

SIEGE OF DUNOTTAR CASTLE.*

A. D. 1651-2.

ABOUT a mile and a half from the county town of Kincardineshire, called Stonehaven, or, as the people of the district persist in calling it, *Stanehive*, stand the ruins of Dunottar Castle, the ancient seat of the Noble Family of Keith, Earls Marischal of Scotland, the last of whom, George tenth Earl Marischal, was attainted for his concern in the enterprise of his cousin the Earl of Mar in 1715. It was then, or soon afterwards, dismantled, but the buildings are still pretty entire, there being in general little wanting except the roof and the floors. The castle, which has been the scene of remarkable transactions in Scottish history, attracts the attention of the stranger on account of its peculiar situation. It is built on a stupendous insulated rock, somewhat resembling an inverted tub, half in and half out of the sea, and although its superficies are only half the space of that of Edinburgh Castle, being little more than three acres, its collection of stately towers make it have more the appearance of a deserted city than of a dismantled fortress. It is approached by a steep path winding round the magnificent rock, which is almost separated from the land by a very deep chasm, which makes it appear one of the most majestic ruins in Scotland. Before the invention of artillery it must have been altogether impregnable, and the only chance of capturing it was by starving the garrison; but by the present tactics of war it could be approached and commanded on every side. The examination of this extraordinary fortress is as interesting as is its external

* Playfair's British Family Antiquity; Baronetage of Scotland; Douglas' Peerage; Statistical Account of Scotland.

appearance. "The battlements," says an accurate describer, "with their narrow embrasures, strong towers, and airy turrets, full of loop-holes for the archer and musqueteer, the hall for the banquet, and the cell for the captive, are all alike entire and distinct. Even the iron rings and bolts that held the culprits for security or for torture still remain, to attest the state of things which once prevailed in this country. Many a sigh has been sent from the profound bosom of this vast rock; many a despairing glance has wandered hence over the boundless wave; and many a weary heart has there sunk rejoicing into eternal sleep." Here in particular is shown the *Whigs' Vault*, in which, if we are to credit Wodrow, no fewer than one hundred and sixty-seven male and female Covenanters were confined in 1685, during the warmest season of the year, as is also stated on a gravestone in the parish churchyard of Dunottar, placed over those of them who died while in this dungeon. Around, and especially between Stonehaven and Aberdeen, is the bleak region, presenting only barren eminences, and destitute even of heath and cold swampy moorlands, celebrated by the Author of *Waverley* in the *Legend of Montrose* as *Drumthackwit*, the patrimonial property of the renowned Sir Dugald Dalgetty. On one of the seaward peaks, overlooking the far-extending ocean which washes the shore of this melancholy waste, there is a lonely cairn well known to the home-bound mariner.

In the stirring and exciting times of the great Civil War the castle of Dunottar once more became a place of note, and its then proprietor, William seventh Earl Marischal, became either a great Covenanter, or was in some way or other involved in the affairs of that semi-political and semi-religious party. His Lordship's conduct in this matter could hardly have resulted from principle, as the opinions of the Marischal Family, both on religion and politics, were the very opposite of those entertained by the Covenanters,

being ultra-loyal and cavalier; and we find him not only raising a troop of horse for the service of the association in favour of Charles I. in 1648, but accompanying the Duke of Hamilton to England to attempt the King's rescue, escaping from the rout of Preston, entertaining Charles II. in his castle of Dunottar in 1650, nominated one of the Committee for forwarding the levies of the King's army, and taken prisoner at Alyth in 1651 by a detachment of Monk's cavalry from Dundee, whence he was sent prisoner to the Tower of London, in which he continued till the Restoration, and he was excepted from Cromwell's act of grace and pardon in 1654. What could possibly have induced his Lordship, holding those principles which he must have entertained, to immure himself in his own fortress of Dunottar with a number of Covenanters, of whom sixteen were preachers, and one of them the celebrated Andrew Cant, it is difficult to conjecture, but such is the fact that he did so in 1645, his guests having fled thither for shelter from the great Marquis of Montrose. The Cavalier commander summoned his Lordship to surrender, or to remain where he was "upon his peril." The Earl had been a companion in arms of Montrose, and knew him intimately. He was greatly inclined to come to terms with the royalist leader, and intimated to his Covenanting guests that all his predilections and feelings were in favour of the King, when the sixteen preachers simultaneously declared against his intentions, and succeeded in persuading him to hold out in favour of what they called the *good cause*. Montrose knew very well that he could not take the castle, and as he had no time to attempt the starvation principle by investing it, he sent his men to plunder and ravage the estate of Dunottar. This was done with all the customary promptitude and rigour of the Highlanders, who, besides burning and destroying all the farm-houses, cottages of the vassals and tenantry of the Earl Marischal,

