

## CHAPTER II.

# THE LOTHIANS.

**T**HE LOTHIANS, or Mid, West, and East Lothian, as the counties of Edinburgh, Linlithgow, and Haddington, are frequently designated, formed part of a province or kingdom which included Berwickshire or the Merse, and the county of Roxburgh.<sup>1</sup> This province or kingdom, anciently known as Saxonia, because the districts were settled by the Saxons, and were never possessed by the Picts, extended from the Tweed on the south-east, and from the English Border to the river Avon on the north-west, bounded on the north and east by the Frith of Forth and the German Ocean, and on the west and south by the counties of Stirling, Lanark, Dumfries, and the Border counties in that part of Scotland.<sup>2</sup> The county of Edinburgh is mountainous to a considerable extent, presenting every variety of scenery, and is watered by streams which traverse romantic and pastoral vales in their course to the Frith of Forth. It is stated by an accurate observer, that "Mid-Lothian, when viewed on a fine summer day from any of its hills, displays a prospect of as many natural beauties, without deficiency in those embellishments which arise from industry and cultivation, as can perhaps be met with in any tract of the same extent in Great Britain. The expanse of the Frith of Forth, from six to ten miles in breadth, adds highly to the natural beauty of the scene; and the capital, situated on an eminence adjoining an extensive plain, rises proudly to the view, and imparts a dignity to the whole."<sup>3</sup>

The Romans entered Mid-Lothian about the end of the first century, and retained possession upwards of three hundred and sixty years, leaving roads, camps, naval stations, and altars, as memorials of their long residence on the shores of the Frith of Forth. After the Roman legions retired in the fifth century from their province of Valentia, of which Mid-Lothian was a part, the inhabitants soon amalgamated with the Saxons. Though the county was early peopled, the improvements in agriculture are of no more recent date than the middle of the eighteenth century. It is asserted by Froissart, that upwards of one hundred castles were, in his time, in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh;<sup>4</sup> but if such was the fact, all those buildings have disappeared. Few ancient castles are in the vicinity or in the district, and those which still exist, whether entire or in ruins, were built after Froissart's time. A few desolate towers in various localities, which cannot be dignified by the name of castles, were the dwellings of the lairds and their retainers.

<sup>1</sup> Chalmers' *Caledonia*, vol. i. p. 372.

<sup>2</sup> The country from the Tweed to the Avon was scarcely known by the name of Lothian till about the end of the tenth century.—*Caledonia*, vol. ii. p. 559.

<sup>3</sup> General View of the Agriculture of the County of Mid-Lothian, by George Robertson, Farmer at Granton, 8vo. 1795, p. 23.

<sup>4</sup> The period of Froissart's "Chronicle" extends from 1326 to 1400. He was in Scotland in the reign of David II., to whose court his fame as a poet and historian procured for him ready access; and he was entertained fifteen days at the Castle of Dalkeith, by William first Earl of Douglas, who had seized that stronghold, then the property of the ancestors of the Earls of Morton.





EDINBURGH FROM NEAR CRAIGMILLAR CASTLE.

*From an Original Drawing by D. Roberts Esq.*

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## CRAIGMILLAR CASTLE—DUDDINGSTONE.

THE massive Castle of Craigmillar, three miles south of Edinburgh, in the parish of Liberton, occupies a prominent rocky elevation of considerable height, sloping on the north side towards Duddingstone and Arthur's Seat, and perpendicular on the south. Its Gaelic designation, it is said, is "Craig-moil-ard," which signifies a bare and high rock inclining into a plain. The Castle consists of a large tower or keep connected with additional buildings, with an embattled wall upwards of thirty feet high on the east and north, which has strong circular towers on the east, and encloses the inner court-yard, which is entered by the gateway on the north. A date above the gateway intimates that this wall was erected in 1427. The principal staircase of the Castle leads to a noble hall still entire, the walls of immense thickness, and the windows forming deep recesses. The roof is arched with stone, and above it were several apartments, of which the gables are the only memorials. The apartment shown as that occupied by Queen Mary is only seven feet long, and five feet broad, lighted by two windows, and contains a fire-place. The lower storeys of the Castle consist of rooms for the retainers or feudal domestics, and repulsive dungeons. On the west of the Castle and inner court-yard a large addition, in the manor-house style, was erected after 1661 by Sir John Gilmour, Lord President of the Court of Session, and was for some time the residence of his family. The outer court of Craigmillar is entered on the east, is large and spacious, and was inclosed by an exterior wall, portions of which still exist, some parts indicating a moat or ditch on the north and west. On the east, outside the Castle, is the chapel, of plain architecture, which has been long profaned as a stable. Its font, and several memorials of its former state, when Queen Mary performed her devotions within its walls, are in the interior. On the west side of this court was a Presbyterian meeting-house, erected by Sir John Gilmour under the protection of the "Indulgence" granted in the reign of Charles II. On the south side, in a deep hollow, are the remains of an orchard, comprising two acres, and containing a few old trees, one of which, a sycamore, is said to have been planted by Queen Mary.

Of the date of the erection of Craigmillar, and of its first proprietors, no account is now preserved. The son of one of them is mentioned as Henry de Craigmillar, in a charter dated 1212 in the reign of Alexander II.<sup>1</sup> John de Capella is subsequently recorded as in possession,<sup>2</sup> from whom it was purchased, in 1374, by Sir Simon de Preston, in whose family the Castle continued nearly three hundred years, and whose successors are variously designated of that ilk, of Gorton near Roslin, and of Craigmillar.<sup>3</sup> The arms of the Prestons are on the outer and inner gates of the Castle, on the gate leading down to the orchard, on the adjoining turret, and on the east front above a small door. Over one of the doors are carved in stone a press and a tun or barrel, in playful allusion to the name of Preston; and the arms of Cockburn of Ormiston, Congalton of that ilk, Moubray of Barnbogle, Otterburn of Redford, and other families with whom the Prestons were connected, are on the battlemented walls which defend the inner court-yard. Above the armorial bearings of the Prestons, on the gate leading into the inner court, are the royal arms of Scotland. It is not apparent when Craigmillar was allowed to become ruinous, though after Sir John Gilmour's time the Castle was habitable.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Lord Haddington's Collections.

<sup>2</sup> Chart. in Rotulis Roberti II.

<sup>3</sup> William Preston of Gorton is said to have procured the veritable arm-bone of St. Giles, at considerable expense and trouble, and he bestowed this relic of their patron saint on the Town Council of Edinburgh, which was received with enthusiastic gratitude.—See the account of St. Giles's Church in the present Work, p. 87. The Prestons of Craigmillar were subsequently much connected with Edinburgh. They were considered of such importance, that in the Scottish Parliaments they were often ranked as barons, though not ennobled. In the Parliament held at Edinburgh on the 17th of February, 1471, Preston of Craigmillar was present, and in that held at Edinburgh on the 6th of April, 1476, he is recorded as "Dominus de Craigmillar." William Preston was a member of the Parliament held at Edinburgh on the 1st of June, 1478, but it appears that he soon afterwards died, for in the Parliament held at Edinburgh on the 1st of October, 1487, and on the 11th of January, 1487-8, Simeon Preston was "Dominus Craig-

millar." James Preston of Craigmillar was in the Parliaments held at Edinburgh, 16th November, 1524, and 6th July, 1525, when he was Provost of Edinburgh. In the Parliaments held on the 3d December, 1543, and 2d December, 1544, Simon Preston of Craigmillar is repeatedly mentioned as a commissioner.—Acta Parl. Scot. folio, vol. ii. pp. 101, 115, 116, &c.

<sup>4</sup> In June, 1708, "the house of Craigmillar, two (Scots) miles from Edinburgh," was advertised in the Edinburgh Courant "to be set, either altogether, or rooms in it;" but this evidently refers to the addition erected by Sir John Gilmour. If the latter supposition is correct, Craigmillar was habitable in 1746, which is intimated in the following notice in that year, which was evidently considered of local importance:—"Yesterday, arrived at his seat of Craigmillar, the Hon. Sir Charles Gilmour, Bart., Member of Parliament for Mid-Lothian." Sir John Gilmour of Craigmillar, Lord President of the Court of Session, was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia in 1668, but the title is extinct.



John, Earl of Mar, a younger brother of James III., was confined in Craigmillar in 1477,<sup>1</sup> and the Castle was the residence of James V. during his minority, when he was removed from the Castle of Edinburgh to escape a prevailing epidemic.<sup>2</sup> The widowed Queen, his mother, frequently visited the young King in Craigmillar, by favour of Lord Erskine, his guardian and attendant. The Castle was much demolished and partly burnt by the English in 1543, and again in 1547, after which it was soon thoroughly repaired.

Queen Mary often resided at Craigmillar after her return from France in 1561. At that time Sir Simon Preston was the proprietor, and he is subsequently conspicuous as Provost of Edinburgh.<sup>3</sup> The Queen was an inmate of Craigmillar in the autumn of 1566, when a divorce between her and Darnley was projected. This was long known as the "Conference of Craigmillar." Those concerned in it were the Earls of Huntly, Argyll, Bothwell, and Moray, and Secretary Maitland of Lethington. It appears that they were all residing in the Castle together, and this was some months after the murder of Riccio, which the Queen still remembered with bitterness of feeling, increased by the outrageous and imbecile conduct of Darnley. Bothwell, who had completely secured the Queen's favour by affecting the utmost devotion to her interest, attended by the Earls, waited on Mary, and represented Darnley's enormities; but the Queen resolutely declared, that though she wished for a divorce, she would consent to no measure which might be eventually prejudicial to the future welfare of her infant son.<sup>4</sup>

When Darnley was removed from Glasgow it was intended to lodge him in Craigmillar, but the Kirk-of-Field house at Edinburgh was preferred.<sup>5</sup> After Queen Mary's surrender to the confederated nobility on Carberry Hill, she was brought from Musselburgh to Edinburgh by the road on the north of Craigmillar, and immured for the night in the Black Turnpike, then the reputed town residence of Sir Simon Preston.<sup>6</sup> In the numerous skirmishes which occurred during the regencies of the Earls of Mar and Morton, Craigmillar was garrisoned by their soldiers.<sup>7</sup> In 1571, during the siege of Edinburgh Castle, which became the resort of Queen Mary's adherents in 1570, Captain Melville, one of the eight sons of Sir John Melville of Raith, by his wife Helen Napier, who were all devoted to Queen Mary, was killed on Craigmillar Hill by the igniting of a barrel of gunpowder, which he was in the act of dealing out to his soldiers.<sup>8</sup> The occupation of Craigmillar was probably caused by the avowed sentiments of David Preston, the then proprietor, who, on the 12th of June, 1587, was denounced a rebel.<sup>9</sup>

The Prestons of Craigmillar are often noticed in the records of the Scottish Parliaments previous to 1661,<sup>10</sup> when Sir John Gilmour, who had, while an advocate or barrister, purchased the lands from George Preston, with consent of his brother John Preston, and others interested in the property, obtained a "ratification" of the Castle and barony.<sup>11</sup> After this legal possession, Sir John erected the addition on the west side of the Castle and of the inner court, and subsequently his Presbyterian meeting-house already mentioned. His descendants or representatives, however, within a century afterwards, removed from Craigmillar to the fine old mansion called the Inch House, about a mile distant, which is now their family residence.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See the History of Edinburgh Castle in the present Work, p. 5.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* p. 9.

<sup>3</sup> Sir Simon Preston was Provost of Edinburgh at the time of Riccio's murder.—See the Abbey and Palace of Holyrood in the present Work, p. 59. Sir Simon had a commission to be Justice-General of the kingdom from the 22d of January, 1565, to the end of the ensuing February.—MS. Abridgements in the Library of the Faculty of Advocates at Edinburgh, cited in Pitcairn's Criminal Trials of Scotland, vol. i. Part II. p. 447.

