

SCOTTISH NOTES AND QUERIES

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ABERDEEN, APRIL, 1888.

SCULPTURED STONE VASE FOUND AT WESTHALL OF OYNE, ABERDEENSHIRE.

THE vessel, of which drawings are given in this issue of *S. N. & Q.*, is twenty inches in height and twenty inches at its greatest diameter, and weighs about a hundredweight and a half. It is of sandstone, hard of texture, and of a grayish white colour. Rusty spots appear on it, indicating that small nuggets of iron-ore are mixed through its substance. It has now only one lug or ear or handle, but has originally had two, one having been broken off and lost at a period now unknown. The lip is carefully smoothed for some inches inward, but the cavity lower down has been very roughly hollowed out, apparently with a pointed tool. The smoothness and accuracy of the round of the lip suggests that it was intended to receive a close-fitting basin. A hole perforated through the bottom was recently made to allow water to escape and to prevent the accident of its being split by frost. The smaller drawing shows the front aspect of a countenance human or bovine, which appears on two of its sides. The other carvings indicate garlands or vine branches, bearing bunches of fruit. The protuberances over the brows of the faces somewhat suggest

horns, but instead of being pointed the carving suggests a "frilled" edge as it might be of a wing.

Its history is as follows:—Between 1770 and 1805, Mr. Thomas Gray, who was tenant of the Home Farm of Westhall, in the parish of Oyne, under General Horn of Logie Elphinstone, having occasion to drain or clear out an old pond, found this vessel embedded in the mud, and it has been carefully preserved since then in the possession of Mr. Gray's descendants, first by his grand-daughter, Mrs. Thomas Sangster, and thereafter by its present owner, Mrs. George Cadenhead. Some years ago, its existence having become known to the late Bishop Forbes of Brechin, he caused it to be examined and sketched, and it is understood that he was advised that it was of pre-Christian and Pagan, probably Roman, origin. For some years past it has been deposited in Gray's Art School in Aberdeen, where it will probably remain, unless its archeological merits should call for its being removed to some more suitable place.

As for the missing lug, there are indications of white lead having been used to join on either the original or a substituted lug. When this was done is unknown, or has been forgotten.

The perfect and graceful design both of the form and carvings indicate that its maker was possessed of manual skill and a perfect perception of what he had in his mind to produce, or that he had a model before him.

It may be added, that the ponderous and robust character of the vessel seem to indicate that it had not been intended for domestic ornament, but rather that its original habitat had been in the open air.

The modern history of Westhall is that it belonged to the Church and Diocese of Aberdeen from the thirteenth century, and to the family of Horn from the Revolution. The Parish of Oyne and neighbourhood is rich in Runic monuments.

The peculiarity of the particles of iron-ore in the stone of which this vase is made may give a clue to where it was brought from. At present they are brown and rusty, but when the stone was freshly cut, it had probably shewn only groups of particles of silver-like pyrites here and there in its substance.

Perhaps some one seeing these illustrations may be able to say where anything similar is to



SCULPTURED STONE VASE,
Found at Westhall, Oyne,
ABERDEENSHIRE.

be found, and so help to explain how such an article should have been found in the mud at Westhall.
GEO. CADENHEAD.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF INVERNESS NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS.

THE locale of the Bibliography of Periodical Literature is changed this month to Inverness. The compiler, Mr. Noble, Bookseller, Inverness, enjoys excellent opportunities for personal knowledge of the subject, and has been kindly aided with information by Mr. Charles Fraser-Mackintosh, M.P., and Sir Henry C. Macandrew, Inverness. The articles will thus form a reliable trilogy as it were, and serve to deepen the interest in this not unimportant branch of literature. Mr. Noble will gratefully receive any item of information bearing on the subject.—ED.

1807. *The Inverness Journal and Northern Advertiser*, 4 pages, double crown folio, price sixpence, a weekly newspaper, was the first printed in Inverness. The first number was issued in August of this year, by John Young, Printer and Bookseller. Mr. Young was publisher of several works in Gaelic and English. A fair specimen of his capabilities as a printer, and reflecting credit on his press, is the edition of *Poems, chiefly in the Scottish Language*, by Dr. Robert Couper of Keith, 2 vols., post 8vo, Inverness, 1804. Dr. Couper is author of another work, well known to Aberdeen collectors, *The Tourifications of Malachi Meldrum*, issued from the Aberdeen press. Mr. Young also published a very handsome edition of *Ossian's Poems*, Macpherson's translation. Mr. Young is said to have conducted the *Journal* himself for a little time, but early in its career the editorial chair was taken by David Carey, a native of Arbroath, who discharged the duties for nearly five years. Carey was an author of considerable versatility and ability—a poet, novelist, and successful pamphleteer. While in Inverness he published a volume of poems, printed by Mr. Young, *Craig Phadric, Visions of Sensibility, with Legendary Tales and Occasional Pieces*, 8vo. Inverness, 1810. This volume is now chiefly valuable for the notes to the piece *Craig Phadric*, containing as they do much information on the early history of Inverness. In connection with the *Journal* it may be mentioned that a younger son of Mr. Young's, Murdo Young, was long editor, and latterly proprietor, of the *London Sun* and *True Sun* newspapers. The *Journal*, about 1814, changed hands, for the numbers of that year bear the imprint that it was "published for himself and the other proprietors by James Beaton." In a few years thereafter the imprint bore as published for the proprietors by James Fraser. It was understood at that time the proprietor was really the late Lachlan Mackintosh of Raigmore, who continued the *Journal* till

his death in 1845. Raigmore had under him as sub-editors at various periods in succession, James Beaton, David (?) Stalker, and Donald Macdonald. Mr. Stalker was sub-editor at the time of a celebrated local assault case, arising out of an article which had appeared in the *Journal*, reflecting on several townsmen. The late Sheriff George Cameron of Dingwall, at that time a writer in Inverness, was put on his trial for horse-whipping the proprietor, Raigmore. Henry Cockburn (afterwards Lord Cockburn) appeared for the defence, and in his address to the jury played on the name of the sub-editor, Stalker—"that he was put forward as a stalking horse," as the writer of the offensive article. Another story connected with the same trial I have heard told by the foreman of the jury (a deceased county gentleman) that, without leaving the jury-box, he had turned round, and consulted with his fellow-jurymen for a minute, when suddenly, before some jurymen had quite made up their minds, announced that the jury by a majority found the defender not guilty. On Raigmore's death in 1845 the *Journal* was stopped for a time, but was resumed in 1846 by Donald Macdonald, but continued to be published for about two years only, when it finally ceased at his death.

1817. *The Inverness Courier, and General Advertiser for the Counties of Inverness, Ross, Moray, Nairn, Cromarty, Sutherland and Caithness*, was commenced on 4th December, 1817, and continued to be issued as a weekly newspaper from that date till August, 1880. It was then published three times a week till the end of 1885, and since the latter date it has been published twice a week. It still flourishes. The first editor was Mr. John Johnstone, husband of Mrs. Johnstone, who conducted *The Edinburgh Tales*, and authoress of *Clan Albyn*, a novel, and other works. Mrs. Johnstone contributed to the columns of the *Courier* while it was under her husband's management. Before the appointment of the late Dr. Robert Carruthers as editor, the late Mr. James Suter superintended the original matter that appeared in the *Courier*, and in its columns first appeared (1822) *The Memorabilia of Inverness*, recently reprinted in a small volume (1887) from its pages by D. Macdonald, Inverness. In 1828 Dr. Carruthers became editor, and afterwards sole proprietor. He continued to edit it till his death in 1878. He was succeeded by his son, the late Walter Carruthers, who died in 1885, and he again was succeeded by its present editor, Mr. James Barron. The *London Letter of the Courier* was for many years a feature of some note for its excellence. The first writer of this weekly budget of *London Gossip in Politics, Literature, etc.*, was Mr. Roderick Reach, sometime a solicitor in Inverness, and who in his later years took up his residence in London, when he began contributing his weekly letter. On his death it was continued by his son, Angus Bethune Reach, one of the writers to *Punch*, and a prolific contributor to the comic and lighter literature of his time.

The late Shirley Brooks, editor of *Punch*, contributed the London letter for a year or two during the illness and till the death of Mr. Angus B. Reach.

1836. *The Inverness Herald.* A Weekly Newspaper. Commenced on the 15th December, 1836, and "Printed for the Proprietors by Duncan Davidson." Strongly Conservative, and ultra Protestant in Church and State. At its first start it was edited solely by the late Rev. Alexander Clark, at the time Minister of the Second Charge, Inverness. Mr. Clark was a steady contributor to the columns of the *Herald* during its ten years life, but he passed over the editorship very soon to the Rev. Simon Fraser, a probationer of the Church of Scotland, who was in time succeeded by the Rev. Donald Munro, also a probationer of the Kirk, who resigned the conducting of the *Herald* on his receiving the charge of a Presbyterian congregation at Alnwick, in Northumberland. The last editor was Mr. Charles Bond, who conducted the paper till it was discontinued in July, 1846. Mr. Bond came to Inverness from Hastings, in Sussex. He had published a small volume of Poems in that town, circa, 183(?)?, entitled, *Coronalis, a Poem designed as a Memorial of the Coronation of Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria*. While acting editor of the *Herald*, at Inverness, he edited *The Reminiscences of a Clachnacuddin Nonagenarian*. Inverness, 1842. The "Nonagenarian" became afterwards well known as "The Inverness Centenarian." Bond's little work, *The Reminiscences*, became in course of a few years rather a scarce book, and when copies appeared in local sales, sold at a good price. It was republished last year (1887).

1839-40. *The Clachnacuddin Record.* A Weekly crown folio sheet of 4 pages of local news, and literature. I write of this periodical from recollection only. It had a brief existence—about 20 months, probably—1839-40. In 1851, turning over the old periodical stock of a local bookseller, I came on two different numbers. My recollection of its date of publication is confirmed by a townsman who in his early days had been employed in the *Herald* office, and who at that time, on nights of publication, gave a hand, both at case and press, to the printer and proprietor of the *Record*. John Maclean, the printer, was well known to the older generation of Invernessians. He had a small jobbing office in a court off the High Street, now built over by the Caledonian Banking Coy.'s offices. He was familiarly known as "Clach," derived either from his newspaper, or more probably as an Inverness boy, from the ancient stone which forms the palladium of the Burgh—"Clachnacuddin," or the "Stone of the Tubs." Curiously enough, he is not the last connected with the Inverness press who has borne this designation, as at this very time (1888) the redoubtable editor of another local newspaper is known by the popular cognomen, "Clach." After the cessation of the *Clachnacuddin Record*, Maclean gave up his jobbing office, and passed

a few years of Bohemian life about Inverness, living on some little means he possessed. During these purposeless years of his life he made his old fellow "Comp." his banker, as he could not always trust himself with the possession of his means, and in applying for any sum he needed, he always passed this characteristic cheque—"To the Agent of the Caledonian (Canal) Bank. Pay to the Editor of the *Clachnacuddin Record* the sum of—." (Signed) John Maclean, Editor." The latter years of his life John Maclean spent as a compositor on the "night shift" of a Glasgow newspaper. He died rather suddenly, a few years ago, in the Western City. Alas! poor Clach!! thou wert deserving of a worthier end—the last we saw of thy open, jovial, highland face was among the gathering of a few Inverness boys in the city where he died.

