

him, and he was dragged from his horse. When the Colonel fell, another Highlander, who is said to have been executed twelve months afterwards, inflicted the mortal blow on the back of his head. He could only say to his servant as his last words—"Take care of yourself." This occurred near the west end of the hamlet, not then in existence, called the Meadow Mill, and not more than a fourth of a mile from his own house. The servant fled to a mill two miles distant, and returned in the disguise of a miller, with a cart, about two hours after the conflict had terminated. The Colonel was found breathing, though insensible, plundered of his watch, money, and every article of value, and even stripped of his boots and upper clothing. As his mansion was in possession of the Adventurers, he was conveyed to the then manse of Tranent, where he was laid in bed, and continued frequently groaning till about eleven in the forenoon, when he expired, in the fifty-sixth year of his age.¹ He was interred on Tuesday, the 24th of September, within the parish church of Tranent—an edifice supplanted by the present structure, erected in 1800. No monument has been reared to the memory of this most worthy hero, whose very grave was long forgotten, until it was accidentally discovered, and the Colonel's skull retained the mark of the stroke of the Lochaber axe, while his military "club," bound firmly with silk, dressed with hair-powder, was almost quite fresh.

Many anecdotes were long preserved of the Highlanders in connexion with the conflict. They indiscriminately plundered friend and foe, literally acting as thieves, and rifling the pockets of those who had resorted from the villages to view the scene of battle. They eagerly appropriated every article on which they could lay hands; and from their ignorance of the value of the spoils, especially watches, they often committed ludicrous mistakes. A pit was excavated below Tranent churchyard to inter some dragoons, into which they were thrown undivested of their clothes. A Highlander happened to pass, and seeing boots on one of the soldiers, he desired the person who was filling the pit to draw them off. This was refused, and the mountaineer, after some hesitation, commenced operations. While stooping, the indignant rustic struck him with his spade on the head, and he was inlumed unceremoniously with the dragoons. Many deserted, and returned to their fastnesses and glens with the plunder, convinced that they had acquired a competency for life.

TANTALLON CASTLE.

THE position of Tantallon or Tantallan Castle, the former stronghold of the once powerful Douglasses, appears in remarkable contrast to the objects in East-Lothian already described. We now leave the smooth or undulating fields of the most celebrated district in Scotland for cultivation, and proceed to the coast, where a broken line of rocks, rough and brown, or of the darkest hue, in reality an almost iron-bound continuation of rugged and wild precipices, overlooks the entrance to the Frith of Forth and the broad expanse of the German Ocean. On the most conspicuous of these stern projections are the ruins of Tantallon Castle, a fortress prominently introduced by Sir Walter Scott as the stronghold in which Marmion took leave of Archibald fifth Earl of Angus, commonly designated the "Great Earle" and "Bell-the-Cat." This vast pile, which was once some distance from the sea, is three miles east of North-Berwick and eight miles north-west of Dunbar, on the summit of an extensive and lofty promontory of trap-tuff, which is hollowed into inaccessible precipices by the action of the waves, and is surrounded on three sides by the sea.²

The date of the erection of Tantallon Castle is unknown. Sir Walter Scott states that the Fortress

Anderson, who by his Lochaber axe killed the pious and brave Colonel Gardiner, was a native of this parish (Kilmalie). His grandson is one of the elders at present. He used to say that he and his comrade acted in self-defence, for the Colonel galloped up and attacked them.—New Statistical Account of Scotland—Inverness-shire, p. 121.

¹ The manse now occupied by the parish minister of Tranent was built in 1781, and must not be mistaken, as it commonly is, for the house in which Colonel Gardiner died, and from which he was carried to the church for interment.

² The situation of the fortifications of Tantallon Castle is thus briefly described in "Marmion,"—

"Broad, massive, high, and stretching far,
And held impregnable in war,
On a projecting rock they rose,
And round three sides the ocean flows.
The fourth did battled walls enclose,
And double mound and fosse.

“is believed to have belonged in more ancient times to the Earls of Fife, the descendants of Macduff. It was certainly in the possession of Isabel, the last Countess of that renowned line, and was comprehended in the settlement which she made of her honours and estates upon Robert Stewart, Earl of Menteith, whom she recognised by that deed as her lawful and nearest heir in 1371.” This Earl of Menteith, who married Margaret, Countess of Menteith in her own right, grand-daughter of Murdoch eighth Earl, was the third son of Robert II., and was afterwards Earl of Fife, Duke of Albany, and Regent of Scotland. Their son Murdoc, second Duke, who succeeded his father in 1419, and also obtained the Regency while James I. was a captive in England, was the next proprietor. He was beheaded, with two of his sons and the Earl of Lennox, at Stirling, in May 1425, the year after his Duchess, who was implicated in the sudden arrest of himself, his family, and adherents, had been transferred as a prisoner from the hall to the dungeon of the Castle which she at the time inhabited. In 1427, Alexander Earl of Ross and Lord of the Isles, who had been the leader of a rebellion in the Highlands, was after his submission to James I. committed to Tantallon under the charge of George, fourth Earl of Angus, the King’s nephew, and father of “Bell-the-Cat,” and who obtained a grant of the King’s Castle of Temptallone,” and the adjacent lands, which were constituted a Barony in June 1452. This acquisition by the House of Douglas was confirmed to “Bell-the-Cat” in October 1479. After the downfall of the chief of that family the Fortress and Barony were obtained by a younger branch, whose increasing power endangered the throne.

