

BULLERS OF BUCHAN

BUCHAN

BY THE

REV. JOHN B. PRATT, M.A., LL.D.

FOURTH EDITION

REVISED BY

ROBERT ANDERSON

ABERDEEN

LEWIS SMITH & SON

1901

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TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE ELIZA AMELIA,
Countess of Erroll,

WHO, THOUGH RECENTLY DOMESTICATED IN THE
DISTRICT OF BUCHAN, IS HAPPILY BECOMING ASSOCIATED
WITH ALL THAT IS DEAR TO THE SCOTTISH HEART;

THESE PAGES ARE
(BY PERMISSION)
RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED.

Where Aigie winds through Buchan braes—
A treeless land, where breezes are good,
And men have quaint, old-fashioned ways,
And every burn has ballad-lore,
And every hamlet has its song,
And on its surf-beat, rocky shore
The eerie legend lingers long.

Walter C. Smith.

PREFACE TO THE FOURTH EDITION.

A NEW Edition of "Buchan" having been called for, it has been deemed advisable to subject Dr. Pratt's work to a thorough revision, not merely making corrections to suit the altered conditions of the past thirty years, but also making large emendations and additions, so as to bring this authoritative account of the district abreast of the more extensive and more accurate historical and topographical knowledge that has been acquired since Dr. Pratt wrote. In both departments of revision, much information has been gleaned from the "Transactions" of the Buchan Field Club, many local publications, and numerous contributions to the Aberdeen, Peterhead, and Banff newspapers; as a rule, the references to the authorities consulted are given at the end of the several chapters, so as to avoid a multiplicity of footnotes. Dr. Pratt's method—an itinerary of the district—has been preserved, but occasional modifications in the route he adopted have been made, and, as a consequence, the chapters have been re-arranged and re-titled. The enlargement of the work caused by the introduction of new matter has made it necessary—though not without reluctance and regret—to leave out the bulky Appendix (which in the third edition extended to over 130 pages), but the more important portions of Dr. Pratt's voluminous notes have been embodied in the text in the present edition.

The editor, in the revision of Dr. Pratt's work and the preparation of this edition, has been greatly indebted to the assistance of many gentlemen belonging to or connected with Buchan and familiar with its history. He has to express thanks to—among many others—Mr. William L. Taylor, bookseller, Peterhead, ex-President of the Buchan Field Club; Mr. John Milne, late of Atherb, Maud; Mr. John Milne, LL.D., late schoolmaster, King-Edward; Rev. Alexander J. Milne, LL.D., Fyvie; Rev. Charles Birnie, Aberdour; Rev. Thomas Young, B.D., Ellon; and Mr. D. M. Watt, Dingwall, formerly of the *Fraserburgh Herald*; and he has also to acknowledge obligations to the late Mr. James Aiken and the late Mr. James Spence, both of Peterhead. In a very special manner, his thanks are due to Mr. John Joiner, banker, New Deer, and Rev. James Forrest, Lonmay, who rendered valuable aid in the preparation of the revised—and, it is hoped, improved—edition of "Buchan."

ROBERT ANDERSON.

12 BELVIDERE STREET,
ABERDEEN, February, 1901.

PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION.

IN offering a Third Edition of "Buchan" to the public, it may be necessary to state that the entire revision it has undergone was completed by the lamented Author himself, shortly before his demise, although the business of conducting it through the press was necessarily left to less efficient hands. This, it is hoped, will plead the best excuse for any inaccuracies that may have inadvertently crept in.

The kind friends who have lent their assistance towards the greater accuracy of this edition will believe that their communications and suggestions were fully appreciated, and would, had it been so permitted, have been thankfully acknowledged by the Author, as they now are by her to whom the watching of the work through the press has been at once a labour of love, and a source of deep and unavailing regret.

A. P.

MORPETH, 1870.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

IN coming before the public with a New Edition of "Buchan," I cannot omit the opportunity it affords me of expressing my deep sense of the favourable reception of the first impression of the work, and of the obligations I have been laid under to the editors of the many journals and periodicals in which it has been reviewed and recommended. To these I consider the rapid sale of the first edition to be mainly owing.

It would be mere affectation to conceal the pleasure I feel in having had the voice of the public so unequivocally expressed in favour of the work ; although I must not be unmindful of the fact that a great portion of this favour is to be ascribed to the nature of the subject rather than to the merits of the compiler. The only adequate return I could make was by using every available means within my reach to enhance the value of the work by additional facts and incidents ; and I have therefore to express my thanks to many kind friends—some of whom are personally unknown to me—who have favoured me with remarks which have put it in my power to correct a few things that were erroneously stated, and to supply others that were wanting. Let me hope, then, that the present edition will be worthy of a continuation of that favour which has been so generously accorded to the former.

J. B. P.

S. JAMES'S, CRUDEN,
April 20, 1859.

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

It could scarcely be expected that a record should be made of circumstances, physical and moral, relating to a particular district, without betraying some peculiarity or bias of opinion. I trust, however, that nothing in the following pages will bear to be construed into an invidious attack on those who may chance to entertain different or adverse sentiments from my own.

With a view to avoid, as much as possible, the appearance of such a design, I have, in the compilation of these fragmentary notices of Buchan, preferred, in every instance where authorities were attainable, giving their *ipsissima verba*, to moulding the information thus acquired into language of my own.

This little work, therefore, must be considered chiefly in the character of Notes. These have been drawn from every available source—from written records, popular tradition, and—in all practicable cases—from personal observation and inquiry; my sole aim being to present, in a compact, accessible form, whatever can be gathered of the earlier history, customs, manners, and traditions of the district. The aged will frequently find the reproduction of their “old-world stories;” the young will possibly meet with subjects to awaken their interests; and all, let me hope, with something to stimulate their conservative patriotism.

I beg to tender my most grateful thanks to those parties who, kindly and cordially entering into my object, have furnished me with facts relating to localities with which they were necessarily better acquainted than I could possibly be.

I have also to acknowledge having freely availed myself of the labours of an occasional contributor to the *Aberdeen Free Press*, whose enlarged and intimate acquaintance with the neighbourhood of Old Deer has been of important service to me. I have generally intimated my obligations in this quarter under the brief form of "Gossip about Old Deer," in preference to a constant recurrence to a fuller reference. I have also drawn much useful information from other and similar sources—which I here beg to mention with all due acknowledgment.

One more remark, and I have done. The unassigned poetical contributions to this work it is necessary that I should disclaim. I am only permitted to say that they are derived from a source to which such productions are more congenial than they are to myself.

J. B. P.

S. JAMES'S PARSONAGE,
CRUDEN.

MEMOIR OF THE AUTHOR.

JOHN BURNETT PRATT was born in the year 1798, at Slacks of Cairnbanno, in the parish of New Deer. Dr. Temple, in "The Thanage of Fermartyn," says he was descended from the Pratts of Mill of Ardlogie, Fyvie; but all that is known of his genealogy to the present writer is that his father's name was William Pratt and his mother's Jean Gray, and that, after her husband's death, the latter went to live at Lethenty, in Fyvie. He received the rudiments of his education at the parish school of New Deer, and went through the University curriculum at King's College, Aberdeen, graduating M.A. in 1820. In the following year, he was ordained deacon of the Scottish Episcopal Church by Bishop William Skinner, Aberdeen, and was appointed to the small cure of Stuartfield, which, ten years later, was merged in the Episcopal congregation at Old Deer. After ministering for four years to an attached and increasing flock, Mr. Pratt was, in 1825, unanimously chosen as incumbent of St. James's Church, Cruden—to the deep regret of the congregation at Stuartfield, to whom he had greatly endeared himself. He remained at Cruden till his death in 1869—that is, for the long period of 44 years. It was mainly through his exertions that money was obtained for the building (in 1843) of the present Church of St. James's, Cruden; and he and Mrs. Pratt, by a joint disposition, left £300 for the enlargement of the chancel. Of

Mr. Pratt's diligent, arduous, and self-denying labours at Cruden, there is no need to speak here; suffice it to say that, while he enjoyed the regard of his own congregation in no ordinary degree, he commanded the esteem of all who knew him. A proof of the estimation in which his theological learning, literary accomplishments, and professional character were held, is afforded in the fact that he was appointed by the Bishop of the diocese one of his examining chaplains. In 1864, the University of Aberdeen conferred on him the honorary degree of LL.D.

Among Churchmen—not only in Scotland, but in England and the Colonies—Dr. Pratt became well and favourably known by the publication, in 1840, of “The Old Paths where is the Good Way; or The Notes of the Church in connection with which the Child of the Church is examined concerning Ecclesiastical Principles”—a temperate exposition of the principles of Episcopacy. Besides a cheap edition for the use of schools and for distribution by clergymen and others, the work ran through three large editions. Several sermons preached on particular occasions added to Dr. Pratt's reputation as a well-read divine. One of his theological works was a contribution to the unity of Christendom—an object very near and dear to his heart—in the shape of a little volume, entitled “Letters on the Scandinavian Churches, their Doctrine, Worship, and Polity,” published in 1865. Among his other publications were—“The Sorrows of the World” (Aberdeen, 1834); “The Unchangeable Nature of True Religion” (Peterhead, 1835); “Fidelity to the Truth” (Aberdeen, 1837); “Scottish Episcopacy and Scottish

Episcopalians" (Aberdeen, 1838); "Four Sermons" (Dundee, 1842); "A Pastoral Letter to His Congregation" (Aberdeen, 1843); "Explanatory Note" and "Reply to Answers" (Wagstaff case) (Aberdeen, 1849); "A Sermon at the Funeral of Patrick Torry, D.D." (London, 1852); "Present Trials of the Clergy" (Edinburgh, 1856); and "A Sermon on the Completion of his Forty Years' Ministry" (1865).

Outside his own communion, and to the general public, Dr. Pratt was best known by his topographical description of the district of Buchan. The materials for this work were carefully collected and verified by the indefatigable and accomplished author, who journeyed on foot through every parish within the district. "Buchan" was published first in 1858, and Dr. Pratt was engaged preparing the third edition when he was seized with his fatal illness. The value of the work was testified to in generous terms by the late Rev. N. K. M'Leod, Rector of St. Mary's on the Rock, Ellon, who dedicated his "Castles of Buchan" to "The Memory of Dr. Pratt," whose "Buchan" (the dedication says) "is a household word and a mine of information to the inhabitants of that important district, the landmarks of which are an epitome of Scottish History." Besides "Buchan," Dr. Pratt published a little work on "The Druids" (1861), and another on "Antiquities in the Parish of Cruden" (Edinburgh, 1862); and he was also the author of "The Life and Death of Jamie Fleeman, the Laird of Udney's Fool"—a work, published first in the early "thirties" of the nineteenth century, which has had an extraordinary popularity in Aberdeenshire. It was an

expansion of a series of articles on "Jamie Fleeman" contributed by Dr. Pratt to the *Aberdeen Magazine* in 1832, and it has run through many editions.

In the churchyard of St. James's Episcopal Church, Cruden, at the east end of the church, is a Runic cross of sandstone to the memory of Dr. Pratt. The influences of wind and weather at this exposed situation are quickly rendering the following inscription undecipherable—

SACRED TO
THE MEMORY OF
JOHN BURNETT PRATT,
M.A., LL.D.,
FOR FORTY YEARS INCUMBENT
OF ST. JAMES'S CHURCH, CRUDEN,
WHO FELL ASLEEP IN CHRIST,
MARCH 20TH, 1869,
IN HIS SEVENTY-FIRST YEAR.

—
THERE SHALL BE NO MORE DEATH.

The cross also bears the following inscription—

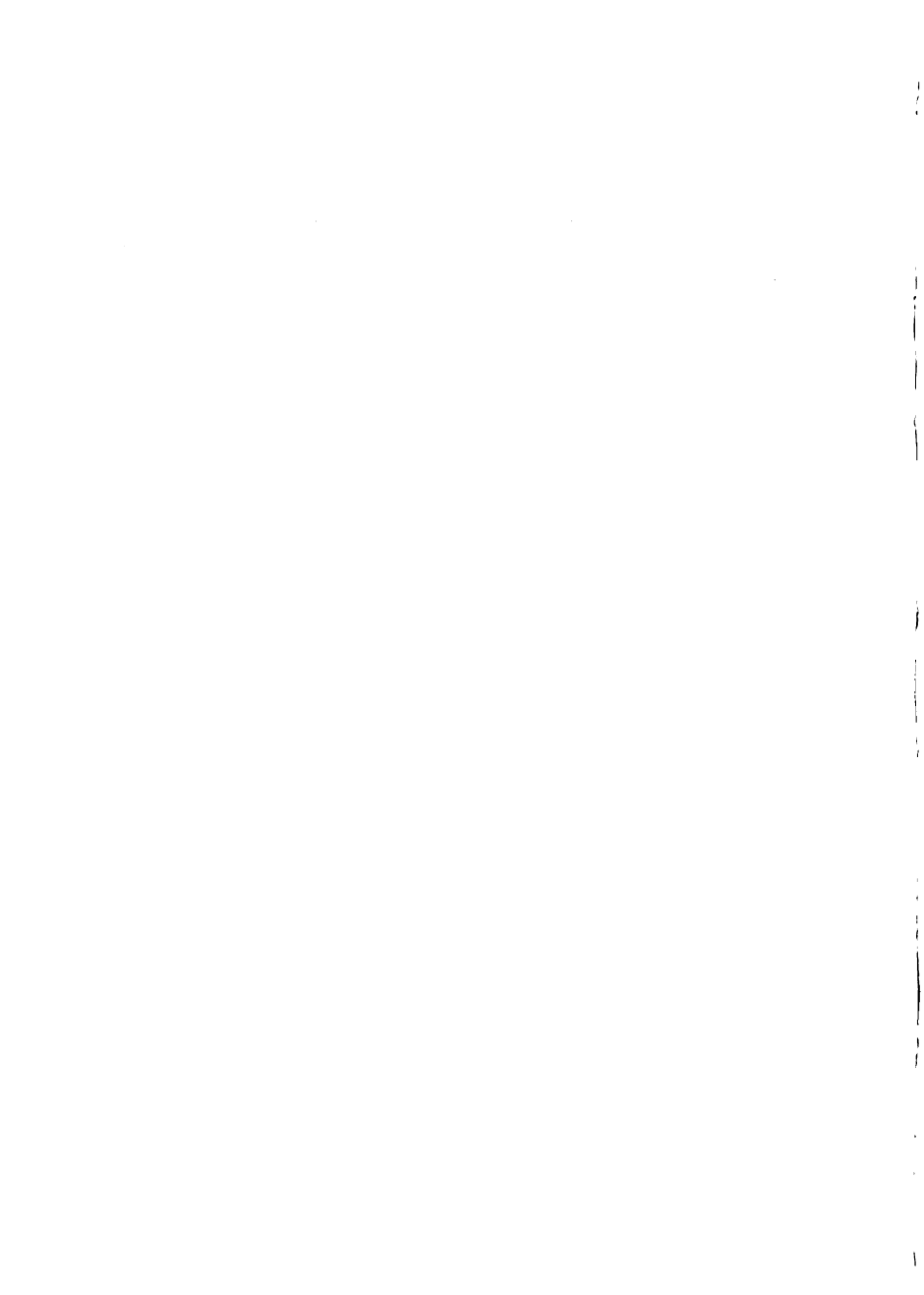
ANNA,
WIDOW OF THE REVD.
J. B. PRATT, LL.D.,
DIED AT MORPETH, 14 DEC.,
BURIED HERE 20 DEC., 1872,
AGED 74.

Mrs. Pratt's maiden name was Anna Radcliffe; she was the daughter of a chorister of Durham Cathedral. She was a woman of many accomplishments. She could speak most of the Continental languages, and

she painted with facility and skill. The "unassigned poetical contributions" referred to in the preface to the first edition of this work are understood to have been from her pen—they include "Legend of the Wine 'Tower," "The Caged Lady of Buchan," and "Saint De'nick's Well" *—and she furnished the illustrations to the editions preceding the present one. She wrote a work on "The Bee and Bee-Keepers," and "Glen Tilloch: a tale," published in London in 1845.