and making a blaze of the stack-yards, and of the adjoining woods of Fetteresso, set fire to the town of Stonehaven and the village of Cowie. The manse of the minister of Dunottar was also burnt, for Montrose showed little respect to the habitations of the Presbyterian preachers, whom he considered as in some measure the authors of the war. An extensive deer-park on the estate of Fetteresso was also destroyed by fire, and the animals, although they fled at sight of the flames, were unsparingly seized and slain. All the fishing-boats of Stonchaven were consigned to the destructive element. When the Earl Marischal witnessed from the battlements of Dunottar Castle the smoke ascending on all sides, occasioned by the ravaging of his property, he bitterly regretted the rejection of Montrose's terms; but the famous Andrew Cant informed him that the *reek* would be "a sweet-smelling incense in the nostrils of the Lord."

In January 1651, Charles II. was crowned at Scone, after Cromwell had gained the battle of Dunbar, and conquered a considerable part of the kingdom. After the coronation, the last ceremony of the kind witnessed in Scotland, the regalia of Scotland, consisting of the crown, sceptre, and sword of state, were conveyed from Scone to Dunottar Castle, as a place in which, from its great strength, those venerable and precious insignia of royalty would be secure, and prevented from falling into the hands of the English. The Covenanters had by this time become modified royalists, and bitterly hated Cromwell and his sectarian army. The Earl Marischal had given up all his Covenanting principles, and was zealously engaged in the Cavalier cause. The circumstance of the regalia being deposited in his castle procured a garrison supported by the public, with suitable ammunition and provisions.

The Earl Marischal happened to be absent in the cause of the King in England, but he had appointed George

Ogilvy of Barras, a neighbouring proprietor, to be lieutenant-governor of the castle and commander of the garrison—a trust which he discharged with great resolution. The English knew well where the regalia were deposited, and after reducing all the other castles, forts, and places of strength in Scotland, a chosen body of their troops under General Lambert marched against and invested Dunottar. The garrison received a summons to surrender in November 1651, and repeatedly during the ensuing winter, to which an answer of defiance was returned, and in the beginning of May 1652 the siege was converted into a blockade.

It appears from the commission granted by the Earl Marischal to Governor Ogilvy, and subscribed at Stirling on the 8th of July 1651, that the garrison consisted of only a lieutenant, two sergeants, and forty men, exclusive of the governor, and of the domestics of the Earl, who constantly resided in the Castle. The correspondence which passed between Ogilvy and the besiegers is not a little curious. The English were at first under the command of Lambert, but on the 8th of November 1651, the governor and garrison received the following letter, signed R. OVERTON, addressed—“To the Honourable Governor of Dunottar Castle, and the rest of the gentlemen there,” dated from Stonehaven:—“Gentlemen, I have power to demolish your own and the remainder of my Lord Marischal’s houses in these parts, except you timeously prevent the same, by giving up the Castle of Dunottar to the use of the State of England upon such terms as other gentlemen of honour have heretofore, when the forces of this nation were more significant, accepted. You may observe this season, which the most significant persons of your nation close with, by putting their persons and estates under our protection. You may likewise consider how imprudent, at least improvident, a part it may be reputed in a truce of pacification for your

arms to be the only antagonists to an army whose arms God Almighty hath hitherto made successful against your most considerable citadel"—probably meaning Edinburgh Castle. On the 11th of November 1651, Governor Ogilvy received the following letter, addressed "To the Commander-in-chief of Dunottar Castle," and dated from Stonehaven:—"Honoured Sir—Whereas you keep Dunottar Castle for the use of your King, which castle doth belong to my Lord Marischal, now a prisoner to our Parliament of England, these are to advise and require you in their names to surrender the said castle to me for their use, and I do assure you, by the word of a gentleman, that you shall have very honourable and soldier-like treatment. If you refuse this offer, then, if any thing shall happen to you contrary to your expectations, by the violence of our soldiers, blame yourself and not me; for I may tell you, that the Lord hath been pleased to deliver unto us many stronger places than that is, and I doubt not but the same God will stand by us in our attempts in this. I desire your speedy answer, and shall rest, Sir, your very humble servant, THO. DUTTON."

