, in Collegio de Elgin, patris, in Manso Subdiaconatus Moraviensis, infra Collegium ecclesiæ Cathedralis Moraviæ cum Crofta Subdiaconatus Moraviensis, infra croftas Canonicorum dictæ Ecclesiæ.

XXVI. THE ELGIN GUILDRY FUND SOCIETY.

I have referred to this Society in the text more than once, but as it has now assumed considerable proportions in the burgh, and has been the means of executing some important improvements in the way of streets and public thoroughfares, as well as laying off feuing ground, and also has been of much benefit to decayed members and their families, and to the widows of members, it may be necessary to take a more lengthened view of its history from the period of its origin to the present time. The first minute and rules of the Society are as follows :—

Elgin, February 2d, 1714.

A Court holden by James Charles, Dean of Guild ; William Ross, Baillie ; John Gordon, Treasurer ; James Innes, senior, merchant ; and John Duff, merchant, his Assessors.

The said Dean of Guild representing that there had been several times a design made for settling a fund for maintenance of decayed Guild brethren, their wives and

children, sett on foot, but never as yet effected, did, to that effect, present a scheme whereby the subscribers should willingly bind themselves to pay six shillings Scots money quarterly for the said end, which scheme contained several rules to be observed in managing of the same, which, being publicly read in Court, was unanimously approven of by the Dean of Guild, his assessors, and hail Guild Brethren theu present, and hereto subscribing, the tenor of which scheme follows, viz.—

We, the Dean of Guild of Elgin and his assessors, and remanent Guild Brethren, takin to serious consideration the miserable case and condition of several Guild Brethren, their wives and children, when by cross accidents their means fail them through want of a fund for their maintenance and sustenance, do, out of a charitable consideration and teuder regard to our brethren's circumstances, and for the better encouragement of trade and venturing in time coming, willingly bind ourselves that we shall each of us pay quarterly six shillings Scots money as a contribution for settling a fund for the use above mentioned, and for the better and more regular mauaging thereof, do enact—

Primo.—That whoso presently, or shall hereafter subscribe for the said fund, shall be obliged to pay the said six shillings Scots quarterly during life, providing his residence and continuance be in this burgh, and in condition to pay the same.

Secundo.—It is enacted that whoso presently, or shall hereafter refuse the same, neither shall he nor his (if reduced to straits) have title to the benefit accruing from the same, without he or they pay up quarter pennies due by them, since settling the said fund or a composition for the same, to be modified by the then Dean of Guild and his assessors and Guild Brethren for the time, especially those who hereunto subscribe, if in life, and that to be paid before his reception into their Society. As also, he that is thus received must be reputed to be able to pay quarter pennies in time coming.

Tertio.—It is enacted that none shall in time coming be received as a Guild Brother without he pay for his title to the benefit accruing from the said fund, and subscribe to pay the quarter pennies in time coming.

Quarto.—It is enacted that the said fund shall be applied allenary for the maintenance of decayed Guild Brethren, their wives and children, who, while in condition, paid their quarter pennies.

Quinto.—It is enacted that for seven years after this term of Candlemas, which is hereby declared to begin the first quarter's payment, it shall not be lawful to apply any of said fund for said pious uses, but yearly to stock the same for annual rent.

Sexto.—That, after expiring of the said seven years, it shall not be lawfull to apply yearly for the above uses more than the rent of the said fund.

Septimo.—It is enacted that the said charitable fund is to be managed by the Dean of Guild for the time, and five Guild Brethren to be elected yearly by the subscribers in life for the time, or their heirs and successors, out of their number, whereof one of the said number is to be collector of the said fund, and the Dean of Guild and three of them to make a quorum.

Octavo.—It is enacted that the Collector's accounts, with the instructions, shall once a year, at the Dean of Guild's Michaelmas Head Court, be approved by the subscribers or their successors, and then put into a box for conservation, which box is to be kept by the Collector and furnished by the Guildry out of the said fund, which box is to have two locks and keys, one of which keys is to be kept by the Dean of Guild and the other key by the Collector for the time.

Nono.—It is enacted that the Collector's accounts shall be exposed on the first Tuesday of every quarter to the subscribers, at the paying of the quarter pennies.