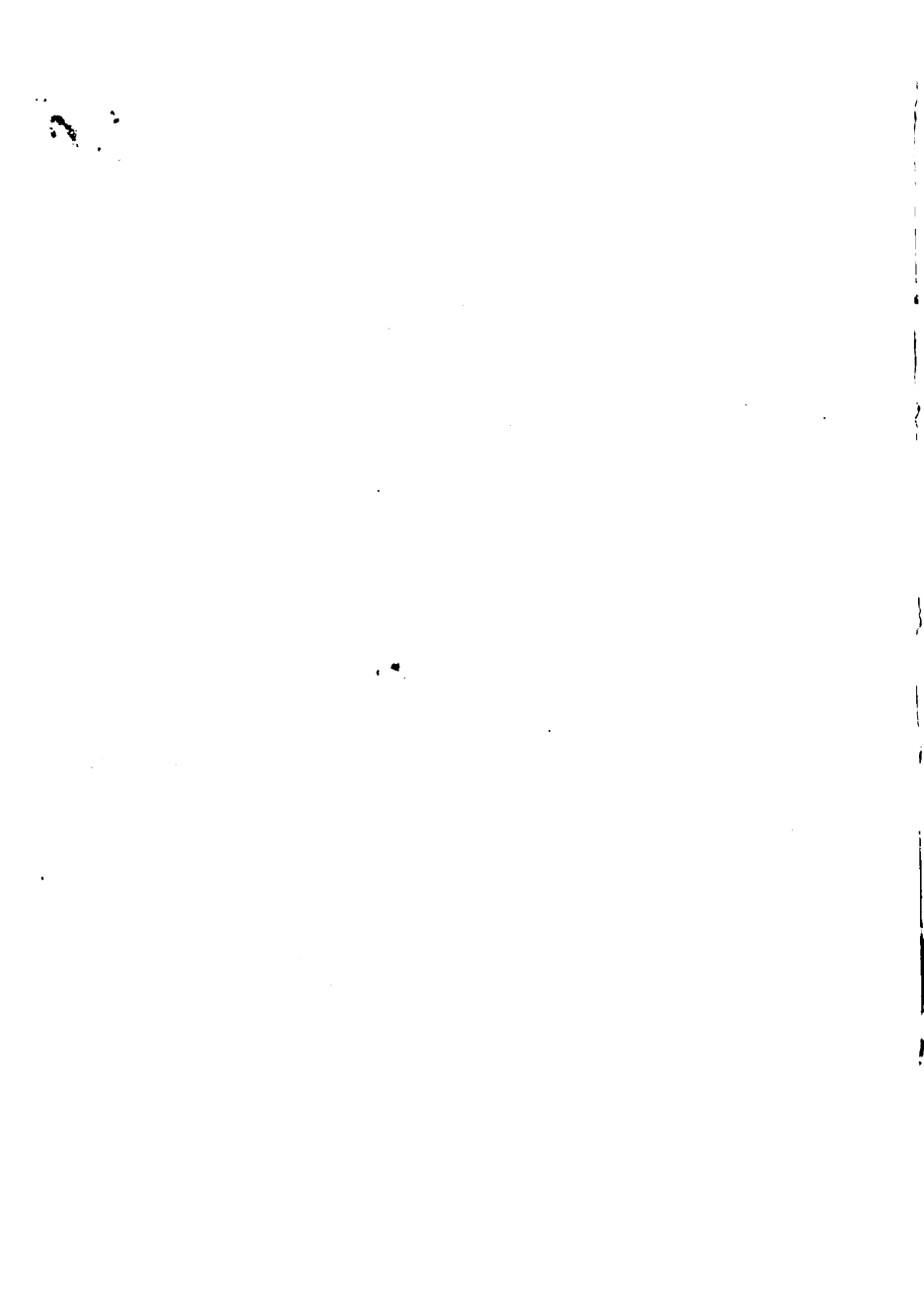
*For some time past, this poem has been persistently assigned to John Imlah, but on no verifiable ground.





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The first five of these Illustrations are from photographs by Mr. James Shivas, Peterhead; the remainder are from photographs specially taken for this work.

ERRATA.

- Page 32, lines 19 and 20.—For “Mr. John Gordon-Cumming of Pitlurg” *read* “The trustees of the late Mr. Alexander Gordon-Cumming-Skene of Pitlurg.”
- Page 59, lines 9 and 10.—*Delete* “And married a daughter of William Comyn, Earl of Buchan.”
- Page 83, lines 10 and 11.—*Read* “The Chevalier landed on December 22nd, and stayed over-night in a house,” etc., “leaving for Aberdeen on the 23rd, and passing the night of the 23rd at Newburgh (See p. 454).”
- Page 219, line 32.—*Read* “Bought by Mr. Adam Cumine, a descendant of the Cumines of Pittulie.”
- Page 229, line 20.—For “p^DN^O” *read* “p^MO.”
- Page 247, line 23.—For “originally” *read* “at one time.”
- Page 251, line 34.—*Add*—“(See footnote on p. 330).”
- Page 264, line 13.—For “Strichen” *read* “Ellon.”
- Page 317, line 32.—For “Chap. XIX” *read* “Chap. XX.”
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OCCURRENCES DURING PRINTING.

- Page 66, lines 10 and 11.—The Marine Villa has been sold by General Russell to Mr. J. C. Bennett, advocate, Aberdeen.
- Page 120, line 2.—Miss Anderson of Ellishill died 20th October, 1900.
- Page 144, lines 26-7.—Mr. George Smith died 7th October, 1899.
- Page 212, line 8.—Mr. Bruce of Inverquhomery died 12th February, 1900.
- Page 241, line 1.—After “century” a reference should be made to a paper on “Ratray” by Mr. John Milne, LL.D., read at a meeting of the Buchan Field Club, September, 1900.

NOTE.—The Union of the Free Church and the U.P. Church, in October, 1900, has disturbed the nomenclature of several churches mentioned in the book (the greater part of which was by that time in type), but a certain utility may be found in retaining the old titles.

BUCHAN.

CHAPTER I.

BOUNDARIES AND GENERAL FEATURES.

BUCHAN would probably be defined to-day—and not incorrectly—as a large and important district of Aberdeenshire, devoted mainly to the growing of crops and the rearing of cattle, the prosecution of the herring fishery, and the excavation and manipulation of granite; and its population might, with equal correctness, be classified as a shrewd, intelligent, and industrious people, having much individual character, and using a no less characteristic dialect, which has come to be designated “broad Buchan.” Such a description, however, while exact as far as it goes, would be but a very superficial account of the region, and would fail to convey an adequate idea of its real interest and importance. These lie mainly, if not wholly, in the abundance and variety of the details relating to its separate localities; in its numerous Druidical and Pictish remains; its sculptured stones, cairns, and mounds; its ecclesiastical and castellated ruins; its legends, tradition, and more or less authentic history. Despite the remoteness of its situation—possibly just on this account—Buchan has played no inconspicuous part in the history of Scotland, and many a leading contributor to the

making of that history has been associated with the region, either by birth, by residence, or by family connection. It was in Buchan that Christianity obtained its first foothold in the north of Scotland, having been introduced here by St. Columba and his pupil, St. Drostan ; and "the oldest authentic Scottish book" is "The Book of Deir," "at once a product and a symbol of the Celtic Church in Scotland." For long, the Comyns, Earls of Buchan, held sway over the district, their dominance terminating only with the "harrying of Buchan" by King Robert the Bruce ; and on them followed Keiths and Hays, Earls Marischal and Earls of Erroll, many of whom, by the distinction they attained in the field of war or the art of statesmanship, reflected lustre on the corner of Scotland to which they more particularly belonged. Largely Episcopalian in religion and strongly Jacobite in politics, Buchan did not escape the commotion of the Covenanting times, and may be said to have figured prominently in the two Stuart risings. The Chevalier landed at Peterhead in 1715, and the one rising was marked by the exile of the last of the Keiths, the other by the romantic adventures of the last Lord Pitsligo. The great families that once lived and ruled in the district have left their mark in strongholds, now mere ruins, but still of interest to the antiquarian ; while the archæologist finds in Buchan a large field for the pursuit of his special investigations. The region, too, though generally bare, tame, and uninviting, has yet many picturesque spots ; and, altogether, Buchan possesses ample features of interest to warrant a survey of its topography, history, and antiquities.

The district of Buchan is situated in the north-east corner of the county of Aberdeen, being washed on the north and east by the German Ocean, and bounded, inland, by the rivers Ythan and Deveron. It is practically commensurate with what, in ancient times, was an earldom ; it is that portion of the county over which the jurisdiction of the Earl of Buchan extended. Like the rest of Aberdeenshire, Buchan was, in very remote times, occupied by the Taixali and other Celtic tribes—its original name according to Ptolemy, appears to have been Thezalia, or Taixalium ; and these tribes were ruled by a Mormaer (or Maormor)—in the “Book of Deer” reference is made to Colban, Mormaer of Buchan. In the course of time, the title of Mormaer fluctuated until finally it became Earl, and with this change came a corresponding arrangement of territorial divisions. Aberdeenshire was divided into two distinct counties or earldoms—Mar and Buchan ; the former comprising Garioch and Strathbogie in addition to the divisions of Mar proper, the latter including the thanedoms of Formartine and Belhelvie. Buchan in those days virtually extended from the Don to the Deveron, but when the district of Formartine was taken out of it and formed into a separate thanage, the Ythan became its southern limit. On the abolition of the feudal system, several earldoms were formed into counties ; and Aberdeenshire has generally been regarded as composed of five divisions—Mar, Garioch, Strathbogie, Buchan, and Formartine. The ancient Celtic family, first known as Mormaers and afterwards as Earls of Buchan, ended in an heiress, Marjory or Margaret, the only child of Fergus, Earl of Buchan, and consequently Countess in her own right. She

married, in 1210, William Comyn, who thus became Earl of Buchan. This William Comyn, Earl of Buchan, was a grand-nephew of William Comyn, who was High Chancellor from 1133 to 1142, and a son of Roderick Comyn, Justiciary of Scotland from 1178 to 1189, by Hexilda, grand-daughter of Donaldbane; he himself figures principally in the history of Buchan as the founder of the Abbey of Deer. He had a son Alexander, who succeeded him in the earldom and estates of Buchan, and who played a very conspicuous part during the reigns of Alexander II. and Alexander III.: he obtained (through his marriage) the office of High Constable of Scotland. The third Earl of the Comyn line was John, eldest son of Alexander, who also inherited the office of High Constable. He was one of the nominees of John Baliol in 1291, and in that year, and again in 1296, swore fealty to Edward I. at Norham. He placed himself in opposition to King Robert the Bruce, and, in an encounter with Bruce at Barra, near Inverury, on 22nd May, 1308, was defeated with great slaughter. Having retired with the miserable remnant of his army into his own territory of Buchan, he was pursued by Edward, the King's brother, who, having come up with him at Aikey Brae, finally routed him in a bloody contest, leaving him without hope of recovering his fortunes. He soon afterwards escaped to England. The King seized his estates, a great portion of which was given to Sir Gilbert de Haya of Erroll, on whom was also conferred the office of High Constable. Short as was the race of the Comyns, current tradition—for in some instances it scarcely amounts to authentic history—ascribes to

this proud and enterprising family the erection of a whole line of castles along the seaward margin of their territory—Slains, Rattray, Inverallochy, Cairnbulg, and Dundarg, besides the family seat, and chief of all, Kynnedor. Of these strongholds, some were retained in their own hands, others were entrusted to the cadets of the family, or to families of older standing in the district, who held them as vassals of the earldom. The earldom of Buchan was subsequently bestowed by Robert II. on his third son, Alexander Stewart; was afterwards conveyed, by marriage, to the Douglasses; and finally, and again by marriage, to the Erskines, in which family it still continues.

The origin of the name Buchan, like many other things coming down from remote antiquity, is rather doubtful. Most accounts agree in supposing it to be of Celtic derivation. "Buchan," says Keith, in his "View of the Diocese of Aberdeen,"* "is so called because abounding of old in pasture, paying its rent

*The "View of the Diocese of Aberdeen" was printed by the Spalding Club from a MS. in the Library of the Faculty of Advocates of Edinburgh. Little is known of the writer beyond what may be conjectured from a note on one of the boards of the volume—"Al. Keith fint. hæc MSS. Novr. 25, 1732." An Alexander Keith, however, succeeded Mr. Dunbar, afterwards Bishop of Aberdeen, in the charge of the congregation of Cruden, after its ejection from the parish church. He was also domestic chaplain to Mary, Countess of Erroll, and afterwards to Earl James, her successor. He was much in the family, and tradition reports him to have been a learned and studious man. These circumstances, coupled with the fact that a copy of the MS. was deposited in the library of Slains Castle, render it more than probable that Alexander Keith, Presbyter at Cruden, was the author of the work.

in cattle—for the word, in Irish, signifies cow-tribute.” Another derivation has been suggested by one well acquainted with the Gaelic language—“Bou Chuan = the land in the bend of the ocean.” As the district is thus situated, and as it is a characteristic of Gaelic names to indicate the peculiar features of the designated locality, this latter derivation has a good deal of plausibility. On the other hand, it is urged that Gaelic derivations may be safely rejected, and that “Buchan” is either of Pictish or Brythonic origin, signifying either “an end” (suggesting a meaning the same as Land’s End) or “little” (with reference either to the hills or to the inhabitants).

In a MS. in the Advocates’ Library, supposed to have been written by Lady Anne Drummond, daughter of James Earl of Perth, and Countess of John, eleventh Earl of Erroll, about the year 1680, it is said—“All that country in old times was called Buchan, which lyeth betwixt the rivers Don and Diveran. . . . But now, generally, what is betwixt Don and Ythan is called Formartine; and that only hath the name of Buchan which is found betwixt Ythan and Diveran.”* There is one portion of the boundary of Buchan that it is difficult to trace with complete certainty—namely, the line which marks its western border between the Deveron and the Ythan; but the following may be given as not far wide of the mark. The boundary on the Deveron is at the point where the Herne or

*The supposition that the “Description of Buchan and all that is remarkable therein” here quoted from was written by Lady Anne Drummond does not appear to be founded on fact. (See *Scottish Notes and Queries*, x., 14.)

Heron Burn,* falls into the river about three miles above Turriff, and a quarter of a mile below Drachlaw. The whole course of this streamlet is little more than a quarter of a mile. Before the marsh out of which it rises was drained, the Heron Burn, for great part of the year, was a tiny rivulet; now, it scarcely amounts even to this. Its course is through a deep and narrow ravine, forming part of the boundary of the parishes of Turriff and Inverkeithny, and of the shires of Aberdeen and Banff, as well as of the district of Buchan. Ascending the ravine, and then holding in a direction almost due south by the compass for about a quarter of a mile, and near the apex of the hill of Drachlaw, the Caerlin-ring is reached, or, as it is locally termed, the Cairn-riv stone—which marks the boundary of the district at this point. This stone approaches in shape to a triangular prism—its broadest side being about eight, and each of the other two sides about six feet, and its height upwards of eight feet. It stands at a short distance from the public road from Turriff to Inverkeithny, on a field on the Backhill of Drachlaw. From this point the boundary of the district runs in a south-westerly direction to the Hare-stone,† on the farm of Feith-hill, about two miles and a half from Drachlaw. This stone had also been part of a Druidical circle, and is now nearly all that remains of it; it projects above ground about three feet. From the Hare-stone of Feith-hill, the boundary proceeds in nearly the same south-westerly direction for about

* So named either from its being frequented by herons, or, more probably, from the Saxon word *hyrne* or *hurne*—a corner or mark.

