

The Royal Regiment of Scots Dragoons (now the Scots Greys)

AMONGST a number of papers which lately came into the possession of Colonel F. J. Agnew Wallace, late of the Scots Greys, a collection of letters written in the years immediately before the Union by Lord John Hay, Colonel of the Royal Regiment of Scots Dragoons (now the Scots Greys), came to light, and I am indebted to Colonel Wallace for permission to publish a selection of extracts from them. Colonel Wallace is a descendant of the Major Agnew to whom they were written, and it is curious that after so many years the documents should be in the hands of one who had himself commanded the regiment to which they refer. The letters are principally concerned with regimental matters, but Lord John Hay and Major Agnew were personal friends, and after the military affairs are discussed, Lord John fills the paper with social and political news, and as his birth and army rank gave him the intimacy of the prominent men of the time, and as he was writing quite frankly to a trusted correspondent, the letters are often interesting.

In making extracts I have endeavoured to include chiefly the references to public matters of interest, and also some of the more personal and private occurrences which seem characteristic of the time. On the military side, however, the letters also throw light on the methods in vogue in Scottish regiments of recruiting and of matters of organisation, etc. They are filled, like all correspondence of the period, with laments about the delay and mismanagement of those in authority, and of complaints of speculation or worse on the part of the agents, who as a class were always credited with rapacity and carelessness; indeed, Lord John, when he obtained the colonelcy of the regiment, dispensed altogether with an agent in London, but the system was again reverted to. Some matters of antiquarian military interest are mentioned. For example, the presence of a cadet or volunteer in the colonel's troop, who served without pay and in the hope

of distinguishing himself and of obtaining a commission. The young man in question seems in this instance to have been dependent upon the generosity of his commanding officer for everything, even shirts and cravats. Lord John moots a scheme for obtaining a commission in the Foot for him, but the plan came to nothing, and the young aspirant finally obtained a cornetcy in his own regiment in 1705.

In another place a reference is made to the widow of 'poorr Captain Harry Hay,' of Stanley's regiment, who begs to have her son placed on the roll of the regiment that she might draw his pay, which Lord John directs to be done, apparently without the lad joining the service at all, as he orders the pay to be put to his own account, to be charged against himself, not paid by the public.

The period covered by the later letters is that during which Lord John was endeavouring to obtain the colonelcy of the regiment from Lord Teviot, who does not seem to have paid much attention to its well-being, at least in Lord John's opinion, for he rather takes credit to himself for the improved appearance and condition thereof when he obtained the control.

Lord John Hay was the second son of John (Hay), second Marquess of Tweeddale, by Mary, only daughter and heir of John (Maitland), first Duke of Lauderdale, K.G. We get our first glimpse of the future Colonel of the Greys from a letter written by the Marquess, his father, to the Duke in December, 1670, when, describing his reception by his children at Yester after a journey, he says: 'I askid Jhon if he knew me; he said I, I, and clapid my cheek and kissid both of them.' 'Jhon' was then about two years old, having been born in 1668. Little is known of his boyhood and education, but he received a commission as Captain in the Royal Scots Dragoons in July, 1689, he became Major in 1692, Lieutenant-Colonel in 1694, and Colonel of Horse in 1702. He purchased the Colonelcy of the Royal Scots Dragoons from Lord Teviot in 1704, and the same year became Brigadier-General. His military services were many and valuable; he distinguished himself at Schellingberg, Blenheim, and Ramillies. From the Blenheim Roll it appears that he acted as Brigadier there, and received a bounty of £105 as Colonel of the Royal Scots Dragoons, as well as one of £90 as Brigadier. He was twice married, first to Elizabeth, daughter and heir of James (Dalzell), fourth Earl of Carnwath, and secondly, to Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Sir Charles Orby of Croyland,

second Baronet. He died of fever at Courtrai, 24th August, 1706, lamented by the whole army. He had no issue by either marriage, and his widow remarried Major-General Robert Hunter, afterwards Governor of Jamaica, and had issue by him.

Major Andrew Agnew was the eldest son of Alexander Agnew of Croach, in Wigtonshire, descended from the house of Agnew of Lochnaw, of which family the Agnews of the Croach claimed to be the eldest cadet branch. The family was long settled in Wigtonshire, at Challoch, near Dunragit, and later at Croach, on the eastern shore of Lochryan. The lands of Croach now form part of the estate of Lochryan, which is still held by a descendant of Major Agnew through the female line. The date of his birth is not exactly known, but he obtained a commission in the Royal Scots Dragoons or Livingston's regiment in 1689. He saw service in the north of Scotland after Killiecrankie, and was made a burghess of Aberdeen in that year for his services. He was put to the horn as cautioner for a debt in 1694, and in the letters of horning is described as 'Lieutenant in Collonell Livingston's regiment.' In 1698 he petitioned the Treasury for some compensation for damage done to his tenements and lands by French privateers who infested the coast of Galloway, the petitioner having been abroad on His Majesty's service when the mischief was done. Later he served through several of Marlborough's campaigns, was second in command of his regiment at Blenheim, receiving a gratuity of £61 10s. for his services there. Dalton says that he was also at Ramillies, but this is probably a mistake, for amongst his papers is a letter from a Mr. Drummond, merchant in Rotterdam, addressed to him in Scotland, giving an account of that battle and of its effects, and there is also one from Colonel Hay, likewise addressed to Scotland, condoling with him on his ill health, and dated 1706, so that it is unlikely that he was present. Agnew retired from active service in the army as Regimental Major and Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel in 1706, and settled on his property, which he spent much time and money in improving. He held many public offices in the county, and his life seems to have been a busy and useful one. He was Admiral-Depute of the neighbouring coasts, and had many disputes with the lawless maritime inhabitants of Carrick. He was one of the commissioners appointed to raise the Fencibles in 1715, and appears to have had a very short way with objectors and shirkers. He was twice married, first to his kinswoman, Margaret Agnew of Lochnaw, and secondly to Agnes, daughter of Sir Francis

Kennedy of Kirkhill. He died in 1733, and was succeeded by his son Robert.