The Earl Marischal was then a prisoner in the Tower of London, and though his Lordship sent orders to Governor Ogilvy to deliver up the castle, his fidelity and loyalty were as impregnable as the fortress which he commanded, and he treated with disdain and contempt not only the threats of the besiegers, but also their fair promises, and resolved to keep possession of the castle as long as it was in his power. In his first answer of refusal, he denied that he held his commission from the Earl Marischal, probably for the safety of that nobleman's person and the preservation of the place, and maintained that he held his commission from the King himself, but in this, as appears from subsequent letters, he meant no more than to say that although he had his commission first from the Earl,

who was then a prisoner, he then held it from the King. On the 22d of November he wrote to Mr Dutton, in reply to his and Overton's summons of surrender—"Honoured Sir—Whereas you write that I keep the Castle of Dunottar for the use of the King's Majesty, which house, as you say, doth belong to the Earl Marischal, you shall know that I have my commission absolutely from his Majesty, and none else, neither will I acknowledge any man's interest here, and intend, by the assistance of God, to maintain the same for his Majesty's service upon all hazards whatsoever. I hope you have that gallantry in you as not to wrong my Lord Marischal's lands, seeing he is a prisoner himself for the present. Whereas you have had success in former times, I attribute it to the wrath of God against us for our sins, and to the unfaithfulness of those men who did maintain the same, none whereof you shall find here by the Lord's grace, to whom I commit myself; and I am, Sir, your very humble servant, GEORGE OGILVY."

The governor received a peremptory order to deliver up the castle from General Lambert, dated Dundee, Jan. 3, 1652, to which he paid no attention, and on the 26th of March a letter was addressed to him from Paris by the King, approving of his conduct, and ordering him to observe such directions as he would receive from Lieutenant-General Middleton, promising at the same time some relief. The garrison were now reduced to great straits for want of provisions and ammunition, and showed an inclination to mutiny, yet he still held out with the most undaunted courage. Meanwhile he received a letter from the Earl of Balcarras to the following effect:—"You are now, I believe, hardly in expectation of relief, and ye know how much it concerns not only the kingdom, but yourself in particular, that the *honours* [meaning the regalia] be secured. I shall there again desire you, by virtue of the first

warrant which you saw, and of this likewise which I have lately received, and now send you inclosed, that you deliver them immediately to the bearer, Sir Arthur Forbes, whose receipt of them, under his hand, I do hereby declare shall be as valid for your acquittal and liberation, as if you had it under the hand of your affectionate friend to serve you." His Lordship adds in a postscript—" I shall not now repeat the arguments I sent to you at Dunottar. If they were strong then, I am sure they are much more now, for the condition of business is much altered since. I say no more, but remember what I then spoke to you as your friend." This Sir Arthur Forbes mentioned by his Lordship was ancestor of the Earl of Granard in Ireland, and was the first Earl of that branch of the ancient Family of Forbes.

The letter of Lord Balcarras probably refers to a letter which Governor Ogilvy received from the Earl of Loudon, Lord Chancellor, dated November 13, 1651, referring to the defence of the fortress, in which his Lordship says—" If you want provisions, soldiers, and ammunition, and cannot hold out all the assaults of the enemy, which is feared and thought you cannot do, if you be hardly pursued, I know no better expedient than that the honours of the Crown be speedily and safely transported to some remote and strong castle in the Highlands and I wish you had delivered them to the Lord Balcarras, as was desired by the Committee of Estates, nor do I know of any better way for preservation of these things, and your exoneration. It will be an irreparable loss and shame if these things shall be taken by the enemy, and very dishonourable for yourself. I have herewith returned your letter to the Lord Balcarras, hearing he is still in the North. So having given you the best advice I can at present, I trust you will, with care and faithfulness, be answerable according to the trust committed to you."