<sup>4</sup> The narrative of the "Conference of Craigmillar," (when it cannot be doubted that the murder of Darnley was determined, though the mode of perpetrating the crime had not been arranged, nor the time fixed), is preserved in the Cotton Library, British Museum, Cal. c. i. fol. 282, and is inserted by Dr. Gilbert Stuart in the second volume of his "History of Scotland," 4to. pp. 3, 4, 5.

<sup>5</sup> See the Abbey and Palace of Holyrood, in the present Work, p. 60.

<sup>6</sup> See the High Street of Edinburgh, in the present Work, p. 105.

<sup>7</sup> Pollock MS. (Diurnal of Occurrents) cited by Mark Napier, Esq., in his "Memoirs of John Napier of Merchiston," 4to. 1834, p. 135.

<sup>8</sup> It is said of Captain Melville—"All the nobility followed him to his grave, and Sir William Kirkaldy of Grange, his nephew, pronounced a funeral oration to his soldiers. He is not mentioned in the Peerage (Leven and Melville), but these facts may be gathered from a comparison of the contemporary journals of Bannatyne, Sir James Melville, and the Pollock MSS."—Memoirs of John Napier of Merchiston, by Mark Napier, Esq. p. 133.

<sup>9</sup> Acta Parl. Scot. folio, vol. iii. p. 525.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.* vol. iv. p. 52; vol. vii. p. 16.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.* vol. vii. p. 361. Robert Preston of Craigmillar died without issue in 1639, and Robert Preston of Whitehill was served heir-male in 1640.

<sup>12</sup> At the south-west base of Craigmillar Hill is the hamlet of Little France, on one of the roads from Edinburgh to Dalkeith, which is said to have derived the name from Queen Mary's French domestics. Near Little France is the hamlet of Bridgend, where James V. erected a hunting station, which was long identified by his initials, the royal arms of Scotland, and between them the outline of a large edifice, all carved in stone. Adjoining was a chapel, every vestige of which has disappeared since 1799. Eastward from Craigmillar is Niddrie-Marischal, the seat of the ancient family of Wauchope of Niddrie,



The adjoining district, forming the parish of Duddingstone, extends from the eastern base of Arthur's Seat in the royal domain of Holyrood, to the shore at and two miles east of the town of Portobello. The greater part of this ground was long an unreclaimed waste, covered with furze, on which the canons of Holyrood turned loose their cattle, with a broad expanse of flat sandy shore. Although in the vicinity of Edinburgh, this now fertile tract was infested by robbers and smugglers, and many murders were committed, the perpetrators of which were never discovered. Yet the interior, towards Arthur's Seat, must have been long cultivated, as Duddingstone Mill, a very romantic locality about half a mile from the village or "kirk-town" of Wester Duddingstone, is mentioned as such in connexion with one of the tumults excited by the turbulent Earl of Bothwell in his contentions with James VI. The village of Wester Duddingstone, so called to distinguish it from that of Easter Duddingstone, upwards of two miles distant, and about half a mile from the shore, is pleasantly situated at the south-east base of Arthur's Seat. A fine and romantic footpath to it from Edinburgh is through the southern parks of Holyrood, passing under the basaltic rocks of Arthur's Seat, which overlook the almost extinguished springs locally known as the "Wells of Weary," and also by the road round the east and south of Arthur's Seat designated the "Queen's Drive." This little village, which chiefly consists of a few houses and some villas embosomed amid gardens, was once large and populous, though it now contains probably not a hundred resident inhabitants.<sup>1</sup> Close to it, in the hollow formed by the elevation of Arthur's Seat, is the lake called Duddingstone Loch, about a mile and a quarter in circumference when flooded, and enlivened by wild ducks and swans.<sup>2</sup> At the east end of the village is the humble tenement, of two storeys, in which Prince Charles Edward slept the night before he marched to meet Sir John Cope at Preston, the Adventurers having encamped after their arrival in Edinburgh on the adjoining grounds now inclosed as the park of Duddingstone House. The parish church, built on elevated ground overlooking the lake, is a very ancient plain edifice, with a small square tower, and is supposed, from the structure and the style of the arches in the interior, to be of Saxon workmanship. A very beautiful semicircular arch divides the choir from the chancel, and a door of elegant architecture now built up is on the south side. At the gate of the churchyard, attached by a chain to the wall, is a jointed iron collar, long a terror to petty offenders, known in Scotland as the "jougs," which was fastened round the necks of delinquents by a padlock, and still to be seen in various parts of Scotland some of them on parish churches and churchyard walls—memorials of a discipline long disused.

After 1751, the beautiful and valuable estate of Duddingstone House was subdivided, inclosed, and the improvements and plantations commenced by James, eighth Earl of Abercorn, who purchased the entire barony in 1745 from Archibald, third Duke of Argyll, who, it is said, sold the estate to enable him to proceed with the erection of Inverary Castle. The property was formerly in possession of the Thomsons of Duddingstone, now extinct, one of whom was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia by Charles I., in 1636.<sup>3</sup> The estate passed to the second Earl and only Duke of Lauderdale in 1674, after whom it was acquired by marriage by the first Duke of Argyll. The Earl of Abercorn erected the elegant mansion of Duddingstone House, from a design by Sir William Chambers. It was finished in 1768, and, with the offices, gardens, and pleasure-

who have been in possession of the estate at least since the commencement of the fourteenth century. The oldest part of the mansion exhibits the date 1636, and a portion of its chapel, built in 1387 by Robert Wauchope of Niddrie-Marischal, is now the family cemetery. This chapel, which was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, was dilapidated by a mob from Edinburgh, in November 1688, after ravaging the Chapel-Royal of Holyrood. On Niddrie Edge, to the south of Niddrie, Alexander, sixth Lord and first Earl of Home, was defeated in a skirmish by the turbulent Earl of Bothwell, in April 1594. This affair was designated the "Raid of Greenside."

<sup>1</sup> Wester Duddingstone, previous to 1760, had thirty weavers' looms, and furnished thirty-six horses to convey coals in sacks, and creels, or willow-baskets, to Edinburgh. Some females employ themselves in washing for families in the neighbouring city, and the enormous burdens which these women carry on their backs is astonishing. The village was formerly long noted for a dish peculiarly Scottish, and still in great repute, though not much known or relished in England—broth or soup made of singed sheep-heads and vegetables boiled together. Its reputation for this dish is supposed to have arisen from a practice of slaughtering sheep pastured on Arthur's Seat on the spot,

and selling the heads to the keepers of the village hostleries, who prepared the repast for their customers.

<sup>2</sup> After the death of the Duke of Lauderdale, proprietor of the estate of Duddingstone, his Duchess pursued Sir James Dick before the Privy Council for seizing three of five swans put into the lake by the Duke. Sir James maintained that the swans belonged to him, as the lake was his property. The Privy Council decided against him, and he resented by expelling the remaining birds, but "Duke Hamilton, alleging that the loch bounded with the King's Park, and so belonged to him, he put them in again, and thus took possession in the King's name of the loch, which will cost Sir James a declarator of property to clear his right."—March 6, 1688.—*Historical Notices of Scottish Affairs*, by Sir John Lauder of Fountainhall, Bart., 4to. Edin. printed for the BANNATYNE CLUB, 1847, vol. ii. p. 857.

<sup>3</sup> Before the family of Thomson, the Murrays of Balvairst held the estate, or part of it, of Duddingstone. On the 24th of January, 1541-2, Sir David Murray of Balvairst (an ancestor of the Viscounts Stormont, now also Earls of Mansfield), was paid 400*l.* for his lands of Duddingstone, "tane in to the new park beside Halyrudehou."—*Pitcairn's Criminal Trials*, vol. i. Part I. p. 321.



grounds, and plantations,<sup>1</sup> cost 30,000*l.* The mansion was the Earl's principal residence till his death, in October 1789.<sup>2</sup>

The adjoining mansion and estate of Prestonfield, or Priestfield, on the south-west side of Duddingstone Loch, was formerly the property of some of the ancestors of the Earls of Haddington. Sir Thomas Hamilton, elder son of Thomas Hamilton of Orchardfield, who fell at the battle of Pinkie, is designated "of Priestfield," when he was served heir to his father, in 1549. He was subsequently forfeited, and in 1572, Andrew, eldest son of Murray of Balvaird and Arngask, received a grant of the lands of Priestfield, then in the King's hands, in which he is designated the "late Thomas Hamilton;" yet he, or one of his name, recovered the property by obtaining a charter, in 1597. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Heriot of Trabroun, and relative of George Heriot, the founder of the Hospital at Edinburgh. Sir Thomas Hamilton of Priestfield, his eldest son,<sup>3</sup> who was very rich, and on whom James VI. conferred the sobriquet of "Tam of the Cowgate," was a most distinguished person in his time, and held some of the highest and most lucrative state and judicial appointments.<sup>4</sup> He was created Lord Binning in 1613, and Earl of Melrose in 1616, a peerage which he relinquished for the Earldom of Haddington in 1627, at the death of Sir John Ramsay, the first and only Viscount Haddington, brother of George, first Lord Ramsay of Dalhousie.<sup>5</sup> The second son of the first Earl of Haddington was Sir James Hamilton of Priestfield, who was an officer in the forces sent to the assistance of King Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden, in 1631. The property was subsequently acquired by Sir James Dick, merchant in Edinburgh. He was the grandson of Sir William Dick, created a Baronet of Nova Scotia in 1646, and Lord Provost of Edinburgh from 1637 to 1639, who was a merchant of great wealth in Edinburgh, almost ruined himself by lending large sums to the Covenanters, was fined by the Parliamentarians to the extent of 14,934*l.* as a "Malignant," and after suffering imprisonment by Cromwell in the Tower, when he went to London to demand payment of money he had advanced on the Covenanting government security, died at Westminster, in December 1655.<sup>6</sup> Sir James Dick, the grandson, Lord Provost of Edinburgh in 1679 and 1680, was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia in 1677, which was renewed to settle the entail of his estate in 1707. When he purchased the lands of Prestonfield, the property was little removed from waste, but he commenced those improvements which have made the fields to be considered the finest pasturage in the vicinity of Edinburgh. Prestonfield was burnt by the students of the University of Edinburgh in a riot, on the 11th of January, 1681, and the present house was erected by the Town-Council as a compensation.

Immediately south-east of Prestonfield, in the direction of Craigmillar Castle, is the house of Peffer Mill,

<sup>1</sup> Duddingstone Park was laid out by Mr. James Robertson, who was sent from England for that purpose in 1750. He subsequently made some important alterations in Dalkeith Park, the pleasure-grounds of Dalhousie Castle, Niddrie and Moredun, the two latter in the neighbourhood of Duddingstone, Hopetoun House, and other seats, at all of which he introduced the transplanting machine.

<sup>2</sup> The Earl of Abercorn, who was the uncle of his successor, John James, ninth Earl and first British Marquis of Abercorn, had no property in Scotland before he purchased the Barony of Duddingstone, and in 1764 he acquired, also by purchase, the Lordship of Paisley, the patrimony of his ancestors. Several anecdotes are preserved of the Earl's peculiarities. It is said that he made the tour of Europe sitting in an upright attitude, never allowing himself to recline on the back of his coach. He was singularly aristocratic in his habits, and was enraged at any intrusion without invitation. While the plantations of Duddingstone Park were in progress, Principal Robertson, the Historian, one day went to pay his respects to his Lordship, whom he found in his grounds superintending the workmen. The Earl received the Principal in the most haughty manner. The Principal, after the ordinary salutations, complimented the Earl on the thriving appearance of his trees, and observed that they were growing well. "Sir," said his Lordship, "they have nothing else to do than to grow," and turning from him, walked away, leaving the astonished Principal to meditate on this want of politeness.