1845-46. *Inverness and Northern Agriculturist.* A Monthly Journal. Published at the *Courier* office, Inverness, by Robert Carruthers. A demy 4to sheet. About 18 numbers were issued. Entirely devoted to articles on Agriculture. Sheep Farming, and kindred subjects. Among its chief contributors were the late James Baillie Fraser of Reelig, the celebrated Persian traveller, and the late Kenneth Murray of Geanies. The latter, on the discontinuance of the *Agriculturist*, continued his monthly article on Agriculture, &c., to the columns of the *Inverness Courier* till his death.

JOHN NOBLE.

(To be continued.)

THE ABERDEEN PRINTERS.

EDWARD RABAN TO JAMES NICOL.

1620-1736.

(Continued from p. 153.)

I MUST now return to the work mentioned at the commencement of my last paper, and which is in the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh. The title is as follows:—[Small oblong ornament along top.] | The Popes | New Years | Gifts, Anno 1622. | Containing | A Discoverie | Of the Abuses of the Romane Clergie. | Written first in Latine, by sundrie | Authors of their owne Profession: | And now translated into English, by G. L. | Roma diu titubans longis erroribus acta | Coronet, & mundi definit esse caput. | 1622 | [date within oblong ornament, with rose and thistle on either side]. Printed at Saint Andrewes, By | Edward Raban, Dwelling in the | Kirke-Wynde, At the Signe of | The A.B.C.

The work is a quarto, printed in roman letter. The collation is 4 ll + A — D⁴. The first and last leaves are wanting, probably they were blank, L2, Title, verso, "Psalmes Lxviii., verse 1, God will arise," &c., ll.3—4 [pp. 4], "The Printer to the Pope, and the rest of the Romane Clergie," A 1—D 3, "The Pope's New Year. 1622."

In the work described by me in the *Aberdeen Printers*, p. 2, as printed by Raban at St. Andrews in 1620, the printing office is stated to be situated "in the South-street of the Citie," but in the book just noticed it is "in the Kirke-Wynde." In the latter office he retains "The Signe of The A.B.C." which he adopted in Edinburgh, but which he abandoned for that of "The Townes Armes" on coming to Aberdeen.

It is in the address of "The Printer to the Pope" that the autobiographical scraps concerning Raban are found, and these to a certain extent fill up the gap between the time of his serving as a soldier in the Low Countries, and that of his first appearance in Scotland as a printer. It will be observed that he says he was a stranger in Scotland, and that he had lived many years amongst those whom he addresses. Now the presumption is that, in 1620, he came to Edinburgh direct from the Continent, and this to a certain extent would account for his ignorance as to whether his uncle, Peter Raban, the Parson of Melton-Mowbray, was alive when he wrote his "Resolution against Drunkenness," from which I quoted so largely in my former paper.

Raban writes as follows :—

"Yet I trust the jangling of my Presse shall be heard a great way, even from Saint-Andrewes in Scotland, to Rome in Italie : eyther to convert confound, or at least disturbe your selfe and confederates. Now, it may bee asked by some of ours and marvelled at by some of yours, why I should presume in such homelie wise to dedicate this mine unlearned Epistle, unto such a learned and holy Patron? But indeede there are manie occasions which mooued me thereunto, of the which, because I will not be tedious, I shall incert here only a few : First, Because I my self am a stranger in this Soyle, and having many years frequented amongst you, there may be perhaps some Atheists amongst our selves, who suspect mee to bee a Papist. And againe there may bee perchance some amongst you who hoped that I was on your side, & expected my societie. But let this suffice to certifie every mans opinion concerning my Religion : for as well the Papist as the Atheist, the Arminian as the Annabaptist, &c. I detest as the Devil himselfe, who is all their Author. But yet before I leaue, I must tell your Hole-liness what were the first occasions, even from mine Infancie, why I could not settle my fancie in your Religion : After that I had served the worthy Estates of Holland, full ten years in their tedious Warres, I resolved to travell farther, and see fashions : then I tooke my journey from Ryneberke, towards Colonia Agrippina : and then forward to Mentz, Frankford, Worms, Frankendale, Spiere, Straes-

burgh, &c. where I founde companie who were bowne to visite the holie Citie of Rome, and I resolved to goe with them : but when wee came to the Alpes, I was constrained to turne backe againe, with certaine English Gentlemen, who came from Rome : and because their Guide was dead by the way they hyred me, and I convoyed them through all Germanie, even to Hamburg, visiting all the faire Citie, and the Churches as we went. And when we came into a Papish Church, it was delicately decored, with faire Images, and burning Torchis and Lampes at noone dayes : but the Lutherians were nothing so braue : as for the Calvinists, they durst not preach within three mile of any Towne. Then againe I behelde the Papish Priest, he ate and drunke the Sacramentall Bread and Wyne him selfe alone, and gaue the people nothing, till all was done, & then hee came, and sprinkled them with water : but the Lutherians were better fellows, the Priest gaue every one as much as he tooke himselfe : and the Calvinists dealed it amongst themselves. . . . Thus I most humbly take my leave, at this time, beseeching you all favourablie to accept this my New Yeares Gift, even with as good will as I send it you : expecting none other recompence, but that you put in practise. And so fare yee well : Sent from Scotland, out of my Typographical Muse, at Saint Andrewes, unto the Citie of Rome, in Italie. The first of Ianuarie 1622. Yours to bee commanded, In the Lord Iesus,

EDUARDUS RABANUS,
Anglo Britannus, Gente Germanus."

It may be useful to glance at one or two circumstances which are in a measure explained by these recent discoveries. In my sketch of the life of the printer I wrote—"Whether Raban resigned, or was ejected from his office of printer to the Town and University, still remains unsolved." Now, if we consider that in 1600 he must have been a man of from 20 to 25 years of age, at the lowest estimate he would have been an aged man in 1649, when his successor was appointed. This fact, together with the honourable burial which he received in 1658, points to our first printer having resigned his office on account of advanced age, rather than to his having been supplanted for misconduct or for holding opinions not in favour with the ruling powers.

I shall now enumerate the books printed by Raban in Aberdeen, so far as they are additions, corrections, or amplifications of those described in the *Aberdeen Printers*.—

1623.

CATECHESIS. Catechesis | Religionis | Christianæ :
| Quæ in Ecclesiis et Scholis Palatinatus sub | Fre-
derico III. Electore tradebatur | Marc. VIII. | Qui
erubuerit me, & sermones meos, in generatione | hac

adulteria & peccatrice: hunc erubescet etiam | filius hominis, cum venerit in gloria Patris sui, cum sanctis Angelis. | [Woodcut of the Fox.]

Aberdonie, Excudit Eduardus Rabanus, | Impensis Davidis Melvill, 1623. |

8°. A—C in eights. A1 Title, verso blank, A2—C2, pp. 4-36 (p. 4 is on A2^b) Catechesis; C 3—8, pp. 38-48 (p. 38 is on C3^b) Preces.

This is an earlier edition of the work than that noticed in the *A. P.*, pp. 59-60, which is dated 1637, and is also from the press of Raban.

Cathedral Library, Lincoln.

1626.

PSALMS. The | Psalms | Of David | In Metre, | According as they are | sung in the Church | of Scotland. | Ephes. 5. 18.19. [Quoted]. [Woodcut of David enthroned and playing the harp.]

Imprinted at Aberdene, by | Edward Raban, for David Melvill. 1626. |

12° A—H in sixes. *Collation.* A1^a Title within woodcut border, A1^b The Argument, A2—H2^a The Psalms, H2^a—3^b The Lord's Prayer—The Beliefs—The ten Commandments—The song of Marie—The song of Simeon, &c., in metre, H 4—6 Sundry Prayers. The type is small; there are two columns to the page, and the paper is thin.

Glasgow University Library.

Communicated by John Young, Jun. Esq.

1628.

LYNDSAY, *Sir David.* The | Workes | Of The | Famous, and vvorthe Knight, | Sir David Lindesay Of The Movnt, | alias Lion, King of | Armes. | Truelie corrected, and vindicated from the former | Errours, and now justly printed according to the | Author's true Copie: with sundrie things | adjoynd here-vnto agayne, which | absurdlie were omitted in the | Impressions printed | here-to-fore. | Iob VII. | Militia est vita Hominis super Terram. | Vivet etiam post funera virtus. |

Aberdene, | ¶ Imprinted by Edward Raban, for | David Melvill. 1628. |

8°. Black letter; title and contents in roman characters. A—X⁸. A1^a Title, A1^b Contents, A2—X8 pp. 4-336 (p. 4 on A2^b.) The Works. With paging, catchwords, and signatures. See the *A. P.*, pp. 28-29.

Huth Library.

1630.

BEVIS of Hampton. The Historie of | Sir Bevis of South- | Hampton. |

Printed in Aberdene | by Edvard Raban, For | David Melvill. 1630. |

8°. Black letter. A—I⁸. A1^a Title, A1^b rude woodcut of Lion rampant, A2—I8 pp. 4-143 (p. 4 on A2^b) The Historie. With paging, catchwords, and signatures. See the *A. P.*, pp. 32-33.

Huth Library.

1631.

CRAIG, *Alexander.* The | Pilgrime | And Here- | mite, | In forme of a Dialogue, | By Master Alexander Craig. | [Largest woodcut of the Fox.]

Imprinted in Aberdene, By Edward | Raban, for David Melvill. 1631. |

4°. Black letter. ¶³, A—D⁴. ¶1^a Title, ¶1^b blank, ¶ 2 pp. [2] "To The Right Honov- | rable, Wyse, And Ver- | tuouslie disposed Gentleman, | William Forbes of Tolquhon. | " Epistle Dedicatorie, in italic type, signed Robert Skene. A—D⁴ The Pilgrime and Heremite. D4^b, Woodcut of a harp, with "Orpheus Fiddle", in largest black letter, above the woodcut. There is no paging, but there are catchwords and signatures. Signature B is wanting in the only copy known. See the *A. P.*, p. 37.

Britwell.

NEW TESTAMENT. 38 leaves, not numbered, being sigs. Nn 2—Rr 7; they comprise the text from the middle of James i. 25, "but a doer of the worke", to the end of Revelation on Rr 7^b, at the foot of which is the imprint:—

Imprinted in ABERDENE, by
EDWARD RABAN, 1631.

It is the Royal Version, in black letter (except the summaries prefixed to the chapters, which are in roman,) with 36-37 lines to the page.

Calculating from the signatures of this surviving portion, there can be no doubt that it is a fragment of the New Testament merely, and not of the whole Bible. See the *A. P.*, p. 197.

Glasgow University Library.

Communicated by John Young, Jun., Esq.

1639.