In July 1528, James V., then a youth of about fifteen years of age, escaped from the thralldom of Archibald sixth Earl of Angus, against whom a war was commenced to seize his strongholds; and the operations to reduce Tantallon indicate its strength as a fortress to resist the rude artillery of that time, although its position is commanded from all the adjacent fields. In September an act of attainder was passed against the House of Douglas, and the forfeiture of their possessions included Tantallon. An army of 12,000 men, with a train of artillery, invested the fortress, and after a siege of twenty days were compelled to desist. The Earl of Angus was absent in Berwickshire, declining to hazard himself in any place of strength, and observing the maxim of his predecessor, that “it was better to hear the lark sing than the mouse cheep.” Two of the cannons brought against Tantallon were known as “thrawin-mouthed Meg and her Marrow.” James V. was obliged to return to Edinburgh, and withdrew his forces, leaving a small detachment to protect the artillery. Angus suddenly issued from his retreat at the head of one hundred and sixty followers, routed the detachment, and captured the leader, whom he released after conveying the artillery to some distance in its destined passage, telling him to assure the King of his loyal services, and that his hostility was solely directed against his evil advisers. The proceedings to crush the House of Douglas were eventually successful, and the Earl fled to England. Tantallon was surrendered on the 4th of December, 1528, to the royal forces by Simon Penango, who had intimated to Angus that he was “evill victualled,” and wanted ammunition and artillery, which the Earl was unable to supply. James V. rewarded Penango, placed in Tantallon a sufficient garrison with ample stores, repaired the walls, and conferred the command on his favourite, Oliver St. Clair. The King visited the Fortress in 1537 to inspect its condition and the artillery. While in the possession of the King the fortifications appear to have been enlarged and considerably strengthened.¹ After the death of James V., in December 1542, the Earl of Angus returned from exile, was restored to all his castles and estates, and rendered Tantallon stronger than it had been at any time; but he never recovered his former power, and in reality he came to Scotland by the favour of Henry VIII. Sir Ralph Sadler resided some time in Tantallon Castle for his personal security, while the unpopular negotiations which he was sent to superintend were in progress with the young Prince Edward and the infant Queen Mary, and he has recorded a notice of the declining resources of the House of Douglas. The Earl of Angus was unwilling that he should inspect the bareness of his establishment, and he sent his servant, who reported that the Castle was “cleanly unfurnished both of bedding and all manner of household stuff, and none to be bought or hired, nor no manner of provision to be made thereof, nor any kind of victual nearer than this town, which is twenty miles off.” Sadler again observes, that though Tantallon is “easily” or “poorly” furnished, and “slendour lodging in it, yet, I assure you, it is of such strength as I must not fear the malice of mine enemies, and therefore do now think myself to be out of danger.” The Earl of Angus died in Tantallon Castle in 1556. Another English ambassador was an inmate of the Fortress in

¹ In the Lord High Treasurer's Books is this entry, under date 6th October, 1536—“To Olipher Sinclaire at the Kingis command to the Warkis at Tamtallome, lxxvj li. xiijs. iiijd.”—Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, vol. i. Part I. p. 298.

1572. This was Killegrew, who was sent by Queen Elizabeth, secretly instructed, to devise the execution of the captive Queen Mary in a manner the least likely to excite a dangerous sensation, and his first residence was in Tantallon, in which the Earl of Morton was then confined by indisposition.

In 1639 the Covenanters besieged and secured Tantallon Castle, to revenge the loyalty of William eleventh Earl of Angus and first Marquis of Douglas, who adhered to Charles I., and they garrisoned the Fortress against the king. In January 1651, the Captain of the Bass seized an English vessel laden with stores, on the voyage to Leith, and some of the crew were imprisoned in Tantallon. General Monck resolved to reduce the Fortress, and advanced with three regiments of horse and infantry. He stationed his artillery on the high ground south of the spring, known as St. Baldred's Well. The garrison under Alexander Seton refused to surrender, and Monk plied his mortar-pieces two days. These made little impression, and his battering guns were more successful. Sir James Balfour states that the siege continued twelve days, and that the assailants entered by a large breach, the stones of which filled the ditch. The garrison entrenched the tower and obtained conditions. This was the last military operation against Tantallon, and closes its historical career.