<sup>3</sup> Sir John Hamilton of Magdalens, in Linlithgowshire, the third son, was a Judge in the Court of Session, Lord Register of Scotland, and a Privy Councillor. He died in 1632, and was interred in the Chapel-Royal of Holyrood. Alexander Hamilton, the fourth son, general of artillery or ordnance, held a high command in the troops sent to the assistance of Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden, under

the first Duke of Hamilton in 1631. He died in November, 1649, and was interred in the aisle in Duddingstone Church. His daughter, Anna Hamilton, was served heiress to the barony of Priestfield after the death of his only son in 1657. The other brothers of "Tam of the Cowgate" were Sir Andrew Hamilton of Redhouse, in Haddingtonshire, a Judge in the Court of Session, and Patrick, Under-secretary to the said "Tam of the Cowgate."

<sup>4</sup> His Lordship was successively a Judge in the Court of Session by the title of Lord Drumcairn, one of the eight Commissioners of the Treasury and Exchequer, called from their number "Octavians," King's Advocate, Lord Clerk Register, Secretary of State, Lord President of the Court of Session, and finally Keeper of the Privy Seal, which last office he held till his death in 1637, in his seventy-fourth year. The Earl was the compiler of "Haddington's Decisions of the Court of Session," from 1592 to the end of July, 1624, preserved, with other valuable MS. Collections by him, in the Library of the Faculty of Advocates at Edinburgh.

<sup>5</sup> Sir John Ramsay was rewarded with this Peerage, and a grant of the Barony of Eastbarns, in Haddingtonshire, for the assistance he rendered to James VI. at the Gowrie Conspiracy in Perth, when he killed the Earl of Gowrie with his own hand, and mortally wounded his brother, Alexander Ruthven.

<sup>6</sup> Sir William Dick lent or advanced 8000*l.* sterling to King James in 1618, to defray that monarch's expenses when a Parliament was held in Scotland. In 1628 he farmed the customs on wine at 6222*l.* sterling, the crown rents in Orkney at 3000*l.* sterling per annum, and afterwards the Excise. The window of the house of Sir William Dick, in the Lawnmarket of Edinburgh, was long traditionally remembered for the barrels of dollars brought out at it in his money dealings with the Covenanting leaders.





ROSLIN CASTLE

*From an Original Drawing by J. D. Harding*

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supposed to be the original of the mansion of the Laird of Dumbiedykes, and most graphically described in the "Heart of Mid-Lothian," although the name of Dumbiedykes, as already mentioned, designates the old road from the North Back of the Canongate to the suburb of St. Leonards at Edinburgh, the residence of "douce" David Deans, after he removed from the assumed hamlet of Woodend, two miles from Dalkeith. It is stated that the residence of the Laird of Dumbiedykes "lay three or four miles—no matter for the exact topography—to the southward of St. Leonards." Although Sir Walter Scott's description of the Laird's domicile is probably imaginary, and may apply to many dwellings which remain as memorials of the seventeenth century, it nevertheless corresponds to the antique tenement of Peffer Mill, which was erected in 1636 by a gentleman named Edgar, whose armorial bearings are above the entrance.

## ROSLIN—HAWTHORNDEN.

SEVEN miles south from Edinburgh, in the parish of Lasswade, on the North Esk, which traverse its romantic and pastoral vale in its course from the Pentland Hills, are the Castle and Chapel of Roslin, or Rosslyn, surrounded by the most delightful scenery. The village so called, in the immediate vicinity, consists of tenements of very homely aspect, forming four cross-road-side streets, and, though now an insignificant place some distance inland from any of the principal highways, embosomed among trees in rural silence, was at one time only inferior to Edinburgh and Haddington as a town, and was constituted a burgh of barony in 1456 by James II., with a right to a weekly market on Saturday, and an annual fair on the 28th of October, the festival of St. Simon and St. Jude.<sup>1</sup> The pedestal of the market-cross is in the centre of the village, and is the only external memorial of privileges for centuries in oblivion. This erection of Roslin into a burgh of barony was ten years after the foundation of the Chapel, before which it is stated that the village was at Bilsdon Burn, nearly a mile distant, and was removed to the present locality for the convenience of the workmen employed at the Chapel.<sup>2</sup>

The exquisite beauties of Roslin, especially the Chapel, have been more frequently described than almost any other place in Scotland.<sup>3</sup> The family who resided for centuries in feudal splendour at Roslin Castle, and known as the "Princely St. Clairs," are duly recorded in the Collections of Father Hay,<sup>4</sup> who states that the proprietors before the St. Clairs were first known in Scotland in the reign of William the Lion, which extended from December 1165 to December 1214. One of them is designated Roger de Roslyn, who is witness to three charters granted by William de Lyssuris of Gorton in the neighbourhood.<sup>5</sup> Those ancient possessors were probably the constructors of the fortalice traditionally known as the "Maiden Castle," the first residence of the Barons of Roslin, which was situated within a bend of the North Esk, a short distance south of the locality called the "Hewan." Some vestiges of the foundations are still visible, and the "Maiden Castle" evidently indicated the first or original fortalice, which had no connexion with the present ruins of Roslin Castle, and probably none with the St. Clair family.

The St. Clairs or Sinclairs of Roslin, for the name is variously so written, were reputed to be

<sup>1</sup> The document of this erection is in the "Genealogie of the Saintclaires of Rosslyn," by Father Richard Augustin Hay, Prior of Pierremont, edited by James Maidment, Esq., with Introductory Notice, 4to. Edin. 1835, pp. 76, 77.

<sup>2</sup> Genealogie of the Saintclaires of Rosslyn, 4to. p. 27.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. Maidment says—"No separate account of Rosslyn has ever been published, although the late Dr. Forbes, Bishop of Caithness [in the Scottish Episcopal Church from 1762, to his death in 1776], has extracted from Father Hay's MS. some particulars as to the Chapel. The following is the title of the volume:—'Account of the Chapel of Roslin, most respectfully inscribed to William St. Clair of Roslin, Esquire, representative of the Princely Founder and Endower, by Philo-Roskelensis, Edin. 1774; with a South View of the Chapel. J. Johnson, del.' These extracts had been inserted in the Edinburgh Magazine for January 1761, with a view of the interior of the Chapel. This was the ground-work of a narrative by David Webster, a bookseller in Edinburgh, and of 'An Historical and Descriptive Account of

Rosslyn Chapel and Castle, with Eight Engravings, Edin. 1825.'"—Introduction to Father Hay's Genealogie of the Saintclaires of Rosslyn, pp. xv. xvi.

<sup>4</sup> Father Hay's original MS. Collections are preserved in the Library of the Faculty of Advocates at Edinburgh. He was the son of Captain George Hay, a younger son of Sir John Hay of Barra, Clerk Register in the reign of Charles I., by Jean, daughter of Sir Henry Spottiswoode, son of Dr. James Spottiswoode, Bishop of Clogher, and nephew of Archbishop Spottiswoode of St. Andrews. The mother of Father Hay married as her second husband James St. Clair of Roslin, by whom she had issue. This worthy ecclesiastic, who was an enthusiastic collector of Scottish family antiquities, is said to have died in the Cowgate of Edinburgh in poverty, in 1735 or 1736—"whether by choice of principle or otherwise," says Paton to Gough in 1779, "I cannot positively affirm."—Introductory Notice to Genealogie of the Hayes of Tweeddale, 4to. Edin. 1835, pp. vi.-ix.

<sup>5</sup> Genealogie of the Saintclaires of Rosslyn, pp. 37-41.



descended from William second son of Walderne de St. Clair, and Margaret daughter of Richard Duke of Normandy. This William de St. Clair was also ancestor of the St. Clairs or Sinclairs of Hermandstone in Haddingtonshire, who were ennobled in 1489 in the person of Henry St. Clair, then created Lord Sinclair. William de St. Clair, whose elegant person procured for him the appellation of the "Seemly St. Clair," obtained extensive grants of land from Malcolm III., son of the "gracious Duncan," and consort of the canonized Queen Margaret. By the liberality of successive monarchs the St. Clairs obtained valuable additions, and some of their descendants were elevated by marriage to very high rank in the Kingdom. The eighth in descent from William de St. Clair, the alleged immediate progenitor, was Sir William St. Clair, whose father, also so named, accompanied Sir James Douglas on his expedition to the Holy Land to deposit the heart of King Robert Bruce, and was killed with him in Spain in 1330. This eighth descendant married Isabel, daughter and co-heiress of Malise Earl of Strathearn, who also possessed the Earldoms of Caithness and Orkney in right of his Countess, daughter of Magnus, the last of the Norwegian Earls of Orkney. Henry St. Clair, the eldest son, was recognized as Earl of Orkney by Haco VII. King of Norway, in 1379; but as Orkney was not then under the dominion of the Scottish crown, and his tenure was consequently burdened with conditions disagreeable in the event of a war, with the certainty that his estates under both monarchs would not be retained, his grandson William, third Earl, resigned the Earldom of Orkney in 1470, when James III. acquired Orkney and Shetland as the dowry or portion of his consort Margaret of Denmark.

This Earl, whose titles of nobility were so numerous that he was likely to forget the half of them, and Father Hay quaintly observes that the enumeration "would weary a Spaniard," resided at Roslin in a regal style, maintaining a most imposing establishment. Noblemen were in his household, filling the official situations of master of the same, of carver, and of cupbearer. He was of royal descent by his mother Egidia, daughter of Douglas, Lord of Liddesdale, and grand-daughter of Robert II. In right of his father Henry, second Earl, he was styled Prince of Orkney, in addition to the titles of Duke of Oldenburg, Earl of Caithness and Strathearn, and a legion of others. He married as his first Countess a daughter of Archibald fourth Earl of Douglas, whose name Father Hay alleges was Margaret, while other authorities style her Lady Elizabeth. The Earl married as his second Countess Lady Marjory Sutherland, grand-daughter of King Robert Bruce.<sup>1</sup> His Princess was attended by seventy-five ladies, most of whom were the daughters of noblemen, and two hundred gentlemen formed her escort in her journeys. Her arrivals in Edinburgh must have excited public sensation, if the tradition is authentic that eighty flaming torches were carried before her to the family town residence at the Cowgate end of Blackfriars' Wynd. Though Father Hay's minute details of the gold and silver vessels, and other valuables, which this Prince-Earl and his consorts possessed, are undoubtedly exaggerated, it is evident that much feudal splendour would be displayed by the founder of Roslin Chapel, who is described as "a very fair man, of great stature, broad-bodied, yellow-haired, straight, well proportioned, humble, courteous, and given to policy, as building of castles, palaces, and churches, the planting and haining of forests, as also the parking and hedging in of trees, which his works yet witness."<sup>2</sup>

The Prince-Earl was recompensed for his abdication of the Earldom of Orkney by a grant of Ravenscraig and the adjoining lands in Fife, between Kircaldy and Dysart, in 1471,<sup>3</sup> after which he was styled Earl of Caithness and Lord St. Clair. He denuded himself of the Earldom of Caithness in favour of one of his sons by his second marriage, and the male representation of the "Princely St. Clairs" of Roslin is now vested in the present Earl of Caithness. The Prince-Earl died about 1484, and was succeeded by his son Sir Oliver St. Clair, who was a knight in his father's lifetime, and is so designated in various documents. According to Father Hay's narrative, which seems to be correct on this point, the second Earl of Caithness inherited from his father, who may be called the first Earl, the barren domains of that Earldom, while Roslin, Pentland, and other extensive properties, were assigned to his brother Sir Oliver, after whose succession the St. Clairs of Roslin appear to have lived as quiet

<sup>1</sup> Father Hay's *Genealogie of the Saintclaires of Rosslyn*, pp. 25, 28, 29.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* pp. 24, 25.