† *Hare* or *Hoar*, signifying a border or boundary.

a mile, when it reaches the Woof or Oof stone,* on the hill of Monduff, which indicates not only the limit of the district, but also that of the parishes of Forgue and Inverkeithny, the shires of Banff and Aberdeen, and the estates of Cluny, Gariochsford, and Drumblair, which all meet at this point. Thence the line turns southward till it reaches the source of a streamlet on the northern borders of the farm of Lenshie. This rivulet forms the boundary, till it meets another small stream at the Mill of Gariochsford. The united stream flows down by Thorny-bank, and forms the boundary till its confluence with the Ythan at the farm of Knockleith.†

* Probably a corruption of *elf* or *elve*, woof or oof, in the Buchan dialect, signifying a fairy or wicked sprite. A boundary-stone is also termed *the Youffing-stone*, from a practice familiar to those who have ever been present at a "riding of the marches."

† Rev. John Souter, Inverkeithny, writes to the editor of the present edition:—"The Cairn-rievie stone is now the only one that remains of a large cairn which stood partly in Inverkeithny and partly in Turriff. About the year 1820, hundreds of loads of stones were carted from this cairn to build dykes on the farm of Raecloch, in Turriff parish. At that period, the cairn was about 32 yards in diameter. The Cairn-rievie stone which remains is situated in Inverkeithny parish. Either some chief had been buried under it, or it had been used for sacrificial purposes in the time of the Druids. In old times a road, about 12 feet broad and edged with slates, led from the Cairn-rievie stone to a Druidical circle at Drachlaw, not far distant—a circle that is still extant. The Woof or Oof stone, which still remains, and which marks the limit of the old parish of Conveth, now united to Inverkeithny, as also that of the parish of Forgue, was so named from Alexander Stewart, the 'Wolf' of Badenoch, a natural son of Robert II., to whom the lands of Conveth were granted by his father in 1380."

This line of the western boundary of Buchan is confirmed by the statement of Mr. Alexander Hepburn, who, in his "Description of the Parish of Turriff, A.D. M.DCC.XXI.," says—"Up the river Divern, towards the S.W., stands the Manor of Muireisk, and a mile farther to the south lyes Laithers, the countrey-seat of General Gordon. Buthquhan reaches not a mile above this place."* Again, with reference to the south-eastern border, he says—"About a mile farther stands the Castle of Towie, belonging to the heirs of Barclay of Towie: it is situate on the river Ythan. Buthquhan runs up some two miles farther to the S.W., where stands the kirk of Auchterless. Buthquhan is narrow at this point: the distance betwixt Ythan and Divern does not exceed three miles." This carries the line much farther into the interior than is generally supposed.

If Willox, who wrote a "Description of the Parish of Old Deer," about 1723, can be trusted, the line of division was marked by a regular series of march-stones. "The Earl of Buchan," says he, "dying without heirs male, left two daughters, the one whereof was married to one of the predecessors of the Earl Marischall, and the other to the oldest son of the family of Marr; by which daughters both families got considerable additions to their estates; the Earl of Buchan's lands being divided between them. It seems the men of those times were not so nice upon land marches as now, for, upon the south side of Mormount—a great hill north of the church of Deer about six miles—there was erected a very high stone, vulgarly

* Scotch miles are here meant, one of which is equal to about a statute mile and a half.

known by the Hunt-stone of Mormount; to the south whereof, at five miles distance, and in view of the first, upon the top of a hill near the house of Pitfour, was another high stone, perpendicularly set up: and south of the second, a third stone, at Dens or Meikle Creichie, in view of the second: two miles distant, and south of the third, a fourth stone, at Parcock, and in view of the third, like a meridian line; the lands on each side falling, it seems, by lot to the two families above mentioned." Two of these stones were known as "The White Cow of Pitfour," and "The White Cow of Crichie." The line, if extended in the direction Willox indicated, would approach an immense rocky boulder on the hill of Elphin, near Turnerhall, and thence to near a point where the Ebrie joins the Ythan.

Buchan comprises the following parishes, which may be classified as the outer and the inner parishes respectively. Commencing at the mouth of the Ythan, and passing along the eastern border, the outer parishes are Forvie—overblown with sand, and the name as a parish almost forgotten—Slains, Cruden, and Peterhead; on the north-east and north, St. Fergus, Crimond, Lonmay, Rathen, Fraserburgh, Pitsligo, Aberdour, and Gamrie, which extends to the Deveron; on the western border, and between the Deveron and the Ythan, part of Forglen, including its church, King-Edward, and Turriff; and on the south-west and southern border, lying along the north-east bank of the Ythan, part of Auchterless, with its church; part of Fyvie, with its church; part of Methlick, part of Tarves, part of Ellon, with its church, and part of Logie-Buchan. The inner

parishes are Longside, Old Deer, New Deer, Strichen, Tyrie, and Monquhitter. Buchan, however, is now ordinarily regarded as comprising sixteen parishes—Aberdour, Crimond, Fraserburgh, Longside, Lonmay, New Deer, Old Deer, Peterhead, Pitsligo, Rathen, St. Fergus, Strichen, and Tyrie, constituting the Presbytery of Deer; and Cruden, Ellon, and Slains, in the Presbytery of Ellon. A number of *quoad sacra* parishes have been formed out of some of these parishes in recent years, including—Ardallie, Blackhill, Boddam, West Fraserburgh, Inverallochy, Kininmonth, Maud, New Pitsligo, East Peterhead, and Savoch. Territorially reckoned, and following the boundary line of the Ythan, Buchan also embraces portions of the parishes of Logie-Buchan, Methlick, and Tarves.

In the MS. volume attributed to the Countess of Erroll there is the following quaint account of the district—"This countrey is neither altogether high nor leuell, but rather a mixture of both. Towards the head it is somewhat an hilly countrey; but downward to the sea it is more low and plain, without any considerable risings, except that of Mormounth, a great hill within some six miles of Fraserburgh. That land which lyeth along the sea-coast is generally a clay soil; the rest, for the most part, is moss and moor, and full of bogis and marishes." A much more modern, but hardly less graphic description of Buchan has been furnished by John Hill Burton in "The Scot Abroad"—"The staple of the district is a flat cake of granite, which nature has clothed inland with heather and seaward with sand, although the indomitable perseverance of the inhabitants has

made many an acre smile in grain and pasture. . . . This unlovely district signally contradicts the theory that grand scenery is necessary to the production of great men. Perhaps it has not given much to the world in the shape of æsthetics or the lyre—though there is a set of curious poems in ‘broad Buchan.’ But it has supplied men of the clearest brains, the strongest arms, and the most determined wills, to a country in which these commodities have never been wanting.” The general character of the district is undulating. The land is mostly under cultivation, though there are many parts still covered with heath and not a few acres of peat-moss, furnishing the inhabitants with fuel; but the heath is being gradually reclaimed, and the peat-mosses are not so extensive as they were. The coast near Formartine is tame and flat, and much exposed to easterly gales. To the north of this, the coast becomes bold and precipitous, and is indented with sheltered and convenient harbours for fishing-boats and other small vessels.

The Mormoan, or Mormounth—Mormond is the modern term—is the only hill of any note in Buchan. The Mhor-moan of the Gaelic is said to be synonymous with the Ormond of the Irish—namely, The Great Moss; and Mormounth to be The Great Hill. The character of the hill is consistent with either the one or the other of these derivations. A considerable part of it is covered with heath and peat-bog. These, however, are gradually diminishing. Cultivation has already mastered two-thirds of the southern slope of the hill, and is slowly creeping up on the north. Mormond Hill (769 feet high) lies principally in the parishes of Strichen and Rathen.

There are two ranges of lesser hills : the one, springing as it were from Mormond as a root, and stretching westward, forming the hills of Caik, Turlundie, Culsh, Brucehill, and Corsegight, with the Waggle, the Deer, and the Windyhills ; the other range taking its rise at the Buchan Ness, stretching in the same direction, and embracing the Sterling and Plover hills, the hills of Skelmuir, Dudwick, Skilmafilly, Belnagoak, and Balquhindachy. The Sterling and Plover hills are two peaks of the same hill—the former overlooking the Buchan Ness Lighthouse, and famous for its granite quarries ; the latter nearly a mile westward, and marked by a cairn of stones, raised by the trigonometrical surveyors. They are also known as the Great and Little Sterling Hills ; the Great Sterling is in the parish of Peterhead, the Little Sterling in that of Cruden. It has been suggested, on what appears to be good authority, that the name is a corruption of Easterling—the eastern face of the district ; a derivation claimed for the term as applied to sterling money—the money of the Easterlings or Flemings. The general height of all the hills named is inconsiderable ; the hill of Culsh and Brucehill, both in the vicinity of the village of New Deer, and the hill of Dudwick, in the northern part of the parish of Ellon, are the highest. Bennachie, although not belonging to Buchan, is a conspicuous object from almost every part of it ; and though, in some places, at a distance of thirty or forty miles, the bold peak and graceful outline of this mountain are continually meeting the eye, so that it can hardly be dissociated from Buchan.

The rivers in Buchan are—the Ythan, bounding the

district on the south and south-west ; the Deveron, forming its western boundary from Turriff to Banff ; and the Ugie, intersecting it near the middle. Among the smaller streams are the following :—The water of Turriff, which rises in the Loch of Minwig, on the high lands near Windyheads, in the parish of Aberdour, flows past New Byth, and, after being joined by the Burn of Idoch, falls into the Deveron a little below the town of Turriff ; the Little Water of Gight—called, in the upper part of its course, the Burn of Aslead, and in the lower, the Black Water of Gight—a tributary of the Ythan, into which it empties itself about a mile below the old Castle or House of Gight ; the Ebrie, which also loses itself in the Ythan, about three miles above the village of Ellon ; the Water of Cruden, which falls into the German Ocean about half a mile to the south of Slains Castle ; and the Water of Philorth, which runs into the sea two miles east of Fraserburgh. There are a few still smaller streams, namely—the Burn of Forvie, flowing into the Ythan, about three miles from its mouth ; the Burn of Rattray or Strathbeg, passing into the loch of the same name ; the Burn of Aberdour, running into the Moray Firth near the old kirk ; the Quithle, traversing a glen of the same name, near Troup, and a burn which flows through Braca Den near Gamrie—both debouching into the Moray Firth ; and a romantic stream called the Burn of Kynnedor—now transformed into King-Edward—which runs from east to west through a wild and picturesque gorge near the old castle of that name, and joins the Deveron about a mile westward of the old kirk.

The principal public roads by which the district is intersected are:—1. The north road from Aberdeen, which enters Buchan at Ellon. At Birness, four miles north of Ellon, and twenty from Aberdeen, this road branches off in two directions—the one to the north, stretching on by Mintlaw to Fraserburgh; and the other, in a more easterly direction, passing through Cruden to Peterhead. 2. The road from Aberdeen to Banff. After skirting the district in a northerly direction, from the Kirk of Fyvie—24½ miles from Aberdeen—to Towie Castle, six miles farther on, it crosses the Ythan and enters Buchan, still stretching in a northerly direction to Turriff, 33 miles from Aberdeen; and passing the old Castle of Kynnedor, about five miles farther on, it continues its course till it reaches the bridge of Banff, where it crosses the Deveron, and leaves the district, at a distance of 47 miles from Aberdeen. 3. The road from Peterhead to Banff, running in a north-westerly direction. It passes through the village of Longside, six miles from Peterhead; crosses the south branch of the Ugie, three-quarters of a mile farther on, and intersects the Aberdeen and Fraserburgh road at Mintlaw, nine miles from Peterhead—passing within half a mile of Old Deer, which lies on the left, about a mile and a half from Mintlaw, and thence to New Pitsligo, 18 miles from Peterhead. It then stretches through a somewhat bleak region known as the Hills of Fife, leaving the village of New Byth on the left, and reaches the town of Macduff, about a mile from Banff. 4. The road from Peterhead to Fraserburgh. This pursues a more northerly direction than the last-mentioned,

keeping at no great distance from the sea. It leaves Peterhead by Queen Street, crosses the Ugie a little below Inverugie Castle; stretches along a highly-cultivated line of country till it reaches the village of St. Fergus, five miles from Peterhead; proceeding thence by the corner of the wood of Rattray, it passes close by the Kirk of Crimond, and joins the Aberdeen and Fraserburgh road at Cortes, near Cortes House, at about $13\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Peterhead, and four miles and a half from Fraserburgh.

5. A road from Fraserburgh, which, passing close by the Church of Tyrie, joins the Peterhead and Banff road, about a mile to the north of New Pitsligo, at the distance of 10 miles from Fraserburgh, and 17 from Banff. 6. A road from Fraserburgh to Strichen, branching northward from thence to Pitsligo, and then to Mintlaw in a south-easterly direction. There are also commutation roads in every direction.

Buchan is intersected by three sections of the Great North of Scotland Railway. The principal section is what was originally designated the Formartine and Buchan Railway. Sanctioned in 1858, it was opened to Mintlaw in 1861, to Peterhead in 1862, and to Fraserburgh in 1865; it was amalgamated with the Great North Railway in 1866. It enters the Buchan district at Ellon. Stretching northwards, till it reaches the valley of the Ebrie, through which it runs by Arnage, Auchnagatt, and Nethermuir, this line reaches Maud Junction, about twelve miles north of Ellon. Here it divides—one branch running eastward, by Old Deer, Mintlaw, and Longside, to Peterhead; the other continuing in a northerly direction, by Brucklay, Strichen, and Rathen,

to Fraserburgh. The Cruden section, opened in 1897, branches off from the Formartine and Buchan section at Ellon, and pursues a north-easterly course, through the parishes of Ellon, Slains, Cruden, and Peterhead to Boddam, three miles south of Peterhead. It is 15 miles long, and there are stations at Auchmacoy, Pitlurg, Hatton, Cruden Bay, and Longhaven. The Banff and Macduff section (opened to Turriff in 1857, and extended to Banff and Macduff in 1860), enters the Buchan district at the point where it crosses the Ythan, about a mile to the north of Fyvie Station, and proceeds thence by Turriff, Plaidy, and King-Edward, to Macduff and Banff.*

*For descriptions of Buchan and accounts of the early history of the district, see "View of the Diocese of Aberdeen" and other publications of the Spalding Club, in particular "Antiquities of the Shires of Aberdeen and Banff;" "A General View of the Agriculture of Aberdeenshire," by George Skene Keith, D.D.; "The Thanage of Fermartyn," by Rev. William Temple, D.D.; "The Castles of Buchan," by Rev. N. K. Macleod; "Buchan" [by James Ferguson, Younger of Kinmundy] in *Quarterly Review*, October, 1894; "Early Progress of Christianity in Buchan" by George Ogilvie, M.D.; "The Peat Mosses of Buchan" by Rev. James Peter; "Transactions of Buchan Field Club;" "A Book of the Parish of Deir," edited by Alexander Lawson, B.D., &c., &c. For discussions of the name "Buchan," see "Coast Names near Peterhead" by H. B. Mitchell in "Transactions of Buchan Field Club," 1887-90; "The Personal and Place Names in the Book of Deir" by John Gray in the "Transactions," 1892-95; and "On the Names Buchan, Buchanan, and Scrimgeour" by Sydney C. Couper in *Scottish Notes and Queries*, ix., 181. Reference may also be made to a series of papers entitled, "A New History of Buchan," by James Moir, that appeared in the *Peterhead Sentinel*, 1896-98, and another series, "A History of Peterhead," by James Thomas Findlay in the *Buchan Observer*, 1896-97.

CHAPTER II.

FORVIE—COLLIESTON—SLAINS.

THE preceding chapter will have conveyed a general idea of Buchan, its boundaries, extent, and character; and this and the following chapters will be devoted to detailed accounts of the district, these accounts being arranged in the order of an imaginary tour—a tour by high-roads and by-roads, by stream and dale—in the course of which note will be taken of the features of interest that present themselves, and of the events that, in bygone days, marked the several localities traversed.