EDWARD RODGER.

LETTERS FROM LORD JOHN HAY.

“Edin january .25. (1700)

Sir

i was not mutch surprysed to fynde that misrepresentations werr meade of mee seeing i guess by whome it is donne, and in my last to my Lord Teviott i insinuated so mutch, but seeing it is gone that lenth and licke to doo mee a prejudice, i shall give you a just accownt of what passed in this Company, towit my Lord Anandeall¹ major Generall Ramsay² Cornell Hamilton my Lord Craffort³ and major preston⁴ and i. after wee hade played

¹ William (Johnstone), Marquess of Annandale, second but eldest surviving son of William, first Earl of Annandale and Hartfell. Succeeded his father in 1672 when eight years old. Educated at Glasgow Grammar School and University. In 1684 was appointed member of commission directed against conventicles, but took no active part. In 1688 received a commission as Captain in a troop under Claverhouse, but did not serve, and at the Revolution received a new commission under Major-General Mackay, but again did not serve. He became involved in a plot hatched by his brother-in-law, Sir James Montgomery of Skelmorlie, but made confession and was not proceeded against. He next became zealous for the Government, and was appointed a Lord of Session and President of the Privy Council, created Marquess of Annandale 1701, and the next year made Privy Seal with the salary of £1000 sterling. He was opposed to the Union, but after its passing did what he could to render its working easy. In 1715 was nearly taken prisoner by a band of Jacobites at Dumfries, but by the help of Lord Lovat and the townsmen escaped, and after the close of the rising took little part in public affairs, and died at Bath, 1721. He was apparently a man of fickle and unbalanced opinions, and his record explains Lord John Hay's remark about his own steadfastness to the King.

² George Ramsay of Carriden, third son of George (Ramsay), second Earl of Dalhousie, commanded a battalion of the Scots Brigade at Killiecrankie, where he was abandoned by his men and apparently taken prisoner. He became Brigadier-General in 1690, Major-General in 1694, Commander-in-Chief in Scotland in 1700, Lieutenant-General in 1702, and died at Edinburgh 1705.

³ John (Lindsay), nineteenth Earl of Crawford, born before 1672, Privy Councillor 1702, Brigadier-General 1703, Major-General 1707, died 1713.

⁴ Major George Preston of the Royal Scots Dragoons was the second son of George Preston, sixth of Valleyfield, co. Perth, descended of Craigmillar. George Preston the elder was created a baronet of Nova Scotia in 1637. George, his second son, was born c. 1659, and served in Holland in the service of the States General. He was a Captain in 1688, and attended William of Orange on his expedition to England, and was appointed Captain in the Royal Regiment of Scots Dragoons, 8th September, 1692, Bt. Lt.-Col. in 1702, Regimental

att Gawff wee went in to Lith and dyned, after dinner wee tocke a glass off wyynn pritty hartily, till sutch tyme that my Lord .A. who hade been drincking the night befor and having drunck more than i hade donne wass gott pritty clear. so evry one named a halth rownde and when it came to mee i named to all those that wishes well to ther cowntry upon whitch my Lord said i doo not understande that halth i mean the King att whitch all of uss wass not a litle surprysed, and i fynding what turn he meade replyed that i did not understande his meaning for i wisht the Kings interest as well ass anny man dead and have sarved him with ass mutch zeall as he or anny man cowld pretende to and i was sewr with more steadfastness than he. whitch so pickt my Lord .An. that he went owt in a greatt pett, and since i never have spocke with him and this wass abowt two months ago or six weacks. so that i have all the reason to belive that it is upon this accownt that i ame misrepresented and by him, who will not stick to doo mee that diskynndness and is capable to macke his owen turn upon it, though i confess i cowld hardly imadgin anny man showld bee guilty of so mean and turty a thing, so shall suspende my thought till i know who it is that

Major in 1704, and Regimental Lt.-Col. the same year, and Colonel 1706. He was appointed Colonel of the Cameronian Regiment in August of that year, He commanded the Scots Greys at Blenheim, receiving a gratuity of £78 10s. was severely wounded at Ramillies, and was also at Malplaquet; became Brigadier-General in 1711, was Governor of Nieuport 1713, and Lieut.-General 1739. He was Commander of the Castle of Edinburgh in 1715, and was finally appointed Lieut.-Governor thereof at a salary of 10s. per diem. He was superseded by General Guest in 1745, but remained in the Castle, and it is said that his firmness was the means of preventing Guest surrendering to the Prince's army, for although Guest was in nominal command, Preston, in spite of his years, superintended the defence, and is reported to have had himself carried round in a chair every two hours at night to make certain that all the sentries were alert and at their posts. When threatened by the Jacobite army that if the Castle were not given up they would burn Valleyfield, he replied that if they did so he would instruct King George's ships in the Forth to destroy Wemyss Castle in retaliation. He died on 7th July, 1748, aged about 88 years. He is frequently confused with Robert Preston, who served in the Scots Greys during the same period; indeed, some of the printed histories of the regiment say that Robert Preston commanded the regiment in Marlborough's wars, but this is a mistake. The name of the officer who so ably commanded at Blenheim and in Flanders was *George* Preston. 'Dalton's Army Lists' seems to indicate that the two were brothers or half-brothers. This is probable, but I have failed to find proof of it. Another source of confusion arises from the fact that a second George Preston commanded the regiment in the middle of the eighteenth century, and was present at Minden and (I think) Dettingen, but the three persons are perfectly distinct.

hath done mee that diskynndness and i ame hopfull that those who are my frindes will doo mee that kyndness ass to plainly to tell the matter of fact, whitch upon my honowr is just what i have incerted hear. this you may show to my Lord Teviott¹ and anny other he thincks fitt ore that you doo, for i have meade it publick anuff hear what passed betwixt my Lord and mee and will still more since i fynde it so. i will not trowble my Lord with a letter upon this head but show him i hope hee will doo mee that justice ass to ewse his interest with my Lord Albemarle² ore anny other he thincks proper to vindicat mee and plainly what passed if he thincks fitt. and what he adviseth mee to doo aither by wryting ore otherways i shall bee verry ready to obey. i can say no more till i have a further accownt frome you or him to whome pray give my most humble sarvice so i remain

Sir your assewdred frende and humble sarvant

JOHN HAY

“what further vexed my Lord upon what past was major Generall .R. lickt thumbs with mee and saide he knew mee to bee ane honest man i fynde all to whome i have spocke to are of the same oppinion that it is Anandeall who hath donne mee that injury whitch when i know to bee so i shall know what to say.”