<sup>3</sup> The legal "Discharge, by King James the Third, of Orkney,"

and the "Ratification of Ravenscraig for the Right of Orkney by King James the Third," are preserved by Father Hay (pp. 79-82). The "Ratification" is dated at Edinburgh, 12th May, and the "Discharge" on the 20th of September, 1471.



country gentlemen, who suffered severely in pecuniary matters for their loyalty, and their profession of the Roman Catholic faith; and it will be seen that a family who could boast of the proudest ancestry rapidly became impoverished and extinct.

Sir Oliver St. Clair, described as of Pitcairns, the third son of the above Sir Oliver, was the favourite of James V., and his nomination to the command of the Scottish army caused the voluntary rout or surrender of those forces on the Solway Moss in 1542, which accelerated the death of that monarch. He obtained a grant of the property of Sir David Hutchison, Provost of Roslin Chapel, who was implicated in a charge of heresy.

Oliver St. Clair, described as brother-german of the Laird of Roslin, was prosecuted on the 8th of July, 1572, for assaulting Queen Mary's adherents in the Castle of Edinburgh.<sup>1</sup> In 1592, Sir William St. Clair of Roslin is mentioned with others in a case before the Justiciary Court, and his lady's consultation with witches in 1590-1 is also recorded.<sup>2</sup> Towards the end of the sixteenth century the St. Clairs were at deadly feud with Lord Borthwick, which appears to have been aggravated by Lord Borthwick refusing to marry a daughter of this Sir William St. Clair, who obligingly had allowed him to select any one of the young ladies he pleased. The son of Sir William, also so called, once delivered a gipsy from execution on the Boroughmuir of Edinburgh, and the wandering tribe gratefully assembled in the ditches of Roslin every year in May and June, acting plays in honour of their benefactor. This Sir William married, about 1610, Anne, daughter of Archbishop Spottiswoode, then of Glasgow, and he is described by Father Hay as a "lewd man," absconding with a miller's daughter to Ireland, though the worthy Father thinks that the Presbyterians compelled him to retreat for professing the Roman Catholic religion, which exposed him to much annoyance during the Covenanting domination. A younger son, John, surnamed "the Prince," held out Roslin Castle against General Monck; and another son, Charles, was "possessed by a spirit," which probably means that he was of weak intellect.

The Lady of Roslin at the period of the Revolution was Jean, daughter of Sir Henry Spottiswoode, previously mentioned as Father Hay's mother by her first marriage. Her second husband was James St. Clair of Roslin, her near relation, and she appears to have been a remarkably active dame. Father Hay states that his mother discovered, in February 1690, the best coal in Scotland. He describes his step-father as a "very civil and discreet man," who was "much taken up with building, and addicted to the priests," which "two inclinations spoiled his fortune." He erected the part of the Castle entering from the bridge on the left, on which are sculptured his arms and name, with those of his lady; he built the wall enclosing the Chapel, and laid out the garden under the Castle near the romantic linn where the river forces its channel amid huge rocks; and he introduced water in lead pipes into the inner court and vaults. He induced the Town Council of Edinburgh to employ Peter Brauss, a foreign engineer, to bring water into the city from Comiston, a few miles distant, at the base of the Pentlands, which is said to have been effected in 1681. Father Hay enumerates as his issue three sons and two daughters. Alexander, the second son, born in 1672, succeeded him in the property. His lady survived him; yet so reduced was this once princely and ancient family that she went to London, and petitioned James II. to grant her an annual pension for the education and maintenance of her young children, and to enable her to repair the Castle and Chapel. She dates the decline of the family as commencing at the death of James V., and alleges that the then proprietor of Roslin was brought to a "very low condition" for supporting the Queen Dowager, mother of Queen Mary, against those "who engaged themselves in a rebellion for carrying on a reformation, as they called it, of religion." Lady Roslin next details that Sir William St. Clair, the grandfather of her deceased husband, had been deprived of all his property for his loyalty to Queen Mary, and though Roslin was restored by James VI., so numerous were the debts he had contracted, that he was compelled to sell his estate of Herbertshire, in the county of Stirling, and the lands of Pentland, Morton, and Mortonhall, the Barony of Roslin alone remaining to himself, free of all debt, which was a very small part of the great estate formerly possessed by the family. She states that her

<sup>1</sup> Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, vol. i. Part II. p. 33.

<sup>2</sup> This Lady Roslin, as she was territorially designated, had fallen into bad health, and one of the accusations against Agnes Sampson, or Simpson, the "Wise Wife of Keith," in her trial for witchcraft, was,

that she was consulted in reference to Lady Roslin's malady, but that she knew by her "devilish prayer, that the said Lady was nocht abill to recover, and thairfor she wald nocht come till her."—Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, vol. i. Part II. p. 232.



husband, soon after the restoration of Charles II., purchased the Barony of Roslin from the creditors, and narrates the privations of the St. Clairs from the death of James V. to the siege of Roslin Castle by General Monck's soldiers, who "battered down one side thereof, and took it by force."<sup>1</sup> So desperate were her circumstances, that she also petitioned the Queen of James II. to use her influence with the King to procure a pension "to the support of so ancient, loyal, and honourable a family," and for the reparation of the Castle and the Chapel. But the Earl of Melford, then one of the Secretaries of State, had prejudiced James II. against Lady Roslin and her "numerous family," and the only favour she obtained was a cornetcy for her eldest son James from the Queen in her Majesty's Guards.<sup>2</sup> He was born in 1671, and was killed at the battle of the Boyne, in Ireland. The second son, Alexander, inherited the wreck of the property, and married Jean, second daughter of Robert, seventh Lord Sempill, by whom he was the father of the last St. Clair of Roslin. This was William St. Clair, Esq., who married Cordelia, daughter of Sir George Wishart, of Cliftonhall, Bart., by whom he had three sons and five daughters, who, with the exception of one of the latter, died in their youth, and his demise occurred on the 4th of January, 1778, which occasioned a funeral solemnity to be held by all the Freemason Lodges in Scotland. He had, in 1736, surrendered the office of Grand Master-Mason of Scotland, which was alleged to have been hereditary in his family from the reign of James II. of Scotland—a statement now refuted on most authentic evidence.<sup>3</sup> This last male representative of the St. Clairs of Roslin appears to have sold the remnant of his family estates to the Hon. General James St. Clair,<sup>4</sup> second son of Henry eighth Lord Sinclair, the heir of line of William third Earl of Orkney by his first marriage. After the death of General St. Clair, in 1762, the lands of Roslin, with the Baronies of Ravenscraig, Dysart, and other properties in Fife, reverted to Colonel James Paterson, or St. Clair, the heir-male and only son of his sister, the Hon. Grizel St. Clair, wife of John Paterson of Prestonhall, son of Dr. John Paterson, the last Archbishop of Glasgow. Colonel Paterson, or St. Clair, who was never married, died at Dysart in 1789, and was succeeded in the entail by Sir James Erskine, Bart., subsequently second Earl of Rosslyn in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, whose descendant is now proprietor of Roslin Castle and Chapel. Thus was transferred to a remote connexion the remains of the once extensive property of the "lordly line of hicht St. Clair."

As to Lady Roslin, the mother of Father Hay, she was compelled to live in a retired manner on a very limited income. She was more successful with the Scottish Parliament after the Revolution than with James II. On the 30th of April, 1689, she obtained an Act, protecting her from outrages committed by the mob from Edinburgh, who had plundered Roslin Castle, burnt her family papers, and destroyed some of the plantations and adjoining corn-fields. According to her own account, the invaders scarcely left her even a bed, and "her numerous family of children were thereby ruined and rendered miserable."<sup>5</sup> Lady Roslin subsequently was allowed various sums from the Parliament for the loss sustained in the woods and plantations.<sup>6</sup>

Father Hay has preserved some curious traditions of "Roslin's Barons bold." In the time of Sir William St. Clair, who fell in Spain with Sir James Douglas, the Pentland range is alleged to have been a royal hunting forest, and on one occasion, when King Robert Bruce was enjoying the pastime of

<sup>1</sup> Humble Petition of the Lady Roslin to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, in Father Hay's Genealogie of the Saintclaires of Rosslyn, pp. 167-169.

<sup>2</sup> It is probable, however, that Lady Roslin's importunities were rather annoying, and she demanded some very extraordinary privileges. Father Hay, who is writing of his own mother, says—"She had begged of the King the gift of coining farthings in America, which was not allowed of. Thereafter she desired of him to advance an English esquire to the degree of a Lord of Parliament upon certain conditions, and that proposal was likewise rejected. At last she sued for Pollock Maxwell's fine, which was likewise denied, notwithstanding that King James had granted it in the beginning." Lady Roslin's claim to this fine, whatever it was, is not stated.

<sup>3</sup> Genealogie of the Saintclaires of Rosslyn—Introductory Notices, pp. iii. ix. The "hereditary" appointment of Grand Master-Mason of Scotland was conferred on the St. Clairs of Roslin by the Freemasons themselves whose first charter merely compliments them as patrons

and protectors "from age to age;" but no allusion occurs in that and a subsequent charter to any grant by the Crown of the office of hereditary patron.

<sup>4</sup> General St. Clair greatly distinguished himself in the military profession from the date of his commission as Colonel in 1722 to his promotion as General in 1761. He was engaged in the war in Flanders and in the conquest of Canada, and held several important appointments. The death of his eldest brother, who was attainted for his connexion with the Enterprize of 1715, entitled him to succeed in 1750 as ninth Lord Sinclair; but he would not assume the title, preferring his seat in the House of Commons as member for Fife. By his lady, who was the youngest daughter of Sir David Dalrymple of Hales, Bart., he left no issue.

<sup>5</sup> Acta Parl. Scot. folio, vol. ix. Appendix, p. 3.