This huge pile was considered so impregnable, that to "ding down Tantallon," and to "mak' a brig to the Bass," were by the local peasantry long held to be equally impossible.¹ The latter difficulty is undeniable, but the events of 1639 and 1651 disproved the former. Nevertheless, so strong is the position of Tantallon Castle, that the adage would apply before the invention of artillery. The only entrance is from the west, where the Fortress was defended by two ditches, the vestiges of which are still very distinct, and the interior, close to the principal part of the pile, rendered steep by the scraping of the rock. The remains of considerable works are beyond the area of the outer ditch. The Fortress was also secured on the west side by massive towers, and here was the drawbridge in connexion with the gateway, which led into the main court. The enclosed area is cut off by these towers and curtains, and the dilapidated edifices rise immediately over the precipices on the west. The central portion of the Fortress may be said to be a rounded front, which projects considerably forward from two extensive curtains of a lofty wall stretching obliquely towards the sea. On this edifice are seen the remains of a coat of arms, the only piece of sculpture on the gloomy pile, except a slightly perceptible moulding round the circular arch of the doorway beneath, at which are the indications of buttresses, probably connected with the drawbridge of the inner moat. Tantallon consists of three circular and square towers, the walls of enormous thickness, united by lofty ramparts. The east and west towers and the curtains are the oldest portions, and the central is supposed to be of the time of the sixth Earl of Angus. The buildings towards the sea are almost entirely destroyed, yet the Castle was habitable before it was dismantled by Lord President Sir Hew Dalrymple, who died in 1737. The interior displays broken staircases, inaccessible apartments, and fragments of roofless chambers. Beneath the piles of ruins are arched vaults and dark excavated dungeons, in which many acts of cruelty were inflicted on the miserable captives in feudal times. One of the deepest and most dismal is without the Castle, at the north-west angle, and is conjectured to have been the donjon-keep of the guard-house. These vaults were long the haunts of smugglers, and the unsuspected receptacles of their commodities.² The neglected garden, fringed on the north and east by thickets of diminutive elder-bushes, is the

¹ This ancient familiar proverb for centuries characterised supposed exploits which cannot be achieved, and is an old military tradition said to have formed the burden of the "Scots March." It is usually presented as a half stanza—

"Ding down Tantallon,
Mak' a brig to the Bass."

Hamilton of Gilbertfield complimented Allan Ramsay, the author of the "Gentle Shepherd," that—

"Nowther Hiellanman nor Lawlan,
In poetrie,
But mocht as weel ding down Tantallon
As match wi' thee."

Time, however, is fast "dinging down" the stately and massive towers of Tantallon Castle.

² A band of thieves, headed by an old sailor who had been wrecked

on the rocky islet of Fidra, near North-Berwick, entrenched themselves in the upper apartment of Tantallon Castle. They had constructed a ladder of ropes, which they could use and remove at pleasure, and for weeks they sallied out at night, plundering the neighbourhood of clothes and provisions. Some of the North-Berwick fishermen had seen lights at night twinkling in the upper part of the ruins, from slit-openings and shot-holes, which, as these lights were considered supernatural, excited no suspicion. A Highland servant, while planting ivy at the base of the old walls, was invisibly pelted with pieces of lime, and superstitious fear constrained him to be silent. At last the general dismay was relieved by some young women, who, while working in the Castle garden, was startled by perceiving a weather-beaten face intently gazing at them from a window in the fourth storey. They fled and raised the alarm, which was soon followed by the capture and punishment of the marauders.—Geology of the Bass, by Hugh Miller, in the "Bass Rock, its Civil and Ecclesiastical History," &c., 8vo. 1848, pp. 75, 76.

only memorial of the scene admirably described in "Marmion" as the favourite resort of the Lady Clare, and was certainly, with the sight of the Bass, the opposite Island of May, the expanse of the Frith of Forth, and the German Ocean, a most appropriate locality for meditation. The whole is now one of the many remains of extinct feudal grandeur and lordly power.

THE BASS.

NEARLY opposite Tantallon Castle, and apparently close to the ruins, though in reality at least two miles distant, is the "sea-rock immense, amazing Bass," which rises abruptly from the sea upwards of four hundred and twenty feet, and from the fathomed depth of the water probably six hundred feet of elevation. This huge and wondrous mass of clinkstone, the abode of myriads of sea-fowl, is peculiarly perpendicular, and appears in dark and isolated grandeur, presenting a series of rude columns bent forward on the shelves formed by cross-jointings, on which the sea-fowl rear their young. The highest side is on the north, and on the south the surface is conical, sloping rapidly towards the sea. The Bass is fully a mile in circumference, and the area of grassy surface, nearly seven acres, affording pasturage to a few sheep. A cavern, nearly thirty feet high, and five hundred feet in length, perforates the Rock from north-west to south-east, which can be explored at ebb tide, and is entered by a natural niche upwards of one hundred feet high, the roof displaying minute tufts of rock-fern. The interior contains nothing attractive, and the roof closes at the entrance, where a projection excludes the daylight. In the centre of this cavern is a dark pool of three or four feet water at low ebb, and within the south-eastern entrance an accumulation of boulders occupies the remaining portion of the length. Near the north-west opening is a gravel beach, chiefly covered at spring tides, when it is lashed by the violence of the waves, but generally the surrounding channel is free from rocks or sand, and is of great depth.

The only landing-place on the Bass is on the south-east side, beneath the now ruinous fortifications, and is remarkably steep and difficult. This landing-place, which is cut out of the solid rock, leads to the first of three terraces of the sloping acclivity. This terrace contains the ruinous Fortress, so constructed that a single line of wall built across the point from east to west renders it inaccessible, and completely secures the whole island, joining at one extremity a steep cliff which rises towards the second terrace, and terminates with the rock-edge descending perpendicularly into the sea. On this middle platform or terrace, which is exactly above the cavern, are the remains of the Chapel. The upper and largest terrace is immediately under the summit of the rock, on which was the flag-staff. Here is a levelled space, formerly the garden, enclosed by a dilapidated wall, and in the centre is a deep square excavation called the Well, the water of which is very disagreeable. All the doors of the ruins are open, with the exception of one, by which the tenant protects the upper part of the Rock, and the sheep and unfledged birds, from rude visitors. This door divides the surface of the Rock into two unequal lower and upper parts, confining the sheep to the latter, while over the surface of both range a colony of rabbits.