The above paragraph is written at the bottom of the letter beside the signature.

The letter is sealed with black wax, with an impression of the crest of the Hay family, a Goat's head with the motto “Spare nought.” and is addressed:—“To Captain Agniew off the Royall Regiment off scots Dragowans att London.”

¹Thomas Livingstone, second baronet, son of Thomas Livingstone (descended of Newbiggin), by the daughter of Col. Edmund. Thomas the elder was created a baronet in 1627, and died before 1673. He served in Holland in the service of the States General. Thomas the younger was born in Holland about 1651, and entered the service of the Prince of Orange as ensign in his father's company. He became Lieut.-Colonel of Balfour's regiment in 1684, and accompanied William of Orange to England. He was appointed Lieut.-Colonel of the Royal Scots Dragoons in December, 1688, served under Mackay in Scotland, commanded at Inverness, and defeated the Jacobite army under Buchan and Cannon at the Haughs of Cromdale in 1690. In 1696 became Major-General, and Lieut.-General 1703; gazetted Colonel of the Scots Greys in August, 1703, but sold his commission, 1704, to Lord John Hay. Was created Viscount Teviot and Lord Livingstone of Peebles 1695; married a Dutch lady, Macktellina Walrave, but had no issue. He died in 1711, and was buried in Westminster Abbey. He had charters of the lands of Lethington in 1702, and of the lands of Houghton in 1709

²Arnold Joost van Keppel, Earl of Albemarle, the courtier and favourite of William of Orange.

London Martch .2. (1703)

Sir

... you have donn well to sende my horses to Utricht for i ame sewr both the stond horse and that Gray Guelding will mutch the betterr they be ride if so be the fellow tacks cairr of them. Seing that those Chairrs have not ben proveyded for me macke a dozen sutch as Collonell Prestons werr that arr handsom and easie. And i hope particular cairr hath ben tacken that the timberr of my waggon hath ben well seasond for in saving a litle in the price i showld be loth to be att the trowble i was last yearr always mending them and i ame mutch affrayed the harnise will not prove near so good as what i might have brought frome this for the Lather is not near so good. you must see to gett annother Waggonerr. And Captain Campbell must doo me the favour to secewr a batt. man for me owt of his Company i mean what he hade for Generally amongst the foott ther arr good ones to be gott. And in the mean tyme lett one of those fellows appointed for my Grooms be Lerning to drive my Chaise for i dissign only two led horses upon a martch and thre att a review. i have putt my selff to morr chardges than i wowld have donn if i thought i hade benn postponed of my Brigadirrs pay whitch i belive i shall this Campagn, for betwixt you and me it is a scandall to see how all relaiting to the Armmy is manadged, being they sharp all they can of uss. And even in the particularr of bownty monny whitch wee thought hade ben ordered as the Generall officerrrs concerted, i ame informed that is to be Clipt so as that wee shall macke i belive litle of it for his Grace as i ame informed comes in for a snack as Captain Generall and so downnwards. Captain Gardner was with me just now and tells me that the remainder of owr monny for the dead horses is to be payed to morrow. As to affairs in scotland i fynde Seafield is to be Chancellor again my father refewsing to continew in that post and Annandeall secretary conjunct with Rox. and my father president of the Councell, whitch is all att present frome,

Sir, your assured frinde

JOHN HAY.

My Lord Teviott and i shall orde all befor i part frome this, but ther is no dealing with that fellow Livingston¹ so that i will

¹Livingston was agent for the regiment in London, and seems to have been as rapacious as the army agents of the time all were. Col. Hay's letters are full of complaints about his laziness and greed.

advyse what cowrce to tacke with him to bring him to reason.

Edin jully .17. (1703)

Sir

. . . in all probability ther must be vacancys for the Marquis of Lowthian doeth all alongst go along with the cowntry parties measseurs so that he will certainly lose his Redgiment¹ ass my Lord Teviott doeth likways his if this party still continew in favour and if not i ame pritty well stated with the Cowntrie partie you may bee sewr, who att present doo carry things overr the belly of the Cowrt for instance that Clause which was presented by my Lord Roxborough of which i gave a full accownt in my Last to Captain stewart the parlament hath hade two sederints att which i was not present having benn indisposed this weack past occasioned by a cold i gott and a vyolent fitt of the Gravell but now i thank god ame mutch better. The first day they satt and did nothing for the cowntry partie fynding that bissness was not in that concert they cowld wish tryfelt of the tyme by making spetches mal a propos and so prevented bringing anny thing to a vott that night in speigh of all the Cowrt cowld doo, so that they werr forced att ten a clock att night to adjurn till yesterday wher the bissness was then tacken upp and after some tyme spent in reading overr both Roxborughs clause and the advocats it came to the vote which showld bee considered first and carried Roxborughs by six votes and so it was a little amended and added to the act of secewryty and then they voted add the advocats to the act which is mutch mended likways and it caryed add by seventy votes though the Court oppost it and voted no and the president of the Cowncell and Duke of Argyll entered ther protests and some others adheard, so that i doo assure you this is a home strock for they neverr werr so baffled. . . . My Lord Teviot is now begun a law sew with Blantyr for the interest of Lidingtoun² which i belive will cost them both a great deall of monny, so he is lyke to pay for his folly in entring to that bargain without advysing with frindes.