GUILD, *William.* To the Nobilitie, Gentry, | Burrowes, Ministers, and | others of this late Combi- | nation in Covenant, | A Friendly and | Faythfull Advice; | That the Event of this Great Con- | vention, June 6, may through | God's Blessing, tend to His | Glorie, and the Peace | both of Chvrch and | Kingdome. | By Doctor William Gvild, sworne Chaplaine | to His Sacred Majestie, and Mi- | nister in Aberdene. |

Printed in Aeerdene, (*sic*) by Edward Raban, 1639. | With speciall Commandement. |

4°. A and B, 2 leaves each. A1^a Title, 1^b Woodcut of Aberdeen Arms, A2^a—B2^a pp. 4-7 (p. 4 is on A2^b) A Friendly Advice, B2^b is blank. See the *A. P.*, p. 71.

*Free Church College Library, Aberdeen,
Thomson Collection.*

1649.

GUILD, *William.* The Old Roman Catholik—Two additional leaves at end of Glasgow Univ. copy, forming "A Table of the Controversies contained in this Treatise", followed by a short list of Errata. See the *A. P.*, pp. 80-81.

Communicated by John Young, Jun., Esq.

J. P. EDMOND.

62 Bon-Accord Street, Aberdeen.

(To be continued.)

Messrs. D. Wyllie & Son have just issued a representation of the Aberdeen University Arms and Motto [9 × 11 in.] It is well executed in chromo lithography, and will form a desirable object with the many who are interested in this now venerable Alma Mater.—ED.

EPITAPHS AND INSCRIPTIONS IN
ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH AND
CHURCHYARD.

DRUM'S AISLE.

(Continued from page 155.)

IMMEDIATELY above the south entrance to the West Church there is a very large monument with the following inscription relating to members of the Gregory family:—

Juxta hunc parietem | conduntur reliquæ | Elizabethæ | filiz Gulielmi xiii. domini Forbes | conjugis amatæ Joannis Gregory M.D., R.S.S. | primo in Collegio Regis Aberdonensi | postea in academia Edinburgensi | medicinz professoris meritissimi | medicus regii apud Scotos primarii | foemina lectissima | forma ingenio virtute pietate | præstantis | suis quam maxime caræ | civibus flebilis | quæ annum agens xxxiii | obiit puerpera iii Cal. Oct. A.D. M.DCCLXI. Hic quoque filius ejus | Jacobus Gregory M.D. Reg. Soc. Edin. Soc. | medicinz academia Edinburgensi professor | et medicus regius apud Scotos primarius | qui puer moeroris adhuc nescius | justa persolverat matri carissimæ | post annos LII jam senex et malorum non ignarus | gaudens tamen cum conjuge et liberis | hos fines et urbem revisere natalem | astantibus quatuor ex filiis | et flentium amicorum corona | eadem moerens persolvit justa | filiz suæ natu maximæ Janæ Macleod | suavissimæ puellæ summæ spei | patris deliciis matris animæ dimidio | acerba morte raptæ anno ætatis VIII | VI Cal. Sept. A.D. M.D.CCCXIII.

ΘΝΗΤΑ ΤΑ ΤΩΝ ΘΝΗΤΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΠΑΝΤΑ
ΠΑΡΕΧΤΑΙ ΗΜΑΣ
ΗΝ ΔΕ ΜΗ ΑΛΛ ΗΜΕΙΣ ΑΥΤΑ ΠΑΡΕ-
ΧΟΜΕΘΑ.

[Near this wall are interred the remains of Elizabeth, daughter of William, 13th Lord Forbes, the beloved wife of John Gregory, M.D., F.R.S., a distinguished Professor of Medicine, first in King's College, Aberdeen, afterwards in the University of Edinburgh, His Majesty's principal physician in Scotland—a woman most admirable, excelling in beauty, in intellect, in virtue, in piety; to her own friends most dear, by her fellow citizens lamented; who died in childbed in her thirty-third year, 29th Sept., 1761. Here also her son James Gregory, M.D., F.R.S.E., Professor of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh, and His Majesty's principal physician in Scotland—who when a boy, as yet a stranger to sorrow, had paid the just dues to his beloved mother—after fifty-two years, now an old man, and not unacquainted with misfortunes, but glad to revisit with his wife and children this district and his native city, surrounded by four of his sons and a circle of weeping friends, did sorrowing pay the same just dues to his eldest daughter Jane Macleod, a child most winsome, of highest promise, her father's delight, her mother's other soul, by cruel death snatched away in the eighth year of her age, 27th August, 1813.

“Mortal the things are of mortals, and all from us quickly are passing;
Or, if this be not so, we sure are passing from them.”]

John Gregory was the third member of this distinguished Aberdeen family who held the professorial Chair of Physic in King's College. His father, James, son of the inventor of the reflecting telescope, and Mary Jamesone, held the appointment from 1725-31; his brother James, from 1731 to October, 1755; and, on the latter's death, John received the appointment, which he held till 1764, when he resigned. Two years later, he was elected Professor of Physic in the University of Edinburgh, in which he was succeeded at his death (10th February, 1773), by his eldest son. James, whose eldest daughter is commemorated on the tablet, held the Professorship till his death in 1821. Sir Walter Scott, in his introduction to *Rob Roy*, informs us that the noted freebooter claimed kinship with the Gregories, who originally belonged to the clan Macgregor, and, on one occasion, enjoyed the hospitality of the Professor for several days. Before leaving, Rob, wishing to return in some measure the kindness he had received at his cousin's hand, addressed him with reference to his son James, then about eight or nine years of age, as follows:—“My dear kinsman, I have been thinking what I could do to shew my sense of your hospitality. Now, here you have a fine spirited boy of a son, whom you are ruining by cramming him with your useless book-learning; and I am determined, by way of manifesting my great good will to you and yours, to take him with me and make a man of him.” It is needless to say that this kind (sic) offer was not accepted, although the declining was a matter of great delicacy, and that James pursued his book-learning with such success that he was appointed his father's successor, as already noted.

On the west wall of the Aisle, there is a large board which formerly hung in the old session-house, on which is painted a list of the names of the various donors who left gifts or mortified money for the kirk and the poor of the parish. The list is too long to give here *in extenso*, but it may be stated that the dates of the gifts range from 1616 to 1792, and are seventy-four in number.

There is likewise preserved in the Aisle some very good specimens of the black-oak sittings of the old church in use at the time when the congregation had to supply seats for themselves. One of these is a six-seated form, along the back of which is the following inscription:—THIS SEAT . APOINTED . FOR . THE . BAXTERIS . AND . ERECTED . BE . THAM . 1607, and in the six panels forming the back are the initials D. G. I. I. I. L. D. K. V. A. I. G. From the fact that the existing books of the Baker Trade do not begin till 1632 it is difficult to trace the names of the parties whose initials are here

given, but from a list of Deacons prefixed to the first minute book of the trade there is every reason to suppose that the initials I. L. refer to John Lumsden, Deacon on several occasions from 1594—1616, and that D. K. is David Kempt, elected Deacon on four occasions between 1601—9.

Another, with five panels has, in the centre panel, below a knight's helmet and mantelling, a shield, ermine, with a stag's head between two mullets in chief with the motto "Concordia vincit," and below this the initials W. C. The remaining panels, with one exception, which has the initials I. W. twice repeated, are filled in with carved ornamentation. Carved on the back of a chair, are the names of John Peire, John Etershank, Alex. Charles, denoting that the seat was the common property of all three, as was doubtless the case with other two seats, having carved on them the initials E. B. I. F. and I. C. K. M. I. M. respectively. ALEX. M. MUNRO.

THE ADVOCATES IN ABERDEEN.

No. 9.

AMONG the "Duties of Procurators" specially recognized by the Aberdeen Advocates (see last No.) was that of relieving "the distressed and oppressed." A notable instance of the fulfilment of this duty occurred in 1781, and is the subject of the following letters, (translated from the French,) addressed to "S^r. George Forbes, Avocat, a Aberdeen, en Ecosse," by Frederick the Second, (the Great,) King of Prussia, and his Ambassador at the British Court. They refer to the exertions of Mr. Forbes on behalf of a Prussian shipmaster and his crew.

1. FROM THE KING.

I duly received the letter which you wrote me the sixth of October, and see by its contents that one of my subjects named Tonges Rolofs Jansen, an inhabitant of my province of East Friesland, while trading with his ship in Merchandize not prohibited to a neutral owner, has been taken and carried into Aberdeen, and illtreated by a Scotch Privateer contrary to the general law of nations, and that he has not been able to obtain his release, nor satisfaction, nor Justice, notwithstanding all your exertions on his behalf. I have been (and indeed you had reason to believe I would be) very much concerned to hear of such manifest injustice done to one of my subjects, altho' of no high rank; but I am not the less sensible of your generous proceeding; and I am really affected to find, that a stranger, as you are to me, should have taken in hand, without any private view, the defence of oppressed innocence against the injustice of your own Country. I therefore hasten to return you my thanks, and express to you my grateful acknowledgment, as well as the esteem and the particular value which I entertain of such uncommon virtue. If a man of a

similar way of thinking stood in need of any other reward, it would be a pleasure to me, and my duty, to bestow it on him. I have not delayed the communication of your letter to my Minister at London, the Count Lusi; and have given him positive orders to make the strongest representations to His Britannic Majesty's Ministers, to get at last the releasement of the unfortunate Jansen and his men; and to obtain full and speedy justice for him. I expect it the more, as I have taken the most equitable measures, by publishing two Declarations, of which a printed copy is enclosed, that my Subjects, during the course of the present war, shall only carry on an innocent Commerce, entirely conformable to the Law of Nations, and no ways prejudicial to any of the belligerent powers; making use only of the liberty natural and customary to neutral countries. As to the rest I recommend the unfortunate Jansen to your further assistance, and I pray God to have you in His holy keeping.

(Signed) FREDERIC.

Berlin, 17th November, 1781.

2. FROM THE PRUSSIAN AMBASSADOR.

Sir, it is with sincere pleasure that I execute the orders of the King my Master in sending you inclosed his answer to your Letter. I am fully persuaded that he himself will tell you how much he is sensible of your generous proceedings. The interest which he takes in the concerns of the meanest of his subjects, and his love of Justice, must have made him admire that noble manner of thinking which you have manifested in the affair of poor Jansen. I would willingly tell you, Sir, the effect it made on me; I would also offer you my services; but to the thanks and applause of a Great King, who is such a judge of merit, I dare not add anything. Only it is necessary for my own satisfaction, that I conclude with assuring you how entirely and sincerely, I shall always be, with much esteem,

Sir,

Your most humble servant,
(Signed) COMTE LUSI.

London, 4th December, 1781.

P.S.—I am well convinced that you will finish your business, by employing the means which I have pointed out to you by the Consul Mr. Fridag, to make the Pirate pay all the Expenses and Damages, in order that the Vessel may proceed on her voyage.

At a General Meeting of the Advocates, on 31st January, 1783, it was resolved that these letters should be preserved among the records of the Society, "as honourable to Mr. Forbes," and translations engrossed in the Sederunt Book. The exertions of Mr. Forbes were ultimately successful.

NORVAL CLYNE.

A BOX OF OLD VOUCHERS.