The Bass is one of the most stupendous natural curiosities in Scotland, and rises from the sea like an enormous eruption of a former world. From the opposite coast of Fife the view is peculiarly impressive, especially when the setting sun reflects on its huge columns, or the foaming billows dash against its massive sides.¹ The earliest notice of the Bass is connected with religious seclusion. At the end of the sixth

¹ Boece, in the sixteenth century, describes the Bass, in his antiquated phraseology, as "ane wonderful crag risand within the sea, with so narrow and strait hals (passage), that no schip nor boat may arrive bot allenarlie at ane part of it; and (is) unwinnabil be engine of man." He also states that "every thing in that crag is full of admiration and wonder," and he describes "ane multitude of fish callit by the pepil bassinates,"—evidently seals or sea-dogs, which frequent the mouth of the Tyne at Tynninghame House, and no longer excite the terror of man, or cause murrain to cattle. Monsieur Beague, in "the Regency of Mary of Guise," states that the Bass is an "impregnable rock of a small extent and oval figure, cut out by the hands of nature. It has only one avenue that leads to it, and that is

towards the castle, but so very difficult and uneasy, that by reason of the hidden sands that surround the Rock, nothing can approach it but one little boat at a time.—Those that enter the castle must climb up by the help of a strong cable thrown down for the purpose, and when they have got with much ado to the foot of the wall, they sit down in a wide basket, and in this position are mounted up by strength of hands. There is no getting into this wonderful fortress by any other means."—Beague's History of the Campaigns, 1548 and 1549, between the Scots and French on the one side, and the English and their Foreign Auxiliaries on the other, 8vo. 1707, translated from the French by Dr. Abereromby. The assertion that "hidden sands" render the Bass difficult of access is erroneous.



THE BASS ROCK

From an Original Drawing by C. Hanford Esq.

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century flourished St. Baldred, the apostle, as he is called, of East-Lothian, and designated "Doctor of the Picts," though Christianity is said to have been preached in East-Lothian a century earlier. St. Baldred is traditionally alleged to have selected the Bass for his devotions, and he is consequently known as St. Baldred of the Bass. He is said to have been a disciple of St. Mungo of Glasgow, and a credulous authority represents him as the successor of the same St. Mungo in that See.¹ It is also stated, that though he selected the Bass as his residence, his pastoral care extended from the Lanmermuir range to the Esk at Musselburgh—that he performed numerous miracles—and that he died on the Rock in March, A.D. 606. Sundry remarkable prodigies are recorded of his interment.² This anchorite has transmitted his name to various localities on the shore, which were long held in veneration, and well known to the peasantry of the respective vicinities.³ Whatever credit may be assigned to St. Baldred and his labours, a chapel existed on the Bass in remote times. The Rock anciently formed a parish, and the "kirk in the Crag of the Bass" was consecrated in honour of the holy man in 1542, by the authority of Cardinal Beaton.⁴ This was the present ruinous chapel, erected on the site of St. Baldred's cell, which was used for divine service till after the Reformation, when the want of inhabitants rendered a preacher unnecessary.⁵ The Bass is now parochially annexed to North-Berwick, the incumbent of which, as representing the vicar, receives annually twelve solan geese "entire with feathers."

The earliest known proprietors of the Bass were the family of Lauder, the chief of whom was usually styled "Lauder of the Bass," though their residence is supposed to have been in the burgh of North-Berwick. A charter from William Lamberton, Bishop of St. Andrews, in favour of Robert Lauder, one of the companions of Sir William Wallace, was dated 4th June, 1316.⁶ In the aisle of the old church at North-Berwick was long visible the tombstone of this proprietor's father, containing the pompous inscription—"Here lies the good Robert Lauder, the great Laird of Congalton and the Bass." This monument existed in 1722, and the original inscription, with its doubtful date, was carved in Saxon letters.⁷ It is said that the Priory of St. Andrews possessed a right to a part of the Bass, but the Lauder family had acquired the greater portion of this singular property long before the date of Bishop Lamberton's charter, and it is ascertained that the Rock belonged to them nearly five centuries.

In 1405 Robert III. placed his son, afterwards James I., on the Bass, for security from the projects of his brother the Duke of Albany, till a vessel was prepared to convey him to France, and the young Prince embarked from the Rock to be seized by the English off Flamborough Head—the very misfortune which his father was anxious to avoid, and when informed of it in Rothesay Castle, caused his death in bitter anguish in 1406. James I. returned from his captivity of nineteen years in 1424, when Walter Stewart, eldest son of Murdoch, Duke of Albany, was committed a prisoner to the Bass. The Island is seldom subsequently mentioned in the records of the Parliaments. The family of Lauder refused the solicitations of successive monarchs to sell the Rock. About 1569 or 1570, the Earl of Morton attempted to obtain it, and some

¹ Dempsteri *Historia Ecclesiastica Gentis Scotorum*, printed for the BANNATYNE CLUB, 4to. 1829, vol. i. p. 65.

² St. Baldred was so much esteemed, that the three mainland parishes of Aldhame, Tynninghame, and Preston, claimed his remains. As it was impossible to satisfy rival demands, and to prevent a conflict for the body of the holy man, the disputants were advised to devote the night to prayer, and in the morning they found three biers with three bodies decently covered, and so like each other that no man could perceive the least difference. Each corpse was joyfully carried by the parties to their respective churches, and interred with great solemnity.—St. Baldred of the Bass, and other Poems, by James Millar, 8vo. 1824, pp. 5, 6.