Sir

i have benn in town now these fowr days bygonn and have ben employed paying my devoirs to some of owr Cowrtiers and

¹ Lothian's Regiment of Dragoons, the present 7th Hussars, raised in 1690.

² Lord Teviot had charter of the lands of Lethington in 1702.

making my Cowrt to my Lord Malborigh who by appointment gave me ane audience yesterday in the afternoon. i have fully talkt with him in Generall of affairs in regard as to my father and then i came to my owen particular wherin i showed him how uneasie i was that i cowlde not have the satisfaction to be under his command last Campagn, but that that i cowlde not i thought with Credit doo upon this he said that frome the Carrecterr he hade of me from severalls and by what he saw and knew of me when with him abroad he hade a kyndness for me and did locke upon me to be ane honest man but that hade i benn his brother he cowlde not but have condemd me for not being overr last summer so hoped i wowlde exceuse him for seing so. this he did in a verry frindly manner so that i thanked him and towld him i was very censible of his kyndness but that to continew in the post i was and sarve one so was what i cowlde not with honour doo anny morr. unless i hade a Redgiment of my owen i cowlde not think of sarving anny morr, and to kepp what i hade and not to sarve was what i neverr intended, so that if ane occasion for my preferment did not offer this winter i wowlde then leave it to his Grace to doo with my Commission what he thought fitt. he said severall kynde things and assured me of his frindship when occasion offerd so that i ame perswaded if a Red Redgiment fall vacant i will gett it. i towld him further that i understood they dissyned to dispose of Teviots Redgiment and that so farr they hade declaired it that they hade already mead ane offer of it, and that to my Lord Crafford in particular who towld me of it himself whitch i thought verry strange that befor her Majestie hade declaired it vacant they showld take upon them to dispose of it. He said for that he was sewr the Queen wowlde doo nothing with the tropes abroad without speacking to him and that i might depende upon. all i cowlde say i have and ame now att ease, and i must neads say i neverr mett with morr civility frome anny boddy in my liffe, perhaps that will be all. The divisions hear amongst our great ones continew and the Duke of Atholl Chancellor and Crommartie go togaither. Queensberry and his tutor Stairs Annandeall and Ross arr of the other partie hear and Leaven is writ for, if the others stik i belive some honest menn may be brought in to the Government for the ballance no dowbt will bee of ther syde since the Cowntrie partie will recave them if things continew in the hands they werr. the nixt session of parlament will dowbtless be hotter as this, but it is expected some change will be and condeshentions granted, this mutch for

politiks. . . . direct your letters for me to be left att whyts jocolat house in st jameses streett. i shall be glade to hear you arr perfectly recovered.

adiew

London Novem^{br} .9. (1703).

Sir

since my last ther is nothing further as to owr scots affairs but only that the Queen hath promised ther showld be a conferrence whitch the Duke of .Q. declyns if obtaind i dowbt not but that it may have good effect Ther is one thing whitch occasions evry boddy to inqueir mor particularly anent my Lord Stairs, and that is a full accownt of the Murder of Glenco whitch is printed and publickly sowld hear withall its particulars and what the parlament did upon it, this is what doeth expose him to the hiest degree, so that for his estate i wowld not have so mutch laid to my chardge. . . . i cann informe you of no other news frome this but what is verry bade. that is daily wee have accownts of morr loss att sea whitch was occasioned by a vyolent storme of wynde whitch wee hade hear upon saturday morning last, and hath donn a great deall of damidg to the howses both in town and Cuntrie. wee have accownts of Admirall Byronts being lost and nyne men of warr morr besyde a vast manny martchant menn so that it is comduted that .1000. sea men may bee lost owt of the wholl whitch cannot be recovred in hast.¹ i wish you may not hade the same effect with you of whitch we arr apprehensive. if things go right and i bee proveyded for as i dissyr i shall sarve my frindes so farr as i cann in doing them justice if otherways i bee to quit you shall bee sewr to hear frome me whitch is all at present frome
your assured frinde and humble sarvant

J. H.

London Decem^{br} 3 (1703)

London Decm^{br} .17. (1703)

Sir

. . . Ther is still a stand as to owr affairs upon the accownt of this plott² whitch hath benn now befor a Cabinet Cowncell and

¹ This was the 'Great Storm' of Nov., 1703, which caused immense damage; the name of the admiral who was lost was Basil Beaumont, whose flag-ship, the 'Mary,' was lost on the Goodwin Sands.

² The 'Scots' or 'Queensberry' plot: a scheme devised by Frazer of Lovat to discredit the Duke of Athole, which caused great excitement, but came to nothing. It was however the cause of a long and acrimonious dispute between the two Houses of the English Parliament.

The Royal Scots Dragons

some of our Ministers with the Queen upon it. and will be mead publick in a few days some are taken up upon it those that have been in France lately and our Scots Councillors hear are to have a meeting upon it. and her Majesty hath acquainted the House of Lords that she will lay it before them. this is all we know of this matter as yett. and I am persuaded nothing will be mead out but a contrivance to insnare some people. time will detect the Knavery of it and I hope they will meet with their reward. my service to all friends with you adieu.

Sir

... As to our affairs hear they are not come to a Crisis, and the Chancellor who intended to be gone for Scotland this week is stopt upon this account, that it seems those of our Privy Council hear are to meet and have what informations have been given in relation to our sham plot laid before them so that accordingly instructions will be given him. the Court was never so much puzzled as at present about our affairs, and the divisions hear continue much the same, I hope some good may come out at last. what further happens you shall know and I will take care to order the payment of what will be due Lieutenant Kith, pray send over my buttons I mean what I wrote for that is a set of the best style double Gilt buttons of the newest fashion can be got at the Hague. this I mention to you again least that my former might have miscarried which is all at present frome

Sir, your assured friend and humble servant

JOHN HAY.