Decimo.—It is enacted that in case any who subscribes for the said fund, and punctually pays their quarter pennies, should happen to die without heirs of their own body, then his nearest of kin, or any other whom he shall recommend, shall have title to the benefit accruing from the fund, providing that the said nearest of kin, or other so recommended, be a Merchant Guild Brother and actual residenter within the burgh.

Udecimo.—It is enacted that there shall be an extract of their proceedings and

a list of the subscribers signed yearly by the Dean of Guild, and given out to the Collector for his instruction and information.

Duodecimo.—It is enacted for the observing of better order that none shall be received into the Society, or allowed to engage themselves by subscribing for the said fund, but in face of court on the first Tuesday of a quarter.

Tridecimo.—And lastly, the Dean of Guild with his assessors, or a quorum of them, are to give out decret against those who shall be deficient in paying of their quarter pennies for payment of the said deficiency. Sic subscribitur,

JAMES CHARLES, D.G.

Alterations in the above regulations were made in the years 1717, 1724, 1728, 1729, 1742, 1744, 1781, 1786, and 1787. In 1786 the entry money of new members was fixed at £10, and in 1805 it was raised to £20. At this latter date the Society, being doubtful of its powers, laid a memorial before Mr. Matthew Ross, Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, and in 1814 they consulted Messrs. George Cranstoun and John Clerk, Advocates. At the Michaelmas Head Court in 1817, the whole alterations and additions made to the original regulations were extracted from the records and embodied into seventeen additional heads, and these, along with the thirteen original ones, making in all thirty in number, were declared to be the Regulations of the Society; and although the adoption of the Friendly Societies Act was not considered necessary, it was then enacted that the Dean of Guild should ascertain the probable expense of an application to the Legislature, and to report to the Head General Court with a view of getting instructions on that head.

The annual income of the Society for some years consisted merely of the quarter pence levied from the subscribers. The managers, however, early turned their attention to the purchase of land as the best and most secure investment for their funds. Land was then cheap and money scarce, and every shilling that could be spared was laid out in the purchase of lots of land about the town of Elgin. Generally the lots have been selected with great prudence, some of them near the centre of the burgh. The number of members decreased for some years very rapidly; in 1764, they were 87; in 1767, there were 76; in 1784, they were reduced to 47. Since that date they have never exceeded 35, and have been as low as 28. The present number is 33. The reason, perhaps, may be in part owing to the entry money, and also to an objection in later times to all Friendly Societies.

In the end of last century, the yearly income of the Society was very small—not much above £100 per annum; in the beginning of the present century the progress was slow. In 1816, the feuing of land began, and since that time the income has largely increased. Academy Street was formed about the year 1820. The whole of the east side of it is upon the Society's ground. In 1843, they laid off North Guildry Street, which has been entirely built upon, and about 1852 they formed South Guildry Street, which is since nearly built up. They also acquired the west side of Reidhaven Street, where many handsome villas have been erected. They are now laying off a street from the New Markets to Moray Street, and they have made some progress in feuing at the Institution Road. In 1835, the yearly rental in rents, ground rents, and feu-duties, amounted to

£353 17s. 2d.; in 1847 to £391 3s. 11d.; and in 1877 to £804 3s. 10d. The entry money of members was in 1819 raised to £40; in 1855 to £75; and in 1861 to £100. This last increase of the entry money has virtually closed the Society to new members, as no stranger has been received since, and the society now consists entirely of the old members admitted previous to 1855, and their male descendants. The eldest son of a member is admitted in virtue of his father's right, and the younger sons on a payment of £10 of entry money. In the year 1850, the Society was incorporated by Act of Parliament, under the title of "The Elgin Guildry Fund Society," having power to sue and be sued in the name of their Treasurer or Clerk, and to make bye-laws. Its government, powers, and privileges, are very carefully and distinctly laid down. The Act, which has been in operation for upwards of twenty-seven years, has worked very well in practice. In 1794, the annual sum divided among recipients was only £40; in 1797, £50; in 1801, £60; 1805, £101; 1810, £140; 1815, £170; 1820, £200; 1825, £210; 1840, £210; 1850, £240; 1860, £342; 1870, £415; 1877, £451. It is extremely probable, if the same care be bestowed on the management of the revenues as has hitherto prevailed, that the revenue, before many years pass away, may be largely increased.