"I'm sure there can be nothing to interest you there," remarked a somewhat prosaic friend to me as I was turning over a quantity of old vouchers and accounts in a box in Trades Hall the other day. "You would be surprised," I re-

marked. "Just wait a little and I will give you as much insight into the kind of houses our forefathers lived in two hundred years ago, and their mode of life, as you will get from reading the whole *Statistical Account of Scotland*." I checked my friend's incredulity as to the value of the "orra papers," as he termed them, by playing the pawn of Curiosity. "You are a carpenter, and I have no doubt you would like to know the kind of repairs that were made on houses in the Shiprow and Netherkirkgate about two hundred years ago." To this he readily assented, and from the rather forbidding writing we soon spelt out the following items:—

Item for mending of Issobell Mills hous, for clay and warkmanschip,.....	£0 12 4*
Item for sex hundreth divots for mending of Thomas and Issobell Milles houses, at 9s. the 100, is.....	2 14 0
Item payet the workmen for on laying of the divots and dressing of both houses is	1 12 0
Item I coft from James Andersone burgess ane portisch daill for ane dor heid to Ellspet Shand hir hous.....	1 6 8
Item payet to Alexander Charells, wricht, for macking of the said dor heid.....	0 12 0
Item payet for sex hundreth divots to Thomas Lumsden his hous and four hundreth to Elspet Robertstone hir hous, at 9s. the hundreth.....	4 10 0
Item payet to Thomas Lumsden for on laying of them on his hous & his w th prods is	1 12 4
Item for ane Tabell to Alex. Charells to Thomas Mill peinaater macker his hous is	6 13 4
Item for biging of ane dyck to the hospital payet be me to James Mathewson with fyve men with him the 14th day of March 1654.....	4 0 0
Item payet be me to Thomas Smith for twelff gaing of salt fail with fyve horses is.....	3 0 0
Item for ane singel tre to the said hous (Robert Wilson's) ten shilling scottis...	0 10 0
Item given to Georg Mill for thuycking of the said hous and his said servand.....	3 6 0
Item two thousand divots for Repairing of Walter Wary his hous at 9s. the 100...	9 0 0
Item for prods.....	1 4 0
Item given to Georg Mill and his men for thuycking of the said hous.....	4 0 0
Item for 4 gaing of hedder for riging cheaff to the said hous.....	0 12 0
Mair for 4 disone of shirals for riging of the said hous.....	0 12 0

By this time my friend had become thoroughly interested, and some of his comments were highly amusing. "There's been little work for slaters in those days, that's plain. 'Divots' and 'timmer prods' seem to have been more common than Portdinnerick and slate nails, that's clear. The houses must have been little but

'thackit biggins,' such as you will get in the Highlands of Scotland now, and," he concluded with a sigh, "the men were easy paid in those olden days." We then read on:—

Item given to Alexander Moir, smith, for macking of ane pair of bands and mending of the locks of Thomas Lumsden his hous.....	£0 14 0
Item given to Androw Straquhen, glaser, for mending of Thomas Mills hous.....	£1 4 0
Item given Alexander Charells, wricht, for macking of ane doubell dor to the guard hous.....	1 10 0
Item given to Alexander Moir, smith, for ane pair of bands.....	1 6 8
Item given to Alexander Georg, elder, for ane lock to the said dor.....	0 16 0
Item ane hundreth plentorn nails.....	0 12 0
Item ane dosen of doubell plentorn nails....	0 2 0
Item for tacking the filth out of the said hous	0 4 0
Item payed for laying of Elspet Robertstone's hous hir chaarges with mortar and stones and workmen's chaarges.....	1 0 0

Here also are a few items that will give some idea of what lawyers' charges were about the middle of the seventeenth century (1653-4):—

Item payet to William Chalmer the clerk for writing ane pet ^o to Walter Darg his hous.....	£1 10 0
Item for getting of Infestment of Walter Darg his hous given to the town clerk is	0 13 8
Item given the town's officier at that tyme..	0 12 0
Item spent with Bailey Colison and the town's clerk at the said infestment.....	1 7 0
Item payet to the town's clerk for four seissings.....	20 0 0
Item given to his man Alex. Bruce for his paines.....	3 0 0
Item desbursed in David Sinclair's hous at the tacking the infestment with the founderator (Dr. Guild) bailey Colisone, and the town's clerk being present with Alex. Williamsone and Alexander's clerk.....	3 10 0
Mair given the officiers.....	1 10 0

To finish up, let me read you an account of what a Conveener's dinner cost in 1742":—

Account of the chairage and enterntement at the Election of the Conveener:—

1742.	
Nov. 6. To 7 chopins Rum at 14d. p. chopin.....	£4 18 0
To one bottle Lemon Juse.....	1 4 0
To 2 lbs. shougar.....	0 16 0
To 3 dosen pypes.....	0 9 0
To ½ lib. Tobacco.....	0 10 0
To 4 doz. bottles alle.....	3 12 0
To 5 lbs. candle.....	1 5 0
To bread.....	0 19 6
To George Mille for meat.....	3 12 6
To two botles of shirey.....	1 10 0

* All the amounts quoted represent Scots money.

My friend and I then parted, after a frank admission on his part that old vouchers were not so uninteresting after all, a verdict in which most readers of *S. N. & Q.* will perhaps agree.

Aberdeen.

E. R.

◆

PORTRAIT OF QUEEN MARY AT BLAIRS COLLEGE

ALMOST simultaneously with the issue of the February number of *S. N. & Q.* there appeared in the columns of the *Times* the following very interesting letter from Mr. George Scharf, the Director of the National Portrait Gallery, South Kensington. I would suggest it is well worthy of preservation in the pages of a periodical published in that part of the Kingdom which can boast the possession of what is undoubtedly one of the most interesting, as well as most authentic, portraits of the Queen of Scots.

I found, after reading my last communication in your columns that I had omitted to mention the portrait at Cobham-hall, which Mr. Scharf had called attention to, some years ago, in an admirable paper on the proved genuine portraits of Queen Mary, which he read before the Antiquarian Society of London.

C. E. DALRYMPLE.

Sir,—The approaching anniversary of the death of Mary Queen of Scots may be the most appropriate time to request your powerful aid in recovering a missing portrait of that unfortunate Queen, apparently a large full length, with a representation of her execution in the background.

According to a description that has been preserved of it, the painting bears affinity to three compositions already known of Mary in the dress in which she went to execution, and which may be regarded as memorial pictures. The first of these is in the Royal collection at Windsor Castle, where it was seen and described by Dr. Forzoni in 1684; the second at Blair's College formerly at Douai, in the Scots College, to which it had been bequeathed in 1620 by Elizabeth Curle; and the third at Cobham-hall, the seat of the Earl of Darnley, where it appears in an inventory dated 1672. The picture now inquired for had been in the possession of the Earl of Godolphin, and was last seen in 1803.

The following extracts supply all that is known of the composition and history of the picture:—

A writer, signing himself "D. H.," in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for June, 1807, page 535, states that about two years previously a whole length portrait of Mary Queen of Scots in the dress which she wore at her execution was sold by Mr. Christie in the collection of pictures belonging to the Earl of Godolphin. But the writer does not give any information respecting the purchaser, or express any desire to know what had become of the painting.

He proceeds, however, to describe the portrait in all its details, having, no doubt, examined it very closely, and begins by a quotation from the often-

repeated account of the Queen's dress and execution sent from Fotheringay, to Lord Burghley, printed in the *History of Fotheringay*, from the Harleian manuscripts, 290. This, he states, perfectly accords with the picture in question.

He then describes the interesting accessories, without appearing to be aware of the existence of other pictures like it. He gives all the inscriptions *in extenso*, and they correspond exactly with those on the other memorial pictures.

He next adds, also from his own careful observation, the following very interesting description of the distant figures and the execution. After noticing "the arms and supporters of Scotland" which occupy the upper left hand corner of the canvas, he proceeds:—

Under these, in the midway, a representation of her execution. The Queen kneeling at the block, on a short low scaffold and cushion, in her petticoat and kirtle and the Corpus Christi cloth pinned corner wise, which one of her women had done up fast in the caul of her head. Over her an executioner (in a black jacket and long white apron) lifts up a short battle axe or halbert, like the longer ones held by the guards; behind the two commissioners, the Earl of Kent and Shrewsbury, each holding white staves. Before her stands Dean Fletcher reading the service in a book, and six gentlemen behind him. Over this scene in capitals "Aula Fodringham." Behind the Queen two larger figures of her women, one having her hands folded on her breast and (the other) in her hand an handkerchief.

In all these pictures the number and action of the figures connected with the execution are varied. The Cobham picture contains the greatest number of figures—six persons stand behind the one with a book, and there are more guards holding halberds. In the Windsor and Blairs pictures not more than four persons stand behind the man with a book or paper. The latter figure, which in the Cobham picture is that of a young man in a cloak in a falling band, appears to be in the act of writing. In the Windsor one it is that of an elderly man, with pointed beard and lull ruff, holding forth a paper with a warrant, his head being in profile to the left, looking direct at the executioner. The two earls carry short staves, like truncheons, and connected with them is another dignitary, probably the lieutenant of the county, holding a roll. The Dean of Peterborough, Fletcher, may in all the pictures be recognized as a venerable man, in gray beard and hair, looking upwards, with his hands raised in supplication. He wears a small collar in contrast to all the rest, who wear large round ruffs, including the guards. The kneeling figure of Mary, with the white handkerchief round her head, wears a pink bodice, and her skirt or petticoat is black and richly-patterned, corresponding with the skirt of the large central figure.

The names of the two women are seen only in the Blairs picture, and they appear over their heads in conspicuously large white characters. In the Cobham picture, between the coat of arms and the distant figures, is a large arch, giving the effect of the execution taking place in a distant apartment.

¹ In the Blairs picture the shield of arms and the supporters, with the pendant collar of St. Andrew, are on a larger scale and occupy a wider space.

The levels of the heads of the distant figures in the three pictures vary. In the Windsor one they are strangely high, so much so that the words *Aula Fodringham* are intersected by the base of the ivory

crucifix held in Mary's right hand, and by the head of the executioner's uplifted axe.

The very large, round, wheel-like ruff which the Queen here wears is not seen in any other of her authentic portraits. It appears to be the first of a fashion which continued for a long time, and prevailed late in Holland, as we see in some of Rembrandt's finest portraits, both male and female.

The writer in the *Gentleman's Magazine* gives no indication of the size of the picture, and the very moderate price at which it was sold at Christie's would lead to a doubt whether the picture was on the same scale as the others.

I have been favoured by Messrs. Christie, Manson, and Woods with the particulars of the sale, giving the exact date, and showing that a longer period had elapsed after the sale than the writer "D. H.," in 1807, had imagined. The following are the particulars from the King-street catalogue:—"Lord Godolphin's Sale, June 6, 1803.—Lot 60.—The portrait of the unfortunate Mary Queen of Scots, whole length, a very curious picture. Sold for £5 5s. to Woodburn."

Pictures of that class, it will be remembered, did not at that period command high prices. The subject was a gloomy one, and, if it equalled the Windsor or Cobham pictures in size, would only be suited to a large hall, chapel, or public building. Mr. Woodburn, the purchaser, was a distinguished collector and picture dealer, having large transactions on the Continent, and it is quite possible that the Godolphin picture has found a resting-place abroad. But if at all within reach I feel confident that, if you will kindly give insertion to this letter, the vast circulation and influence of *The Times* will prove the best means of leading to discovery.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
GEORGE SCHARF.