London January .14 (1704)

London January .25. (1704)

Sir

since my last there was a meeting of all our Privy Councillors hear where her Majesty and the Prince were present. The Duke of Atholl did there read a narrative that he had drawn up of all in relation to the discovery of the plot, which did touch upon the Duke of .Q. upon which my Lord Stairr rose up and spoke with a great deal of warmth and there told that there was one went down to Scotland who rid it in three days which was the greatest dispatch could be mead, and upon his arrival that meeting was, where it seems measures were taken as might appear by some of the highland Clans going to the hills with

ther followers, and further said he did not think that the french King would have ingadged to sende menn or monny to scotland unless some peopell of Quality werr concerned in that dissyn so that it was his oppinion and advice that her Majestie showld augment her forces in scotland to fyve thowsand menn and that ships showld be sent to guard the cost, and that fiftie thowsand pownd sterling sent down now might be of morr euse than .500. thowsand pownd would be able to retriue att another tyme, as also that it was easie to distinguish what partie was for her majesties interest. so runn owt for a long tyme. the Duke of Atholl answered that as for the sending down one it was trew his sons governour went down being he hade no further occasion for him his son being now of Edge and that he did tacke above fyve days to macke the jurnny so that her Majestie from that might judge the rest what that noble Lord asserted. And as to the highland Clans he said that when she was pleased to call them some tyme ago befor her his oppinion then was that they showld be cited to swear to the peace according to custom, but it seamd thē Councell thought fitt to sende orders to brigadir Maitland¹ to apprehend Clengarie and thre morr, upon witch they seeing some of the forces coming of a suddenn among them did fly to the hills but that not one of ther rascalls did stirr, and it was no wonderr but that they werr apprehensive being they hade still a remembrance of the horrid murder was committed upon the Glenco menn, upon witch stairs answered that that was a reflexion upon the laitt King and his ministers, the Duke said it was non as to the laitt King being the parlament hade given their oppinion ass to that, but upon those who contryved and manadged it. so you may judge by this how warm they werr. as also how this will be tacken in scotland wher i doo assewr the bottome of the plott and dissyned invasion will be sufficiently inqueired into, and things arr brought to that pass that i belive ther neverr was sutch a ferment in the nation as att present, and no wonder considering what accusations arr mead against the best and honest part of the nation. Owr affairs will not come to a finnal determination till this parlament raise and my Lord Malborough returnn, but i ame of oppinion all owr great folks will go down in the same station as they came upp, and as to my owen particular i must have patience till the Duke come back. . . . if you cann not gett that sett of bottons verry good you may lett it

¹ James Maitland, son of Robert Maitland of the Bass, was for some time Governor of Fort William ; d. 1716.

The Royal Scots Dragoons

alonn and if not already proved so as they bee hear the first of the nixt month doo not send them me. . . . i have nothing further to add but that Levenn is to go down Comissioner to the Generall assembly and so i belive they intend to putt of the sitting of owr parlament some tyme till they try peopells pulcys. so with my sarvice to all frinds with you adiew.

London february .8. (1704)

Sir

. . . by a letter i hade from Captain stewart last night i fynde that they have great difficulty to gett menn and pay them thre Gyneas in hand to them owr affairs arr all att a stand att present but yesterday being her Majesties birth day she hath mead six knights of the order of st Andrews who arr the Duke of Argyll Atholl M. Annandeall L. Dalkith E. Orkny and the Chancellor and the Ribban is now greann. so that ther is still thre remaining to be given as matters comes to be settled.

London february .13. (1704)

Sir

. . . The only thing i can informe you of is that ther is now ane accownt come frome scotland that one Baillie a brother of Monerhalls hath depond befor the councell that the D. of Q. and Mar. An. did endeavowr by promising both monny and imployment to ingadge him to declair and swarr that severalls of the Cowntrey partie werr in a plott and named the men of best Quality in it to have hade a correspondence and a common banck of monny for bying of arms and ammunition to sarve the french interest and bring in the prince of wails. D. H.¹ D. A.² the Chancellor and some others werr named to him but my father is not nor anny of owr relations, this that Gentleman hath donn upon a chock of consience and hearing the noise the plott mead did wreitt to Duke .Ha.³ and discovered all that past betwixt .Q. A. and him and hath signed it, whitch i have senn and it is the most villanows contryvance evver was heard of. . . .

London Martch .10. (1704)

. . . by the degree of the Lord of the session i fynde Blantayr is ordered to consignn his monny for Lidington by the tenth of

¹ Duke of Hamilton (?)

² Duke of Atholl (?)

³ 4th Duke of Hamilton, who was killed 1712 in a duel with Lord Mohun.

junn otherways Teviott is to keep it. Rothes Roxborough and Gerviswood who werr sent upp by the cowntry partie have hade ther owndice of herr Majestie and she towld them that the parlament showld sitt ass soon as conveniently she cowld appoint it and that that affair of y^e plott showld be layd befor them. All as yett is not determined in owr affairs but i ame perswaded the D. of .Q. will go donn Commissioner and the rest in ther places likways for he undertackes the setling of the succession this session of parlament whitch others will not ingadge to doo, and it is what the Queen towld Rothes and the others att therr awdience, when the report of the Committee to the howse of Lords is mead we then shall be att a certainty as to all owr affairs and this we expect will be in a few days. . . .

London Martch .28. (1704)

Sir

. . . i was yesterday afternoon with my Lord Malborough by his appointment who askt me particularly anent the condition of y^e Redgiment of which i gave him ane accownt and then did tacke occasion to speack to him as to my owen particularr he was mighty Civill to me and towld me that beforr he parted he would give his directions thereanent and bed me not be uneasie, but dissyred i showld come overr with y^e troppes being he dissigned they showld tacke y^e filde verry sonn upon that i towld him least that his Grace showld be dissappointed that ther would bee a necessity for living a good manny menn to loock afterr the supernumerary horses till whitch time owr recrewts werr landed frome scotland whitch wee cowld not sonner expect than the beginning of may. he said it was a fault owr recrewts owght to have marched by Land to newcastell and so have benn transported from thence hitherr, i towld him that it was what wee neverr did all y^e last warr besydes that wee cowld not undergo the expence, but that if his Grace did think that the properest method to be tacken herafterr some meassewrs showld be tacken for that effect against nixt yearr att whitch he was satisfyed. you can not imadgin what difficultys i meat with to gett monny advanced upon y^e accownt of the two additional tropes, whitch i ame affrayed will not bee gott in a good condition this Campagn, howevrr for Armes that shall be donn hearr, but Cokards and other things proveyded with you for the sixt tropes y^e lyke must be proveyded for them likways, and cloth for the officerrs Cloths and howsings conforme to y^e rest of the officerrs, which you must cause tacke cairr of, and what monny

belonging to my Lord Teviott must be applyed for that ewse, and when i come over we shall adjust all. . . .