The governor continued to hold out the fortress, and assisted by his lady, a daughter of Douglas of Barras, fourth son of the tenth Earl of Angus, preserved the regalia with extraordinary care. But seeing a powerful army investing the castle, and having little or no hope of relief, notwithstanding that the King had written a letter with his own hand under Lieutenant-General Middleton's cover, delivered to the governor by Sir John Strachan; and it being evident that his Majesty, who knew the circumstances of the garrison, could send them no assistance, it was necessary to adopt some plan to preserve the regalia, in the event of the castle being taken by storm, or obliged to surrender. The governor was afraid that the regalia, even were he to adopt the plan proposed by the Earls of Loudon and Balcarras to carry them off, might by some means or other fall into the hands of the enemy. It happened that the Honourable John Keith, a younger brother of the Earl Marischal, and afterwards Earl of Kintore, was then abroad, and the governor and his lady contrived to concoct a letter as if from that gentleman to the former, purporting that he had safely arrived at Rotterdam, with the crown and sceptre of Scotland, to be delivered to King Charles II. This letter, if the castle was either taken or surrendered, was to be dropped purposely, that it might fall into the hands of the enemy. It was also agreed by the governor and his lady that the regalia should be conveyed out of the castle to some private and obscure place unknown to the former, lest, if he fell into the hands of the besiegers, he might be put to the torture, and be obliged to divulge the place of concealment.

The ingenuity of the governor's lady was now exercised to carry this plan into execution. Mrs Christian Fletcher, wife of Mr James Grainger, minister of the adjoining parish of Kinneff, was admitted into the project, as was also a female domestic in the service of Mr Grainger. Attended

by this servant, Mrs Grainger had been at Stonehaven to purchase flax, and was returning to the manse of Kinneff with it, the maid-servant carrying it on her back. On passing through the enemy's camp, Mrs Grainger inquired for the English general, and being admitted she told him that she wished to go into the castle to speak to the governor's lady, and requested a safe-conduct, which was granted without suspicion, still carrying with her the flax and other goods she had purchased at Stonehaven. She rode on horseback as she had come from that town, and the animal was left at the castle gate while she and her servant were in the fortress. Unknown to the governor, or at least taking advantage of his absence from the apartment, his lady packed up the sword and sceptre in the bag of flax, while Mrs Grainger brought the crown royal in her lap. Coming out of the castle, she was politely helped on horseback by the English general himself, who little suspected the precious treasure she had in her possession. Another tradition is, that the crown was included in the sack of flax with the sceptre and sword of state, but the previous statement is the one generally received. It is farther added, still more completely to deceive the besiegers, that Mrs Grainger counterfeited to be *enceinte*, which enabled her the more effectually to escape detection.

It ought to be observed that Governor Ogilvy's paternal estate and mansion were and still are partly in the parishes of Kinneff and Dunottar, which accounts for the intimacy between his lady and Mrs Grainger, and the extraordinary confidence reposed in her on this important occasion. Mrs Grainger and her maid-servant were enjoined to secrete the regalia under the floor of the parish church of Kinneff, carefully wrapped up in clean linen, which was to be frequently renewed. Of course the minister was a party to these transactions. With his own hands, assisted by his wife, and during midnight, he dug a

hole under the pulpit of Kinneff church, and deposited the royal crown, sceptre, and sword of state of Scotland therein, and in this singular manner these invaluable and most interesting insignia of royalty were concealed till 1660, only at times being removed, to prevent injury from dampness, to a *double-bedded room in the manse*.