Starting on this tour, as if proceeding from Aberdeen, Buchan is entered near its south-eastern corner, in the immediate vicinity of one of the most desolate and dreary regions in the district—at a point on the farm of Waterside of Slains, the property of Lady Gordon-Cathcart of Cluny. Close by is a bridge that crosses the Ythan—about a mile north of Newburgh—where there were previously a ford and a ferry-boat; the bridge was built in 1876 at a cost of £4000. Turning a little to the right, after crossing the bridge, a footpath will be found leading through the Sands of Forvie. This remarkable waste lies along the north bank of the Ythan, and extends to the village of Collieston, a distance of nearly four miles. Not far

from a salmon-fishing bothy, to which the footpath leads, are the foundations and a small part of the walls of what is said to have been the parish church of Forvie; but these ruins are so insignificant as to be almost indistinguishable amid the surrounding knolls. Situated on the farm of Knapsleask, on the estate of Pitlurg (formerly called Leask), about three miles northward of the ruins on the sands, are the ruins of another chapel, one gable of which and a Gothic window are still nearly entire. This chapel is said to have been the old parish church of Forvie, to have been erected in the end of the sixth or beginning of the seventh century, and to have been dedicated to St. Adamnan, Abbot of Icolmkill; it is now called St. Adamannan's Chapel. It is not easy, however, to account for its having been the parish church of Forvie; and perhaps the end of the thirteenth or beginning of the fourteenth century would be nearer the date of its erection than the sixth or seventh. A small octagonal-shaped font of granite, in good preservation, said to have been taken from the Church of Forvie, may be seen in the manse garden at Slains.

A former minister of Slains, Rev. Gavin Gib Dunn, was anxious to discover when the parish of Forvie was united to that of Slains, but so completely has the history of this remarkable locality been obliterated by the stream of time that he was wholly unsuccessful. "All my endeavours," says he, "to ascertain the era at which the parish of Forvie was annexed to that of Slains, have entirely failed." Nor is the period at which the parish was over-blown, or the cause by which the catastrophe was brought

about, very well authenticated. It is said that the calamity happened in the year 1688, and that it was the result of a furious storm from the east, of nine days' duration. In the "Poll Book of Aberdeenshire, 1696," Forvie does not appear as a separate parish, the pollable persons in Forvie being enumerated under the heading, "Paroch of Slains." Alexander Arbuthnot, sometime Principal of King's College and University, Aberdeen, was presented to the parsonage and vicarage of Logie-Buchan by James VI. in 1568. Logie-Buchan was at that time conjoined to Forvie and Slains, so he removed his residence to Forvie in the following year, and retained the benefice till his death in 1583. But where authentic history fails, popular tradition—aided probably by a love of the marvellous—comes to our assistance. The traditionary tale of "The Sands of Forvie" is, that, about four hundred years ago, the proprietor to whom the parish then belonged, died, leaving his lands to his three daughters. In that lawless age, the helpless orphans were, through fraud and violence, despoiled of their inheritance. Being thrown upon the world, they, in the bitterness of their grief, prayed to heaven to avenge their wrongs, and to make the fair fields of which they had been so unjustly defrauded worthless to the ravager and his posterity. An old rhyme embodies the malediction of the fair sufferers—

" Yf evyr maydenis malysone
 Dyd licht upon drye lande,
 Let nocht bee funde in Furvy'e's glebys
 Bot thystl, bente, and sande."

Time passed on, and still the prayer was unheard; but at length a furious storm arose, which raged without

intermission for nine days. The maidens' weird was accomplished. Such is the tradition: the fact is certain—the parish is a sandy desert. Mr. William Ferguson of Kinmundy, LL.D., gives this variant of the tradition—"The heiress of what were then fertile lands was abducted at the suggestion of an avaricious uncle, who on her disappearance succeeded to the estate. One very sensational account has it that the ruthless despoiler placed his unfortunate victim in a boat, and sent it out to sea, and that the last sound heard from it was a wail, the burden of which is preserved in the distich—'Yf evyr maydenis malysone, &c.'" A writer in the "Aberdeen Magazine" for May, 1832, gives the following graphic description of the place—"The scene was more in accordance with the desolation of an African wilderness than the blue hills and green valleys of my native Caledonia. No trace of human habitation could be seen; huge piles of driven sand, stretching for miles in every direction, presenting no vestiges of life or vegetation but the bent under our feet, and, it may be, a stray sea-gull over our heads, might have led us to realise the feelings of loneliness and desolation, which the traveller might be supposed to experience in the vast desert of Zahara."*

*That a great part of the parish was overblown before 1688 may be asserted; for, in the MS. ascribed to the Countess of Erroll, of a date anterior to that year, it is said that the parish of Forvie "is wholly overblown with sand." It is said also that in a book, entitled "The Acts of the Church," printed in black letter, in London, about the year 1570, the author of which is a Mr. Masson, who designates himself "Preacher of the Gospel," the remark is made that "the folks of Forvie suffered this heavy judgment because they were Papists and grossly ignorant."

Leaving this scene of wild sterility at the Preventive Station, opposite which is the Whiteness Hotel, occupying a commanding situation overlooking both sea and land, the picturesque fishing-village of Collieston is reached, straggling over the braes and among the cliffs which encircle its romantic bay. Scarcely a quarter of a mile northwards from the village are the parish church and manse of Slains—modern buildings

The accuracy of the quotation, however, cannot be vouched for any more than the credibility of the following traditions, still current in various parts of the district—namely, that on 10th August, 1413, Aberdeen was visited by a storm of wind and rain from the east, which lasted many days, and in violence far surpassed any thing of the kind the oldest inhabitant had ever witnessed. The sea heaved in vast quantities of sand, from the Dee northwards, but especially about the mouth of the Don, which, for some time, was entirely blocked up, damaging many houses in and about the city. Along the coast to the northward, great damage was done, and many lives were lost, by the falling of houses and drifting of the sand. The overblowing of the parish of Forvie is ascribed to this storm. Another tradition in reference to the same storm states that this tempest continued for nine days without intermission. A small vessel, freighted with slates, had just arrived in the Bay of Rattray, where she lay at anchor during the storm. In the meantime, the sea had thrown up a solid bank of sand across the mouth of the bay, rendering the ship completely landlocked; and what was formerly a beautiful bay is now the Loch of Strathbeg. These traditions acquire probability from two historical statements relating to a tremendous hurricane in Iceland, an earthquake in Calabria, and a disturbance of Vesuvius on the day mentioned, 10th August, 1413. A more modern and much more rational theory of the formation of the Sands of Forvie, however, is that it was caused, like the Sands of Culbin, near the mouth of the Findhorn, by the drifting of sand during comparatively long periods. (See "Transactions of Buchan Field Club," 1887-90.)

of no particular pretensions. The church was built in 1800. "Slanis," says the author of the "View of the Diocese," "hath for its tutelar saint, Ternan, chief bishop of the Picts." The Saint's Well, a fine spring in the minister's garden, is said to be within the boundary of the ancient church lands. In the churchyard is a ruined aisle, part of the ancient church of St. Ternan, which was for some time used as the burying-place of the Earls of Erroll. The first of the family to be buried here was Francis, the eighth earl—his funeral took place at night, by torchlight; the last to be buried (in 1758) was the Countess Mary—a slab of blue limestone bears an inscription in Latin to her memory and that of her husband, Alexander Hay of Delgaty.*

Near Collieston, in one of the creeks, is a pool, called by the fishermen St. Catharine's Dub, where tradition has always affirmed that the "St. Catharine," one of the ships of the Spanish Armada, was wrecked in 1588. This story receives some support from the fact that, in 1855, Rev. Mr. Rust, parish minister of Slains, succeeded in raising one of the guns from the

* The following translation of the inscription is given by Mr. Jervise—"Under this tombstone are laid, not gold and silver nor treasures of any kind, but the bodies of a most affectionate pair, Mary, Countess of Errol, and Alexander Hay of Delgaty, who lived in wedlock peacefully and lovingly for twenty-seven years, and who desired to be buried side by side; and they earnestly entreat that this stone may not be removed nor their remains disturbed, but that they may be suffered to rest together in the Lord until He shall summon them to the happy resurrection unto life, to which they look forward, trusting in the mercy of God and the merits of the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ."

pool. This gun was complete in every respect, and was not even corroded. The quality of the gun metal was such, that competent judges, after a severe test, were disposed to pronounce it malleable iron. Mr. Rust had this gun mounted on a carriage, and for long it stood at the manse of Slains; it is now at Haddo House. The extreme length of the gun is 7 feet 9 inches; from the muzzle to the touch-hole, 6 feet 9 inches. The diameter of the bore is about $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches. The ball and wadding are in a perfect state of preservation; the weight of the ball is 4 lbs. Six cannon, in all, have been got out of St. Catharine's Dub. Lieutenant Paterson, R.N., then of the Coastguard Station, Collieston, raised two in 1840; Mr. Rust's was raised, as just mentioned, in 1855; a diving party employed by the Countess of Erroll, in 1876, raised two and an anchor, which were sent by the Countess to Her Majesty at Balmoral; and the largest and most complete cannon in every respect was got on 25th August, 1880, and is now in the possession of a London firm.

Three showers of black rain fell in Slains in 1862-63. The first and second, in January 1862 and May 1862, were accompanied by pumice stones; the third, in October 1863, was not so marked. Rev. Mr. Rust, in a little work on the subject, attributed the pumice stones and the black, sulphurous, carbonaceous, acidiferous substances contained in the showers to eruptions of Vesuvius.

There are several caves on the coast of Slains, in which some fine specimens of petrifications are to be found. One of these, called "Hell's Lum," is said to be upwards of 200 feet in length, and, in some

places, about 30 feet high. There is one fissure about 30 yards in length, 4 feet in width, and from 20 to 30 feet in height, which runs right through a round hill near the manse, composed of solid rock, covered with a layer of earth two or three feet thick. Through this tunnel the sea, during an easterly storm, rushes with terrific violence. "The chief celebrity of these caves," says Rev. Gavin Dunn, in the "New Statistical Account of Scotland," "arose from their having afforded excellent places of concealment for contraband goods, in the 'high and palmy state' of smuggling, which was carried on here to an almost incredible extent." This refers to a period about the end of the last and the commencement of the present century; but so little was the feeling of disgrace attached to this demoralising traffic, that there was scarcely a family along the coast, from the Don to the Spey, that was not more or less embarked in it. Political motives afforded a convenient colouring to this contraband trade, and were supposed to invest it with an honourable bearing. "Smuggling" was disgraceful; but "free-trading," by which the House of Hanover was to suffer, was exalted to the dignity of a political principle—it was "a spoiling of the enemy."

Collieston, the neighbourhood of which abounds in caves and creeks, afforded a favourable centre for these contraband transactions; and, through the agency of a single individual, selected for his sagacity and unobtrusive demeanour, the extensive smuggling of the district was quietly conducted, while oaths, aliases, sobriquets, and all the other methods of the craft were, as a "political necessity," in active operation. The

usual places of concealment were the natural caves of which mention has been made; but where these did not exist, or were considered not sufficiently safe, artificial hiding-places were constructed along the coast, and frequently in the sands. They were formed either of bricks or of planks of wood, capable of containing from 60 to 200 or 300 tubs of gin. The place selected for "a concealment" was generally near some knoll or hollow, where the farm-servants and fisherwomen—who were all employed when there was a "run"—might, in the meantime, deposit the kegs or bales which they brought from the lugger, it being a rule among the free-traders to let none, except those directly concerned, know the exact place of concealment. This "concealment," which had been previously measured off from some particular point, was so constructed that the roof should be at least six feet below the surface—that being the length of the excise officers' searching-spears. Thus the exact distance and direction of the land-mark were well known, and could be found even in the darkest night. Those employed to open the "concealment" were provided with two pieces of sail-cloth. On the one, the dry sand at the surface was deposited; on the other, that which lay deeper. The entrance to the pit was at one side, and to reach it, a depth of eight or nine feet had to be dug. The assistants having been discharged—generally with a keg of gin or a package of tea—the "partners," with their own hands, transferred the treasure from its temporary resting-place to the "concealment." When safely stowed away, the damp sand was thrown back, and then the dry, on the surface—the footprints being carefully

obliterated, so that the exciseman might pass the spot immediately afterwards without having his suspicions excited.

It was generally known about what time the "Crooked Mary"—a noted lugger—might be expected with a cargo. This vessel was commanded by a man, as bold, astute, and adventurous as Dick Hatteraick himself. At Slains, Cruden, Peterhead, and elsewhere along the coast, parties were on the outlook throughout the course of the day. The skipper, having brought his vessel within sight of land, gave the preconcerted signal; and having lingered in the offing till this was answered, he stood out to sea till nightfall. In the meantime the intelligence was conveyed to those concerned, and all ordinary business was immediately suspended. Men might then be seen stealing along from house to house; or a fisher-girl would hurry to the neighbouring village, and deliver a brief message, which, to a bystander, would sound very like nonsense, but which, nevertheless, was well understood by the person to whom it was given. Soon after, a plaid or blanket might be seen spread out, as if to dry, on the top of a peat-stack. Other beacons, not calculated to attract general notice, but sufficiently understood by the initiated, soon made their appearance, telegraphing the news from place to place. As soon as the evening began to close in, the "Crooked Mary" might be observed rapidly approaching the land, and occasionally giving out signals, indicating the creek into which she meant to run. There are many amusing anecdotes still extant of the hairbreadth escapes of the free-traders, and of the many devices adopted to divert the attention of the "gaugers;" and this account of

the so-called free-trading would not be complete without some mention of a tragic event connected with it, the memory of which long survived in the district.

On 18th December, 1798, a lugger had succeeded in landing her cargo. In the course of the following day, information of this event, together with that of the intended transfer of the cargo to the interior during the succeeding night, was conveyed to the exciseman. Anderson, the officer in question, having secured the assistance of two others, proceeded in the evening to a spot about a quarter of a mile north of the Kirk of Slains, where the carts with the booty were expected to pass. Soon after the officers had taken up their position, the carts were heard approaching, but, as usual, preceded by several men in advance to "clear the way." One of these, Philip Kennedy, a man of undaunted courage and resolution, was the first to encounter the officers. Seeing the danger, he seized hold, successively, of two of them, whom he succeeded in keeping down under his powerful grasp, calling to his companions to secure the third. But his companions, possessing neither the courage nor the devotedness of poor Kennedy, decamped, and hid themselves among the tall broom which, at that time, clothed the neighbouring braes. Anderson, the officer still at liberty, attacked Kennedy, who was holding on to his prisoners, and, with his sword, inflicted repeated wounds on his head; but Kennedy still kept his grasp on the prostrate officers, and Anderson was observed to hold up his sword to the moon, as if to ascertain whether he was using the edge, and then, with one desperate stroke, cleft open

the poor fellow's skull. Strange to say, Kennedy, streaming with blood, was able to reach Kirkton of Slains, a distance of nearly a quarter of a mile, where, in the course of a few minutes, he expired. His last words were—"If all had been as true as I was, the goods would have been safe, and I should not have been bleeding to death." The officers were tried for the murder of Kennedy before the High Court of Justiciary, in Edinburgh, but were acquitted. In the churchyard of Slains, close to the entrance gateway, a plain stone marks the grave of poor Kennedy, bearing the following brief inscription—"In memory of Philip Kennedy, who lived sometime in Ward of Slains, who died the 19th December, 1798. Aged 38 years."*

About a mile northwards from the Kirk are the ruins of the old Castle of Slains, overlooking the German Ocean. It belonged originally to the Earls of Buchan, and afterwards became, for many generations, the seat of the noble family of Erroll. It is doubtful whether the castle owed its origin to Fergus, Earl of Buchan, or to the Comyns who afterwards succeeded to the earldom. The situation is very striking—bold, precipitous rocks, and steep braes; a fine bay on the north, and a broad

*Not improbably, the adventures of the "Crooked Mary" inspired "The Crookit Meg: a Story of the Year One" by John Skelton (published 1880)—a book containing animated descriptions of the coast of Buchan between Peterhead and Collieston. "The Crookit Meg" has since been reproduced in "The Table-Talk of Shirley" (Second Series, 1897), in which there are many evident allusions to Peterhead, under the designation of "Balmawhapple."

sweep inland on the south, over which the rocks tower to a magnificent height, form the principal features of the place. The ruins—consisting of two sides of a solitary tower—stand out boldly on the brow of a peninsular rock. There is every appearance of the tower having been protected by a deep fosse, with a drawbridge; and parts of the outworks are still visible. These huge remains of massive masonry of run-work, thick enough to admit of ample room for a passage in the walls, indicate the original strength of the building. The castle was destroyed in 1594, when James VI. marched into the north, after the battle of Glenlivet, to reduce the powerful Earls of Huntly and Erroll to obedience; but even in its decay, this bold and interesting remnant of feudal greatness still retains an attitude of gaunt superiority over the dwarfish habitations that have arisen around its base. A pewter plate, of a somewhat rude shape, bearing the stamp of part of the Erroll arms, was found, in 1857, not far from the ruins of the old castle. It bears the mark of considerable antiquity, and had probably lain there since the demolition of the castle. The plate is now in the possession of the Earl of Erroll, at Slains Castle.