<sup>6</sup> In the Edinburgh Courant of 1708 and 1709, the "Wood of Roslin, belonging to William Sinclair of Roslin," is repeatedly advertised to be sold. This, of course, refers to thinning the plantations.



the chase among the Hills, he had often hunted a white deer, which continually eluded his hounds, and inquired at his attendants if they could overcome the animal. Sir William St. Clair possessed two red-coloured hounds, known by the familiar names of Help and Hold, and unwittingly supposing that no one was likely to challenge him, wagered his head that his hounds would kill the white fawn before it crossed a certain stream locally known as the "March-burn." King Robert insisted on accepting St. Clair's bold and reckless proffer, pledging himself to grant the Pentland Hills and Pentland Muir, with the Forest, as the reward of his success. On the day appointed, a few slow-hounds were loosed to track the deer, and Bruce stationed himself on the slope of one of the loftiest eminences of the Pentlands, since known as the King's Hill, overlooking the vale of the North Esk, to witness the contest. St. Clair, who was most uncomfortable in the position in which he was placed by his rash wager, no sooner slipped his hounds than he devoutly prayed to St. Catherine to assist him in killing the deer.<sup>1</sup> The fleet animal was soon started, and was followed by the Knight, who was mounted on a gallant steed. The hunter and the deer arrived at the "March-burn," and St. Clair, who was now most earnest in his ejaculations, threw himself in a state of desperation into the stream. At this crisis the two hounds killed the hind when in the act of crossing the rivulet. The King, who had beheld the run with peculiar interest, descended from his position, embraced Sir William St. Clair, and granted to him in free forestry all the lands he had promised. It is added that the Knight, too much terrified at the hazard he had escaped, immediately placed his foot on the neck of each hound, and killed them, declaring that he would never again be led into the like temptation. His tomb is shown in Roslin Chapel, on which is sculptured his mail-clad person, and a dog at his feet as a joint-claimant of the honour of the exploit. Faithful to his vow, he founded the Chapel of St. Catherine in the Hopes, in a lonely valley of the Pentlands, now filled by the Edinburgh Water Company's extensive Compensation Pond, which covers the ruins, sometimes visible in very dry seasons, of this once secluded edifice and its cemetery. Father Hay records a report that Sir William St. Clair, after founding this Chapel, sent a priest to the grave of the saint, to obtain some of the oil which was believed to issue from her sepulchre. The priest obtained the liquid, and on his return he was compelled to rest himself about a mile from Liberton church, where he fell asleep, and lost the oil. Sir William St. Clair sent workmen to explore where the oil was lost, but a fountain had immediately issued, with black petroleum floating on the surface, long known as the Balm Well of St. Catherine. As this was considered an undoubted indication that St. Catherine refused to sanction the transference of any of her oil to her Chapel in the valley of the Pentlands, the Baron of Roslin was compelled to acquiesce.

Roslin Castle<sup>2</sup> consists of massive fragments of ruins, with the exception of a plain addition still habitable, displaying the date 1622 above the door, and the initials of Sir William St. Clair.<sup>3</sup> The time of the erection of the Castle is unknown, though it is assigned to William Earl of Orkney, the founder of the Chapel, in the fifteenth century. The ruins are in a romantic glen traversed by the North Esk, and are situated on a promontory, insulated by a deep ravine said to have been the ancient channel of the stream. This ravine is crossed to the Castle by a narrow bridge of considerable height, which was defended at the west end, and led to a building of several storeys forming one side of the court-yard. The remains of walls from eight to nine feet thick, and of a large round tower or keep, are the only memorials, the area of which is about two hundred feet in length, and the breadth nearly ninety feet. An ornamented well in the centre of the court-yard supplied the inmates with water. The addition or erection of 1622 is on three storeys of vaults beneath the level of the court-yard, and is said to have been built by Sir William St. Clair.<sup>4</sup> A stair leads to these ground vaults, one of which is a kitchen having a door into the garden.

<sup>1</sup> According to the tradition, the Knight of Roslin became both pious and poetical in his emergency. He vowed, if St. Catherine would listen to his supplication, to found a chapel to her honour, and he exclaimed to his hounds—

"Help, Hold, an ye may,  
Or Roslin will lose his head this day!"

<sup>2</sup> "Roslin Castle" is the designation of a sweet and plaintive melody, the author of which, and of other musical productions, was James Oswald, Esq., who is described as "Chamber-Composer" to

George III. His sister, Mrs. Weatherly, died in 1821, at Chester-le-Street, in the eightieth year of her age.—*Edinburgh Magazine* for 1821, p. 620.

<sup>3</sup> The ceiling of the principal room of this comparatively modern addition, which is aptly said to "resemble an insignificant laird of the present day surrounded by the stalwart ghosts of his ancestors," is ornamented with panels and designs intermixed with the armorial bearings of the St. Clairs.—*New Statistical Account of Scotland—Edinburghshire*, p. 351.

<sup>4</sup> Father Hay's *Genealogie of the Saintclaires of Rosslin*, p. 151.



This Castle, when in its best state, could never have been a place of strength, as it is completely commanded by the adjacent eminences. About 1447 the then fortalice was injured by fire, occasioned by the negligence of one of the gentlewomen of the household, and the charters and other documents were preserved by the activity of the chaplain.<sup>1</sup> Sir William Hamilton was committed a prisoner to the Castle in 1455, for his connexion with the rebellion of the Earl of Douglas against James II. In 1544 the fortalice was dilapidated by the English under the Earl of Hertford. A party of Cromwell's troops battered the walls in 1650, after his victory at Dunbar, and the edifice was assailed, as Lady Roslin duly sets forth, by a mob from Edinburgh, on the 11th of December, 1688. Subsequently Roslin Castle was allowed by the poverty of the St. Clairs to become a ruin, and seems to have been the resort of the peasantry for stones. Most of this once stately baronial fabric has in consequence disappeared, and the mouldering arches, buttresses, walls, and dismal vaults, present a striking contrast to the homely erection in the manor-house style of 1622.<sup>2</sup>

Roslin Chapel—so named, though in reality a part of a collegiate church—is a short distance from the Castle, on an eminence near the village called the College Hill. This edifice was founded in 1466 for a Provost, six Prebendaries, and two singing boys, by William, third Earl of Orkney, already mentioned, and was dedicated to St. Matthew.<sup>3</sup> This beautiful specimen of the florid Gothic was intended to be cruciform, with a central tower, but the choir and east wall of a transept are the only portions ever erected. As the founder died in 1484, thirty-eight years after the edifice was commenced, this interval indicates that his pecuniary resources were exhausted, and the present building was finished by his son Sir Oliver St. Clair, father of the hero of the Solway Moss disaster. Tradition alleges that the design of Roslin Chapel was obtained from Rome. The edifice is described as “curious, elaborate, and singularly interesting,” which it is “impossible to designate by any given or familiar term, for the variety and eccentricity are not to be defined by any words of common acceptation.”<sup>4</sup> Roslin Chapel is said to be a “combination of Egyptian, Grecian, Roman, and Saracenic styles,” in which the arch is found in all its possible forms and principles. The pillars, arches, windows, fretted roof, and the sculptures of the architraves, key-stones, capitals, and roof, are singularly beautiful.” The interior is sixty-nine feet in length, the breadth nearly thirty-five feet, and the height from the floor to the arched roof is nearly forty-one feet. This roof is supported by two rows of pillars, seven on each side, and two at the west end, and so exquisitely designed that upwards of thirteen different arches are displayed.

It has been already stated that Roslin Chapel was a collegiate church, and though the founder saw the edifice rising in profuse magnificence of sculpture and design under the most skilful workmen he could procure, he left it unfinished after vast efforts and great expense. The existing fabric is comparatively small, and the other portions of the original design, with the exception of a part of a transept, were never commenced. The founder and his successors endowed the church with various lands and revenues, particularly the lands of Pentland. In 1523, ground was allotted by the then Baron of Roslin in the vicinity of the village for residences and gardens of the Provost and Prebendaries. Their possessions, not apparently very extensive, passed from them after the Reformation, and on the 26th of February,

<sup>1</sup> In reference to this conflagration, which is chronicled by Father Hay, it is stated that Edward St. Clair of Dryden, while on his way to hunt with the Baron of Rosslyn, was surprised to witness an immense migration of rats from the locality of the Castle, and an old blind one led by a straw in its mouth. Four days afterwards the Castle, or a part of it, was set on fire by the carelessness of one of the gentlewomen of the Princess-Countess, who, fond of dogs, desired her attendant to produce one of her favourites, which had whelps, from under a bed. The attendant crept under the bed with a lighted torch, and incautiously inflamed the furnishings. The fire soon reached the ceiling of the great chamber, from which the Countess was compelled to escape. The Earl of Orkney beheld the fire from the Chapel, and was chiefly concerned for the fate of his charters; but he was consoled by the assurance that those documents were saved by his chaplain, who had thrown four large bales from an upper apartment of the keep or donjon, erroneously printed *dungeon* in the New Statistical Account—Edinburghshire, pp. 350, 351. The chaplain, who was liberally rewarded, saved himself by hazarding a descent to the garden in the

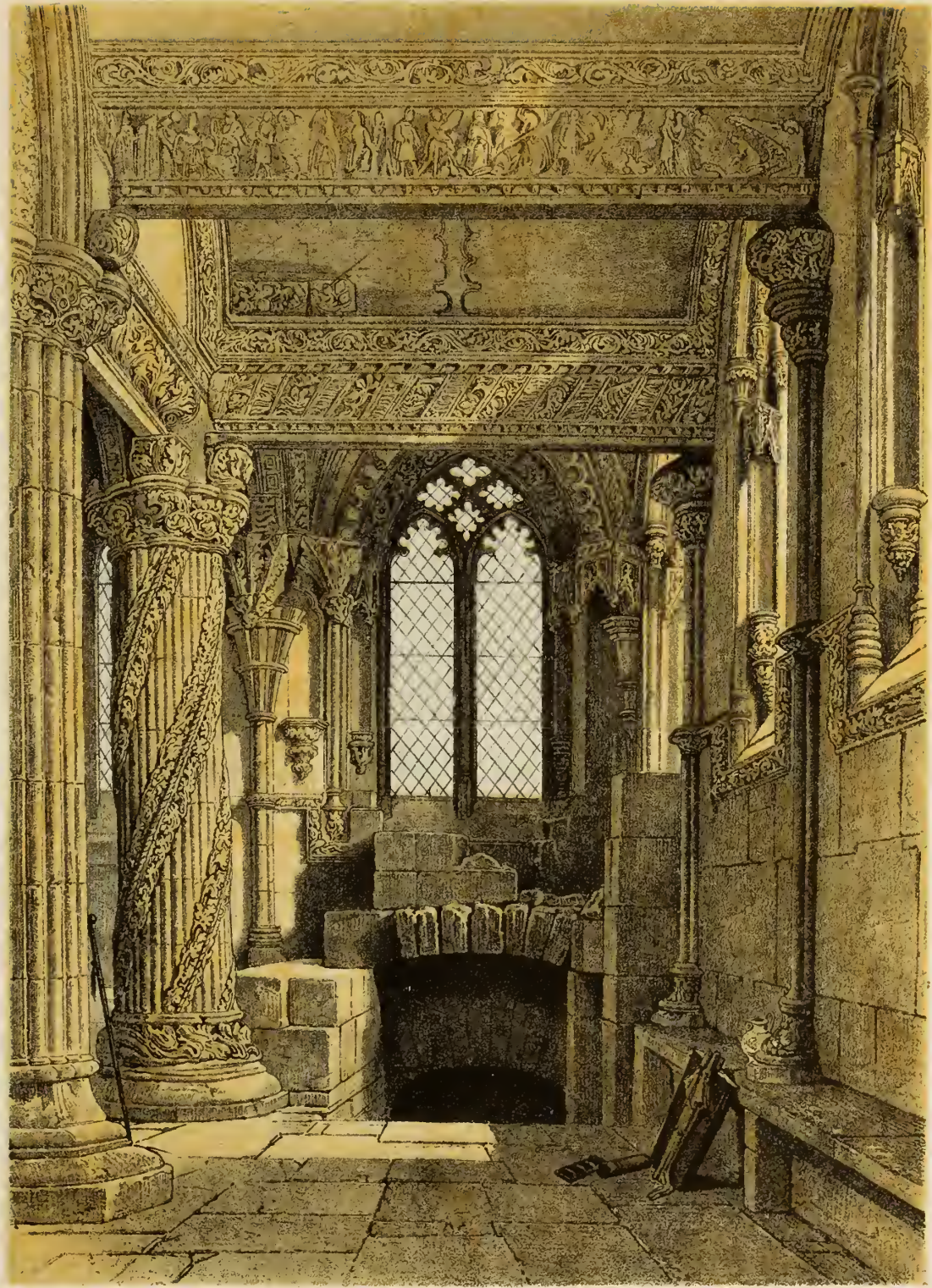
low vale immediately under the Castle by a bell-rope tied to a beam.—Genealogie of the Saintclaires of Rosslyn, pp. 27, 28.