Tents for the subaltairns must be bespock sutch as y^e rest i mean for the two additionall tropes. i hope owr horses arr landed saif for i ame affrayed they have suffered for wee have had verry stormy waitherr hearr, and i ame sewr y^e recrewts horses werr naiverr so good, and y^e Clothing i will likways answeerr but better hade i hade y^e absolwtt manadgment. owr scots affairrs will now be determined in a few days so sonn as y^e parlament hear is upp. . . .

“ Sir

Least my former may have miscaried i shall again recomend to you that so soon as you arryve att Gorcum you wreit to mr Drummond to whom i have wrote myselff some tyme ago, that he wouold be pleased to bay a pice of y^e best Clarett he can fynde and lett it be botteled of aither in flasks orr other bottells as he fyndes most proper for y^e easier transporting of it, but particular cairr must be tacken in seeing that it (*sic* “is” omitted) well Corkt, and let him sende it by y^e first good occasion he can fynde to Engelland, and according as he advises you, you may then wreitt to Captain Garner to tacke cairr of it and kepp it for me till i arryve att London. you must likways tacke a particular review of those two additionall troppes, and see what is wanting and what horses to be changed and men. and accordingly make up a list of what proveyded last year for y^e Redgiment and what (*and what* erased) will be wanting for the nixt, that i may accordingly show my Lord Teviott it or sende him a dowble therof in cace he be in scotland. what in y^e wholl i know is wanting is Britches hats and Gloves and belts, saddells a good many. for this i will represent to his Grace befor i leave Holland that so it may not be imputed to my neglect. Owr officers have not as yett gott ther forloff signd by mr Cardinalls neglect who is now gon alongst with my Lord Duke, so that i belive i may go as soon frome this as they now for till my Lord Duke come back they can not sturr and he is not expected till about six days hence. wee have suffered morr then befor you left uss for want of furradge so that the Redgiment when i past it in review the other day lockt most misserable and i doo assewr you i locke upon the half as lost and by y^e returns of other Redgiments non hath escaped this distemper so well as yett but it still continews, and y^e list given in of y^e men and accutremnts

to be transported from this by boat arr already above thre hundred of y^e English horss and Dragoons. i ame resolved now to euse my interest for Livt Nix having that vacant troope, but he must see to macke it upp both as to men and horses this you may insinuatt to him that you belive i will be his frinde in it, for now that i have considered upon it i wovld be thought partiall if i disposed of it otherways besydes i know not if i showld happen to give it to a prittier young fellow orr to one that cowld putt it in a good condition, and i think these tarmes arr easie anuff that he getts it so. this tacke your owen way to lett it fall to him but lett it go no further least that Collopp make interest with Carduggan to putt a stopp to it under hande, and examine particularly as to Collops caracterr for i ame towld he can naither read nor wreitt and besydes hath hade a mynde to disposs of his livtennency some tyme ago. inqueir likways as to y^e caracterrs of y^e subaltarn officerrr in those tropes and and lett me know them that accordingly i may know how to advance accordingly. As to all other accownts of y^e Redgiment those i expect to fynde readdy and clearr upon my arryval att y^e Hague that " (hole under seal here) " may not be detaind anny tyme upon that accownt, and so farr as y^e Redgiment is cleared by y^e publick lett all y^e officerrr be cleared till then for i will have no back accownts and full dischardges given by etch particular officerr till that tyme. you may likways wreitt to mr Lillie that i expect he will tacke cairr of what letters comes to his handes directed for me, and show him that i did wreitt to him some tyme ago to sende to his correspondent aither att parris or wher he can have the newest patterns of imbroderie for a sewt of cloths to me and i will not have the sewt mutch imbroydered but lett it be gentille and gowld upon a fine blew cloth vest and britches y^e same. if he thinks he can mynde my measewr exact lett him orderr the imbroydery to be putt in hande but lett him tacke cairr the Goold be fyynn and a fyynn blew the Colowr of y^e cloth. lett me know if this comes saif to your handes, for i belive we shall be hear this fortnight yett for they arr not masters of y^e Cownterscarp as yett. which is all att present from

sir

your hum^{ble} sarvant

JOHN HAY.

Octo^{br} .31. n.s.

(1704)

Addressed :—"A Monsiewr Monsiewr Agniew Major D'e Redgiment Royall Ecossois Cologne."

Sealed with the head of a unicorn and motto "Praesto ut praestem," the crest of the Preston family. It does not seem to have been twice sealed, perhaps Hay borrowed Colonel Preston's seal for the occasion. The letter is dated very illegibly from a place which looks like Cronwecherberg or Cronwechenborg, but it is quite uncertain, and no place of these or similar names can be traced. In 1704 the allies were besieging Landau and Traerbach; the former surrendered in November, and the latter on 20th December of that year. Possibly the letter may have been written from some place in the vicinity of one or other of these towns, as from the last sentence of the letter it appears that siege operations of some kind were being conducted.

This letter is given in full, as it is the first of the series written after Hay received the colonelcy, and it shows that he had found some slackness and confusion in the accounts.

Mr. Cardinal is evidently Adam Cardonel, secretary to Marlborough. He was son of Adam de Cardonel, a French Protestant, and was a chief clerk at the War Office prior to his appointment as secretary to the Captain-General. He countersigned all the commissions signed by Marlborough, and is frequently mentioned in the Marlborough dispatches. He amassed a considerable fortune, but not without strong suspicion of having taken bribes from army contractors. He died in 1719, leaving an only daughter, who married William, 1st Earl of Talbot.