From 1714 to 1833, the Deans of Guild of the burgh, who were also members of the Society, were its *ex-officio* Chairmen. The Reform Act of 1833 having virtually abolished the office of Dean of Guild in the small burghs, it became necessary to choose a Preses entirely from their own number. By the Act of Incorporation, the business of the Society is transacted by a Preses, six Managers, a Treasurer, and Clerk. The number of Managers is fully too large, but the Preses and three Managers form a quorum. Seven members are competent to hold a general meeting. As it is a matter of curiosity and of some interest to preserve a list of the Deans of Guild and Presidents, as well as of the Treasurers and Clerks who have managed the affairs of the Society so successfully for a period of upwards of 160 years, I have made an abstract of them from the minute books, and subjoin the list. From very small beginnings the Society has become an important corporation.

DEANS OF GUILD OF THE BURGH OF ELGIN, FROM 1714 TO 1833.

1714 to 1715 . . . James Charles.	1732 to 1733 . . . James Innes.
1715 ,, 1716 . . . John Hay.	1733 ,, 1734 . . . Alexander Milne.
1716 ,, 1717 . . . William Paul.	1734 ,, 1735 . . . Robert Duff.
1717 ,, 1718 . . . John Fenton.	1735 ,, 1736 . . . Alexander Milne.
1718 ,, 1719 . . . Charles Gordon.	1736 ,, 1737 . . . George Wilson.
1719 ,, 1720 . . . Robert Duff.	1737 ,, 1738 . . . John Marshall.
1720 ,, 1721 . . . George Wilson.	1738 ,, 1740 . . . George Wilson.
1721 ,, 1723 . . . John Dunbar.	1740 ,, 1741 . . . John Marshall.
1723 ,, 1724 . . . James Innes.	1741 ,, 1742 . . . George Wilson.
1724 ,, 1725 . . . Charles Gordon.	1742 ,, 1744 . . . John Marshall.
1725 ,, 1726 . . . Robert Duff.	1744 ,, 1745 . . . Alexander Forsyth.
1726 ,, 1727 . . . James Innes.	1745 ,, 1746 . . . Alexander Allan.
1727 ,, 1729 . . . Alexander Milne.	1746 ,, 1748 . . . Robert Allan.
1729 ,, 1730 . . . James Innes.	1748 ,, 1749 . . . Robert Grant.
1730 ,, 1732 . . . Robert Grant.	1749 ,, 1750 . . . John Laing.