<sup>2</sup> Some legends are connected with the vaults of Roslin Castle. It was long believed that a Knight was detained by enchantment in a state of profound sleep in one of the dungeons, and that he would awake when any one had the courage to unsheath a certain sword and sound a bugle-horn. Sir John Stoddart mentions the curious visit of some soldiers to a lady of rank and her daughters, who for some time resided in the habitable portion of the Castle. This party requested permission, which was readily granted, to explore some of the vaults, to deliver the Knight from his extraordinary durance. They descended with torches, and “the adventure terminated as successfully as Don Quixote's visit to the cave of Montesinos.”—Remarks on Local Scenery and Manners in Scotland, vol. i. pp. 134, 135.

<sup>3</sup> At a short distance are some vestiges of an older church, dedicated to St. Matthew, in an enclosure still used as a cemetery.

<sup>4</sup> Britton's Architectural Antiquities of Great Britain, 4to London, 1812, vol. iii. pp. 48, 49.





THE "PRENTICE PILLAR," ROSLIN CHAPEL

*From an Original Drawing by W. P. Letch*

JOHN G. MURDOCH LONDON



1571-2, the Provost and Prebendaries, who had been virtually denuded of their revenues for years, were compelled to relinquish their rights by a formal deed, in which they complain that their incomes were forcibly withheld from them.<sup>1</sup> The edifice was left to the solitude of its romantic locality, and was not even used for divine service. The mob from Edinburgh who assailed the Castle in December 1688, in which violence they were willingly assisted by the tenantry, desecrated the Chapel, and pillaged or destroyed some of its architectural ornaments. Subsequently the edifice was prevented from becoming altogether ruinous by General St. Clair, who repaired it at considerable expense, placed wooden casements with glass in the windows, renewed the floor and the roof with flag-stones, and enclosed the cemetery by a substantial wall. The first Earl of Rosslyn roofed the fabric with blue slate, and renovated the antique and distinctive features of the interior. The third Earl, who succeeded the second Earl in 1837, caused another repair, and the Chapel is now in excellent preservation.

It is impossible in this narrative to enter minutely into architectural details of Roslin Chapel, which must be personally seen to be understood and appreciated. The ground wall on each side contains five windows variously ornamented, and in the upper wall is a similar row of windows. This ground wall is supported by seven buttresses ornamented with canopied niches and pedestals, curiously sculptured for the reception of statues.<sup>2</sup> Richly ornamented conical and square pinnacles are embellished with crockets, the niches in which are admirably arranged. The pinnacles of five of the buttresses are connected with the same number of smaller ones by flying arches. One of them is double, richly adorned, and displaying a triple crown. The north door is under an arched porch, which has two crouching human figures in the buttresses on both sides for its abutments, the mouldings richly carved with foliage. The south side or front only differs from the north in its door, which has receding arches. Above is a small window in the form of an equilateral spherical triangle, displaying three elegant Gothic points, and decorated with a double row of foliage. At the east end are four windows of uniform size and varied design, in the five buttresses of which, surmounted by circular pinnacles, are alternately column and bracket pedestals. This part of the Chapel corresponds to the Lady Chapel, and is immediately behind the site of the high altar. The west end of the fabric is terminated by a blank wall or gable, closing the centre and the side-aisles of the choir from the projected transepts and nave, and displaying sculptured architraves, resting on richly carved capitals.

The interior is divided into five compartments of a lofty Gothic arch, and the beauty, profusion, and variety of the sixteen pillars supporting the roof are deservedly admired, the devices and sculptured representations on the arches and capitals displaying a singular mixture of sacred and ludicrous subjects, in which a skeleton figure representing Death is prominent. Others are from events recorded in the Scriptures, and all are evidently emblematical of the principal virtues and vices.<sup>3</sup> The celebrated "Apprentice Pillar" is the most easterly in the south-east corner, and is of exquisite workmanship. Four wreaths of flowers differing from each other are carried round the shaft, and rise in a spiral form from the base to the capital. This pillar has its legend, which has been often told, though similar constructions are in other ecclesiastical edifices. The tradition is that the model was sent from Rome, and that the master-mason, distrusting his ability to finish it, proceeded thither to inspect the original. In his absence an apprentice undertook the work, and when he returned and found the pillar completed, he was so enraged and disappointed that he killed the unfortunate youth with a hammer.<sup>4</sup>

The east section is separated from the aisle by three pillars connected by arches with the walls, and

<sup>1</sup> Father Hay states that two seals were appended to this document. The one was the official seal of the Provost and Prebendaries, which represented St. Matthew in a church, red upon white wax; and the other was that of Sir William St. Clair, which was a rugged or engrailed cross, red upon white wax.

<sup>2</sup> In Slezer's "Theatrum Scotiae," first published in 1693, a view of the south side or front of Roslin Castle is given, in which the niches on the buttresses and sides of the windows, seventeen in number, are filled with statues. The niches in the three buttresses of the unfinished transept are similarly decorated.

<sup>3</sup> A most elaborate and minute description of the sculptures in the interior of Roslin Chapel is in the New Statistical Account of Scotland—Edinburghshire, pp. 343-348. Sir Walter Scott observes—"Among

the profuse carving on the pillars and buttresses, the rose is frequently introduced, in allusion to the name, with which, however, the flower has no connexion, the etymology being *Ross-linnhe*, the promontory of the linn or waterfall."—Note to Canto VI. of the "Lay of the Last Minstrel."

<sup>4</sup> Three heads at the west end of the edifice are supposed to commemorate this legend. In the south-west corner of the Chapel, nearly half up the transept wall, is a head with a cut above the right eye, said to represent the apprentice; in a line with it, above the second pillar of the south aisle from the west, is a female in tears, which is assumed to be his mother; and in the north-west corner is the head of an old man frowning, alleged to indicate the enraged master-mason.



dividing the roof into four equal compartments. The groinings of the ceiling are remarkably elegant, and the ornaments most skilfully varied, the key-stones of the arches displaying beautiful pendants, each two feet long, the one at the south side above the high altar, and the second one, profusely ornamented with foliage.<sup>1</sup> The third pendant terminates in a star,<sup>2</sup> round which are carved eight figures illustrative of the Nativity, and emblems of mortality are prominently displayed. The fourth pendant is elaborately decorated with foliage. This east chapel, which is a little elevated from the floor of the edifice, and its arched roof only fifteen feet high, contained altars dedicated to the Virgin Mary, St. Matthew, St. Peter, and St. Andrew, still entire, with the exception of the top-stones.

On the west wall of the south aisle, in a corner, is the monument of George fourth Earl of Caithness, who died in 1582, containing a Latin inscription surmounted by his armorial bearings.<sup>3</sup> Between the base of the third and fourth pillars and the north wall is a large stone, covering the entrance to a vault in which ten Barons of Roslin were interred previous to 1690. Those personages were buried in complete armour, without coffins, which was the family custom of the St. Clairs of Roslin.<sup>4</sup> The vault is so dry that the bodies of some of them were found, nearly a century afterwards, in complete preservation. Between the fourth and fifth pillars from the west end in the north aisle is a flat stone, sculptured with a rude outline of a man in armour, with uplifted hands, a dog at his feet, and a lion rampant in a small shield on each side of the head—the alleged sepulchre of Sir William St. Clair, whose hunting adventure, witnessed by King Robert Bruce, is previously mentioned.<sup>5</sup> The sacristy, or vestry, a kind of crypt, erected by the first Countess of the founder, is entered on the south-east corner of the edifice, near the site of the high altar, by a flight of twenty-four steps; and although this stair is subterraneous, the apartment is above-ground on the margin of the bank, thirty-six feet in length, fourteen feet in breadth, and fifteen feet in height, lighted by an arched window. The roof is divided into five compartments, the ribs of which are fine specimens of the engrailed or rugged cross. The sacristy, which could be entered by a door without passing through the Chapel, contains some sculptured armorial bearings, pedestals, and niches, and a font in the wall on the east side. It was long believed that on the night preceding the decease of the Barons of Roslin, or any member of their family, the Chapel appeared as if by supernatural agency enveloped in flames. Sir Walter Scott, in one of his finest ballads, notices this alleged miraculous illumination, and the custom of interring the St. Clairs in armour.<sup>6</sup>

Roslin is noted for three victories obtained over the English on Sunday, the 24th of February, 1302-3, a short distance north of the village. The Scottish forces, commanded by Sir John Comyn, Governor of the kingdom, and Sir Simon Fraser, are variously rated at from 8000 to 10,000 men, while the English are alleged to have consisted of 20,000 men, under John de Segrave, the governor of Scotland appointed by Edward I., who also sent Ralph de Manton, his Clerk of the Wardrobe, an ecclesiastic, who was to act as paymaster of the expedition, and who from his office was designated Ralph the "Cofferer."<sup>7</sup> Segrave was accompanied by his brothers, and by Robert de Neville, a baron who had served Edward I. in his Welsh wars. Notwithstanding his superiority of numbers, Segrave seems to have been defeated by his ignorance of the locality. In the march towards Roslin he formed his army into three divisions, who, not

<sup>1</sup> On the floor under this pendant is a large flag-stone, covering the remains of James St. Clair Erskine, second Earl of Rosslyn, who died in 1837.

<sup>2</sup> Immediately beneath this pendant is interred Henrietta Elizabeth, eldest daughter of the Hon. Edward Bouverie, the Countess of the second Earl, who died in 1810.

<sup>3</sup> This Earl of Caithness was one of the jury on the pretended trial of the notorious Earl of Bothwell for the murder of Lord Darnley, and when the verdict of acquittal was returned, on the 12th of April, 1567, the Earl of Caithness protested that no blame was to be alleged against the jury, as no accuser had come forward, and no proof of the indictment was adduced. His eldest son, who predeceased him in 1577, married Lady Jane Hepburn, the sister of Bothwell, and was father of the fifth Earl of Caithness.

<sup>4</sup> Father Hay states that his step-father, the "late Roslin," was the "first that was buried in a coffin, against the sentiments of James VII., who was then in Scotland (as Duke of York), and several other persons well versed in antiquity, to whom my mother would not hearken,

thinking it beggarly to be buried after that manner. The great expense she was at in burying her husband occasioned the Sumptuary Acts which were made in the following Parliaments."

<sup>5</sup> This adventure, previously noticed, is duly recorded by Father Hay, in his *Genealogie of the Saintclaires of Rosslyn*, pp. 14, 15.

<sup>6</sup> Sir Walter Scott's ballad is in the Sixth Canto of his "Lay of the Last Minstrel." Rosabelle was a family name in the House of St. Clair, and Henry, the second of the line, married a lady so called, daughter of the Earl of Strathearn. The reciter of the ballad is introduced as Harold, the "Bard of Brave St. Clair," who is represented as a native of the "storm-swept Orcades," and profound in Scandinavian legends. The mysterious illumination is briefly noticed by Slezer in his "Theatrum Scotiæ," and is probably of Norwegian derivation.