Governor Ogilvy was not made acquainted with the adventures of the regalia, and his lady refused for the present to give him any farther information than that the diadem of Scotland was safe from the enemy, and deposited in a place where no one would ever think it at all likely to be. The siege being now converted into a blockade, and the garrison reduced to the greatest straits for want of provisions and ammunition, which rendered them very mutinous, the governor at last capitulated upon honourable terms with the English commander, Colonel Thomas Morgan, who had lain with a considerable force at the Black Hill of Dunottar, cannonading and bombarding the castle by order of General Richard Dear. Besides the regalia, there were several valuable documents in Dunottar, which the governor succeeded in carefully securing. Among these were several important papers belonging to Charles II., which were all packed up and sewed in a girdle of linen by the governor's lady, and safely conveyed out of the castle by a young lady, her relation, named Miss Anne Lindsay, who was afterwards the wife of Mr Robert Willox, minister of Kenmay in Aberdeenshire during the Episcopal Establishment of Scotland. For the safe preservation and recovery of these papers a receipt was granted by the Earl Marischal to the following effect:—" We, William Earl Marischal, grant us to have received from George Ogilvy, sometime governor of Dunottar, some papers belonging to the King's Majesty, which were in the Castle of Dunottar the time of his being governor there, in two little coffers; which papers, consisting to the number of eight score six-

teen several pieces, whereof there are four packets sealed, and one broke open; of which papers I grant the receipt, and oblige me to warrant the said George at his Majesty's hands, and all others whatsoever, by this my warrant signed, sealed, and subscribed at London, the 1st day of December 1655.—MARISCHAL." There were other important documents belonging to the Duke of Hamilton, the University of St Andrews, and others, all of which were returned to their respective owners.

The besiegers, who looked upon the possession of the regalia to be of more importance than the capture of the castle, were greatly irritated when after a diligent search the prize could no where be found. The pretended letter from the Hon. John Keith fell into their hands, but its statements by no means satisfied them. They insisted with the governor, upon his word of honour, and in terms of the capitulation, either to deliver up the regalia, or to give a good account of the same. To this he replied, that he did not know whether or not the regalia were carried abroad to the King, and that at all events he was ignorant where they were deposited. The besiegers gave little credit to this declaration, and threatened him and his lady at one time with the torture, and at another promising them liberal rewards if they would discover the place of concealment. The governor and his lady were detained prisoners in the castle, confined to a single room, and were not allowed even a domestic during a whole year, also experiencing the grossest treatment, which eventually caused this noble-minded and loyal lady's death. The governor's estate was also sequestrated, but none of these severities could shake their resolution, while the regalia all the time were lying under the pulpit of Kinneff church, within a short distance of Dunottar. On the 10th of January 1653, Sir Robert Graham of Morphie, the lady's grandfather, offered to become security to the extent of L.2000

sterling to present Captain George Ogilvy and his lady, when called for, "true prisoners to the then governor of Dunottar," pledging himself that they would not go above three miles from their own home; and this bond was eventually accepted, in conjunction with one of L.500 sterling more from James Anderson of Uras, which procured their release, and they were allowed six weeks to go about their lawful business. It does not appear that they were afterwards harassed by Cromwell's authorities, and probably the death of Mrs Ogilvy, occasioned by their ill treatment, induced them to take no farther steps in the matter.

Governor Ogilvy, after being informed by his lady where the regalia were deposited, wrote to Mr Grainger and took home the sceptre, but gave a receipt for it, and took the minister's bond to deliver the crown and the sword of state whenever demanded. The following is Mr Grainger's letter, which is still preserved, dated July 21, 1660, and addressed to his "Honoured and loving friend, the Laird of Barras." "Sir—I have received yours, and before it came to my hand I had secured the things you know of upon the night, and am persuaded, though any army should come, they could not be the better; so that there needs be no fear. As for myself, my neck shall break, and my life go for it, before I fail to you: yet some little difficulty makes me loath they should be transported as yet, whilk shall be fully made known to you at meeting, whilk I desire shall be on Monday, once a day; and if you be loath to come here, send me word, and I shall come to you. But for the business itself, fear no more nor if they were in your house presently; for I trust that He who hath preserved them in my custody till this day, will preserve them in safety till they go as ye yourself desires; so, till meeting, I continue your real and true friend and servant, J. GRAINGER." The reader will perceive, from the date of this letter, that it was written after the Restora-

tion, when probably Captain Ogilvy and Mr Grainger were consulting about the proper mode of returning the regalia to the Government, and at a time when, it is worthy of notice, *only those two individuals and Mrs Grainger in all Scotland knew where the regalia were concealed.* The worthy minister's bond or obligation to deliver the crown and sword of state when demanded is thus expressed:—"Whereas I have received a discharge from George Ogilvy of Barras, of the honours of this kingdom, and he hath got no more than the sceptre, therefore I oblige myself that the rest, namely, the crown and sword, shall be forthcoming at demand, by this my ticket, written and subscribed this same day. I received the discharge the 28th of September 1660. J. GRAINGER."