National Portrait Gallery, Jan. 30.

P.S.—Having treated of the latest portrait of Queen Mary (for I regard as spurious all pictures of the severed head on a charger), I would ask your leave at some future opportunity to make a few observations on the earlier portraits of the Queen, especially with a view to calling attention to a Scottish portrait which has not, as it seems to me, hitherto received sufficient consideration.

SOME NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF KEMNAY.

THE Earl of Angus died in 1591, in the 95th (not 59th, as in No. 7) year of his age. He was buried in the family vault of the lairds of Glenbervie, which formed the chancel end of the old kirk of that parish. His monument, erected by his widow, the Countess Egedia, is highly ornamented, and bears a Latin inscription. The Countess was a daughter of Graham of Morphee. His eldest daughter, Margaret, was married to William Forbes of Monymusk; the second, Elisabeth, to Sir Alexander Gordon of Cluny; the youngest, Sarah, to Robert Strachan, younger of Thornton.

The Earl of Angus' second son, Robert, carried on the Kemnay and Glenbervie line. Sir Robert's son, William, was created a baronet of Nova Scotia, and was the last Douglas of Kemnay. Five generations of Douglasses owned Kemnay and Glenbervie in succession. Sir William's sister was married to Sir Thomas Burnett of Leys, one of whose descendants became heir in 1688.

In 1624 Sir William disposed Kemnay to Sir Thomas Crombie. Sir Thomas held the office of Sheriff of Aberdeenshire in 1633-4. He suffered severely as an anti-Covenanter. Spalding says—"Diverse companies of lowlanders were sent out to plunder and spoilzie the place of Kemnay, pertaining some time to umquhile Sir Thomas Crombie, a faithful servant to Huntly and to his name, where they brake up gates and doors, gat 6000 merks of money, destroyed the haill plenishing, plundering the girnals and ground vigorously. Towards the end of 1639. Sir Thomas makes his way to the King." The same historian records that in June, 1640, Thos. Crombie, being absent in England, his place of Kemnay is taken in, his girnals broken up, and store of victuals taken out and parted among the soldiers. Sir Thomas was a liberal benefactor to various objects in the "braif toon." Sir Thomas died about 1644. A few years afterwards the estate was sold to Alexander Strachan of Glenkindie, whose son retained it until 1682.

Sir George Nicolson bought Kemnay in 1682. He was the son of an Aberdeen merchant, and was called to the Scottish bar in 1661. He was made a Judge of Session in 1682, taking the title of Lord Kemnay from his newly acquired property. Some interesting notices of Sir George's family appears in *S. N. & Q.*, No. 8. Sir George Nicolson sold Kemnay in 1688 to Thomas Burnett, second son of James Burnett of Craigmyle. James Burnett and other members of the family were supporters of the Covenant.

There is a tradition that when Mr. Burnett, the first of Kemnay, came in 1688 to see the property, which had been purchased for him by a friend, he was greatly disappointed with it. His visit was paid at a very inauspicious time. A rapid thaw, after a violent snow-storm, had converted the then undrained fields into an expanse of water. He had ascended an eminence from whence a good view was to be obtained. The sight, however, made him shed tears. He exclaimed bitterly, "Alas! I have thrown my money into a pool of water." Moreover, it may be here added, that, in any circumstances, Kemnay House must have then looked very desolate, it being simply a castle on a small knoll in the midst of a peat moss. This first laird did not

take up his residence in the parish. He died the same year, and his widow did not long survive him.

Thomas Burnett was succeeded by a son of the same name, who distinguished himself in the literary and political history of the day. He was a man distinguished for his learning and talents, and eminent for his Christian character, being a friend of the great Leibnitz, with whom he resided for a time at Hanover in Germany. In consequence of his political opinions he was at one time imprisoned in the Bastille. Some of his manuscripts are still at Kemnay House. But it is to George Burnett, first Provost of Inverurie, born in 1714, that the honour is due of having improved the estate of Kemnay. He was an active, energetic man, and an enthusiastic agricultural improver. He is said to have been the first farmer in the county of Aberdeen to grow turnips in the field. He drained and improved 130 acres, of which between 90 and 100 were moor and marsh. Nor was this an easy task, for the ground was full of stones, many of which were so large that they had to be blown up by gunpowder. He may be said to have made the grounds of Kemnay House, which under his care became the most beautiful in Scotland.

Lord Kames, in his *Gentleman Farmer*, 1776, notices that "at the seat of Mr. Burnett of Kemnay there is a kitchen garden, a flower garden, and a wilderness of trees, indigenous and exotic, all in a peat moss." The "wilderness" is composed of thriving wood and shrubs, and is a delightful place in summer. The avenue of beech trees, which leads by a gentle ascent to the house from the gate nearest to the railway station, is still unequalled in the district, though it has been much altered in modern times. This same George Burnett, in addition to his labours as an agriculturist, planted trees and hedge rows on a very extensive scale, interested himself in county business and local politics, and altogether appears to have been a model landlord. He is said to have met with considerable opposition from some of his tenants and neighbours, who were determined opponents of every species of culture not sanctioned by use and wont. But by patience and perseverance these were at length brought to acknowledge the superiority of his system and adopt it as their own. There is no reliable information as to when Kemnay House was first built, but it is thought the foundation and lower apartments date from about the time of Henry VII. The principal portion was built by Sir T. Crombie. In 1830 extensive alterations were made upon the building. The Eastern wing was taken down, rebuilt, and modern windows inserted. Part of the in-

side, also, was subjected to a similar revolution. In the dining room, was a "concealment," entered from the inside of the very ample chimney, which was removed, and the space added to the size of the apartment. A beautiful cornice, representing classical scenes, and many other objects of interest, were ruthlessly sacrificed to the then spirit of modern improvement. A fragment of the cornice is still preserved at Kemnay House. The present front entrance has a porch dated 1833. The former entrance, now shut up, faced the north, and led by a stone stair to the upper rooms. The house contains a "haunted room." In a turret chamber, reached by a narrow, circular stair, a man committed suicide about two centuries ago, and the place has ever since borne an evil reputation.

Kemnay.

JEANIE M. LAING.

A RAMBLE ON THE EAST COAST OF BUCHAN.

(Continued from page 121.)

WE now take leave of St. Catharine's Dub, passing over many ledges of rock and boulders, to the old Castle of Slains, the ancient seat of the Earls of Buchan and the Erroll family, the distance to which from our starting place is said to be a mile. We spent upwards of an hour by the way, enraptured with the variety of the coast scenery, now digging out more plants for future study; then descending hundreds of feet to the sea-beach to gather water-worn jaspers and pebbles, and drink from a beautiful spring emitted from a fountain over a huge precipice covered with lime incrustation and cresses. On ascending we are soon in sight of the hoary tower of the Castle. Rounding another point, we come upon a beautiful level green, supported by a huge pillar of rock projecting over the sea; and here we put to flight a large peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) in the act of devouring its prey. This fine bird was shot some time after by a fisherman, and was presented to the University Museum, Aberdeen, where it is in excellent preservation. There was a flight of a bird of "the same feather," but certainly under different circumstances, happened in the reign of Kenneth III. of Scotland, in the year 980. It took a circuit of seven or eight miles long and five broad on the lands between Tay and Erroll, and thus brought broad acres to the Hays as something of a compensation for defeating the Danes and ridding our country of a foreign yoke.

In nearing the site of the Castle, which stands on a high rock jutting into the sea, we found that the path led us to an entrance into it from the north, called the "Castle Walk," and another path step by step from a high eminence down to the beach to the south side. We took this route with the intention of sketching the tower, which we did, and explored the part of the debris opposite to the ruin, and found something of the long past in the shape of a perforated slate of the thickness of common Caithness pavement, beside oyster shells and the decayed bones of the ox and dog.

Taking a look from the beach, a little to the east of the tower, we observed part of a broken down wall, in which there is an opening, and on examining the precipice minutely, on the way upward, we observed some mason work cropping out among the grass, and came to the conclusion that there had been a secret passage extending three hundred feet from the buildings to the sea. The work of demolition has left the tower with only two sides. The walls are seven feet eight inches thick and seventy feet high. On the south side there is an opening which had been constructed as a passage, and at the top there are the remains of a wall-press of dressed freestone, which is much wasted with the frost and storms of centuries. When travelling in and around this gigantic mass of run-work we felt a *donuf* sound, and left the site with the impression that there are still "dungeons dark and strong" at its foundation. In a line towards the sea from the tower there are some newly-built houses, forming part of a street, the corners of which are adorned with chiselled blocks of Byth and Arbroath freestone. One of these stones shows an incision for double bolts, which had done service as part of a gateway to the Castle. The villagers have shown good taste in bringing these long-hidden relics to light, and thus preserving them to interest the tourist and antiquary.

According to Tytler, the historian, King Robert the Bruce encamped for sometime in a strong position in Slains. He came north in A. D. 1308, striving to free the country from the English yoke, and defeated the Earl of Buchan and the Comyns, who were in alliance with England.

William of Erroll was a faithful adherent of King Robert at this time and was created by him Lord High Constable of Scotland, and granted to him at the same time the lands of Slains. 286 years after this the Castle was doomed to destruction for the part that Francis, the eighth Earl, took in the Huntly rebellion.

"His Tower, that us'd with torches blaze
To shine sae far at night,
Seem'd now as black as mourning weed—
Nae marvel sair he sich'd."

King James VI. came with his army to Aberdeen on 15th October, 1594, and demolished Slains Castle, and rode there to effect that in person. In the ancient account of Aberdeen there is a charge of 213 lbs of money for twenty "stane weycht" of powder, for the downcasting of Slains and Strathbogie.

To the north of the village there is a fine sloping green, extending to about an acre, which seems to have been under high cultivation, and in this we were not mistaken, as one of the villagers informed us that the green in question formed the Castle Garden, and pointed out the site where the lodge was and the foundation of the gateway, which he said was nearly entire 80 years ago. He mentioned too that in the summer of 1839 there was excavated a dressed stone, measuring about 80 inches in length by 40 inches broad, with some quaint carvings, and bearing the date 1168, which was by desire of the late William George, 17th Earl of Erroll, boated to Slains Castle, Cruden. The probability is that this stone bears the date of the old Castle. Mr. Phillips also showed us the site where the Castle Pond had been, and told us

of a curious "find," in the shape of a household trencher, which was got in the month of July, 1857, by a labourer draining the marsh. The form reminded him of the pewter plate of sixty years ago, though the metal seemed slightly different, being, so far as he could make out, a sort of prepared tin; and that it had belonged to the Erroll family at one time he had no doubt. The arms—the famous yoke of oxen with the initials V.H.—distinctly impressed, were on one side, and the opposite side had also borne a stamp of some sort, which probably represented a coronet or some sort of flower; and the date of the salver may be about 1510-20. The plate is in possession of the Earl of Erroll. Mr. Phillips, our informant, has old coins in his possession found about the ruins. The last one he found is a sou of Louis XIII. of France, of date 1630, with his head in profile on one side, and the arms of France on the other.