<sup>7</sup> Boece calls Ralph de Manton, the "Cofferer" or paymaster of the troops of Edward I. in this expedition, "Ralph Confrere," and Tyrrel designates him "Robert le Coster, who was defeated by the Scots in another battle. This is altogether a fiction."—Lord Hailes' *Annals of Scotland*, 4to. vol. i. p. 273



meeting the enemy, encamped separately, neglecting to establish a mutual communication. Segrave led the first division in person, the second is supposed to have been under Manton the "Cofferer," and the third was under Neville. A boy informed the officers of Segrave's division early in the morning that the Scottish army was advancing against them. The English soldiers were in careless security in their tents, and the Scottish leaders surprised the invaders, whom they completely routed, securing as prisoners Segrave himself, who was wounded in the conflict, his brother and son, sixteen knights, and thirty esquires. The victors were collecting the plunder, and estimating the value of the ransom, when the second division of the English army appeared. A cruel order was issued to kill the prisoners, which is said to have been strictly obeyed,<sup>1</sup> and the English, after a brave defence, were defeated with great slaughter. The "Cofferer," many prisoners, and much valuable booty, fell into the hands of the victors, who, however, were soon astonished at the approach of the third division under Neville.<sup>2</sup> Fatigued by their night-march and by two conflicts, the Scottish leaders were inclined to an immediate retreat, but this was apparently rendered impossible by the proximity of Neville's forces, and they determined to renew the fight. The recent prisoners are again alleged to have been killed, and after an obstinate encounter this division was also routed, and Neville was killed. The unfortunate "Cofferer" was slain by Sir Simon Fraser after the flight of the English.<sup>3</sup> This battle was long remembered in the district.<sup>4</sup> The statement that Sir William Wallace was present is a mere fiction, and may have originated from the circumstance that Sir Simon Fraser succeeded him as leader of the Scottish forces.

The "classic Hawthornden," described by the learned Ruddiman as "sweet and solitary, and very fit and proper for the Muses," is upwards of a mile from the village of Roslin, on the opposite or east side of the North Esk, perched above its celebrated caves on the rocky bank of the river. The mansion, a plain edifice in the manor-house style, occupies the site of an old fortalice, and contains several curiosities, especially family and other portraits, one of which is an alleged original of Queen Mary. Beneath the house are the caves, which tradition assigns as often affording shelter to the adherents of King Robert Bruce, and the followers of Sir Alexander Ramsay of Dalhousie. A narrow stair leads to a long subterranean passage, on both sides of which are small apartments. Another passage, lighted by an orifice in the rock, conducts to a lower suite of excavations. All the apartments of "caverned Hawthornden" are artificial, without any attempt at ornament or variety, and hollowed out of the solid rock with prodigious labour in remote times. Three of the caves are respectively designated the "King's Gallery," the "King's Bedchamber," and the "Guard-Room," and are fabled as the rude strongholds of Pictish monarchs who probably never existed. It is evident that these caves were formed for refuge and concealment, and they were in more recent times the resort of outlaws and smugglers. A well of great depth in the court-yard of Hawthornden has a communication with the caves. Similar caves are in the rocky banks of the North Esk in the vicinity, such as those at Gorton, the old patrimony of the Prestons of Craigmillar, which are of difficult access, concealed by trees and bushes. Sir Walter Scott states that he described one of the Gorton caves as that at the monastery of St. Ruth in "The Antiquary."

It is impossible to notice the mansion and romantic locality of Hawthornden without referring to the celebrated William Drummond, the then proprietor, who here in his earlier years devoted himself to poetry, philosophy, and historical research. He was a cadet of the noble family of Drummond, latterly Earls of

<sup>1</sup> This atrocity is doubted by Lord Hailes, who admits that "our historians may have exaggerated the successes of the Scottish army at Roslin. It must, however, be observed, that the English historians have attempted to throw a veil over the events of the day."—*Annals of Scotland*, 4to. vol. i. p. 272.

<sup>2</sup> "The English historians," says Lord Hailes, "report that Sir Robert Neville and his men staid behind to hear mass—that when they came up they repulsed the Scots in a great measure, and recovered many of their prisoners. They add, that of all those who staid behind to hear mass, no one was either killed, wounded, or taken prisoner."—*Annals of Scotland*, 4to. vol. i. p. 272.

<sup>3</sup> "Ralph the Cofferer," says Mr. Tytler, "had been taken prisoner by Sir Simon Fraser. When the order was given to slay the prisoners, Sir Ralph begged his life might be spared, and promised a large ransom. 'This laced hauberk is no priestly habit,' observed Fraser;

'where is thine albe, or thy hood? Often hast thou robbed us of our lawful wages, and done us grievous harm. It is now our turn to sum up the account, and exact its payment.' Saying this, he first struck off the hands of the unhappy priest, and then severed his head with one blow from his body."—Tytler's *History of Scotland* (citing Peter Langtoft's *Chronicle*, edited by Thomas Hearne), 8vo. 1841, vol. i. pp. 169-171.

<sup>4</sup> It is stated that the names of several localities commemorate this decisive battle, which, it must be admitted, are rather fanciful. The "Hewan," near the site of the Maiden Castle, is supposed to be a corruption of *hewing*, where the conflict, from the precipitous nature of the ground, was most sanguinary. In the "Skinbanes Field" many human remains have been found, and the "Kill-burn" streamlet was discoloured with blood three days.—*New Statistical Account of Scotland*—Edinburghshire, p. 340.



Perth. In the fourteenth century William Drummond, brother of Annabella, Queen of Robert III., married Elizabeth, daughter and one of the coheireses of Sir William Airth of that Ilk, and by this alliance obtained the Barony of Carnock in Stirlingshire. Hawthornden was then the property of the Abernethys of Saltoun, one of whom was ennobled as Lord Saltoun, and ancestors of the Frasers of Philorth, Lords Saltoun. Abernethy of Hawthornden sold the estate to a family named Douglas, from whom it was purchased by Sir John Drummond, second son of Sir Robert Drummond of Carnock, and the father of the Poet.<sup>1</sup>

Drummond married in 1630, in the forty-fifth year of his age, Elizabeth Logan, a grand-daughter of Robert Logan, of Restalrig, of Gowrie Conspiracy notoriety. He accidentally met this lady, and imagined her to resemble the first object of his affections, a daughter of Cunningham of Barns, in Fife, who died of fever during the preparations for the nuptials, and the Poet's grief is expressed in many of those sonnets which have procured for him the title of the Scottish Petrarch. By his marriage he had several children, the eldest of whom, named William, who lived to an advanced age, was knighted by Charles II., and was eventually the representative of Drummond, Baronet, of Carnock. Little is known of the private life of the Poet after his marriage till his death, in December 1649, said to have been accelerated by grief for the melancholy fate of Charles I. He seems to have resided in seclusion at Hawthornden, on which the date, 1638, is still prominent.<sup>2</sup>

The visit of Ben Jonson to Drummond, at Hawthornden, in the winter of 1618-19, and their laconic salutations, have been often related. The Dramatist, who contemplated a "fisher or pastoral play," the scene of which was to be the "Lomond Lake," journeyed from London as a pedestrian into a then strange country. He appears to have been much gratified by his expedition to his brother Poet, to whom he wrote after his return, that he had received a "most catholic welcome" from King James, and announcing that his "reports were not unacceptable to his Majesty."<sup>3</sup> The spot is traditionally recorded where Drummond welcomed Ben Jonson to his mansion, and on a seat cut in the face of the rock adjoining, known as the Cypress Grove, he is alleged to have written many of his poetical effusions.

### CRICHTON CASTLE.

In the parish of its name, upwards of twelve miles south-east of Edinburgh, is the desolate ruin of Crichton Castle, overlooking a little glen in the narrow vale of the Tyne, which in this almost incipient part of its course to the German Ocean is a mere rivulet. This stately and magnificent pile is a quadrangle, the oldest portion of which is the keep or tower in the north-western angle, and the additions, forming the inner court, reared at different periods. The eastern front of the court, which is of most beautiful masonry, and is the most recent erection, is supported by arches open from the ground, and is decorated with entablatures displaying a profusion of anchors. The stones of the exterior, which is now reduced to two storeys without a roof, are cut into facettes, and the angular proportions of these diamond-fashioned sculptures are peculiarly

<sup>1</sup> The families of Abernethy and Drummond became connected, after the lapse of nearly four centuries, by the marriage of the Right Rev. Dr. William Abernethy, one of the Bishops of the Scottish Episcopal Church, to Barbara Drummond of Hawthornden, when he annexed to his own surname that of Drummond.

<sup>2</sup> Hawthornden is still the property of the lineal representatives of the Poet. Sir John Forbes Drummond, created a Baronet of the United Kingdom in 1828, son of Robert Forbes, Esq., of Corse in Banffshire, married Mary, daughter of Dr. Ogilvie of Forfar, cousin and heiress of Barbara, wife of Bishop Abernethy-Drummond, the only child of William Drummond, the last male descendant of the family of Hawthornden. Sir John Forbes Drummond was succeeded by his son-in-law, Francis Walker, Esq., of Dalry, near Edinburgh, who assumed the surname of the family of his wife, in accordance with the patent of creation of the title. Sir Francis died in 1844, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir James Walker-Drummond, Bart. Bishop Abernethy-Drummond died in 1809, leaving no issue.

<sup>3</sup> Drummond has been much censured for a breach of confidence in recording a severe character of his visitor, describing him as his "worthy friend Master Benjamin Jonson," a "great lover and praiser of himself, a contemner and scorner of others, given rather to lose a friend than a jest, jealous of every word and action of those about him, especially after drink, which is one of the elements in which he lived; a dissembler of the great parts which reigned in him; a bragger of some good that he wanted, thinketh nothing well done but what either himself or some of his friends hath done." It is evident that Jonson's jovial disposition was not over-agreeable to the sedate and loyal Poet of Hawthornden, whose guest he was for several weeks. The profusion of wood in the vicinity elicited from Peter Pindar, as Walcot designated himself, a sarcastic couplet on Dr. Samuel Johnson, who was valorous about the want of trees in Scotland, and who, Pindar alleges—

"Went to Hawthornden's fair scene by night,  
Lest e'er a Scottish tree should wound his sight."





CRICETON CASTLE.

*From an Original Drawing by J. Breswick, R.A.*

JOHN G. MURDOCH LONDON



etlegant. The interior of this division of the Castle is said to have contained a splendid gallery, or banqueting apartment, the access to which was by a spacious staircase, now destroyed, the soffits ornamented with twining cordage and rosettes. The original tower is evidently of the fourteenth century, when it was the paternal fortalice and residence of the Crichtons, the earliest known proprietors, and the precise dates of the other portions of the quadrangle are not ascertained. It is supposed, from the decoration of the capitals of the eastern portion with entwined anchors and cables, that this addition was the work of Patrick, third Earl of Bothwell, father of the fourth and notorious Earl. The less decorated portions of Crichton Castle present a variety of apartments, some of which are entire, and one of them containing a large stone chimney constructed of freestone most ingeniously dovetailed. A dark vault or dungeon, known as the "Massiemore," is accessible by a square orifice in the roof, through which captives were lowered to a den in this pile of antique baronial grandeur.

In the opinion of Sir Walter Scott, the ruins of Crichton Castle are interesting to the historian, the antiquary, and the admirer of picturesque scenery, as tending to "convey subjects of grave contemplation, and to cherish the remembrance of former times."<sup>1</sup> This observation, however, may be applied to all old baronial ruins. In the vicinity is the parish church, originally a rectory taxed at thirty merks, which was made collegiate by Lord Crichton in 1449, for a Provost and eight Prebendaries.<sup>2</sup> This small and venerable edifice was intended to be cruciform, but the other portions were never erected. Near the Castle are also the remains of a building which appears to have been a chapel.

The ancient proprietors of Crichton Castle are prominent in Scottish history, and were elevated from the position of lesser barons or gentry by the abilities of Sir William Crichton, who added to his fortalice or tower in the north-western angle. This personage was Lord Chancellor during the minority of James II., keeper of the young monarch's person, and exercised a powerful influence in state affairs. Little is known of his ancestors, who, as minor barons, were not entitled to the rank of nobility.<sup>3</sup> A branch of them attained the honour of Lords Crichton of Sanquhar, and afterwards became Earls of Dumfries — a title which has merged into the Scottish Earldom and British Marquisate of Bute. Another scion of the family was created Viscount Fren draught in Aberdeenshire, in 1642.