Governor Ogilvy sent his only son William to London to get the King's directions as to the regalia, and presented a petition to the King, in which he stated—"That whereas your petitioner is sent up here by his father to give your Majesty notice, that his said father hath had, and still preserves, the crown, sword, and sceptre of Scotland in his custody, long before the English possessed the castle of Dunottar, with great hazard of his life, and long and strait imprisonment, which occasioned the death of his wife; and in respect of your petitioner's father, his great interest with these honours, he could not desert that great charge to come here and attend your Majesty"—he had sent his son the petitioner. It thus appears that the governor had kept a constant eye on the valuable treasures he possessed. On the 28th of September 1660, the petitioner was enjoined, in an order signed by the Earl of Lauderdale, to deliver the regalia to the Earl Marischal, and to get his discharge, which was done on the 8th of October that year, the discharge being dated at Dunottar, the Earl having obtained possession at the Restoration of all his property, and as Earl Marischal, having an official connection with the regalia.

From Dunottar those interesting memorials of Scottish royalty were transported to Edinburgh Castle, where they have ever since remained, and are now exhibited to the public on certain conditions.

As a reward for the public services of Governor Ogilvy, and his remarkable fidelity in preserving the regalia, he was created a baronet by patent on the 5th of March 1661, and King Charles II. by charter, dated 3d March 1662, “ granted by him in favour of the said Sir George Ogilvy upon the lands of Barras, changed the holding of the said lands from *ward* to *blench*, by charter ratified in Parliament the 11th of August 1679, in which patent, charter, and ratification, Sir George’s services above mentioned are specified as the reasons of his Majesty’s favour.” This was all the reward which Governor Ogilvy received for his imprisonment, the death of his lady, and much loss of property, no other mark of royal favour being vouchsafed to him, except a new coat of arms expressive of the services he had rendered, and permission to adopt as his family motto—*PRÆCLARUM REGI ET REGNO SERVITIUM*. Other persons of greater interest at Court claimed merit on the same ground, and received ample honours and emoluments. Among those the Hon. John Keith was created Earl of Kintore, and that branch of the Noble Family of Keith have their arms quartered with the crown-royal and the sceptre and sword of state of Scotland, with the motto—*QUÆ AMISSA SALVA*, meaning that he had saved what was amissing. The following is the account of his Lordship’s connection with the preservation of the regalia in the Douglas’ Peerage, edited by John Philip Wood, Esq., than which nothing can be more apocryphal, or destitute of foundation in various important particulars, as all the original papers and letters in the possession of Ogilvy of Barras, the present baronet, and the descendant of Sir George Ogilvy, the governor of Dunottar Castle, amply

prove, and of which copious extracts are given in the present narrative. In reality it appears that the first Earl of Kintore, whatever he may have *pretended*, had nothing whatever to do in the matter, and the whole affair was concocted by the governor's lady and Mr and Mrs Grainger. Yet we are gravely treated in such a work as Douglas' Peerage to a story which is altogether a tissue of misrepresentation, to describe it by no harsher term. "The Hon. Sir John Keith," says the writer, "third son of William sixth Earl Marischal, had the *principal share* in preserving the regalia of Scotland from falling into the hands of Cromwell, during whose usurpation they had been carried to Dunottar Castle, both as the Earl Marischal, in virtue of his office, had a right to keep them, and it was thought a place of safety. Dunottar being besieged, Sir John Keith got the regalia safely conveyed away, and deposited under ground in the church of Kinneff. Sir John then sailed for France, whither he pretended to have carried these valuable articles. On his return home he was apprehended and examined, and declaring that he had conveyed them to France, all further search for the regalia was dropped." Now, the fact is, that Sir John Keith was neither in the Castle of Dunottar at the time, nor was he in the country, it being well known that he was on the Continent, and the reason why he would be *apprehended and examined* by Cromwell's government when he returned, was the letter concocted by Governor Ogilvy and his lady, pretending that it was written by him in Rotterdam, while in reality it was counterfeited by the Governor in Dunottar Castle, and purposely dropped in the way of the besiegers to put them on a false scent. This letter, we know, fell into their hands, and they would undoubtedly preserve it, and make as much use of it as they were able. Sir John Keith, therefore, got his earldom of Kintore for declaring that he did what he never had