J. DALGARNO.

(To be continued.)

NOTES ON PLACE NAMES.

Aulmanithie, the name of a creek among the rocks at *Roanheads*, about 80 yards distant from the entrance to the North Harbour, Peterhead. It is a safe entrance for boats at all tides, even in gales. It is a safer place to take by boats than the entrance crossing the bar at the harbour. Within the little haven there is accommodation only for a few boats, but the safe quality of its entrance in stormy weather is well known to the fishermen in *Roanheads*. The name as here given is somewhat puzzling, and I humbly beg to suggest my own idea of its meaning, which may be the means of drawing the attention of others to the subject, and in this way gain the true significance of the word. In some papers and old plans connected with and illustrating the harbours and town of Peterhead, I have noticed the place referred to, named *Aber-nethy Creek*. This name conveys no explanation, and has evidently been given by some one unable to make more of it. My own suggestion about the name at least conveys a feasible meaning of the word, with only a slight alteration, such as is often necessary when dealing with old local names of places. *Aulmanithie* is simply and literally the *Aulman's hythe*, or *Auldman's haven*. In the Buchan vernacular the *d* in *auld* is always omitted, and amongst the fisher folks the aspirate *h* is dropt, precisely as is done by an ill-educated Cockney. *Hythe* is old Saxon for haven or harbour.

Geddel. This word, which is used by the folks of Peterhead as descriptive of the commony on the north side of the town, and which has long been worse than Greek to every one in respect to its meaning, may now, I think, be explained easily. Coming by chance lately across an explanation of the Celtic word *Gedheil*, a small

commonly attached to a village where the cows are put out to grass, suggested to me at the time the long-sought-for meaning of *Geddel* or the *Geddelbraas* of Peterhead, which from beyond local memory had been used as the grazing place for town's cows. Some fifty years ago the town had its town-herd, but that occupation or office has ceased to be. The older inhabitants easily remember the time when the herd-boys passed through the town blowing the cow-horn, and in this way giving intimation to the cowkeepers to put out their cows and stirks. The herds were paid by the owners of the stock, a small sum being given for each animal cared for. The rocks or reef running out from the land at the Giddlebraes is known to fishermen as the Giddels. It is from this point the Norway telegraph cable was laid some years ago.

A large boulder lying at Roanheads above high water mark has been long known as the *Cat-stane*, which may be a corruption of *Cattastane*. *Cairn Catta*, within three miles of the town, is an extensive collection of stones, and like other cairns in the county has a prehistoric interest. It has never been searched, and is well worth the attention of the archæologist.

The name *Craig Ewan*, given to the granite rock north of Ugie, I take to be a corruption of *Craig Ugan*, the Craig of Ugie.

Other local names of Celtic origin in and about Peterhead have, I think, been explained satisfactorily, as *Quensie*, a little strath, the old name given by all Peterheadians to *Keith Inch*. Every native of the place, after being to Keith Inch, says—"I've been over the *Quensie*," the word over conveying the real meaning of the word *Quensie* unknown to him. This peculiarity of speech marks the townsman and those who have been long resident in the place.

The Garron, the Roughhead, is highly expressive; *Baubygoun*, a corruption of Balgowan, the narrow passage; *Craignado*, the cow's rock; *Ive*, is elf or oof.

Dundonie, *Dunbeith*, *Collielaw*, *Collieburn*, *Cairntrodie*, *The Stanyhillock*, require explanation.

MORMOND.

Queries.

99. THE PULPIT NOTICE OF COMMUNION.—With the disappearance of the spring and autumn fast-days in Aberdeen there will no longer be heard from our city Parish Church pulpits the words that—"When about to celebrate the Communion of the Lord's Supper, it is the constant and laudable practice of this Church to set apart a day for that purpose, for fasting, humiliation, and prayer. The Session of this Church, therefore, do, with the concurrence of the Magistrates, set apart Wednesday, the — day of —," etc., etc. My question to you, Mr. Editor, then is, can you, or any

of your contributors, say which of the city fathers wrote that notice? It has been, to my personal knowledge, used in the church to which I belong for 60 years. To many members of that church, and to very many more, the grand Johnsonian style and earnest devotional feeling of the document has made it have an interest almost deep enough for devotion.

W.

100. GORDON OF AUCHENDOLLY.—In the *Sherborne Journal* (Dorset), of July 21st, 1809, occurs the following announcement:—"Tuesday se'nnight was married, Robert Gordon, esq. of Auchendolly, in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, North Britain, and of Lewcoton, Dorset, to Elizabeth Anne, only daughter of Charles Westley Cox, esq. of Kemble House, Wilts." I shall be glad to know to what family Robert Gordon belonged. His father, Wm. Gordon, who died 1802, aged 44, married Anna, sister and heiress of Sir Stephen Naish, Knt., of Bristol, and of Leweston, through whom he became possessed of the Leweston estate.

C. H. MAYO.

101. ORD FAMILY.—Can any of your correspondents give any information as to the origin or history of this family in the North of Scotland. The name has been well known in the border counties of England and Scotland for many centuries, and it would be interesting to know if any connection existed between the two branches. The name occurs in connection with Cullen, in a small brochure issued from the *Banffshire Journal* office in 1880, entitled *Annals of Cullen, being Extracts from Records relating to the Affairs of the Royal Burgh of Cullen, 960-1879*, wherein reference is made to James Ord, Bailie of Cullen in 1702, and John Ord of Findochtie, both of whom sold their respective properties of Rosewood (in 1702), and Findochtie (in 1724) to the Earl of Findlater. From *Genealogical Collections concerning the Surname of Baird*, London, 1870, I find that, prior to 1700, Wm. Baird, "Thesaurer" of Cullen, married Helen Ord; and that an Alexander Ord was "Baillie" in Cullen on or before 1736. In *The Plundering of Cullen House*, compiled by Mr. Wm. Cramond, A.M., recently published, I find that John Ord of Findochty, Baillie of Cullen, is a witness to the intimation of the Petition of the Earl of Findlater for protection, on 23rd August, 1747. Then in p. 74 of this periodical a letter is printed, dated Fraserburgh, 10th March, 1755, accepting an offer by Alex. Forbes and John Ord, to quarry stone from the Millstone Quarry of Auchmedden. From the *Abbreviates of General Services* in Scotland, it appears that, in February, 1696, Christiana Ord, wife of Walter Graham, "fabri aurrari, burgensis Vicicanonicorum," was served heiress of Lawrence Ord, "mercatoro burgensis in Burgo Vicicanonicorum" her father. Any further information on the subject would be welcome.

ROBT. GUY.

The Wern, Pollokshaws, N.B.

102. MARISCHAL COLLEGE MOTTO.—"It is well known that the motto, 'They haif said, quhat say thay,' was placed there by the founder, George, fifth Earl Marischal." (P. 159). Will "J. A." kindly favour me with his authority for this statement?

P. J. ANDERSON.

103. CALEDONIAN OCEAN.—In the *Dictionary of Arts and Sciences* (London, 1764,) there occurs the following:—"Cathness, the most northerly county of Scotland, having the Caledonian Ocean on the north, east, and south-east, and the shire of Sutherland on the south and west." Are there any other instances of this name being applied to the North Sea, and when was it disused?

Edinburgh.

W. J. CALDER ROSS.

104. PIPER'S NEWS.—Why is old news (if such a combination may be allowed) so called?

Edinburgh.

W. J. CALDER ROSS.

105. AULD REEKIE.—I have an indistinct recollection of having read, many years ago, that this epithet is derived from the German, and alludes, not to the all-prevailing reek, but to the height and compactness of the houses:—

"Piled deep and massy, close and high,
Mine own romantic town!"

I have been unable to trace this origin in the German language. Can any of your readers?

Edinburgh.

J. W. S.

106. "FASKEN" OR "FASKIN."—Can any of your readers give me explanation of this surname, which has existed in Banffshire for over 300 years, and has been spelt in some half-dozen ways? M.

107. ANCIENT BAPTISMAL FONTS.—Wanted to know where any still exist in Scotland. (*N.E.* district especially).

C. S. L.

108. JOHN HAMILTON, MUSIC-SELLER IN EDINBURGH, COMPOSER AND VERSIFIER, OB. 1814.—Can anyone kindly inform me who owns the copyright of his poems? Is it the descendant or a publisher, and what is the present address of such owner?

O. M. M. BOYCOTT.

84 Earl's Court Rd., Kensington, W.

109. SKELETON AT KING'S COLLEGE.—Is there any truth in the tradition heard in boyhood that at King's College, Old Aberdeen, there is, in a cupboard, a skeleton which seizes the arm of the uninitiated who opens the door? What book or books give the best popular account of the Aberdeen University?

Dundee.

ARGUS.

110. "ORCAUEN" AND "GEDANIDIE."—Can any of your readers, who are subscribers to the *New Spalding Club*, give information as to the names "Orcauen" and "Gedanidie," which occur in Letter No. 9, page 164, of the volume just issued?

Lerwick.

A. MCD. R.

111. REEK HENS.—In my young days, it was a practice with the tenants to give to the laird at stated, possibly rent, terms what were called *Reek Hens*. I should like to know the history of this peculiar tribute, if it is still in vogue as a general Scottish custom, and the meaning of the phrase. My own experience is of an upland Donside parish.

RUS IN URBIS.

Answers.

4. PASSAGE FROM TENNYSON'S "MAUD".—

"He sets the jewel print of your feet
In violets blue as your eyes."

Some correspondence has taken place concerning this passage from Tennyson's *Maud*. Will you allow me another suggestion? "The jewel print of your feet" simply means the impression of your feet, the poet borrowing the figure, *jewel print*, from the use of the signet ring with its engraved jewel. A parallel passage occurs in Butler's *Hudibras* (Part II. Canto I.)

"Where'er you tread, your foot shall set
The primrose and the violet."

Woodside.

T. W. O.

25. THE PRETENDER AT PETERHEAD.—Regarding the house in Peterhead in which slept "King James," as our Jacobite forefathers called him. James (1715) slept one night there, not in Thomas Arbuthnot's house but in the house of his son-in-law Captain Park. Baillie Arbuthnot's grand-daughter, Miss Ferguson, used to tell us, her grand-nephews and nieces, all about the event. The house was taken down and rebuilt by Mr. Annand. Thos. Arbuthnot, who was Earl Marischal's "Baron Baillie," had James proclaimed King in Broad Street, for which he had to hide himself from being taken by the red-coats. His son, Thos. Arbuthnot, was a Lieutenant at Culloden (1746) in Prince Charlie's army. He also had narrow escapes from being taken prisoner before he got away from Peterhead in a vessel.

THOS. HUTCHISON.

16 Albert Street, Aberdeen.

59. THE GADLE AND THE GARIK.—In my query of December last, I ought to have stated that these names appear in an agreement between the Merchant Maiden Hospital of Edinburgh and the Feuars of Peterhead, respecting the division of the Commonties of the Town in 1774, when defining the boundaries of the lands. The agreement is printed in the appendix to *The Historical Account of Peterhead*, by Jas. Arbuthnot, for 1815, pp. 90-91.