1750 to 1751	John Duff, junior.	1790 to 1792	George Kay.
1751 ,, 1752	Alexander Shaw.	1792 ,, 1794	Alexander Cobban.
1752 ,, 1753	Robert Grant.	1794 ,, 1796	John Brander.
1753 ,, 1754	Robert Leslie.	1796 ,, 1797	Francis Taylor.
1754 ,, 1755	Alexander Shaw.	1797 ,, 1798	John Forteach.
1755 ,, 1756	Robert Grant.	1798 ,, 1799	Alexander Innes.
1756 ,, 1757	John Duff.	1799 ,, 1800	Francis Taylor.
1757 ,, 1758	Robert Leslie.	1800 ,, 1801	John Forteach.
1758 ,, 1759	James Anderson.	1801 ,, 1802	Alexander Innes.
1759 ,, 1760	George Simpson.	1802 ,, 1803	Francis Taylor.
1760 ,, 1761	Robert Leslie.	1803 ,, 1804	John Forteach.
1761 ,, 1762	Robert Grant.	1804 ,, 1805	William Gauldie.
1762 ,, 1763	George Simpson.	1805 ,, 1806	Francis Taylor.
1763 ,, 1764	Robert Leslie.	1806 ,, 1807	Peter Nicholson.
1764 ,, 1766	Robert Grant.	1807 ,, 1808	William Gauldie.
1766 ,, 1767	Robert Leslie.	1808 ,, 1809	Francis Taylor.
1767 ,, 1768	Alexander Brander.	1809 ,, 1810	Peter Nicholson.
1768 ,, 1769	George Simpson.	1810 ,, 1811	William Gauldie.
1769 ,, 1770	Robert Leslie.	1811 ,, 1812	Francis Taylor.
1770 ,, 1771	William Robertson.	1812 ,, 1813	Peter Nicholson.
1771 ,, 1772	George Simpson.	1813 ,, 1814	William Gauldie.
1772 ,, 1773	Robert Leslie.	1814 ,, 1815	Francis Taylor.
1773 ,, 1774	William Robertson.	1815 ,, 1816	Peter Nicholson.
1774 ,, 1775	George Simpson.	1816 ,, 1817	William Gauldie.
1775 ,, 1776	Robert Leslie.	1817 ,, 1819	Francis Taylor.
1776 ,, 1777	James Anderson.	1819 ,, 1820	William Gauldie.
1777 ,, 1778	George Simpson.	1820 ,, 1821	Lewis Anderson.
1779 ,, 1780	James Anderson.	1821 ,, 1822	Peter Nicholson.
1780 ,, 1781	Alexander Brander.	1822 ,, 1823	John Forsyth, junior.
1781 ,, 1782	Alexander Duff.	1823 ,, 1824	Lewis Anderson.
1782 ,, 1783	James Anderson.	1824 ,, 1825	James Petrie.
1783 ,, 1784	Alexander Brander.	1825 ,, 1826	Francis Cruikshank.
1784 ,, 1785	Robert Allan.	1826 ,, 1827	Lewis Anderson.
1785 ,, 1786	John Brander.	1827 ,, 1829	James Petrie.
1786 ,, 1788	Archibald Craig.	1829 ,, 1830	Lewis Anderson.
1788 ,, 1789	Laurence Sutherland.	1830 ,, 1832	Francis Cruikshank.
1789 ,, 1790	Alexander Cobban.	1832 ,, 1833	John M'Kimmie.

The office of Dean of Guild being practically abolished by the Act, 1833, the Presidents of the Society have since been as follows :—

John M'Kimmie,	from 1833 to 1836
Alexander Forteach,	,, 1836 ,, 1840
Alexander Brander,	,, 1840 ,, 1843
James Petrie,	,, 1843 ,, 1864
George Duff, M.D.,	,, 1864 ,, 1877

The Treasurers of the Society since 1714 to the present date have been—

James Charles,	from 1714 to 1759
James Sim, Merchant,	,, 1759 ,, 1766
Archibald Craig, Merchant,	,, 1766 ,, 1768
John Cumming, Merchant,	,, 1768 ,, 1773
John Ritchie, senior,	,, 1773 ,, 1787
Alexander Williamson,	,, 1787 ,, 1793
John Ritchie, senior,	,, 1793 ,, 1796
Alexander Cook,	,, 1796 ,, 1820

Alexander Innes,	from 1820 to 1830
John Russell,	„ 1830 „ 1847
Alexander Russell,	„ 1847 „ 1878
William Culbard,	„ 1878

The Clerks of the Society have been as follows :—

James Anderson of Linkwood,	from 1714 to 1731
William Anderson of Linkwood,	„ 1731 „ 1745
Patrick Duff, primus,	„ 1745 „ 1773
Alexander Duff,	„ 1773 „ 1780
Thomas Sellar,	„ 1780 „ 1782
Patrick Duff, secundus,	„ 1782 „ 1821
Alexander Brown,	„ 1821 „ 1853
Robert Young,	„ 1853 „ 1878
Robert Young and Wm. Charles Young, Joint Clerks, „	1878

The present Office-bearers of the Society (1877-78) are—

George Duff, Doctor of Medicine, Preses; Francis James Cruikshank, William Riach, William Charles Young, John Alexander Cooper, James Taylor, Alexander Alexander, Managers.