done, and could not possibly do, and the circumstance of his being a brother of the Earl Marischal was a mighty argument in his favour; but he had as much connection with the depositing and preservation of the regalia of Scotland in the parish church of Kinneff as he had with the restoration of Charles II., and his personal services must on that occasion have been trivial indeed, otherwise history is very ungrateful to his memory.

It is to be regretted that Mr Grainger, the worthy minister of Kinneff, and his wife, were altogether overlooked, and received neither honour nor reward. Their services do not appear to have been made known to the Court, and they were certainly, if known, unacknowledged. Such is the fate which too often real merit, accompanied by integrity and sterling honesty, experiences, while those who have the least to do in any important matter, as my Lord Kintore, carry off the honours and emoluments.

Such, then, was the siege of Dunottar, only remarkable for the circumstance of the fortress containing at the time the Scottish regalia, preserved in a very extraordinary and romantic manner from falling into the hands of Cromwell's Republican soldiers. Those valuable and venerable memorials of royalty are now in the Castle of Edinburgh, where they are secure from farther jeopardy, and the account of their discovery in the old oak chest, now in the apartment called the Crown Room, after having lain in darkness from the period of the Union to considerably upwards of a century afterwards, is well known to every reader. While gazing on the regalia in the Crown Room of Edinburgh Castle, and beholding the crown royal, the sceptre, and the sword of state of Scotland, lying enclosed within an iron cage in "dim religious light," and appearing as the precious memorials of former grandeur and centuries of independence, it is curious to reflect, that *that*

royal crown was concealed in the *lap* of the wife of a minister of the sequestered parish of Kinneff—that the sceptre and the sword were carried in a sack of flax on the back of an obscure servant girl—and that the whole lay for years in a hole under the pulpit of Kinneff parish church, the usurping Government all the time firmly believing that they had been secretly carried to the Continent, and deposited with their royal and exiled owner. In a work which recent changes and improvements in the Scottish metropolis have rendered in a great measure, in 1839, though published so recently as 1825, almost a mere outline of *things which were*, but which have now disappeared, entitled *Walks in Edinburgh*, by Mr Robert Chambers, there is the following passage referring to the regalia of Scotland:—“ Taking these articles of the crown, sceptre, and sword, in connection with the great historical events and personages that enter into the composition of their present value, it is impossible to look upon them without emotions of singular interest, while, at the same time, their apparent littleness excites wonder at the mighty circumstances and destinies which have been determined by the possession, or the want of possession, of what they represent. For *this diadem* did Bruce liberate his country; *with it*, his son nearly occasioned its ruin. It purchased for Scotland the benefit of the mature sagacity of Robert II.—did not save Robert III. from a death of grief—procured, perhaps, the assassination of James I., and instigated James IV. to successful rebellion against his father, whose violent death was expiated by his own. Its dignity was proudly increased by James V., who was yet more unfortunate, perhaps, in his end than a long list of unfortunate predecessors. It was worn by the devoted head of Mary, who found it the occasion of woes and calamities unnumbered and unexampled. It was placed upon the infant brows of her son, to the exclusion of herself from all its glories and advan-

tages, but not to the termination of the distresses in which it had involved her. Her unfortunate grandson for its sake visited Scotland, and had it placed on his head with magnificent ceremonies, but the nation, whose sovereignty it gave him, was the first to rebel against his authority, and work his destruction. The Presbyterian solemnity with which it was given to Charles II. was only a preface to the disasters of Worcester, and it was afterwards remembered by this monarch, little to the advantage of Scotland, that this diadem had been placed upon his head with conditions and restrictions which wounded at once his pride and his conscience. It was worn by no other monarch, and the period of its disuse seems to have been the epoch from which we may reckon the happiness of our monarchs, and the revival of our national prosperity."