³ A rock near the mouth of the Tyne is called "St. Baldred's Cradle;" another rock, which the holy man miraculously removed from the middle of the channel between the Bass and the mainland, is known as "St. Baldred's Boat;" half a mile south of Tantallon Castle is "St. Baldred's Well;" and his alleged statue, which was broken by an "irreverent mason," was long in Prestonkirk churchyard.

⁴ Under date 1542 it is stated—"The v. day of January, M. Villielm Gibsone, Byschop of Libariensis, and Suffragenens to David Beton,

Cardynall and Archbyschop of Santandrois, consecrat and dedicat the parish kirk in the Craig of the Bass in honour of Sant Baldred, Byschop and Confessor, in presence of Maister John Lawder, Archdene in Teuidail, noter publict."—*Extracta ex Chronicis Scocie*, printed for the ABBOTSFORD CLUB, 4to. 1829, p. 255.

⁵ In the "Buik of Assignations of the Ministeris and Reidaris Stipends," for 1576, it is stated, "Bass and Auldhame neidis na Reidaris." A curious incident occurred on the Bass in more recent times. This was the reception into the Roman Catholic Church of a young lady in presence of her father and the tenant and his boat-assistant. The ceremony was performed by the officiating priest in the ruinous chapel consecrated to St. Baldred.—*New Statistical Account of Scotland—Haddingtonshire*, p. 331.

⁶ Bishop Lamberton's charter, which was confirmed by John de Forfar, Prior of St. Andrews, was stolen from the Grange House, near Edinburgh, with a number of other documents and articles, on the night of the 18th September, 1836, and was never recovered.

⁷ Nisbet's *Heraldry*, folio, 1722, vol. i. p. 443. Nisbet adds, in reference to the date, "Some read mcccxi, and others mcccxi."

notices of his designs are preserved.¹ In 1581 James VI. visited the Bass, and was anxious to secure it for the Crown, which appears from the reply of the proprietor to have been in temporary possession.²

It is said that the Lauders of the Bass, never very opulent, decayed as a family in the seventeenth century. During the Civil Wars the proprietor of the Bass was a zealous royalist; and his daughter, whom some identify with the heroine of Anstruther or Anster Fair, is mentioned as a lady of masculine qualifications. In 1649 the Earl of Haddington and Hepburn of Waughton were conjunct proprietors, and about the time of the restoration of Charles II. the Bass was the property of Sir Andrew Ramsay, of Abbotshall, in Fife, who was several years Lord Provost of Edinburgh, and who sold the Rock to the Government for 4000*l.* in 1671. The Bass was then constituted a state prison, and the Chapel was the magazine for the garrison. Numbers of the turbulent Covenanters were consigned to safe custody on the Rock in the reigns of Charles II. and James II. A list of thirty-nine individuals is recorded, the first of whom was a Robert Gillespie, who was sent to the Bass in 1672. The most conspicuous of those prisoners were John Blackadder, minister of Troqueer, father of Colonel John Blackadder, Sir Hugh and Sir George Campbell of Cessnock, Alexander Gordon of Earlstoun, and Major Learmonth, a Covenanting officer. Blackadder died on the Bass in 1685, after a confinement of five years, and was interred in North-Berwick churchyard, in which a large flat stone, with a poetical inscription, marks his grave. A wretched apartment, called "Blackadder's Cell," is shown, its three small iron-barred windows looking to the west. It is curious that all those "martyrs of the Bass," as they are foolishly designated by their admirers, were offered liberty, if they would promise not to molest the Government; and some of them were, by their obstinacy, imprisoned years. James Mitchell, who attempted to assassinate Archbishop Sharp of St. Andrews in the High Street of Edinburgh, in July 1668, and Fraser of Brae, a noted Covenanting preacher, were brought to the Bass on the 30th of January, 1677, under a guard of twelve horse and thirty foot. The last Covenanting prisoner was John Spreul, a fanatical apothecary in Glasgow, who was committed in July 1681, and released in May 1687, in which year Major Learmonth was liberated on account of his health, after a domicile of five years. The Government, however, sent persons to the Bass who were not Covenanters. One of them was a Leith Quaker, for railing at his parish minister; a second was a Roman Catholic priest, named George Young, whose offence in 1769 is not recorded; and a third was John Philip, the episcopal incumbent or "curate" of Queensferry, who was deposed for refusing the "Test," and was accused before the Privy Council in March 1683 for denouncing the Duke of York as a "great tyrant," who was "detestable to the subjects;" for asserting that the Bishop of Edinburgh and the Lord Advocate—Dr. John Paterson and Sir George Mackenzie—were "bloody and cruel men, and that he hoped to see them suffer for it;" and for maintaining that the Earl of Argyll had been unjustly forfeited. This political "curate" was fined 2000*l.* sterling, to be paid within a fortnight, declared infamous, and ordered to be imprisoned for life on the Bass, where his avowed principles would render him a more suitable companion to the Covenanters than the Leith Quaker and the Roman Catholic priest.