The present Members of the Society are—

1. William Murdoch, County Clare, Ireland.
2. William Young of Burghead, Fleurs, Elgin.
3. Robert Young, Solicitor in Elgin.
4. James Taylor, Easton, Elgin.
5. William Miller, Perfumer, Elgin.
6. Alexander Alexander, Jeweller, Elgin.
7. Alexander Culbard, Tanner, Elgin.
8. Robert Miller, now abroad.
9. John Alexander Cooper, Spynie, Elgin.
10. George Duff, Doctor of Medicine, Elgin.
11. William Robertson of Auchinroath.
12. William Maitland, London.
13. General John Gordon Petrie, now in England.
14. William Culbard, present Provost of Elgin.
15. Francis James Cruikshank, Merchant, Glasgow.
16. John Ferguson, London.
17. Archibald Robert Falconer, British Linen Company Bank.
18. John Culbard, Doctor of Medicine, Dunkeld.
19. Samuel Alexander, Garmouth.
20. Samuel Alexander, junior, Castle Street, Inverness.
21. Lachlan Macpherson Miller, Turriff.
22. William Riach, 8, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh.
23. Eric Anderson, Ceylon.
24. Wallace Culbard, now in the East Indies.
25. William Charles Young, Solicitor, Elgin.
26. James Murdoch, County Clare, Ireland.
27. John Patrick Merson Russell, now abroad.
28. Hugh William Young, Claigan, Isle of Skye.
29. Alexander Lachlan Miller.
30. Robert Alexander.
31. Major Frederick Prescott Forteatn, now in the East Indies.
32. Alexander Miller, Chemist, Nairn.
33. Robert Smith Alexander.

The author originally intended to have added some old Valuation Rolls of the Parish, and also the last printed Valuation Roll, with some notices about the valuations of the burgh of Elgin, and a list of the electors of the burgh for the year 1876; but the work has already assumed much larger proportions than he expected, and he therefore considers it proper to draw to a close.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MR. YOUNG'S "ANNALS OF ELGIN."

Sir, - I have lately read with much interest Mr. Young's "Annals of Elgin,"...

It may appear inconsistent with this appreciation of Mr. Young's work to venture to add to his many volumes...

The Trials and Proceedings of the Bailiffs of Elgin in the Seventeenth Century.

The ancient trials and proceedings of Elgin appear to have been small and often inhuman buildings...

The earliest action which I have come across was decided in the year 1623. One Smith having apprehended...

In 1624 one Dunbar pursued the Provost of Elgin for payment of a debt owing to him by his debtor...

About the middle of the century, considerable litigation took place between one Collis Hay and the Elgin Bailiffs...

The next action brought by Collis Hay, which I shall notice, exhibits some curious features of the law of arrest...

he was such a witness by his oath. On the whole, it is not likely that it was necessary to keep a book of indictments...

In an earlier action by Sir John Dalrymple, it appears that the Provost of Elgin's debtors were not allowed to be imprisoned...

We now arrive at one of the most interesting cases in the series. One Collis Hay, who was a merchant...

The greater number of the actions reported in the old law books for payment of debt due by debtors...

There are some quaint and rather primitive details in the following cases, but they all refer to the same period...

There are some quaint and rather primitive details in the following cases, but they all refer to the same period...

Court of Session to issue an Act of Sequestration (1671)...

"The Lords, considering that albeit by the Law, Magistrates of Burghs are obliged to arrest...

As late as the year 1770, we find an action brought by Charles Heald against the magistrates of Elgin...

A curious action against the Provost of Elgin was brought by the Provost of Elgin...

Mr Young has not appeared to have noticed that the famous Sir George Mackenzie...

To the account given by Mr Young (p. 72) of the burning of the old Town Hall...

The greater number of the actions reported in the old law books for payment of debt due by debtors...

There are some quaint and rather primitive details in the following cases, but they all refer to the same period...

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Pearys 4: Janry 1799

At a meeting of Fifteen of the persons within mentioned, they adopted the following preliminary resolutions.

That they shall dine at Pearys the first Friday of each month (with the exception of August September & October) at four o'clock, and each month to pay one Shilling & Sixpence for dinner whether present or absent.

The Bill shall be brought by Mr Peary at Six o'clock each day & the expense shall not exceed Three Shillings & Sixpence to each member, and the present minutes are signed by Mr. Raden of Boghead as Proxies of this meeting.