"London january .2. (1705)

Sir

... though i mentioned in my last to you of sending a letter inclosed for brigadir Hamilton yett i raither chuss to sende it under covert to mr Lillie and have by this post, dissyring that he would sende as formerly one hundred bottells of etch sort of y^e same wynn he sent me to your cairr and advertiss you therof that accordingly you might pay the chardge. it is for my Lord Roxborghs ewss, but direct it for Captain Garderr and lett it be sent overr hither by the first sewr occasion mynn goes of a pace being extream good and good fellows arr not wanting hear to drink it, as i hade occasion the other day to take a hartly bottell with a sempell of them that dynd with me Rox Teviott shipio hill¹

¹ Captain Scipio Hill, of the Earl of Leven's Regiment (the 25th Foot, K.O.S.B.), was appointed adjutant-general in Scotland in 1690, and being subsequently sent on a mission to King William at Chester to unfold General MacKay's plans for a new fort at Inverlochy it is highly probable that Scipio Hill and John Hill, commander at Inverlochy, were brothers. He petitioned Parliament, and in 1691 was recommended to the Treasury for payment of a month's pay to refund him for certain extraordinary expenses arising from his being made captain of 'Bennet's troupe of horse' when it was 'turned Dragoons,' but in 1696 'never one sixpence had been payed thereof,' and he is again recommended to the King and 'if his case falls under the act of parliament appointing

Muntjoy y^e Registerr huntterr¹ Dirlton² and another sutch sett i ame to have to morrow by whome all your healths arr and will be mynded. you have i supoose sent overr to Captain Gardnerr ane account how to pay the officers and men whylst hear, if not doo it by y^e first. Robison and Grant arr to part frome this this weak for scotland, and i have allowed Grant all jannuarrys pay by advance to carry him down, so you may stopp the same (or the some) frome being payd to him in scotland. pray dispatch my Lord Teviots accownts, so that all y^e bissiness of y^e Redgiment may be upon a clear foot. for preventing imbroyling of accownts i will alow no monny to be stopt hear, but have it returnd overr by you, if anny thing morr occur to me you shall hear by y^e nixt whitch is all att present

adiew ”

“London january .9. (1705)

Sir

... Having recaved some days ago a letterr frome mr Lowthian my cadett showing me that he wants both linings and Cloths i dissyr you wowld cause proveyd him in a dozen of shirts and as many cravats, and a plain ride sewt sutch as my Quartermasters hade lett y^e Cloth be fitt for anny Gentleman to weairr, and what else you fynde he wants to equip him owt pray lett him have it. i must likways put you in mynde to be sewr to wreitt to mr Drummond to secewr a hogshead of Claret for me the best can be gott and lett it be botled of, when you think it properr, and the wynn proveyded according as you arr advised by him. i dissyr to know what horses you have proveyded for me owt of those two tropes and how many that i may accordingly regulat my selff therupon. ther is one thing i must recomend to you so that you may make experiment of it, whitch i have ben adveysed to, and that is a pice of rosett sutch as the fidders ewse that prayd to powther and give a Lardge spunfull of it amongst your horsse

arrears to be paid out of the hearth-money’ he is referred to the Commissioners. He was created a baronet in 1707, and on his death the title is believed to have become extinct. He was alive in 1714, when his name appears in the list of officers on half-pay. ‘Muntjoy’ is probably William, 2nd Viscount Mountjoy.

¹ Robert Hunter of the Hunterston family ; is said to have had a command at the siege of Derry ; Brevet Lieut.-Colonel in Ross’s Regiment of Irish Dragoons, 1703 ; appointed Governor of Virginia in 1708, of New York, 1709, of Jamaica, 1729, and died there in 1734 ; married Lord John Hay’s widow.

² Son of Sir John Nisbet of Dirleton, the lawyer, and author of *Law Doubts*.

corn, but wait with warm watter y^e corn that so it may stick and go y^e easier down this ewse for thre tymes once a day and give them warm watter to drink after ther corn, and it is ane unfall-able cewr for the morty shain¹ farcy or anny smitting distemperr ewse it a fowrt tyme if it doo not doo y^e third it can doo no harm. so make ewse of it if this distemper be still amongst y^e horses, this i was adveysed to by a verry understanding phesitian who towld me he hath hade experience of it and if it doo it is a verry easy cewr i think and ought to be tryed, as i dissyr you may upon anny of my horses that arr ill i always forgett to wreit to you to see to proveyd Livrys for my Grooms plain blew Coat westcot and britches y^e same colowr with ther big coats that they have now, and lett them (have) hats with a silver lace abowt ane inch broad this you may cause immediatly to be proveyded for them. . . .

Unsigned and addressed :—"To Major Agnew Major to the Royall Regiment of scots Dragowns in Quarterrs att Gorcum
Hollande "

"London january .16. (1705)

Sir

. . . for the standards i have bespok them and they will cost me a good deail of monny being of the same bigness as major Generall Rosses arr imbroydered upon blew Dammas, but the two staffs you must proveyd and make them mutch laighterr as y^e owld ones and lett them be painted blew. for y^e Drums you must likways by them with you. the officers cloth for ther Livry Coats i shall sende overr with y^e first transport and some of them shall carry overr ther coat mead for to be a patern how to make the rest by. it is to be payed by y^e beginning of May, and y^e Captains skarfs likways by that tyme. the subaltarns arr to proveyd themselves in laced belts and the Quartermasters arr to have plain rid Coats as formerly ther cloth i shall sende overr likways, but all ar to have laced hatts. . . . i doo assewr you that as matters stande with my Redgiment i shall be owt of pokett in proveyding all what i fynde i ame oblidged to make up this year and that considerably if y^e Goverment doo not allow me for the lost accutremments, for you know how small a fonde is remaining of y^e Clothing monny. so i hope cairr will be taken hearafter to know wher y^e fawlt lays in lossing y^e accutremments whitch i ame

¹ "Mortersheen, a fatal species of glanders."—JAMIESON.

confident hath ben donn this yearr as many by negligence and morr than in y^e battells. . . .