The garrison of the Bass refused to acknowledge the Revolution, and held out under Charles Maitland, the deputy-governor, in the name of James II. till 1690, when they surrendered. In that year some adherents of James II. contrived to obtain temporary possession. They had been sent as prisoners, and having expelled the garrison, they were supplied with provisions by their friends on shore, plundered merchant-vessels, exacted tribute from every ship which approached within reach of their artillery, and resisted every attempt to dislodge them for four years. Their commander was David Blair, son of Blair of Ardblair, who caused Andrew Fletcher of Salton, the Revolution governor, considerable trouble and expense. William III. at last sent two large ships of war against them, which, assisted by small vessels, intercepted their provisions, and compelled them to capitulate in 1694. They obtained easy terms, probably by a stratagem of their leader, who, having some bottles of excellent French wine and brandy, and a quantity of biscuits, regaled the deputation sent to negotiate, and pretended that he had abundance of supplies. He also ordered all the hats and coats to be placed on muskets, which he ranged close

¹ Wishart of Pitarrow told the Regent Moray—"I hear say my Lord of Morton is trafficking to get the house of the Bass, which, if he does, he will stop some devices your Grace knows; and therefore, were I in your Grace's stead, I would go between the cow and the corn. I tell you the auld Crag is a good starting-hole; at least it will serve

to keep them that you would be sure of."—Richard Bannatyne's *Memoriales of Transactions in Scotland, 1569-1573*, printed for the BANNATYNE CLUB, 4to. 1836, pp. 9, 10.

² The reply was, "Your Majesty must e'en resign it to me, for I'll have the auld Crag back again."



DUNÉA.

From an Original Drawing by C. Stanfield R.S.

JOHN G. MURDOCH LONDON.

to the walls, as if the Fortress was full of soldiers; and this device had its influence on the Privy Council. The fortifications and defences were reduced to ruins in 1701, and in 1706 the Bass was granted to Sir Hew Hamilton Dalrymple, Bart., the Crown reserving the assumption of possession. The King of the Belgians, while Prince Leopold, visited the Bass in 1819. The landing-place was prepared in 1822 for George IV., who was contented with the salute from the artillery brought from Leith Fort. One corroded gun is the only memorial of the former cannon. The buildings, in front of which was a small parade ground, were long accessible only by ladders, or a bucket raised by a chain at the crane bastion. Subsequently the ingress was and still is by three flights of steps, protected by as many gates, which have disappeared. Though roofless and in complete desolation, the ruins are externally entire, and the garden produces some wild flowers, such as the common daffodil and the pale narcissus. Fraser of Brae mentions cherry-trees, of the fruit of which he occasionally partook. Formerly visitors were constituted "burgesses of the Bass" by drinking the water of the well, and receiving a flower out of the garden.

The Bass, in its ocean solitude, has been long inhabited by sea-fowl, a colony of rabbits, and a few sheep, and is superintended by the tenant or keeper, who resides in the hamlet of Canty Bay on the mainland. The gannets, or solan geese, the puffin, large black gull, kittiwake, common marot, or guillemot, razor-billed millot, or common puffin, falcon or hawk, large raven, eider duck, cormorant, and innumerable flocks of smaller birds, resort to and breed on the Bass. The solan geese are annual migratory birds, arriving at the Bass early in February in successive myriads. Their gannets are taken in the beginning of August, after which the parents depart, though many linger till October, and thousands often remain throughout the winter, attracted by the herring shoals, the movements of which regulate these sea-fowl.

DUNBAR CASTLE.

THE royal burgh and seaport of Dunbar, eleven miles from Haddington and twenty-eight miles east from Edinburgh, was originated by its Castle, which was anciently enclosed by a strong wall, and was entered by three ports or gates. Dunbar Castle is of such antiquity that it was burnt in A.D. 856 by Kenneth II., according to the tradition related by Buchanan. The same suspicious narrator of fabulous Scottish history gravely asserts that the town derives its name from a warrior called Bar, though it is more likely that the appellation describes the situation of the stronghold on the summit of cliffs projecting into the sea. In 1072 Malcolm III. bestowed the manor on Cospatrick, Earl of Northumberland, the reputed first Earl of Dunbar and March, who appears to have held the Castle. This personage, who was the ancestor of a great and martial family, came to Scotland in 1063 with Edgar, the deprived heir of the Saxon line, and his sister Margaret, who became the Queen of Malcolm. It is unnecessary to detail the adventures of Cospatrick after the conquest of England by William the Norman, with whom he was at one time in favour, and obtained the government of Northumberland, of which he was deprived in 1072. Dunbar Castle, or "Earl Patrick's Stronghold," was the principal baronial residence of his descendants, who during four centuries maintained an almost regal power and authority in the eastern districts of Scotland. Lord Hailes alleges that the account by Boece of this family is an "ignorant fiction," and ridicules his narrative that the founder was a Patrick Dunbar, who attacked a formidable band of robbers about the year 1061, killed six hundred of them, hanged eighty, and presented the head of their commander to King Malcolm, who as a reward created him Earl of March, and granted to him certain lands, with the privilege of displaying a banner on which the bloody head of a robber was painted.¹