They further resolve that the within persons shall be considered as the constituted members of the Society & that no new members shall be admitted, but such as are recommended by two of the then members at a meeting, and the person recommended shall be Balloted for at next meeting and will be admitted unless four Black Balls be against him and no Ballot shall take place unless there be Twelve members present

John Gordon

Pearys 1: 4 February 1799. At a meeting of the Club Mr Sellar in the Chair.

Mr Lawson & Mr Robert Young proposed that Mr William Young at Leips worth should be admitted as a member. The meeting consider Mr Young as an unexceptionable member and agree that he shall be Balloted for at next meeting in terms of the foregoing regulations. Mr Sellar

Therefore the meeting considered that it would be proper to name a Proxies for the next meeting and the vote being put Mr Duncan of Morristown was unanimously named Proxies for the meeting to be held the first Friday of March. Mr Sellar.

Pearys 5: 7 Juen 1799. Mr Lawson Proxies.

Mrs William Young, Sir Archibald Dunbar & Provost Bannister were Balloted for as members, and admitted accordingly

John Lawson

4: April 1800 Mr Craig Proxies, when Messrs George Watson at Ardross and John Grant in Muir town having been proposed at last meeting were Balloted for this day and admitted accordingly

Thos. Craig

4: July 1800. Mr Robertson Proxies - Doctor Thomas Stephen Physician in Elgin, George Brown Esq. residing at Lenkwood having been proposed at last meeting, were Balloted for this day, & admitted accordingly

Wm Robertson

Pearys 14th Decem. 1798.

A few friends having dined at Mr. Pearys. It was proposed that a meeting of Farmers should be held monthly on the first Friday of each month harvest excepted, beginning with Friday the fourth of January next - The Company present have subscribed to that resolution, and hope that those to whom this paper shall be presented will also subscribe thereto - at the first meeting. Regulations for forming the Society will be proposed.

Thos. Allan.
John Forsyth for self & Mr Wm Robertson
Ja Dunearn for Mr Gordon Boghead & Mr Lawson
John Gordon John Lawson
Thos. Craig for Mr Kay & Mr Hall Young
John Patton Robert Ray
James Millican
Alex Russell
John Nisoll

Andrew Pearey
Alex Allan
James Todd
A Grant for self & Mr Duff
Isaac Forsyth Pat Duff
A Johnston

SOME OLD ELGIN HOUSES.

THEIR ARCHITECTURE AND ASSOCIATIONS.

Interesting Lecture in Elgin Last Night by Rev. Professor Cooper, D.D.

A large and appreciative audience assembled in the Parish Church Hall, Elgin, last night to hear the Rev. Professor D. D. Cooper deliver a lecture on "Some Old Elgin Houses, Their Architecture and Associations."

From long precedents, and in accordance with the custom of the town, the lecture was held in the Parish Church Hall, Elgin, last night. The Rev. Professor D. D. Cooper, D.D., delivered a lecture on "Some Old Elgin Houses, Their Architecture and Associations."

Dr. Cooper's lecture dealt with the architecture and associations of several old Elgin houses, including the Elgin House, the Elgin House, and the Elgin House.

Dr. Cooper described the Elgin House, which was built in the 17th century, and the Elgin House, which was built in the 18th century.

Dr. Cooper also mentioned the Elgin House, which was built in the 19th century, and the Elgin House, which was built in the 20th century.

Dr. Cooper's lecture was most interesting and well received by the audience, who were all well and enjoyed the lecture very much.

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Characteristic example of the building which the Stairs, with all their battlements, appeared to be the last and only kept the fashion in which her former days and used as there she should be buried near to them.

On the opposite side of the High Street, a little further to the east, was James South Street, which was built in the 17th century.

While sitting was heard in the street, a man was heard to say, "I have been in the street for some time, but I have not seen any one else."

Dr. Cooper's lecture was most interesting and well received by the audience, who were all well and enjoyed the lecture very much.

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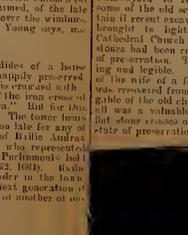
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Elgin a fixture of 1660, which had the foundation from which his descendants had to descend. It was a product of the 17th century, and was built in the 17th century.

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