J. A.

C. E. D., p. 161.—Cairnalage, General Wade's form of the name Cairnwall, seems to be Carn a' bhealach = the cairn of the pass.

Edin.

W. T. D.

63. FUNERALS.—Do Scotch Presbyterian notions oppose the use of *Hand Biers* instead of Trestles or shoulder bearing? Biers are certainly more convenient, and, in England, are generally used for short distances. A wheeled bier has lately come into use, which dispenses with a hearse. Every Parish Church had formerly its hand bier.

C. S. L.

69. "COW THE BENT."—The phrase—"Cow the Bent"—as it occurs in the herd-boy's rhyme, quoted in February number, judging from its connection, would appear to be a corruption of "gae the bent," which, according to Jamieson, is used to mean—

provide for your safety—flee from danger. In other words, if the herd

“Lat them (the nowt) ate woutan stint,”
or, without stint, he would better look out for his safety from punishment—Gae the bent, or Go the bent.

J. T.

69. “To Cow,” as used in Buchan, is changed in Kincardine and Forfar shires to a substantive form more especially. It was common for playmates, when they wished to vie with each other, to make a game of “Cúrdies”—“Koordies.” The challenger said, “I’ll gie you a koorde,” and then performed some difficult kind of gymnastic exercise, such as leaping from the unrailed side of a stair at its highest step, or standing on one foot in the middle of a stream on a small stone, or walking on the top of a paling. The unsuccessful recipient of such a challenge was “koordied” at once, if she failed in the first attempt; but, if she continued to equal her challenger, the game became a tie, by mutual consent, and *no coward made*.

Blair Devenick, Cults. HELEN C. GERARD.

76. OLD WORDS.—OY.—The word “oy” is common at the present day in the provincial dialect of Caithness, where it signifies a “grandchild,” the name being applied to males and females indifferently. Sir Walter Scott has “oe” (*Heart of Midlothian*), and “oye” (*Redgauntlet*). It would thus seem that there are three comparatively modern spellings at least. At one time, the word was current in Midlothian; for Poet Fergusson has it in the *Farmer’s Ingle* :—

“an’ saw

Her ain spun cleedin’ on her darling oye,
Careless tho’ death should mak’ the feast her foy;”
and Allan Ramsay, in *Christ’s Kirk on the Green*—

“Auld Bessy, in her red coat braw,
Came wi’ her ain oe Nanny.”

There can be no doubt, too, that a remnant of the word survives in such patronymics as O’Connell and O’Neill. EME.—The fifth edition of *Johnson’s Dictionary* has “eme (same Saxon) unkle” and refers to Spencer. In the course of my reading the other evening, I lighted upon the following illustration of the use of the word in Wyntoun’s *Original Chronicle of Scotland* :—

“The fantasy thus of his dreme
Moved hym mast to sla hys eme,
As he dyd all furth in dede,
As befor yhe herd me rede,
And Dame Grwok hys emys wyff
Tuk and led wyth hyr hys lyff,
And held hyr bathe his wyff and queyne.”
(Vol. ii., bk. vi., chap. 18.)

Edinburgh.

W. J. CALDER ROSS.

86. MIDDLETONS OF ABERDEEN.—Whether Baillie George Middleton (1574) was any relation to Alex. M., Principal of King’s College (1662), I cannot say; but Principal George M., (1684), was the son of Alexander. Robert Middleton, of Caldham, Marykirk, who was slain in his own house by Montrose’s soldiers in 1645, had by his wife, Catherine Strachan of Thornton, four sons—(1.) John, who fought on the

side of the Covenanters at the Bridge of Dee, and afterwards became Earl Middleton, of Fettercairn; (2.) Alexander, who was successively minister of Rayne, of Old Aberdeen, Professor of Moral Philosophy and Sub-principal (1642), and Principal (1662). He married, in 1642, Margaret Gordon, of Keithock’s Mill, and had a son George, born 25th February, 1645, who succeeded his father as Principal in 1684. (3.) Francis; and (4.) Andrew, who acquired Balbegno Castle and lands in 1690. A great grandson of Alex. M., was a General John Middleton, of Seaton, Old Aberdeen, who received from King George I. a charter of the lands of Fettercairn, and his son, a George Middleton, advocate, married Lady Jane Grey, daughter of the Earl of Stamford. For further information, see *Biscoe’s Earls of Middleton*, which I have not at present beside me.

A. C. CAMERON, LL.D.

89. GAELIC PLACE NAMES.—*Fetter*, as in Fetternear, Fetteresso, and Fettercairn, is the same as *Fether*, *Fother*, and *Otter*, and means a jutting land or promontory. Two place names in the Mearns are Fordoun = *Fortherdoun*, and Dunottar = *Dunfother*; both descriptive of their positions and alike in meaning, although thus transposed.

A. C. CAMERON, LL.D.

89. C. S. L. will find the information he wants in Dr. Skene’s *Four Eminent Books of Wales*. Dr. S. there explains that the Gaelic *Fothuir* (usually contracted into *For*, e.g., Forteviot = Fothuirtabaicht, becomes also (though N. of the Esk only) *Fetter*, e.g., Fetteresso—Fothuirsach. *For* is one of Dr. Skene’s test words for Pictish districts.

H. W. L.

91. MEGRAY, OR MEGRAM FAIR.—If J. G. L. would give the quotation from the old paper, and the day on which the Fair is held at Stonehaven, it will assist enquiry.

C. S. L.

93. A GIPSY SALUTATION.—W. J. C. was misinformed when he was told that the salutation, “Peace be here,” is peculiar to the Gipsy tribe; for it is common in several districts of the Highlands and the Gaelic-speaking portions of Caithness. There are many Gaelic equivalents, the most common being—“Reannachd an so,” which, being literally translated, is—“Blessing here,” but, more idiomatic, “Peace be here.” More pretentious individuals, however, extend the saying to—“Biodh sith ‘san tigh so,” which, literally translated, is—“Peace be in this house,” uttered as soon as the house is entered. There seems to me to be no doubt that this form of benediction is merely a modification of Christ’s salutation when appearing to his assembled disciples at Jerusalem, after the resurrection, which, in the hands of the Romish priests, became “Pax vobiscum.”

Edinburgh.

W. S.

93. I do not think that the salutation, “Peace be here,” is confined to gipsies and vagrants. I know that in Easter Ross, at least, the practice of saying—“Sith ‘a ‘vi ‘sho” (Peace be here), when entering a house, is a common one among the people. It is, like many other old customs, not so universal now as it once was.

STALONE.

93. In Pratt's *Buchan*, we read—"The domestic salutations are frequently of a simple and primitive character. It is no uncommon thing for a person on entering the house of another to say—"Peace be here!" to which the reply is—"You are welcome!" or, on his coming upon one employed in his lawful calling, to say, in the broad Buchan dialect—"Guid speed the wark!" the rejoinder to which is—"Thank ye; I wish ye weel!" J. L.

93. "Peace be here" was the salutation of the early Christians, and shows that the tinker preserved the traditions of the first missionaries. It is still used in some parts of the Continent, and nearer home, too, for that matter. C. S. L.

94. SURNAMES. — Though surnames began to be used in England in the reign of William the Conqueror (or perhaps a little earlier), they were not adopted in Scotland until the time of David 1st. None are to be found among the witnesses to the charters of the Scottish Edgar, nor do any appear in those of Alexander 1st, and there is no doubt that the beginning of the twelfth century was about the date of their first introduction into North Britain. They did not however become general until towards the latter end of the thirteenth century, and even at that date married women had not begun to use their husband's surnames, but retained their own. Among the Gaelic population, paternal surnames, and such as were derived from trades and occupations, chiefly prevailed; while those of the Saxon, Flemish, and Norman settlers were more generally assumed from their lands; though in both cases exceptions may be met with. W. R. K.

94. The Surname, as distinguished from the Christian name, has by some been regarded as a modification of *sire-name*, or name received from the father; but a more satisfactory explanation seems to be to connect it with Latin *super-nomen*, i.e. *the name over and above, or in addition to*, the other. There never has been a time when any baptized man has not had a Christian name, but when the modern system of personal nomenclature was adopted, it is impossible to state with any degree of certainty. Surnames were, it is believed, introduced into Britain by the Norman adventurers, but were for long confined to the upper classes. Some writers trace their origin in Scotland to the time of Malcolm Canmore in the 11th century, but there is no reason to suppose they became general, at least in the north of Scotland, earlier than the 13th century. It is interesting to note that so late as 1465 we find this enactment in the Irish Statutes, 5 Edw. IV. chap. 3—"That every Irishman that dwells betwixt or amongst Englishmen, in the counties of Dublin, Myeth, Uriel or Louth, and Kildare, should take upon him an English surname of one *town*, as Sutton, Chester, Trim, Skryne, Cork, Kinsale; or *colour*, as White, Black, Brown; *Art or Science*, as Smith, Carpenter; or *Office*, as Cook, Butler; and that he and his issue should use such name, under the penalty of forfeiting of their goods yearly." Lerwick.

A. McD. R.

94. Surnames began to be used in Scotland at the commencement of the 12th century, and became general before the close of the 13th century. The surnames adopted by the Celtic inhabitants were either patronymics, as M'Donald, or descriptive, as Duff (black) Roy (red.) The Saxon, Norman, and Flemish, for the most part, assumed their surnames from their lands. Riddel and Corbet are the two oldest surnames that can be traced in the cartularies of Scotland.—*Caledonia*, v. 1, p. 771.

J. L.

95. OXENGANG. — "Every proprietor of an ox being bound, according to Wynton, to plough an ox-gang of land, the measure first taking its name in this monarch's (Alexander III.) reign. The Scottish *Davoch*—literally, 'the pasturage'—containing 416 Scottish acres, was divided into four *plough-lands*, each sub-divided into eight *oxgangs* of thirteen acres. Two oxgangs, or twenty-six acres, made a *husband-land*, which was thus the fourth part of a plough-land, or 'a quarter-holding.'—*Scotland under her Early Kings*, by E. W. Robertson. "The bovate, or ox-gang of land, according to Spelman and Ducange, contained eighteen acres; a carucate contained eight bovates; and eight carucates made up a knight's fee; but that the same measures obtained in Scotland cannot be confidently asserted. Indeed, we know that they varied even in England, and that a deed quoted in Dugdale's *Monasticon* makes the bovate contain only ten acres; whilst Skene, upon no certain authority, limits it to thirteen."—*Tytler's History of Scotland*. J. M.

95. One oxgate, 13 Scotch acres : 4 oxgates, or 52 Scotch acres, is a one pound land; 8 oxgates, 104 Scotch acres, a forty shilling land; 32 oxgates, or 416 acres, one davoch. Some time ago, the only way of valuing land was by its extent. A husbandman was one who had half an oxgate, or six Scotch acres, where plough and scythe could gang. This was called a 'Husband-land.' Half an acre was also allowed for house and garden. This was called 'a Toft' of land.

Keith.