In close vicinity, to the north of the castle, is a copious spring of beautifully clear water—always a desideratum in the neighbourhood of a feudal residence. At the northern extremity of the romantic little bay into which this spring discharges itself, there is a sort of table land, on which are three small mounds, with the vestiges of a fourth, regularly formed, and rising in the centre from eighteen inches to two feet above the surface. These, with two others of a similar

description on the very brow of the steep eminence which overlooks this plateau, were opened in 1858, under the auspices of General Moore, but nothing was found in them.

On the farm of Mains of Slains, and at a little distance westward from the old castle, and on the highest part of an elevated ridge, was the Tap o' Law, or seat of justice ; near which is a lower ridge, known under the somewhat equivocal title of the Crooked Justice. The Tap o' Law was also probably used as one of a range of beacon hills, including among others the Broad Law, the High Law, and the Kip Law. The peaks of these Laws were of artificial construction, and generally about ten or twelve feet above the natural surface of the hill. Unfortunately, the Tap o' Law, like many other monuments of the same kind, was demolished several years ago. A mile westward from this Law is the Gallow Hill, a low-lying eminence between the farmhouse of The Feu and the Meikle Loch. When ploughed up several years ago, a quantity of human bones was discovered near the supposed site of the gallows. The Gallow Hill probably derived its name from being used as a place of execution, and on it several poor wretches were burned for "vsing of sorcerie, charmes and weichecraft;" several records are still extant of the trial of "Slains witches" in the years 1596 and 1597. A finely polished celt of chalcedonic flint, now in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh, was found in 1873 at Ferny Brae, Lochlundie ; and cists, flint arrow heads, and hundreds of flint-flakes have been found in the neighbourhood.

About half a mile from the old castle, proceeding along the face of the steep grassy brae—whence a most striking view of the castle ruins may be had—is the Dropping Cave of Slains. This remarkable cave is among the chief natural curiosities of the district. The Countess of Erroll, in her historical notice of Buchan, says—"The things most remarkable in Buchan seem to be—1. The Parish of Forvie, which is wholly overblown with sand; 2. The Dropping Cave of Slains; 3. Bullers-Buchan near the Bownes; 4. The Well of Peterhead; 5. The multitude of Selchs that come in at Strabegge; 6. Eagles which build in the Craigs of Pennan." The entrance to the Dropping Cave is low, but the interior is lofty and capacious, and was formerly remarkable for the number and beauty of its stalactites; these, however, have of late years greatly diminished.

The two principal landed proprietors of Slains are Lady Gordon-Cathcart of Cluny, and Mr. John Gordon-Cumming of Pitlurg. The castle and greater part of the parish continued in the hands of the Erroll family until 1791, when the property was sold to Mr. A. Callander of Crichton, M.P., by whose heir, Sir James, it was sold to Mr. Gordon of Cluny about 1815-16. In 1731 the Leask and Birness portions of Slains came to Dr. James Gordon of Pitlurg and Hilton, through his marriage with the heiress, Barbara Cumming; their son assumed the name of Gordon-Cumming. The old name of Leask was first changed to Gordon Lodge and afterwards to Pitlurg, in memory of the old Banffshire property of the family. Pitlurg House, three miles north-west of Collieston, was built in 1828.

The late Dr. William Robinson Pirie, Principal of Aberdeen University, was born at the manse of Slains, his father having been parish minister. There is an endowed school in the parish, the Bruce-Hay Girls' School, "erected and endowed by Margaret Bruce or Hay, in memory of her husband, James Hay, cooper and fishcurer in Collieston, and of her brothers, William Bruce, farmer in Mains of Slains, and James Bruce, farmer in Mill of Broggan, 1867.' On Brownhill farm, the late Mr. Gordon of Cluny introduced the steam-plough into Aberdeenshire, 24th April, 1872.*

* What may be termed the "inland" portion of Slains is described in a subsequent chapter (XXII.) on "The Lower Ythan." Authorities:—"Aberdeen Breviary," "Collections for History of the Shires of Aberdeen and Banff," "New Statistical Account of Scotland," "The Sands of Forvie" by W. Ferguson, of Kinmundy, LL.D., in "Transactions of Buchan Field Club, 1887-90;" "The Doom of Forvie," by Rev. William Lillie, D.D., in "Selections from the Aberdeen Magazine;" "From the Brig o' Balgownie and the Mouth of the River Don to the Bullers o' Buchan," by James Dalgarno (3rd Ed., 1896); "The Scottish Black Rain Showers and Pumicestone Shoals of the years 1862 and 1863," by Rev. James Rust (Blackwoods, 1864); "Notes on the Parish of Slains and Forvie in the Olden Days," by James Dalgarno, 1876; "Epitaphs and Inscriptions from Burial Grounds and Old Buildings in the North East of Scotland," by the late Andrew Jervise, Vol. ii.; Temple's "Thanage of Fermartyn;" Macleod's "Castles of Buchan;" and "Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland" (New Edition). See also "Wrecks of Vessels Belonging to the Armada" in *Scottish Notes and Queries*, i., 158, and ii., 12; and "Notes on the Parish of Slains and Forvie in the Olden Days," by James Dalgarno, *Scottish Notes and Queries*, ii.

CHAPTER III.

CRUDEN—THE BATTLE OF CRUDEN.

TWO miles farther along the coast, the border of the parish of Cruden is reached ; and half a mile farther on, Cave Arthur. This cave is inaccessible at high water. It is larger than the Dropping Cave of Slains, and quite dry. It was formerly used as a place of concealment in the days of smuggling, and has since been occasionally occupied by gipsy vagrants. Some vestiges of a fireplace still exist. At a full half-mile northward from this point is the fishing village of Whinnyfold. Here the rocks abruptly change from gneiss to granite, and afford an excellent field of study for the geologist.

To the north of Whinnyfold is the Bay of Cruden. The beautiful beach, which follows the sweep of the bay, extends from the Skares—a group of prominent rocks running out about half a mile into the sea—to the Water of Cruden, a distance of nearly two miles. Near the centre is the Hawklaw, a lofty headland, which commands a magnificent view of the German Ocean, extending, on the one hand, to the Bay of Aberdeen, and, on the other, to Buchan Ness Lighthouse, a stretch of nearly thirty miles. Below is a sweeping beach, with sands as smooth and firm as the floor of a cathedral ; on each side are extensive braes and links, exuberant with wild flowers ; on the left, in the middle distance, is Slains Castle towering

over the cliffs. These views, combined with the pure and exhilarating air, constitute this one of the most pleasing spots on the coast.

On the north bank of the Water of Cruden is the village of Port Erroll. It was formerly a small fishing village, called the Ward of Cruden, but the late (the 18th) Earl of Erroll constructed a harbour here in 1875-80, at a cost of £8000, at the same time changing the name of the village to Port Erroll. The harbour consists of an outer and an inner basin, the latter 300 feet long, and 150 to 175 feet wide. Port Erroll has now a station on the Cruden Railway, designated Cruden Bay; and the Railway Company (the Great North) has made great efforts to popularise the place as a summer and holiday resort, having erected a large hotel, and laid out a golf course, and provided other attractions to draw visitors to what is occasionally termed "the Brighton of the North." The hotel is a prominent feature in the landscape, consisting of a centre block of five storeys, surmounted by a tower 98 feet high, with two projecting wings. It is designed in the baronial style of architecture, and is built of Peterhead granite. About a mile west is St. James's Episcopal Church, standing on a considerable elevation. It is a plain, but on the whole correct, specimen of the Early English style of ecclesiastical architecture. The entrance is at the west end, under the tower, which is surmounted by a spire 90 feet high. The chancel is lighted by three narrow lancets, filled with stained glass by Wailes of Newcastle; and there is a handsome font of polished granite, presented by the architect, Mr. William Hay. The church was built by subscription,

under the liberal patronage of the 17th Earl of Erroll and his Countess, in 1843, and is dedicated to St. James the Less. A chancel was added about twenty years ago, the greater part of the money required for the addition having been left for the purpose by Mrs. Pratt, widow of the author of this work—Dr. Pratt was the incumbent of St. James's from 1825 to 1869. The spire, rising to an elevation of nearly 300 feet above the level of the sea, is a well-known landmark to coasting traders and fishermen. In 1864, a bell weighing 6 cwt. 2 qrs. 20 lbs., of fine tone, by Taylor of Loughborough, was put up in the steeple, at a cost of £80.

A quarter of a mile above Port Erroll is the New Bridge over the Water of Cruden, the present channel of which was cut in 1798, previous to which date the water discharged itself into the sea through the ravine which runs along the north side of the Ward Hill. Half a mile farther up the Water of Cruden at Nethermill, there is another bridge, of one arch, where the stream passes through a narrow rocky gorge, the scenery of which is exceedingly wild and pretty; the jagged rocks, the trees, the braes covered with wild flowers, and the broken water-course, presenting a combination of much beauty and interest. About half a mile above Nethermill, the stream is again crossed by the Old Bridge, built, in 1697, by Dr. James Drummond, Bishop of Brechin.* This is a picturesque bridge of

* Bishop Drummond was consecrated in the chapel of Holyrood on Christmas day 1684. He was deprived of his bishopric at the Revolution in 1688. From this period till the time of his death, in 1695, he resided principally at Slains

one arch; it has the arms of the Bishop and those of the Earl of Erroll on two tables built into the south wall. In 1763, this bridge was widened about two feet by the 14th Earl of Erroll. The additions do not rest on a regular foundation, but on rude corbels, near the spring of the arch. The bridge was formerly called "The Bishop's Bridge." Not far from this bridge are the Parish Church and manse. The former was erected in 1777, the outer walls being all built, it is said, from the Grey Stone of Ardendraught—a huge boulder of granite, on the Oldtown farm, upon which, from time immemorial, "Hallow Fires" had been lighted. The church is a plain, substantial edifice. It was enlarged in 1834, and two circular towers, of no particular style, were added. It lies low, and is well sheltered by trees.

On the Disruption of the Church of Scotland in 1843, it is said that about one-half of the congregation "went out." In the following summer, they built a church for themselves, near the Mill of Hatton—a broad, low building, without any architectural pretension. This was replaced by a new church, with tower, about 1885, a clock and bell being added in 1895. There is a comfortable manse, a school, and master's house, forming the centre of a rapidly increasing village, which was originally named the Free Kirkton of Cruden, but is now better known as Hatton of Cruden. It may be mentioned that there is a Congregational Chapel in Port Erroll.

About a quarter of a mile west of the parish church

Castle, the residence of the Earl of Erroll, who had married his relative, the Lady Anne Drummond. He bequeathed his library to his noble host, and dedicated to the church of Cruden two silver chalices—the whole parish, at that time, adhering to Episcopacy. He was buried in the aisle of the church.

is the Gallow Hill, an eminence on the farm of Ardiffery, where, in feudal times, criminals were executed; and nearly opposite to this spot there is a deep pool in the Water of Cruden, where others suffered by drowning. The Moat or Meet Hill is an artificial mound on the same farm, about half a mile westward from the Gallow Hill. It was nearly conical, about 10 or 12 feet above the natural surface of the ground, and 9 or 10 yards in diameter. It was erected on the highest and most westerly eminence, nearly due north of the present farmhouse of Ardiffery. "Meet" or "moot" hills were the seats of justice in olden days, when every lord of the manor had absolute jurisdiction over his vassals—commonly known as "the power of Pot and Gallows." The custom of holding courts in the open air, and on elevated spots, is said to have been of Teutonic origin, and probably had for its object the more public administration of justice.

The High Law, about two miles south of the Moat Hill, and near the southern boundary of the parish, is a small hill rising to the height of about 300 feet above the level of the sea, and about a mile inland. It is rather steep on the southern and eastern acclivities, and overlooks broad fields which lie between it and the rocky seaboard. On the top of this hill is an artificial mound, raised about ten feet above the natural surface of the hill, which had probably been higher. Its diameter is about 30 feet. The circumference had been marked by a rude, low fence, or dyke of stone, part of which has been removed. The mound itself is of a conical shape, and is said to have been used for beacon-fires. It commands a fine view of the mountains in the upper part of the county, and

part of the Grampian range, as well as of the other laws and mounds in the more immediate vicinity—the Broad Law, the Kip Law, Mullonachie, the Hawk Law, and, when they existed, the mounds on the Deery Hill, the Moat Hill of Ardiffery, and the hills of Aldie. On being opened under the supervision of General Moore, in 1857, a stone cairn was discovered two or three feet below the surface. At the depth of about 9 or 10 feet was a cist formed of thin flagstones, with a larger one on the top, covering the whole grave. The cist was 4 feet 2 inches long, 1 foot 10 inches wide, and 2 feet deep. There were indications of the cairn having been previously examined, and, as was to be expected, the cist was empty. The direction of the grave was due north and south, which seems to indicate that it had existed anterior to the introduction of Christianity.

About half a mile above the Old Bridge, the Water of Cruden is again spanned by a bridge of one arch, over which passes the high road from Aberdeen to Peterhead. At this point the Water of Cruden receives one of its principal tributaries from the hills and mosses of Aldie and Moreseat. About 200 yards north from the points of confluence, and immediately west of the farmhouse of Midmill, is the Knockie Hillock, an abrupt eminence, thought to be partially artificial. It is said that a crofter, about the middle of last century, when digging for the foundations of a cottage on the western slope, came upon one or more of those subterranean structures known as Picts' Houses. The Upper Mill stands in a rocky gorge, about a quarter of a mile above the bridge, one of the wildest spots along the course of the stream.

The Water of Cruden takes its rise in the parish of Old Deer. A few hundred yards from its source, it becomes the boundary between the parishes of Old Deer and Ellon. It is here known as "The Mellin Burn"* Its first tributary, near Auquharney, also has its springs in the parish of Old Deer, at the Bog of Ardallie, a mile and a half above the point of confluence. It is a small clear stream, winding along the valley; but it is—or, rather, was—a sadly harassed brook, being employed, in its short course of seven miles, to turn the following mills:—1. Mill of Auchleuchries, near the junction of its two original streams—the one from the Bog of Ardallie, the other from the mosses of Auchleuchries; 2. The Carding Mill of Auquharney; 3. The Mill of Hatton; 4. The Upper Mill; 5. The Mid Mill; 6. The Mill of Ardendraught; 7. The Nether Mill. Several of these mills, however, are now among the things that were. The burn abounds in deep pools and shallow rapids—the delight of the angler; and, in spite of the damage done to it by thorough-draining, it is still a good deal frequented by the lovers of "the gentle art."

