

## THE RAID OF THE MONROES.\*

A.D. 1378.

In the month of June 1378, the Monroes of Foulis, when returning from a predatory incursion in the south of Scotland, passed near Moyhall, the residence of M'Intosh, chief of the Clan Chattan. As it was customary to present a share of the booty to a chief for liberty to pass through his domains, the dues of M'Intosh were at once admitted; but when he avariciously coveted the whole, his demand was treated with contempt. M'Intosh summoned his vassals, and determined to compel the Monroes to surrender all their booty. Meanwhile the latter pursued their journey, and fording the river Ness, they sent the cattle they had plundered across the hill of Kinmylies into Lovat's territory.

The M'Intoshes, commanded by their chief, followed the Monroes, and came up to them at the Point of Clagnahayre. Here they commenced an obstinate and bloody conflict, in which quarter was neither sought nor granted. The Clan Chattan lost their chief, who appears to have been a ferocious barbarian. There is a malediction called the *Curse of Moy* connected with this savage. In a raid upon the Grants, M'Intosh carried off the chief of that clan, his daughter, and her lover. The victor asked the lady to choose the life of her father or her intended husband, swearing that one of them must die. After a struggle of feelings which can be better imagined than described, the old chief of the Grants compelled his daughter to save the youth, and avenge his death. The chief was accordingly put to death,

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\* Conflicts of the Clans; Pennant's Tour in Scotland; History of the House of Sutherland; Anderson's History of the Family of Fraser.

and in the morning, when the lady expected to be placed under the protection of her lover, she was directed to his lifeless corpse—the unfortunate gentleman having been inhumanly murdered with her father. In the wildness of frenzy she invoked a terrible imprecation on the murderer, that, as he had barbarously outraged the feelings of a child, neither he nor his race might ever have one to represent them.

The survivors of the Clan Chattan retraced their steps to their own country with the dead body of their chief. John Monro, tutor of Foulis, as he is called, lost his arm in the conflict, which during his life procured for him the soubriquet of *John Back-Lawighe*. The Monroes soon retaliated the outrage committed by the Clan Chattan. They collected a sufficient force, and marched during the night to the Island of Moy, the family residence of the chief of the M'Intoshes. This island is situated in a lake nearly two miles long and about one in breadth, and on it are still to be seen the ruins of this fastness of the chief of the Clan Chattan. The Monroes succeeded in reaching the island by means of rafts, and revenged themselves by the murder or captivity of all the inmates.

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