W. B.

95. The Monks divided their lands into *carucates*, *bovates* or *oxgates*, *husband-lands*, *roads*, &c. The *davoch* (Gaelic *damm*, ox; and *ach*, field) is an obsolete term, formerly used in the Highlands of Scotland and supposed to be equal in extent with the *carucate*, *ploughgate*, or eight *oxgangs*. An old Act of the Scottish Parliament extended the *davoch* to four *carucates* or thirty-two *oxgangs*, equal to 416 Scots acres, or one *oxgang* to 13 acres, or 16/395 Imperial.

A. C. CAMERON, LL.D.

95. Every proprietor of 104 acres, *i.e.*, every man who could till an acre, or a boll's sowing, for each week in the year, and had as much lying in natural grass for his cattle in summer, was entitled to vote for M.P., and his land was valued at 40/-, *vide* Agricultural Survey, 1811. J. L.

95. "VIII. bovatæ jaciunt carucatam, XIII. acree jaciunt bovatum." So given in the Rentals of the Priory of Coldingham, cir. 1295. (*Raine's Corres-*

pondence, &c., of the Priory, lxxxv. Published by the Surtees Society.) Whether the Merse Standard of the 13th century was the same as the Mearns Measurement of the 16th is another question. H. W. L.

95. Barclay's *Dictionary* gives "oxgang" as being equivalent to twenty acres.

Edinburgh.

W. J. CALDER ROSS.

96. THE TITLE OF PROVOST.—Alderman, burgh greff, Mayor and Provost, are the various terms which seem to have been in use in Scotland to designate the chief civil magistrate in burghs. The first three terms are used in the statutes known as the *Leges Burgorum*, which if not framed earlier than David I.'s reign, were undoubtedly gathered and methodised by him. Law LXX of these statutes and law XXXVIII of the "Laws of the Gild," promulgated by Berwick in 1249, prescribe the method of election. The Latin word almost invariably used is *prepositus*, but the meaning attached to the expression as shown by contemporary translation was "borow greff," "aldirman" or mayor. In Aberdeen the word used in the minutes of election up to about 1446 was *aldermannus* when the term *prepositus* was introduced, although in English minutes the designation applied to the chief magistrate was alderman. This phrase was in use up to the beginning of the sixteenth century when Provost began to be used. The position of the Provost in early times was much what it is to-day, except that in most cases he acted as treasurer of the burgh, with the baillies as collectors of the revenue.

ALEX. M. MUNRO.

96.—"At this period the constitution of the towns and burghs in Scotland appears to have been nearly the same as in the sister country. Berwick was governed by a mayor, whose annual allowance for his charges of office was £10, a sum equivalent to more than £400 of our present money. Under this superior officer were four provosts, or *prepositi*. At the same period, Perth, Stirling, Roxburgh, and Jedburgh were each governed by an alderman, who appears to have been the chief magistrate; Glasgow by three provosts; Haddington by one officer under the same name; whilst the inferior burghs of Peebles and Montrose, of Linlithgow, Inverkeithing, and Elgin were placed under the superintendence of one or more magistrates called baillies. These magistrates all appear as early as the year 1296; and, it seems probable, were introduced into Scotland by David I., whose enlightened partiality to English institutions has already been noticed in this history."—*Tytler's History of Scotland*.

J. M.

Literature.

Short Sketches of the work carried on by the Ancient Protestant Episcopal Moravian Church, (or "Unitas Fratrum,") in Lancashire, Cheshire, the Midlands and Scotland, from 1740. Goodall and Suddick, Leeds, 1888. [Pp. 48. 9¼ in. by 7¾ in.] With a Supplement for Northampton. [14 pp.]

THESE pamphlets contain much interesting information regarding the rise and decline of this primitive

and self-denying body of Christians in England and Scotland from the days of Count Zinzendorf till our own times. Although the period embraced is still within a century and a half, the research must have been conducted by a loving (if anonymous) hand, to have gleaned so much from comparatively obscure sources. The appearance of the United Brethren in Scotland dates from 1739, but although they gained the goodwill of some people of distinction, such as the Duke of Argyll, (who was even anxious that they should form a settlement on his estates,) and Lord Grange, they do not seem to have been very favourably received. They confined their efforts chiefly to itinerant preaching, and their area to the S.W. of Scotland. James Montgomery, the poet, whose father was minister of the Moravian Church at Irvine, was himself a member of the community. Not the least interesting part of this publication are 20 plates, in direct photo-lithography, containing "104 rough pen and ink sketches" of Moravian Chapels, Preaching-Houses and Educational Establishments, past and present. They are all careful, many of them really artistic, whilst some are over-elaborate. Altogether, this monograph of the *Hernhutters* ought to commend itself to many, and the cost, 3s. 6d., is certainly not prohibitive.—Ed.

Illegitimacy in Banffshire, Facts, Figures, and Opinions, by WM. CRAMOND, A.M., Cullen. Banff, 1888. [pp. 74. 7 by 4½ in.]

THIS is a most sad chapter on human transgression, dictated obviously by Mr. Cramond's well known antiquarian bias, but brought home to our times. A large mass of statistics has been collated and tabulated with the ulterior object of presenting a clear view of the extent of the evil, and of the classes most infected with the deplorable taint of moral impurity. In the widely drawn consensus of opinions that Mr. Cramond has with much care gathered to bear on the subject, both as to cause and cure, nothing is so clear and so disheartening as the pen-unanimity with which the writers aver the obliteration of the moral sense on this question in the district dealt with. Should any one wish to have the true meaning of the awful word *demoralized* burnt into the mind, this little book will serve his purpose. The subject is boldly, but delicately handled, as becomes a well meant effort to remedy a great evil, and remove a standing reproach. If the author succeeds even partially it will be where public instructors and teachers of righteousness have by their own confession failed wholly.—Ed.

Education Insurance Scheme. By JAMES FRASER. Aberdeen: L. Smith & Son, &c. [Pamphlet, 22 pp.]

THE subject-matter of this tractate contains the substance of the author's evidence before the Scottish Education Enquiry Committee, and now made public at their request. Many startling facts are brought out as to the failure of the Compulsory system to bring our juvenile population under educational training. The author, by an ingenious application of the insur-

ance principle so much in vogue with the working classes, seeks by small weekly premiums, begun to be paid as soon as the child is born, and ceasing when he is of school age, say five, to reverse the present method in converting the parent or guardian into a compulsory officer, by insisting on getting full value for his child's paid up premiums. There is a great idea in the little book, and we see no standing obstacle to its being adopted in a more or less modified form, or by local option, till it shall have passed its experimental stage. The subject is sure to attract wide attention, and the author's earnestness is without doubt.—ED.

THE New Spalding Club, has just issued *Memorials of the Family of Skene of Skene*, edited by Dr. Wm. F. Skene, H. M., Historiographer for Scotland. It is but natural that an unusual degree of interest should be felt in this the first-born volume of the Club, as it will fall to be regarded as, in its material features, typical of the unborn. The size of the volume is the familiar 4to of the late Spalding Club, and externally it has in its smooth cloth binding a pleasant and tasteful look. Internally, the tone and quality of the paper (Dutch hand-made) are all that one could wish, but we are disposed to think that its substance might with advantage have been increased to the extent of 5 or 6 lbs per ream. Variableness in thickness is a constant feature in hand-mades, and unless care is exercised in setting aside sheets that are faultily thin the beauty of the work is marred by inequalities of texture. A number of illustrations accompany the volume, which is to be succeeded shortly by *The Chartulary of St. Nicholas Church, Aberdeen*, edited by the Rev. James Cooper.—ED.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—I am at present engaged upon a *Bibliography of the West of Scotland and the Isles North of the Mull of Cantyre* for publication in a book on the Outer Hebrides. I have roughly calculated at present over 600 titles, and have ransacked the MSS. in the British Museum, and also for titles from the MSS. in the Advocates' Library. Can any of your Aberdeen correspondents assist me to any titles of MSS. relating to any part of the West of Scotland which may be preserved in the libraries, public or private, of Aberdeen?

I see with interest Mr. J. Malcolm Bulloch's *Bibliography of Local Periodical Literature*, and hope he will also give a still further Local Biography.

Also, is there in existence *anywhere* an authentic portrait, or daguerreotype, or silhouette even, of the late Professor W. MacGillivray? I may say I have hitherto vainly tried to trace any such likeness; and am anxious to leave no stone unturned if there remains a possibility of its existence, as I wish to reproduce it if found in the book referred to, which Mr. Buckley and I are engaged upon.

As I leave home in May—1st May—replies will be gratefully received as soon as possible.

Yours, &c.,
J. A. HAINE BROWN.

Dunipace, Larbert.

ABERDEEN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

A MEETING was held, under the presidency of Rev. J. M. Danson, on the 6th ult., when a paper was read by Mr. Moir, Rector of the Grammar School. The subject was "Sir William Wallace: a Critical Study of his Biographer, Blind Harry," and Mr. Moir's object was to give the results of four or five years' study which he had bestowed on the writings of Blind Harry, whilst preparing a new edition of them, now in the press. From a historical point of view Mr. Moir was not disposed to place implicit trust in Harry's narrative. Writing as he did, about 200 years after the events he describes, and labouring under the disability of blindness, Mr. Moir held the exaggerations, anachronisms and absurdities of the poem sufficiently accounted for, but in the process its historical *bona fides* greatly impaired. Still the work was phenomenal and had a certain value, in its language, and in the pictures of life and manners, albeit probably those of the minstrel's own times. In support of these views Mr. Moir collated Wallace's life as best known by us, with Blind Harry's narrative. A discussion ensued, in which ex-Dean Walker, Mr. George Cadenhead, Mr. J. P. Edmond, Dr. Wm. Alexander, and Mr. Kemlo took part.

A second meeting was held on the 19th—Mr. Moir occupied the President's chair. The business of the evening was a paper read by Dr. William Alexander on "The Making of Aberdeenshire." As one who had long and carefully studied the history of the development of the agricultural resources of the county, the lecturer advanced a detailed array of facts and figures illustrative of the subject in its many bearings. Although Aberdeenshire is sixth in actual extent, it is by a long way the premier county of Scotland in respect of acreage under cultivation. Much valuable light was thrown on the various methods adopted by the improvers of the land, the question of the laws regulating the rent of land, the vast importance of roads and means of transit as a source of wealth, by allowing the transfer of commodities, and also on the social condition of the country people from the lawless middle ages, when neither life nor property was worth a day's purchase, down to our own fortunate times, when ample security is had for both. Dr. John Duguid Milne, Mr. Ranald Macdonald, Mr. Findlater, Mr. John Keith, Dr. James Gammack, Dr. Ogilvie Will, and the Chairman, all added some interest to the discussion which followed. Dr. Alexander replied to most of the points taken up.—*Communicated.*

We understand that Messrs. D. Wyllie & Son will shortly publish a work entitled *The Common Good of the City of Aberdeen, 1319-1887*, by Mr. Alex. M. Munro, whose name is sufficient to vouch for the accuracy of anything relating to the history of the city.

112. BATTLE OF ALFORD, IN JULY, 1645.—Can any of your readers oblige me by stating whether there are any local traditions concerning this battle, or concerning Montrose's campaign in the north in 1645? Are there any locally-compiled published accounts of the battle in guide-books or otherwise? Unpublished anecdotes or incidents would be esteemed. [This came too late for its proper place.]
C. R. F.