Along the hilly ridge which bounds the parish of Cruden on the north, there are immense quantities of chalk flints, water-worn, and abounding with fossil remains. The ridge is bare and moorish, covered with peat bog and heather. In many places the remains of large trees are to be found, embedded in the moss, telling us that what is now a barren waste was, at one

* It is said that there are traces of a road passing along the Den of Mellin, which extended from Old Slains Castle to Delgaty Castle, two seats of the Erroll family.

time, a leafy forest. At Moreseat, on the southern declivity of this range—which takes its rise at the Great Sterling Hill, and stretches onwards by the Plover, or Little Sterling, the Stony Hill, the Hill of Aldie, the Hill of Moreseat, and the Burnt Hill—there is a deposit of green sandstone, distinctly stratified, of a greyish colour, with a mixture of comminuted shells. This deposit, which belongs to the Cretaceous period, abounds in fossils, over a hundred different specimens of which may be seen in the Museum at Peterhead. Whether this deposit is *in situ* or has been drifted to its present position has not yet been accurately determined. The British Association, in 1895, made a small grant for the purpose of solving the problem by excavation, but the experiment was rather inconclusive: a paper on the results obtained was read at the meeting of the British Association at Toronto in 1897:

It was in the vicinity of the Bay of Cruden that the Danes are said to have fought their final battle against the Scots, and to have been completely discomfited. The date of the battle is assigned as 1012, during the reign of Malcolm II. The contest is said to have extended to about four miles into the interior, on the south side of the Water of Cruden; but the hottest part of the engagement is supposed to have been on the level plain skirting the bay, still locally known as the "Battle Fauld." An account of the battle is given by Dr. Abercromby in his "Martial Atchievements of the Scots Nation;" and, according to it—"Malcolm not only caused to bury the dead bodies of the Danes with honour and decency, but also commanded a chapel to be built on

the spot, which, to perpetuate the memory of the thing, he dedicated to St. Olaus (or St. Olave), the tutelar saint or patron both of Denmark and Norway. Some vestiges of that old chapel were to be seen in the days of Boethius; but it being in a great measure overlaid and drowned by the sands, which, on that coast, the winds frequently raise, and are blown in a tempestuous manner over houses and fields, another was erected in a more convenient place, and is still to be seen; as are also the huge and almost gigantic bones of those that fell in the battle of *Croju-Dane*, or *Crudane* (for so is the village near to which it was fought called to this very day), that is, *the death or slaughter of the Danes.*"*

* Cruden was of old called Invercruden, that is, Cruden near the mouth of a stream. The name is said by some to be derived from *Croch Dain*, *Croja Danorum*, *Croja Dain*, or *Crushain*, all of which are said to denote the slaughter of the Danes. Others again are of opinion that it was called Cruden or Cruthen, from its forming part of the ancient Cruthenica or Pictish kingdom, so called from Cruthen, the first king of the Picts. "Cruidhne" in Gaelic means either Pict or tinker. Rev. Mr. Rust, of Slains, was of opinion that "Cruden is derived from *Cro*, a circle, a fold; and *Dun* an eminence, a rock, a hill—genitive *Duin*, of or on an eminence, &c.; *Cro Duin*—*Cruden*, the circle on the hill." About a mile and a half west from the parish church—half a mile westward from the Moat Hill—there used to be a Druidical circle, consisting of seven or eight upright stones. These were removed by the tenant in 1831 to make way for "improvements." The farm was named "Stones," the only circumstance left to perpetuate the memory of "the Druidical Temple of Cruden." The circle was on the flat top of the eminence, about 80 or 90 yards south-east from the present farm-house. According to Mr. Rust, the name of the parish may be traced to this circle.

The site of the second church just referred to is still plainly discernible. It stood on a knoll, on the south bank of the water, about 150 yards westward of the new bridge, and within 50 yards of the stream. As late as 1837, a portion of the east end, and the foundation stones of the walls remained, but were then all demolished and carried away as material for making a new line of road in the neighbourhood. Around the site of this church a burying-ground may still be traced, and within 100 yards west of the spot a few stones mark a grave distinguished for centuries by a large blue marble slab, which, about a hundred years ago, was removed to the parish churchyard, where it still remains. It bears no inscription; but cavities in the surface indicate that it had originally been enriched with monumental brasses. The popular belief is that a Prince of Denmark, leader of the Danes, had been killed in the battle, and was buried here.

On 28th October, 1857, Major-General Moore, who was on a visit at Slains Castle, superintended the opening of several graves around this chapel and within its precincts. In the centre of what had been the nave of the church, about 4 feet of sand was removed, when what appears to have been the floor was discovered, consisting of a mixture of clay and lime of about 4 inches in thickness. Two feet below this were found, embedded in sand, a quantity of human remains, consisting of thigh, arm, and collar-bones and vertebræ, all in a more or less decayed state. Three skulls were also discovered, lying side by side, each supported by two stones about the size of a man's head. One of these skulls was remarkable

for its great size and thickness, measuring about seven inches across the crown—another, scarcely less remarkable for the low forehead and large development of the cerebellum. A jawbone, too, was found, in which the teeth had no cavity but were perfectly smooth and flat. Part of a terra-cotta lamp lay embedded in the sand within the chapel. In the following year, General Moore made a further search in the old chapel. Digging down about two feet below the floor already mentioned, he came upon a second floor similar to the first; and in the sand below he found a skull more decayed than any of those that had formerly been discovered. Several weeks later, Mr. Charles Dalrymple found a large well-developed skull, in good preservation, at a considerable depth, on the north side of the altar. A large number of skulls and quantities of human bones were found in the course of excavating a trench in the immediate neighbourhood, in connection with the formation of a water supply for Port Erroll in 1894.

The numerous tumuli, indicating the graves of the slain, were kept inviolate till about 1828, when the greater part of the consecrated field was invaded by the plough, and the long-respected resting-places of the slain were rudely disturbed. There can be no doubt that the consecrated field had been cultivated previous to its being overblown by sand. Mr. Murray, a former tenant of a considerable portion of these lands, trenched down 26 acres of sand. He dug down several feet till he found the old ploughed ridges, put the sand in the bottom of the trench, and raised the old soil to the surface. In this immediate

district, there have been discovered several different modes of sepulture:—1st, where the bodies had been doubled up and deposited in a rude stone cist, without much covering of earth, as found on the farm of Nethermill, or in a similar cist, with a cairn upon it, and a covering of earth, over the whole, as at the High Law and Broad-muir; 2nd, where the bodies had been burned, and the ashes deposited in an urn, such as was found in the Knockie Hillock, near the house of Mid-mill; and 3rd, where the bodies had been buried, according to the Christian mode, in a place set apart and consecrated for the purpose, as that around the old chapel of St. Olave on the Links.

Along the whole range of the supposed battlefield, relics and warlike implements have occasionally been found. In 1817 a neck-chain and battle-axe were found in a tumulus on a low-lying hillock at the base of the eastern slope of the Deer, or Deery Hill of Ardiffery. The chain is composed of jet and amber. The jet beads retain their original polish. The centre bead measures about four inches; the others from two and a half down to one. These beads are separated from one another by bits of amber, encrusted with a brownish coat, but otherwise unchanged. The axe is of black flint, about seven inches long. It and the neck-chain may now be seen in the Museum at Peterhead. In 1821 a rude coffin, about six feet below the surface, formed of four stones, and containing a human skull, several of the smaller bones, two small jars, and seven arrow-heads of flint, was discovered on the farm of Uppermill, on the roadside leading to Mill of Hatton. In 1838 several

other graves were found near the same place. In 1896, a well preserved battle-axe, 7 inches long and $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad, was picked up by Mr. James Anderson, South Eastertoun, while trenching a piece of ground near the foundation of an old dyke.

Buchan is not wholly destitute of those ancient tumuli termed Barrows—that is, artificial mounds of various but specific forms, some circular, others elliptical, and others long. The long barrow has been described as “somewhat depressed in the centre, and more elevated towards one end than the other.” Wilson, in his “Archæology of Scotland,” says of the long barrow, that “it may be assumed with little hesitation as one of the earliest forms of sepulchral earthworks.” It is now, he adds, “comparatively rare.” There is a mound answering exactly to this description on the height immediately to the north of the Hawklaw of Cruden. It is known as the Battery. To say that this is positively a barrow is perhaps more than can be safely undertaken; but that the mound has been artificially raised there cannot be a doubt.

To the south-east of this mound there are remains of what appears to be a vitrified wall; and on the north-eastern slope of the Hawklaw, on the opposite side of the ravine that divides these two eminences, there are similar remains. Forsyth, in his “Beauties of Scotland,” speaks of the ruins of a castle near this place. “This district,” he says, “has been the scene of many sanguinary contests.” And in speaking of the battle of Cruden, he adds—“The armies met about a mile to the west of (the present) Slains Castle, upon a plain in the bottom of the Bay of

Ardendraught, near which *the Danes then had a castle*, the ruins of which are still to be seen." Not the slightest vestige of a building is anywhere visible in this neighbourhood, except it be the vitrified remains above mentioned. But that such a castle or tower did exist somewhere on the barony there can be no doubt, for in all the crown charters the Tower is especially mentioned :—"Totas et Integras Terras de Ardendraught, cum Turre et Fortalicio earundem."

Not far from these vitrifications, there is a well dedicated to St. Olaus, the patron saint of the parish. It is a copious spring of pure water, bubbling up in ever-varying jets from a bottom of sand. It was formerly of sufficient importance to invite the pilgrimages of the devotee. And here we have Thomas the Rhymer; but, unlike his usual vaticinations, his prophecy, in this instance, seems to imply some peculiar immunities to the locality, with reference to the sanctity of this well :—

" St. Olave's well, low by the sea,
Where pest nor plague shall ever be."

The ecclesiastical history of the parish of Cruden is conspicuously marked by the adherence of a large section of the population to the principles of Episcopacy. At the time of the Jacobite rising in 1715, the church of Cruden was served by Rev. William Dunbar, afterwards successively Bishop of Moray and Ross and of Aberdeen. It was in great measure through the powerful influence of the house of Erroll that he was enabled peaceably to retain his pastoral office till the year 1718, when he was removed from the charge by a sentence of the Lords of Justiciary. Mr. James Wardlaw was ordained minister

in Mr. Dunbar's stead; but, soon after his appointment, having never been able to collect a congregation beyond the members of his own family, or a few of the over-ruling military, he resigned the charge in disgust, and was succeeded by Mr. John Webster. Mr. Dunbar's adherents, however, formed a separate congregation, being ministered to by Mr. Alexander Keith, son of Rev. Robert Keith of Deer, and formerly parish schoolmaster. At first, this congregation assembled at the farmhouse of Ardendraught, but, after a time, Mary, Countess of Erroll, had the upper floor of a granary fitted up for their accommodation, which afforded them a grateful shelter for more than quarter of a century. But the Jacobite rising of 1745 added fuel to the smouldering embers of political animosity, and the "Girnal Chapel," as it was called, was burned by the soldiery. Mr. Keith then retired to the farm of Sandend, about a mile distant, where he continued to minister to his dispersed flock, under the restrictions of the first penal enactments, till his death in 1763.*

* Former citation as authorities of the Statistical Accounts, the "Antiquities of the Shires of Aberdeen and Banff," and other Spalding Club works must be held as repeated for this and subsequent chapters; and a general reference may here be made to "A New History of Aberdeenshire," edited by Alexander Smith (Aberdeen, 1875). Further details of Cruden and Cruden history will be found in Mr. Dalgarno's "From the Brig o' Balgownie to the Bullers o' Buchan." The ecclesiastical history of the parish is partly given in "Narratives and Extracts from the Records of the Presbytery of Ellon" by Thomas Mair, Ellon. An interesting account of the successive ministers of Cruden Free Church—six in number—was given in the *Daily Free Press*, Aberdeen, 29 January, 1893. One of the six, Rev. George Brown (1846-57), became proprietor of Longhaven, in the north-

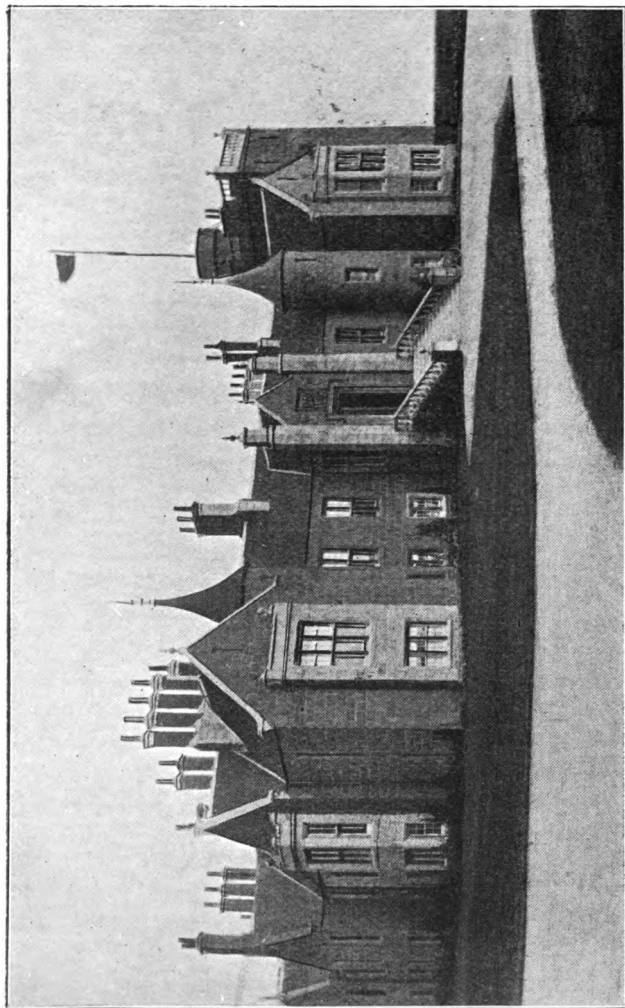
east corner of the parish. For particulars relating to the deposit of green sandstone at Moreseat, reference may be made to "Some Cretaceous Fossils from the Drift of Moreseat," by G. Sharman and E. T. Newton, and "Note on the Green Sand at Moreseat," by D. J. Mitchell, in "Transactions of Buchan Field Club, 1896;" and report of the Committee appointed by the British Association, read at the Toronto Meeting, 1897, (reproduced in the *Daily Free Press*, 26 August, 1897). A detailed account of the discovery of human remains at Port Erroll in 1894 will be found in the *Daily Free Press*, 17 July, 1894. A series of articles, under the title of "Stray Notes connected with the Parish of Cruden," appeared in the *Weekly Free Press*, February and March, 1873. Cruden figures in a couple of modern novelettes—"Was She Good or Bad?" by Professor Minto (Chatto & Windus, 1889), and "The Watter's Mou'" by Bram Stoker (A. Constable & Co., 1895).

Copious descriptions of the Cruden Railway and of the country along its route appeared in the Aberdeen and Peterhead papers during its construction, particularly on the occasion of the cutting of the first sod, 8 September, 1894, and the opening of the line, 2 August, 1897; special reference may be made to articles in the *Evening Gazette*, 8 September, 1894, and *Daily Free Press*, 10 September, 1894, and 17 July and 3 August, 1897. The railway hotel and golf course were opened on 1 March, 1899 (see Aberdeen papers of the following day), and a professional golf tournament was held in the following month, attended by Vardon and others. A public hall at Port Erroll was opened on 30 September, 1896. In connection with the opening of railway communication, proposals have been made by Lord Erroll, the superior of the village, for the development of Port Erroll by the feuing of ground for streets and crescents of villas. The proposed new village—of which a feuing plan has been prepared—is intended to be at some distance from the existing fishing village. (See *Aberdeen Journal*, 30 April, 1895.)

CHAPTER IV.

SLAINS CASTLE—THE BULLERS.