Patrick, fifth Earl of Dunbar and March, invited his relatives and neighbours to celebrate Christmas, in 1231, at Dunbar Castle, and after an entertainment of four days he received the monastic habit from the Abbot of Melrose. In 1285 Patrick, seventh Earl, was visited by no less a personage than Thomas Learmonth, called the "Rhymer," renowned for his supposed prophetic gifts, and who on that occasion announced to the Earl the fate of Alexander III., who was killed by a fall from his horse near Kinghorn in Fife. The Rhymer arrived at the Castle on the night preceding the accident, and in the course of conversation he was asked if the following day would produce any remarkable event. "Alas for to-morrow!" replied the Rhymer; "a day

¹ Annals of Scotland, 4to. vol. i. p. 18.

of misery and woe. Before the twelfth hour shall be a blast which wind and tempest never before caused in Scotland." After this declaration, and other mysterious announcements, the Rhymer retired to his apartment. As the prediction was believed to refer to the weather, Earl Patrick and his friends watched the forenoon of the next day, and as no commotion of the elements occurred, they concluded that the Rhymer was a pretender, and sat down to their repast. The Earl had scarcely commenced his refection, and was upbraiding the soothsayer, when a messenger arrived on horseback at the gate of the Castle, and demanded instant admittance. He was introduced to the Earl, to whom he said—"I indeed bring tidings most lamentable, and to be deplored by the whole realm of Scotland. Our renowned King has ended his fair life on yonder coast near Kinghorn." "This," exclaimed the Rhymer, who had now secured his reputation, "is the direful wind and tempest which shall be a calamity and trouble to the kingdom of Scotland."

Patrick, eighth Earl, surnamed "Black Beard," adhered to the English interest. His Countess Marjory, daughter of Alexander Comyn, Earl of Buchan, surrendered Dunbar Castle to the Scottish forces in 1296, which induced Edward I. to commission Warrenne, Earl of Surrey, to recover the Fortress. The Scots agreed to submit, unless relieved within three days. On the third day the entire Scottish force appeared in battle array on Doon Hill, nearly three miles south-east of Dunbar—the eminence on which the Covenanting army encamped under General Leslie in 1650 before his defeat by Cromwell, and the result was similar. The Earl of Surrey advanced against the Scottish forces, who rashly left their advantageous position, and rushed down tumultuously on the English. They were completely defeated, and many of the fugitives were received into Dunbar Castle. This conflict occurred on the 28th of April, 1296, and was one of the last disasters which terminated the short and feeble reign of John Baliol. On the day after the battle Edward I. appeared with the remainder of his army, and Richard Seward, the governor, surrendered the Fortress to the English monarch.¹ The Earls of Atholl, Ross, and Menteith,² four barons, thirty-one knights, one hundred esquires, and others of lesser note, were taken prisoners. Three years afterwards the English monarch allowed 200*l.* to the Earl of Dunbar, to furnish the Castle with stores and provisions.

Patrick, ninth Earl, also adhered to the English interest, and opened the gates of the Castle to Edward II. in 1314, after his memorable flight from Bannockburn. The defeated monarch was protected from his pursuers by the Earl, who hospitably entertained him, and conveyed him in a fishing-boat to Berwick; but the Earl also submitted to King Robert Bruce, who was his cousin, and in 1333 demolished Dunbar Castle, to prevent the stronghold falling into the hands of the English. He was, however, persuaded to rebuild the Castle by Edward III., from whom he received some important distinctions. This Earl seems to have been a dubious politician in the matter of allegiance. On the 28th of January, 1337–8, was commenced the most noted siege in the history of the Fortress. The Earl was absent, and the proceedings of his Countess indicate that he was in arms against the English and the supporters of Baliol. This Lady, who from her dark complexion was surnamed "Black Agnes," was the daughter of Randolph, Earl of Moray, Regent of Scotland, nephew of King Robert Bruce, and she resolved to defend her husband's Fortress to the last extremity.

The besiegers, under William de Montague, Earl of Salisbury, assailed the massive pile with battering engines, and hurled large stones against the walls, yet Black Agnes was undaunted, and in scorn ordered her female attendants to wipe off the dust with their napkins. She beheld with indifference the "sow"—an enormous machine of timber, the ridge of the wooden shed or covering of which resembled a hog's back, and in derision advised Salisbury in a kind of rhyme—"Beware, Montagow, for farrow shall thy sow." An immense stone was dropped from the walls on this machine, which was crushed to pieces. As the English fled to escape from the stones and arrows, Black Agnes called out—"Behold the litter of English pigs." An arrow killed an English knight near Salisbury, who exclaimed—"That is one of my lady's love-tokens; Black Agnes' love-shafts pierce to the heart."

¹ Sir James Balfour (*Annals of Scotland*, vol. i. p. 83) accuses Seward, whom he designates a "base and villanous wretch," of treacherously betraying Dunbar Castle to Edward I. Lord Hailes says—"This charge is manifestly unjust. Seward had agreed to surrender the Castle if it was not relieved within three days, and it was not relieved."—*Annals of Scotland*, 4to, vol. i. p. 239.

² According to Sir James Balfour, the Earls of Ross and Menteith were "taken, and instantly killed, *contraire* the tyrant's faith given." The reverse was the fact. The Earl of Ross was sent a prisoner to

London, and Edward I. ordered John de Warrenne, Earl of Surrey, his governor of Scotland, to allot to the Countess "one hundred pounds of land" for her support. As to the Earl of Menteith, it is asserted by Trivet and Walsingham that he was released from confinement by engaging to serve Edward I. in his foreign wars. Lord Hailes says—"It is generally believed, without sufficient evidence, that Edward put the Earl of Menteith to death."—*Annals*, vol. i. p. 239.