Unsigned, and addressed :—" To Major Agniew Major to the Royall Redgiment of scots Dragoons in Quarters at Gorcum

Holland "

" London february .16. (1705)

Sir

I have pereussed all the accownts you sent me overr, which agree with those the Agent hath gott. i belive ther will be no occasion for remitting anny morr monny being wee expect to have the monny payed uss whitch her Majesty hath given as a gratuity to all those that served in Germany last Campagn. And all the Generall officers hear in town mett upon it by my Lord Dukes direction to see to proportion it so as the some might bearr. whitch is sixty fyve thowsand pownds sterling, owt of whitch the Generall officers and all other officers conforme to ther stations arr to recave three month full pay. those that werr dissabled so as to live (*sic* for leave) the Camp arr to recave six months pay, and all the soldiers arr to recave in proportion so mutch a foot soldier 20 shillings. a Corporall .30. and sardjant .40. A Dragonn .30. Corporall .40. sarjant .50. tropper .40. Corporall .50. and the non Commissionat officers ther pay for three months. All soldiers dissabled to recave owt of that some wherupon to be subsisted for two years, till proveyded for in Chelcy Colledge, so that you must immediatly return me ane accownt what men of my Redgiment that arr not fitt for sarvice. this is to be given and signed by me upon honnowr, and those officerr that werr killed and dyed of ther wownds who have left widdows or Children behynd them doo recave six months pay, whitch i must nead say is a great aknowledgment and owght to satisfy all. . . . This day Cornett Grant hath signed his demission to me for .100. Gynneas whitch i have payed him. . . . so at last i have gott ride of that worthless fellow who is married hear to a Millaner notwithstanding his wiff his (*sic*) i ame towld still alyve. Collop i fynde is to continew this Campagn, but Cornet Trent is in expectation to gett a Company in one of the new Redgiments, so i hope att last to gett ride of all the hum drum fellows in my Redgiment. . . .

Unsigned and addressed :—" To Major Agniew Major to the Royall Redgiment of scots Dragowns in Quarters att Gorcum

Holland.'

“ Heleshem August .7. ^{n.s.} (1706)

Sir

i hade your letter daited the .16. of junn with the inclosed i ame sorry to fynde by it that still you continew inddisposed, since so and that the season of the yearr is so farr advanced that you can not be hear now till the latter ende of the Campagn, you nead not think of it but remain att home, and so endeavowr to putt your selff in a condition to sarve again nixt yearr, for now that in all appearance wee may have a peace in a twelvemonth i wOULD not have you by disposing of your Commission throw away so manny years sarvice. of this you have tyme to considerr and if so be you still resolve to live the Ridgiment think of what will be most convenient for your present circumstances and i wil endeavowr to sarve you so farr as in my powerr, and anny thing of that Nattewr will be better manadged dewring the winterr than att this tyme, besydes Major Campbells frindes may be assisting to you uppon that accownt to sarve him, for i know Boyd will ewse all the interest he cann by underlars (?) as i fownde he wass doing last yearr, whitch in somme measewr i will prevent by kepping him in this cuntrie this winterr. i have att last preaveaild with his Grace to sign the Breavets that is Prestons and yours will be to night they arr all daited the first of january and i have placed Cornett King livtennant and my Lord Montjoys brother Cornett in his place, and the troppe sir Robert Hay hath gott it and a son of mr francis Mogomry hath gott his Companny. That Redgiment of whitch Lallo is now Cornell having mead a chandge with my Lord Mordant is one of those six that arr sent to reanforce the detachment that besidges Menin. Wee brocke grownde two nights ago with litle loss not having above fifteen men killed and wounded and since the Ennemy have mead two sorties but have ben repulsed with loss, i doo not hear wee have anny officerr of distinction as yett wounded only one Cornell Chambrier a Swiss Cornell. wee expect all owr batteries will be readdy to fyrr in thre days hence, but in short i ame affrayed it will be the latter ende of the month befor wee can be masters of it for therr arr above fyve thowsand menn in it and it is well provedd in evry thing and ther arr severall mynns whitch will costt uss Dear.¹ The Duke of Vandome is now come and hath hade ane interview with the Electorr but as yett they have drawn

¹ Menin capitulated on 22nd August, 1706, the garrison being allowed to retire with war-like honours; the reduction of the fortress cost the Allies about 3000 casualties.

together no considerable boddy of troppes, though they give owt they will in a short tyme, whitch if they doo you may depende upon this that his Grace will martch towards them and endeavour to give him battell. our Army hear whitch was reviewed the other day is in the best order i have senn it this long time particularly the Prussian and hanoverr troppes, and wee arr now hear .29. (?) squadrons and .74. batalions besydes those att the sidge, wherr wee have .36. battalions and .24. squadrons. This Campagn i hoppe will putt ane ende to the warr, for now that i ame marryed and considering how litle regard is hade for uss who arr constantly in sarvice others who stay att home advancing to higher stations than wee i ame not a litle uneasie upon it so dissigns befor i live this Cuntrie to lay my presentations befor his Grace and press it home. this is all i can informe you of att present so wishing you better halth i ame withall sincerity

Sir

your assured frinde and
hum^{ble} sarvant

JOHN HAY."

Addressed :—"To Livt Collonell Agnew of the Royall Redgiment of scots Dragonns to the cairr of Captain Aitkin secretarry att Warr to be left att his howse in Edinbrough

scotland"

This letter, probably the last to Colonel Agnew, was written within three weeks of Lord John Hay's death, which took place on the 25th of August, 1706, at Courtrai, in Flanders, from fever. The letter is sealed with red wax with an impression of the Hays' goat's head and the motto "Spare nought," but it is a different seal from that used on some of the earlier letters.