ABOUT half a mile to the north-east of the Bay of Cruden stands Slains Castle, the noble mansion of the Earl of Erroll. In the "View of the Diocese of Aberdeen" there is the following description of the original building :—"Bowness, now Slains, a fair and very large court. The old castle here, and a part of the court, was built under King James VI., by Francis, Earl of Erroll, on the King's demolishing the original Castle of Slains (because of the Earl's being in arms against Argyle at Glenlivet) ; and the rest has been continued by his successors, till Charles, the last Earl, added the front, A.D. MDCCVII." Previous to the time of this Charles, Earl Gilbert, about the middle of the seventeenth century, made such additions to the original castle as to have acquired the credit of being its founder. The castle continued thus till 1836, when, in that and the following year, it was rebuilt, with the exception of the lower part of the original tower, which touches on the brink of a deep, rocky ravine, a small portion at the north-west corner, and the piazza formerly



SLAINS CASTLE.

running round the inner square. On a stone, above the arched gateway leading to the stables, is the following inscription :—

BUILT 1664
 BY
 GILBERT, XI. EARL OF ERROLL,
 GREAT CONSTABLE OF SCOTLAND,
 AND
 REBUILT 1836 AND 1837
 IN THE REIGN OF
 WILLIAM THE IV.,
 BY
 WILL^M. GEO., XVII. EARL OF ERROLL,
 GREAT CONSTABLE AND KNIGHT
 MARISCHAL OF SCOTLAND.

There is another inscription, on a stone facing the ancient piazza :—

“Gilbertus Errolliæ Comes Domin⁹ Hay Scotiæ Constabulari⁹ Hujus Operis Fundamentum Quinde (*sic*) Die Martii Anno Dom. 1664 Fecit et Die mensis anni sequentis perfecit.”

Slains Castle is now a spacious and handsome structure, commanding a magnificent view of the sea and neighbouring rocks. Dr. Johnson, in his “Scottish Tour,” says :—“ We came, in the afternoon, to Slains Castle, built upon the margin of the sea, so that the walls of one of the towers seem only a continuation of a perpendicular rock, the foot of which is beaten by the waves. To walk round the house seemed impracticable. From the windows, the eye wanders

over the sea that separates Scotland from Norway, and when the winds beat with violence, must enjoy all the terrific grandeur of the tempestuous ocean. I would not, for my amusement, wish for a storm; but as storms, whether wished for or not, will sometimes happen, I may say, without violation of humanity, that I should willingly look out upon them from Slains Castle."

The learned Doctor rightly estimated the magnificence of a storm as seen from the windows of Slains Castle; nor would his imagination have been less affected could he, during some dark November night, have heard the booming waves as they beat against the rocks, or rush up the broken gullies, almost impelling the belief, in spite of the stability of one's footing, of having slipped cable and being fairly out at sea. Nor is the view from the windows less impressive when the full-orbed moon, slowly traversing the heavens, touches with her silver beams a line of rippling waves, crossed by some chance vessel in its tranquil passage over the glittering expanse of water. It is at such a time that the singular charm of this seaboard residence is delightfully realised.

The library, in the north-east angle of the castle, is a fine room, fitted up with oak book-cases. It contains upwards of 4000 volumes. The nucleus of this collection was formed by Bishop Drummond's Library, embracing splendid editions of the Fathers of the Church, and numerous works of note on divinity and ecclesiology down to his own time. The German, Dutch, and French departments are said to have been added by Mr. Falconer Hay of Delgaty,

the husband of the Countess Mary, who was a great student in these languages. The classical department, containing many beautiful specimens of typography, from the presses of Elzevir and Foulis, was added by Earl James, an eminent classical scholar, and the first of the Kilmarnock branch of the Erroll family. In the end of the last century this library was remarkably rich in MSS., many on vellum ; but, sad to relate, these were recklessly destroyed in the menial services of the household. According to Rev. N. K. Macleod, the "treasures" of Slains Castle include—"Bulls of Popes, charters of the Bruce, letters from Kings, the eight of diamonds on which, as a secret missive, the Duke of Hamilton made a last effort to save the life of the Earl of Kilmarnock after Culloden, portraits by Vandyke, by Jamesone, by Sir Joshua, and Sir Peter." The portrait by Sir Joshua Reynolds is that of the thirteenth Earl, a friend of Dr. Beattie, who described him in the following terms:—"His stature was 6 feet 4 inches, and his proportions most exact. His countenance and deportment exhibited such a mixture of the sublime and the graceful as I have never seen united in any other man. He often put me in mind of an ancient hero ; and I remember Dr. Samuel Johnson was positive that he resembled Homer's character of Sarpedon." The pictures include Vandyke's "Children of Charles I.," two Gainsboroughs, and a portrait of William IV. by Sir Thomas Lawrence. The door of one of the rooms contains panels painted by Princess Beatrice (Princess Henry of Battenberg). The grounds around the castle have been greatly improved and beautified since the present Earl came into possession,

terraces and walks being laid out and enclosing walls erected, the walls being relieved by the formation of embrasures.

Of the origin of the noble family of Errol or Erroll* there are two accounts—the one from the records of the peerage, the other from historical and family tradition. The former possesses the more dignity, and is the one to be accepted; but the latter is the more romantic, and is unquestionably fascinating, if at the best only legendary.

“The first of the family of the Hays,” says Mr. Daniel Gurney, in “The Record of the House of Gournay,” “who occurs in Scotland, is William de Haya, who possessed estates in Lothian at the end of the twelfth century, and was *pincerna regis* to Malcolm IV. and William the Lyon. He had two sons, William, and Robert—ancestor to the Marquess of Tweeddale. William, the eldest son, had a grant of the manor of Herol or Erroll, who, being a faithful adherent of King Robert Bruce under all the vicissitudes of his fortune, was, about the year 1308, created by him hereditary Lord High Constable of Scotland, and the King moreover granted to him the lands of Slains, in Aberdeenshire. Sir Thomas Hay, his grandson, married Elizabeth, daughter of King Robert II. by Elizabeth Moore; and from him descended William Hay, Constable of Scotland, who was created Earl of Erroll, in 1452, by James II.”

The traditionary account is that in the year 980, during the reign of Kenneth III., the Danes invaded Scotland, landing at Montrose, marching through

* Errol was the original spelling.

Angus to the firth of Tay, and investing the town of Perth ; that the Scottish king engaged them at Loncarty (or Luncarty), a little village near Perth ; and that the rout of the Scots and the person of the king himself were saved by “the stupendous action of one Hay and his two sons.” The following quaint narrative of the incident is from Abercromby’s “*Martial Atchievements of Scotland*” :—

“The Danes, reanimated with indignation, spite, and revenge, exerted the utmost vigour of their strong nerves and large bones ; they broke through and put to the rout both the right and left wing of the Scots army : and the main body, where the King fought in person, was very nigh enveloped, and must have been entirely cut off, but for the stupendous action of one Hay, and his two sons, who, placing themselves in a convenient pass, beat back the fliers, and so turned the wheel of fortune, never more deservedly called bizarre or inconstant than upon that occasion. This Hay was at the time employed in tilling a field at no great distance from the two armies ; but how soon he perceived the Scots were flying, he left his work ; and, animated with indignation and rage, he bethought himself of an expedient to prevent the ruin and disgrace of his country which all ages will ever admire and extol. He armed himself and his two sons, men like himself of extraordinary strength and incomparable courage, with their plough-yokes ; and having reproached the foremost of those that fled, and perhaps prevailed with some to return, he placed them and himself in the narrow pass through which he knew the remainder of the worsted army must flee ; and as they advanced, he

met and knocked them down unmercifully with his mighty yoke, insomuch that he put a stop to their flight. And the Scots, thus equally mauled by, and in a manner pent up between their friends and foes, knew not what to do. If they continued to fly, they must needs encounter, as they imagined, fresh forces of the prevailing enemy; and if they should face about again, they must re-engage men animated, but at the same time wearied and fatigued, by victory. They thought fittest to turn upon the pursuers, and did it accordingly. The Danes, in their turn, surprised with this sudden and unexpected change they knew not the occasion of, concluded, and 'twas no wonder, that the Scots army must be reinforced with some considerable accession of a fresh power. This perswasion damp'd their courages, and they fled as hastily as they had pursued. By this time the heroick Hays came up to the main body of the army, and every one became acquainted with what they had done; so that the Scots, now apprehensive of no more enemies than those they had in their view, pursued their advantage with incredible alacrity, and most, if not all the Danes, fell victims to their just revenge.

“The astonishing event of the battle of Loncarty transported the whole nation with wonder and joy; and the army spent the ensuing night in mirth and rejoicing, in singing the praises of their glorious King, and in extolling the admired valour and resolution of Hay their deliverer. Nobody was more sensible of his services than the King. That grateful prince rewarded him as he deserved, for he first ordered a large share of the enemies' spoils to be given to him, and then

commanded him and his sons to march by himself in a triumphant manner, with their bloody yokes, upon the head of the army, into the town of Perth. He did more ; for, as the great achievement had already ennobled both Hay and his sons, so the King advanced them into the first rank of those about him, and, which was very rare in those days, gave them an heritage, as much of the most fruitful soil of Gowry as a falcon could compass at one flight. The lucky bird seemed sensible of the merits of those that were to enjoy it ; for she made a circuit of seven or eight miles long, and four or five broad, the limits of which are still extant.* As from this tract of ground, call'd

*The story of this tradition is given in Bellenden's "Boece," and is referred to in "The Record of the House of Gournay," by Mr. Gurney. "The *Saxum Falconis*, or Hawk Stone, at St. Madoes, Perthshire, which" (says Mr. Gurney) "stands on the marches of what is known to have been the ancient possessions of the Hays of Erroll, and still bounds the parishes of St. Madoes and Inchtute, is referred to by Boece as existing in his day (an. 1500), and as having been set up immediately after the defeat of the Danes in the Battle of Luncarty, fought *circa* A.D. 990." Thomas the Rhymer is credited with the following prophecy respecting the Erroll family:—

While the mistletoe bats on Errol's aik,
 And the aik stands fast,
 The Hays shall flourish, and their good grey hawk
 Shall nocht finch before the blast,
 But when the root of the aik decays,
 And the mistletoe dwines on its withered breast,
 The grass shall grow on Errol's hearth-stane,
 And the corbie roup [croak] in the falcon's nest.

The mistletoe is the badge of the Hays, and a large ancient oak grew in the neighbourhood of Erroll, which was full of this plant. "The oak is gone, and the estate lost to the family." Lord Lindsay, in his "Lives of the Lindsays," refers to "the

Errol, as then, the brave, loyal, and in every sense illustrious family of Errol, takes its designation ; so it retains the surname of Hay, upon the account of its original author."

There is a stone which has been carefully preserved by the family, from time immemorial. It is called the "Luncarty Stone;" and it is dear to traditionary lore as the veritable stone on which the elder Hay seated himself after the fatigues of the battle, and, yielding to the quick respiration of a wearied man, gave utterance to the sound, "Hech, heigh!" which, softened into Hay, is said to have acquired for him the name, and thus originated that of the family. This stone was kept within the precincts of the Castle until about 1850, when it was placed on the front lawn ; it was ultimately built into the enclosing wall recently erected, being placed opposite the main entrance to the Castle.

In the Charter Room at Slains Castle there is a document entitled "The copy of the Tabill quhilk ves at Cowper [Cupar], of all the ERLES of ERROLL quhilk ver buryd in the Abbey Kirk thair"—a record that goes back for upwards of five hundred years. The family originated with William de Haya, who settled in Lothian about the middle of the twelfth century and married Juliana, daughter of Randolph de Soulis, Lord of Liddesdale, by whom he had two sons—William, the ancestor of the Erroll family, and

beautiful legend of the patriarch Hay of Luncarty, on which Milton, in his youth, purposed to found a drama, and which has been immortalised by Shakespeare in the plot of 'Cymbeline.'" The family motto of the Errolls is "*Serva Jugum*"—"Preserve the Yoke."

Robert, the ancestor of the Tweeddale family. The great grandson of William was Gilbert de Haya (or Sir Gilbert de Hay), Lord of Erroll, who joined the party of Robert Bruce in 1306 and became one of the leaders in the Scottish war of independence. In recognition of his services, Robert I. granted him the lands of Slains, *circa* 1309. He was created in 1315 High Constable of Scotland, with remainder to his heirs for ever, and married a daughter of William Comyn, Earl of Buchan. His son, Sir David de Haya de Erroll fell at the battle of Neville's Cross, Durham, in 1346. A descendant of Sir Gilbert, in the fifth generation, William Hay, Constable of Scotland, was created Earl of Erroll in the peerage of Scotland in 1453. One of the earls fell at Flodden, the seventh Earl (descended from Thomas Hay of Logiealmond, second son of the third Earl) married the daughter of the fifth Earl, and thus united the lineal and male branches of the family; he was the last of the Hays buried in the ancient family tomb at Cupar. It was his son, Francis, the eighth Earl, who had his castle (old Slains Castle) demolished for the part he took against James VI. at Glenlivet in 1594, and who, on being pardoned and returning from abroad in 1596, erected the castle at Bowness, now Slains Castle. William, the ninth Earl, was High Constable of Scotland at the coronation of Charles I., and, through extravagance, was compelled to dispose of the family estate of Erroll, in Perthshire. His son, Gilbert, died without issue in 1674, and was succeeded as eleventh Earl by Sir John Hay of Keillor, near Coupar-Angus, who married Lady Anne Drummond, a daughter of James, third Earl of Perth. The twelfth

Earl, Charles, died unmarried, and was succeeded by his sister, the Countess Mary, who appeared by deputy as High Constable of Scotland at the coronation of George II. She married Alexander Falconer, of the Halkertoun family, a son of the Lord President, who assumed the surname and designation of Hay of Delgaty. She warmly espoused the cause of the Pretender in 1745, and played a prominent part in enlisting sympathy and support for Prince Charles in Aberdeenshire. She was predeceased by her husband and died, without issue, in 1758, being buried, as already mentioned (p. 23), in St. Ternan's Church, Slains.

The title and estates then passed to James, Lord Boyd, descended from the Countess Mary's sister, Lady Margaret Hay—a son of William Boyd, Earl of Kilmarnock, who was beheaded for his participation in the Jacobite rising. He officiated at the coronation of George III. in 1761, and escorted Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg, the bride-elect of that monarch, to England. He was Lord of Police, 1767, and a representative peer—he was the Earl eulogised by Dr. Beattie and Dr. Johnson. Two of his sons succeeded to the title. The second—William, the sixteenth Earl—was appointed Knight-Marischal of Scotland in 1805, and was for several years a representative peer and Lord High Commissioner to the Church of Scotland. Earl William was not more prudent in the management of his patrimonial estates than his father and brother had been. On his accession to the earldom, in 1790, the whole of the parish of Cruden, with the exception of the small estate of Auchleuchries, still belonged

to him. In less than twenty years, he disposed of the estates of Aldie, Ardiffery, Yonderton, Hatton, Burnthill, Auchlethen, Auquharney, Stonehousehill, Teuchan, Moreseat, Longhaven, and the Gask. In two generations, and by three individuals, was thus diminished the once magnificent heritage of the House of Erroll. Earl William died in 1819, and his eldest son, James, Lord Hay, having fallen at Quatre Bras four years before, he was succeeded, as seventeenth Earl, by his second son, William George. This earl married, in the following year, Lady Elizabeth Fitz-Clarence, daughter of the Duke of Clarence (afterwards William IV.) and Mrs. Jordan; one of their daughters, Lady Agnes Hay, married James Duff, afterwards fifth Earl of Fife, and became the mother of the present Duke of Fife. The seventeenth Earl of Erroll was created a peer of the United Kingdom in 1831, under the title of Baron Kilmarnock, thus reviving the old title of Kilmarnock which his ancestor had forfeited; he was also made a Privy Councillor. In 1835 he was made a Knight of the Thistle and appointed Master of the Buckhounds, and he was afterwards appointed High Steward of the Household to William IV. He held, along with the hereditary office of Constable, that of High Marischal of Scotland. It was in his time that Slains Castle was rebuilt in its present magnificent dimensions. He died in 1846, and was succeeded by the late Earl, William Harry, who held the title for 45 years—much longer than any of his predecessors. He was a captain in the Rifle Brigade and served in the Crimean War, where he was wounded. He was accompanied to the Crimea by

his wife, a daughter of Major-General Hon. Sir Charles Gore; she was presented with a white Arab horse by Omar Pasha, which figures in a portrait of her ladyship in Slains Castle. His lordship was presented with his portrait by his fellow-officers on his leaving his regiment. This Countess of Erroll is now one of the Ladies-in-Waiting to the Queen. She was appointed a Lady of the Bedchamber to the Queen in 1872, and is one of Her Majesty's intimate personal friends. The present Earl (the nineteenth), Charles Gore, succeeded on the death of his father in 1891. He entered the Royal Horse Guards (Blue) in 1869, and gradually rose to be Colonel, having command of the regiment from 1891 to January 1895, when he retired on half-pay. In November 1895, he was appointed one of the Aides-de-Camp of Lord Wolseley, the Commander-in-Chief. He is also Honorary Colonel of the Buchan Volunteer Battalion. He received the honorary degree of LL.D. from Aberdeen University at the celebrations in October 1895. As Lord High Constable, the Earl of Erroll takes rank as the first subject in the Kingdom after the blood royal, having a right to precedence over every hereditary honour.