The resistance of the garrison was so determined and indomitable, that Salisbury resolved to obtain possession of the Fortress by stratagem. He offered a considerable sum to the keeper of the principal entrance, if he would leave the gate in such a manner as to allow easy access to the besiegers. The money was accepted, and it was agreed that a small party were to be admitted. The Countess was informed by the warden of this bribery, and exulted at the design. At the time appointed the gate was found open, and the Earl was about to enter, when Copeland, one of his officers, hastily preceded him. The portcullis immediately fell, and Copeland, mistaken for his commander, was a prisoner. Black Agnes witnessed the affair from the battlements, and addressing the Earl by his family name, jeeringly shouted—"Farewell, Montague. I intended that you should have supped with us to-night, and assisted us in defending the Castle against the English."

Salisbury now turned the siege into a blockade, and prepared to starve the garrison into a surrender. Ramsay of Dalhousie resolved to achieve their deliverance. He contrived to elude the vigilance of the English, and entered the Fortress by a postern, the ruins of which are still visible. Instantly sallying out, he attacked the advanced guards of the English, whom he drove to their camp. Disheartened by this exploit, and at the length of the siege, the English commander, on the 10th of June, agreed to a cessation of arms, and withdrew his forces, leaving the heroic Black Agnes in possession of the Castle.

George, eleventh Earl of Dunbar and March, his grandson, was most unjustly deprived of his titles and estates on the 10th of January, 1434-5, and the Castle was seized by the Crown. Hepburn of Hailes was appointed constable, one of the ancestors of the Earls of Bothwell, who rose to power and influence on the ruin of the ancient Earls of Dunbar and March. The Castle and estates for a time after the deprivation of the last Earl were held by the Duke of Albany, and latterly changed possessors, though always considered the property of the Crown. Jane Seymour, the Queen-Dowager of the murdered James I., died in the Fortress in 1446, and was interred at Perth. The Duke of Albany landed at Dunbar Castle after his escape from Edinburgh Castle in 1475, and thence sailed to France. He returned and regained possession of the Fortress, which he was compelled to leave in 1483, and the English garrison surrendered to James III. in 1486. On the 17th of October, 1488, the Castle was ordered to be destroyed from the foundation, and never to be rebuilt, because it had occasioned "great skaith in time bygone," and it would be dangerous to the realm if it were "negligently kept or reparit again."¹ This was not enforced till nearly a century afterwards.

Dunbar is painfully associated with the career of Queen Mary. The Earls of Bothwell appear to have acted as constables, and on the 19th of April, 1567, the notorious Earl obtained a "ratification" of the "Queen's Castle and Strength" and the "Captancie" of Dunbar.² This was a legal infetment which Bothwell, who was rapidly advancing in the Queen's favour, obtained for his insidious services. In 1566, after the murder of Rizzio, Bothwell assisted in Mary's escape from Holyrood-house, and after a brief sojourn at Seton she retired to Dunbar Castle. The Queen was again at the Fortress in November of that year, and was an inmate six days. On two subsequent occasions Mary was resident in Dunbar Castle, before her paramour fled to elude the merited punishment of his crimes. On the 21st of September, 1567, the Regent Moray sent four companies of soldiers to secure the Fortress, which was surrendered on the 1st of October, and was ordered to be demolished in terms of the Act in 1488. The artillery was removed to Edinburgh, and the destruction was most efficiently performed.³

The present ruins of Dunbar Castle convey no idea of a pile which was long considered impregnable. The fragments occupy a projecting reef of trap rocks, rising like bastions thrown up to protect the remnants of feudal power from the sea, which penetrates through rugged caverns, fissures, and arches, with a fearful noise in violent storms. The main portion of the ruins measures about one hundred and sixty-five feet from east to west, and in some parts upwards of two hundred feet from north to south. The south tower, supposed to have been the keep or citadel, is on a detached perpendicular rock seventy-two feet high, accessible only on one side, and connected with the fragments by a passage measuring sixty-nine feet. The interior is of octagonal form, fifty-four by sixty feet, and five of the "arrow holes" remain. The

¹ Acta Parl. Scot. folio, vol. ii. p. 211.

² Ibid. p. 550. In the earlier part of that century Dunbar Castle was occasionally a state prison.—Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, vol. i. Part I. p. 81. Previous to 1561 the Fortress was often garrisoned by French auxiliaries, and by the English, and was in 1559 the

retreat for security from the violence of the Reforming party, of the Queen Regent Mary of Guise, accompanied by D'Oysel and a number of French soldiers.—Sir James Balfour's Annals, vol. i. p. 317.

³ Sir James Balfour's Annals of Scotland, vol. i. p. 341.

other ruins are arched, and extend eight feet from the outer walls fronting an open court-yard. Near the centre of the Fortress is a gateway, above which are the armorial bearings of the eleventh Earl of Dunbar. When entire the towers had communication with the sea. North-east of the front is a large natural cave of black and red stone, supposed to have been a dungeon. It is accessible by a rocky inlet from the shore on the west, and may have been the postern by which Sir Alexander Ramsay entered to relieve Black Agnes in 1338. This cavern was a secure refuge for the boats belonging to the Fortress. In the north-west part of the ruins is a chamber, probably twelve feet square, which tradition connects with Queen Mary.