The first public appearance of Sir William Crichton was his appointment, in 1423, as one of a deputation to congratulate James I. on his marriage; and when that monarch returned from his English captivity, Crichton became master of the royal household. In 1426, he was one of the envoys to Eric, King of Denmark, to negotiate a perpetual amity, and he was the favourite during the reign of James I., attaining an eminence rather from political than military talent. At the accession of James II., Sir William Crichton was constituted Lord Chancellor, and the government of the kingdom was consigned to him and to Sir Alexander Livingstone, with the custody of the juvenile monarch's person, and the command of Edinburgh Castle. He was chief contriver of the murder, after a mock trial, of William, Earl of Douglas, and his brother David, then youths, and Fleming of Cumbernauld, in that fortress, in 1400. Crichton was dismissed from the office of Chancellor, in 1444, by James II., to whom he was personally odious, and he secured himself in Edinburgh Castle, sustaining a siege, and afterwards a blockade of some months. Meanwhile Crichton Castle was taken and dilapidated by John Forrester of Corstorphine, an adherent of the Douglas family, to revenge the treacherous hospitality which the Earl and his brother had received within its walls on the day before they were inveigled into Edinburgh Castle. Crichton retaliated in 1445 by foraying the lands of Corstorphine near Edinburgh, and those of Abercorn and Blackness in Linlithgowshire. Yet his political sagacity enabled him, when he surrendered Edinburgh Castle, to retain his estates, and acquire honours. He was created Lord

<sup>1</sup> Crichton Castle is finely described in the Fourth Canto of "Marmion."

"Still rises unimpaired below,  
The court-yard's graceful portico;  
Above its cornice, row and row  
Of fair hewn facets richly show  
Their pointed diamond form,  
Though there but houseless cattle go  
To shield them from the storm.  
And, shuddering still, may we explore,  
Where oft whilom were captives pent,  
The darkness of thy Massiemore;  
Or from thy grass-grown battlement  
May trace, in undulating line,  
The sluggish mazes of the Tyne."

<sup>2</sup> After the Reformation the church lands of Crichton and the parsonage tithes were acquired by Sir Gideon Murray, father of the first Lord Elibank.

<sup>3</sup> William de Crichton occurs in the Lennox Chartulary about 1240, and Thomas de Crichton is in the Ragman Roll, in 1296. Sir John de Crichton flourished in the reign of King David Bruce. William de Crichton is frequently mentioned towards the end of the fourteenth century, and John Crichton obtained a charter of the barony from Robert III.—Sir Walter Scott's Provincial Antiquities of Scotland, 4to. 1826, vol. i. p. 2.



Crichton in 1445, and restored to the Chancellorship in 1447, which he held to his death, in 1454, after a long and determined feud with the powerful Douglas family, whom he had resolved to annihilate. His elevation as Lord Crichton is said to have been the reward for negotiating the marriage of James II. to Mary of Gueldres.

Lord Crichton left a son and two daughters, the one married to Alexander, first Earl of Huntly, and the other to Alexander, Lord Glamis. James, the son, who succeeded as second Lord, was commonly styled of Frendraught during his father's lifetime, having acquired that extensive property in Aberdeenshire by his marriage to the elder of the two daughters and coheiresses of James Dunbar, Earl of Moray. William, third Lord, succeeded his father in 1469, and was forfeited in February, 1483-4, for his connexion with the conspiracy of the Duke of Albany to dethrone James III. If Buchanan is to be credited, this Lord Crichton had sustained an injury from the King which was not likely to be effaced or forgiven. That monarch is accused of seducing the wife of Lord Crichton, who revenged himself by forming an intrigue, and afterwards a marriage, with the Princess Margaret, the King's sister, against whom the most deplorable charge is alleged.<sup>1</sup> Buchanan designates Lady Crichton as of the family of Dunbar, but if the peerage lists are correct he has mistaken the lady for her mother-in-law, the wife of the second Lord. The daughter of this singular marriage died without issue not long before Buchanan commenced his *History of Scotland*.<sup>2</sup>

The temporary possessor of Crichton Castle, after the forfeiture of this third Lord Crichton, was Sir John Ramsay of Balmain, the youthful favourite of James III., who narrowly escaped the indignation of the enraged nobility at the memorable "Raid of Lauder," in 1482. He was created Lord Bothwell in 1483, appointed Lord High Treasurer, and he enjoyed other offices of influence by the favour of the King, whose entreaties had saved him from the fate of the then royal minions. Meanwhile Lord Crichton was recalled from exile on the condition of marrying the Princess Margaret, and was received with favour by James III. at Inverness; but as neither party long survived the reconciliation, Lord Crichton, who died at Inverness, never obtained a full pardon.

Lord Bothwell was exiled and forfeited in 1448, and James IV. conferred Crichton Castle on Patrick Hepburn, third Lord Hailes, one of the most powerful men in Scotland, created Earl of Bothwell and constituted High Admiral in 1488. Crichton Castle appears to have been the principal residence of the Earls of Bothwell till the forfeiture and attainder of James, fourth Earl, in 1567, after his compulsory departure from Queen Mary at Carberry Hill. In 1559, the Lords of the Congregation garrisoned the Castle with fifty men, to revenge the robbery of 4000 crowns, which Bothwell took from Queen Elizabeth's messenger, who had been sent with this sum to assist them in the siege of Leith. In 1561, Lord John Stuart, titular prior or commendator of Coldingham, an illegitimate son of James V., was married in the Castle to Lady Jane Hepburn, and Queen Mary was present at the nuptial entertainments.

The next proprietor of Crichton Castle was the son of this marriage, who was Francis Stuart, the turbulent Earl of Bothwell, whose descent from the once potent Hepburns and from James V., and his own abilities, induced James VI. in an evil hour to elevate him to the forfeited title of his uncle. In 1594 he was compelled to leave Scotland, and the Barony of Crichton Castle was granted to Sir Walter Scott, first Earl of Buccleuch, the step-son of Bothwell. Francis, second Earl, was served heir on the 27th of February, 1634, but the Buccleuch family were not long in possession. Francis Stuart, son of the forfeited Earl of Bothwell by Lady Margaret Douglas, daughter of David, seventh Earl of Angus, and relict of Sir Walter Scott of Buccleuch, father of the first Earl, obtained a "rehabilitation," which was confirmed by the Parliament in 1683, which Charles I. was inclined to sanction. After this legal restitution, Stuart adopted stringent measures against the Earls of Buccleuch and Roxburgh, who had acquired the greater part of his father's estates. With the Earl of Roxburgh the King had comparatively little trouble, but the Earl of Buccleuch, who was then in military service in the Low Countries, was furious at the favour evinced to Stuart, and afterwards verified his threats by the conduct of his retainers at Newcastle, Marston-Moor, and Philiphaugh, in the service of the Parliament.

The second Earl of Buccleuch was a minor when he was deprived of Bothwell's estates in Mid-Lothian, and, although the Liddesdale property of the forfeited Earl was assigned by the King's arbitration to him and

<sup>1</sup> *Buchanani Historia*, fol. 1584, Original Edit.; Translation, 8vo. 1752, vol. ii. p. 86.

<sup>2</sup> Pinkerton's *History of Scotland*, 4to. vol. i. pp. 314, 315.





BORTHWICK CASTLE.

*From an Original Drawing by J. Galt.*

JOHN G. MURDOCH LONDON



his family, the loss of the Mid-Lothian lands was the cause of their inveterate hatred to Charles I. The impolitic restitution was of no avail to Francis Stuart, whose dissolute life had involved him in debt. His newly-acquired property was seized by his creditors, and his son or nephew is said to have been a trooper in the Life Guards. As such he is prominent as Sergeant Bothwell in "Old Mortality," in which he is represented as having been killed in the skirmish at Drumclog, though it is known that he acted as captain of cavalry at the battle of Bothwell Bridge. He was so reduced in circumstances as to accept pecuniary assistance on one occasion from the Kirk-Session of Perth, his claim to which in that town is not stated.

Crichton Castle subsequently often changed owners. A person designated Scaton is mentioned as obtaining possession from the creditors of Francis Stuart, and in 1649 the property was acquired by Hepburn of Humbie, who was probably a trustee of those claimants. The local peasantry have perpetuated his territorial name by the undignified appellation of the Castle as "Humbie's Walls." About 1682, the Barony of Crichton was sold to Primrose of Carrington, an ancestor of the Earls of Rosebery, and, in or near 1724, it was purchased by Sir James Justice of Justice Hall. The Barony was next conveyed in trust to a gentleman named Livingstone, who sold it to Pringle of Haining, in 1739, from whom it was purchased by Patrick Ross, whose trustees sold it to Alexander Callender, Esq. He was succeeded by Sir John Callender, with whose heir of entail the Castle now remains. Such is a condensed account of Crichton Castle, which, Sir Walter Scott observes, witnessed many instances of human instability in times when it was proverbially remarked that "in Scotland no family of preponderating distinction usually throve beyond the third generation."

### BORTHWICK CASTLE.

Two miles westward from Crichton Castle, and within sight, in the parish of Borthwick, is the huge and massive edifice of Borthwick Castle, on a strip of land formed by the South and North Middleton rivulets, which at their junction are designated the Gore Water, entering the South Esk at the picturesque locality of Shank Point, near Arniston Bridge. Borthwick Castle is one of the most entire and impressive old towers in the district. The fabric is of polished stone, its masonry strong and beautiful, measuring seventy-four feet by sixty-eight feet on the ground storey, and rising ninety feet, exclusive of the battlements, and the watch-tower on the top, which may add twenty feet to the elevation. At the base the walls are thirteen feet thick, and diminished at the top to nine and six feet. The roof is of stone, and is surrounded by an embattled wall, with circular bastions at the corners. The entrance was by an outer stair and drawbridge, now in ruins. This Castle consists of a vaulted sunk or ground storey, two large halls, one above the other, and two ranges of bed-rooms, which are projecting portions as viewed from the west. The interior of the lower hall is forty feet long, and is remarkable for elegance and proportion. Its roof is of considerable height, and still retains memorials of the painted ornaments. In every part may be traced the vestiges of former splendour, when the hall displayed its music gallery, and was adorned with tapestry. The roof of the upper hall is in a decayed condition. A small apartment, unlike the others in dimensions and position, is known as "Queen Mary's Room," and limited as it is in size, the Queen undoubtedly occupied it during the few days she was in the Castle with Bothwell, before the hapless pair finally encountered their miserable destinies. The windows of Borthwick Castle are so constructed, to avoid the danger of exposure to the arrows of besiegers, that a recess in the wall of the tower defends those of the principal apartments, one side of the recess protecting the windows of the other. From the battlements of this huge and strong fortalice a most beautiful view is obtained of the romantic vale of Borthwick, and of the pastoral range of the Lammermuir Hills. With the exception of one side, the Castle is surrounded by water and steep ground. The pile has not been inhabited since the commencement of the eighteenth century.

The name of the Castle and of the parochial district is derived from the family of Borthwick, who changed its former designation of Locherwart after they became proprietors. Sir William Borthwick, created Lord Borthwick before 1458, obtained the royal authority to erect a fortalice on the moat of Locherwart, and to secure the same by walls, gates, and battlements. Such is the reputed origin of Borthwick Castle, and the recumbent statues of this first Lord Borthwick and of his lady, the former in