The rocks to the north of the Castle are strikingly bold and fine. Dun Buy, which has obtained an additional celebrity by being mentioned in the "Antiquary" * is about half a mile from the Castle, and is chiefly remarkable for a magnificent natural arch pierced through its very centre. "Dunbuy," says Dr. Johnson, "which in Erse is said to signify the Yellow

* "Francie o' Fowlsheugh was the best craigsman that ever speel'd heugh (mair by token, he brake his neck upon the Dunbuy of Slaines)." (Chapter vii.)

Rock, is a double protuberance of stone, open to the main sea on one side, and parted from the land by a very narrow channel on the other. It has its name and its colour from the dung of innumerable sea-fowls, which, in the spring, choose this place as convenient for incubation."

Opposite this rock lies the farm of Fountainbleau, a name which naturally invites inquiry. The explanation is simple. On the return of Earl Francis from abroad, on being pardoned by James VI. for the part he had taken at Glenlivet, he brought with him a French servant of the name of Beaugré, who obtained from his master a lease of this farm, to which, in remembrance of his native France, he gave the name of Fontainebleau. The family of Beaugré, now Bagrie, is still extant, and of respectable standing in the district.

From Dun Buy to the Bullers of Buchan, a distance of about half a mile, the rocks increase in height and ruggedness. The Bullers of Buchan is the name given to a huge rocky cavern, open to the sky, into which the sea rushes through a natural archway. The rocks are probably 100 feet in height, and perpendicular both to the interior of "The Pot," or "The Pot of Birss Buchan," as it is locally called, and also on their sea front—a narrow pathway running round the top. It is scarcely possible to overstate the imposing magnificence of these granite sea-walls, which seem to bid eternal defiance to wind and wave, the natural cleavage of the rocks greatly enhancing the beauty of the scene.*

* "Buchan-Bullers" was utilised by Carlyle for a fine illustration, though it was based on a total misconception. (See "Sartor Resartus," Book iii., chap. x.)

At less than 100 yards north from the basin of the Bullers there were formerly indications of trenches thrown up in front of a small peninsular area—at what period, and with what intention, it is not easy to decide; but one, capable of judging of such matters, suggested that this may have been a station for the commissariat of an invading army. The conjecture is far from unreasonable.*

Passing North Haven and the farm of Whiteshin, Black Hill is reached. Here the rocks greatly increase in height, and in the bold sweep of their outline. Along the whole coast, from Dun Buy to Longhaven, (the site of a former fishing-village), which divides Black Hill from Sterling Hill, † there are subterranean caverns of great extent, many of which are inaccessible except by boat. On the brae, 100 feet above the level of the sea, there is a narrow chink communicating with one of these, called, in the locality, Hell's Lum, through which is distinctly heard the thundering roll of the waters beneath. Several quarries have been opened on Whiteshin and Black Hill, from which fine blocks of red granite are obtained. On the south-eastern slope of Sterling Hill, at a short distance northwards from the Longhaven on the right, is the Hare or Cleft Stone, which marks the division between the parishes of Cruden and Peterhead.

At Sterling Hill there are several quarries of syenite, or Peterhead granite, whence are taken the solid blocks which, when polished, have given a

* A similarly fortified small peninsula was at one time to be seen on the farm of Sandend, near Whinnyfold.

† "Stirling" Hill is now the term in use, but "Sterling" is the correct name.

world-wide fame to the name of this particular granite. These operations, however, though useful in themselves, have gone far to destroy one of the finest scenes in Buchan. Viewed from the north, the hill once presented an exquisite outline, varied from its highest and characteristic peak, down to the level of the sea, by the most graceful and undulating curves. Sterling Hill terminates at the village of Boddam, and forms the well-known promontory of Buchan Ness. The coast is here indented with many chasms, fissures, and caves, and these, in some cases, divide the granite from the trap. Immediately opposite one of the quarries is the small green islet of Dundony, where, it is said, there was formerly a salt-pan.

Within a few hundred yards of Sterling Hill is the Old Castle of Boddam, formerly the seat of the Keiths of Ludquharn. It stands on a promontory between two deep gullies, up which, when the wind blows from the east, the sea rushes with uncontrollable fury. The castle is on the brink of one of these ravines, but possesses no particular interest, either as a place of strength or as a specimen of architecture. The remains consist of the archway of the principal entrance, surmounted by a low gable. One or two other arches, of smaller dimensions, are also to be seen, and the entire foundations of the building may yet be traced; but, unless as a type of the family which once occupied it—gone, but still lingering in the memories of the past—it possesses nothing worthy of notice. In the summer of 1868, when the son of Mr. Aiton, the then proprietor of Boddam, was having a deep trench dug, in front of the entrance to the castle, some large

hinges, apparently those of a draw-bridge, were discovered. There is no record of such a structure ever having been at the place, although there are signs still remaining of the front part of the castle having been fortified.* Another trap-dyke in this ravine, and the hornstone porphyry and protogine rocks behind the neighbouring lighthouse, are well worthy of observation.

On the opposite side of the gorge, and immediately over the sea, stands Lord Aberdeen's Marine Villa—now the property of Major-General Russell of Aden—commanding a remarkably fine view of the sea. Everything has been done to render this a charming summer retreat. Walks have been cut along the face of the braes leading to the best points of view; and a marine garden, originally laid out with much taste, in the sloping hollow of a sheltered glen, extends down to the very edge of the sea. In conveying water to the villa from a fine spring on the north-eastern ledge of Sterling Hill, some pipes were discovered which must formerly have been used for the purpose of supplying the old castle from the same spring.

Buchan Ness Lighthouse, within a few hundred yards of the villa, is a fine circular tower, the lantern of which stands 130 feet above high-water mark at

* The last inhabitant of the castle—in the earlier part of the last century—was Lady Keith of Ludquharn. An old woman, who had been a faithful servant to her ladyship for upwards of thirty years, resided in Peterhead after her ladyship's death, and was long remembered for a saying of hers, when holding forth in praise of her mistress, and probably hinting at her own merits, "There was niver sae muckle atween us a' that time as—'The De'il speed the leear.'"

spring-tides. It is a white light, flashing once in five seconds, and was the invention of the late Mr. Robert Stevenson, for which he was presented with a medal by the King of the Netherlands. The light is seen at sea at the distance of sixteen nautical miles. It was first exhibited in 1827. The lighthouse stands on an insular rock at the southern extremity of the bay, of which Peterhead forms the northern boundary. The distance across is about two miles; following the bend of the bay, it is three miles.

The Village of Boddam is a fishing station in the immediate neighbourhood of the lighthouse. A good pier was erected, chiefly at the expense of the late noble proprietor, the fourth Earl of Aberdeen, which led to a great increase of boats employed both in the white and the herring fishing; and a number of years ago a harbour was constructed by the then proprietor of Boddam, the late Mr. William Aiton, who, by the way, was one of the sub-contractors engaged in the formation of the Suez Canal. The village has been much improved, and is now one of the cleanest and most thriving on the east coast—a standing evidence of what may be effected by considerate and judicious oversight. In close proximity to Boddam, a small village, called Sterling Village, has arisen of recent years, the houses being chiefly occupied by the workmen engaged in the Sterling Hill and other quarries of the neighbourhood, quarrying here having been largely developed.

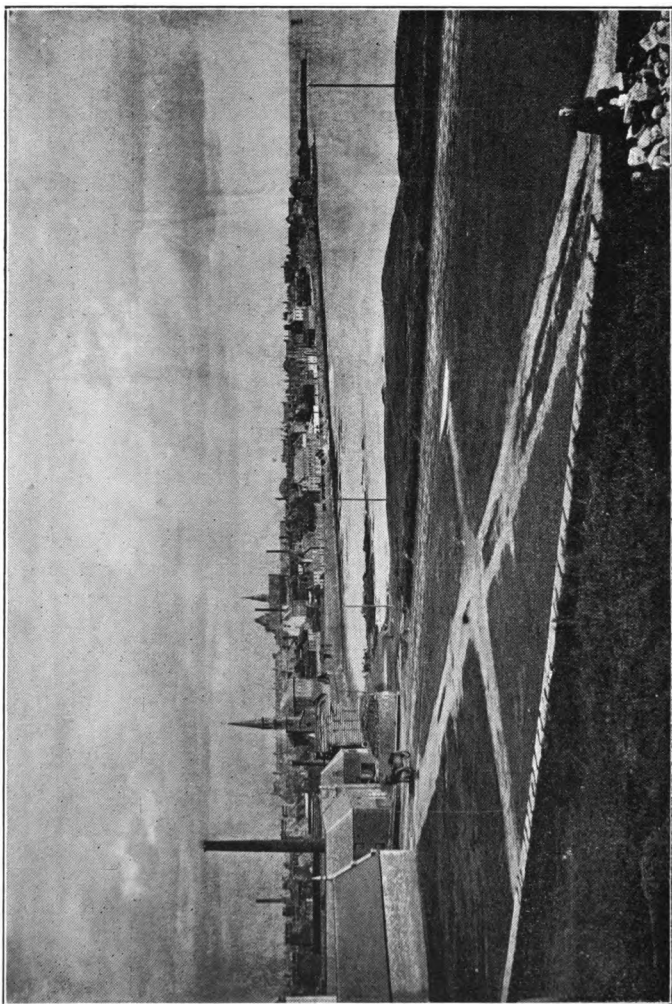
Proceeding from Boddam, and passing Sandford Lodge on the right, and Meethill and Mile-end on the left, and skirting the fine bays of Sandford and Peterhead, divided by Salthousehead, along the south

slope of which lies the fishing village of Burnhaven—passing also the Convict Prison and the Harbour of Refuge Works (more specifically referred to in the next chapter)—the town of Peterhead is reached.*

*Sandford Lodge—the mansion-house of the estate of Boddam—was once the residence of Mr. James Skelton, for many years Sheriff-Substitute at Peterhead, father of Sir John Skelton, K.C.B., Secretary to the Board of Supervision, and afterwards Vice-President of the Scotch Local Government Board. Sir John Skelton was the author of several books, which were published under the pseudonym of "Shirley." Reference has been made in a foot-note on a preceding page (p. 29) to his "Crookit Meg" and "Balmawhapple;" and it may be here added that he contributed a striking article on "The Heughs of Buchan Forty Years Ago" to "Grass of Parnassus from the Bents o' Buchan" (Peterhead, 1887)—a work containing much interesting literary matter relating to Buchan, accompanied by numerous illustrations of the district. He was also the author of two important historical works—"Maitland of Lethington and the Scotland of Mary Stuart" and "Mary Stuart." He died in 1897; a detailed biographical sketch of him appeared in the *Peterhead Sentinel*, 27 July, 1897.

Detailed accounts of Gilbert de Haya and Francis, the eighth Earl of Erroll, are given in the "Dictionary of National Biography." See also Anderson's "Scottish Nation" and "Historic Earls and Earldoms of Scotland" by John Mackintosh, LL.D. There is a conflict about the proper enumeration of the successive Earls of Erroll, Dr. Mackintosh, for instance, making the present peer the twentieth. It has been deemed preferable, however, to follow the enumeration given in Debrett's Peerage. Dr. Johnson's observations on Slains Castle, the Dunbuy Rock, and the Bullers are of course to be found—at much greater length than quoted in the text—in Boswell's "Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides." A mass of accurate and valuable information concerning the geological character and aspect of the district described in this chapter will be found in a pamphlet "On the Pleistocene Deposits of Aberdeenshire," by Thomas F. Jamieson, reprinted from the *Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society* for November, 1858.





PETERHEAD (FROM THE SOUTH).

CHAPTER V.

PETERHEAD.

PETERHEAD is the "capital" or chief town of Buchan—the largest town in the district, its population being (in 1891) 12,195. It is a Parliamentary burgh (one of the group designated the Elgin Burghs), and it is the seat of a Sheriff Court for the greater part of Buchan. A terminus of the Great North of Scotland Railway, it is a large and important centre of the herring fishing industry of the north-east coast; and it has of late years acquired additional prominence on account of its south bay being selected as the site of a national Harbour of Refuge, now in process of construction by convict labour, in connection with which a large Convict Prison has been built in the immediate neighbourhood. The town stands upon a peninsula projecting into the German Ocean, forming the most easterly point of Scotland (long., $1^{\circ} 46' W$), and is, in fact, bounded by the sea on the north, east, and south. It is 547 miles N. by W. of London, and 138 N. by E. of Edinburgh; it is distant from Aberdeen $44\frac{1}{2}$ miles by rail and 32 miles by the main road, though only 28 miles by sea.

There are various opinions with regard to the derivation of the name Peterhead. The author of the "View of the Diocese" says—"Peterhead was, of old, called Peterugy, in Latin Inverugy Petri; because Ugy here falls into the sea, and the church is dedicated to Saint Peter." Somewhat fanciful

derivations are indulged in by Mr. Arbuthnot, in his "Historical Account of Peterhead," and by Mr. H. B. Mitchell, in a paper on "Coast Names near Peterhead" in the Transactions of the Buchan Field Club; but, despite the ingenious speculation of these and other writers, the most likely origin of the name is the simple one that Peterhead was so called after St. Peter, the titular saint of its church. The Church of St. Peter on the links at the head of the bay would have been for many centuries—(it is supposed to have been dedicated to St. Peter about the middle of the eighth century)—the dominant and outstanding feature of the landscape; and the adjacent headland on the north side of the bay would probably have been given a name derived from the church—Peterhead; a name that, in course of time, came to be applied to the whole peninsula on which the town has since been built. The ancient name of the parish, however, appears to have been Peterugie.

The town is divided into four districts,—the Kirktown, the Ronheads, the Keith Inch, and Peterhead proper. The Keith Inch is a small rocky island between the town and the sea. The Old Statistical Account informs us that "the town was formerly called Keith Inch, and retained that name till 1593, when it obtained a charter as a burgh of barony." The neck of land which connected the town and the Keith Inch previous to the formation of the canal which joins the two harbours, was called the Queenzie (pronounced Queenee), signifying, it is said, a neck of land.

It is stated in the Old Statistical Account that, in the year 1560, the town—then only a small fishing

village—with the adjoining lands, belonged to the abbey of Deer; and that, in that year, Mary, Queen of Scots, appointed Robert Keith, son of William, fourth Earl Marischal, Commendator of Deer. In 1593 the town was erected into a burgh of barony, by George, fifth Earl Marischal, the nephew and successor of the fourth Earl, and the founder of Marischal College, Aberdeen. It continued to be a part of the estates of the Earls Marischal until the attainder of the tenth and last earl, after the attempt in favour of the Stuart family in 1715, when his estates were confiscated to the Crown; and this portion of them was soon after purchased by the York Buildings Company, which was dissolved in 1726, and, two years later, the property was bought from the trustees of the Company (which was in liquidation for many years) by the Governors of the Merchant Maiden Hospital of Edinburgh.*

*The property of the Governors of the Merchant Maiden Hospital at Peterhead comprises—(1) The superiority of the town and harbours of Peterhead; (2) the estate of Peterhead and Clerkhill, including the town lands; (3) the lands of Auchtygall and Collielaw; (4) the barony of Torterston and the Castle of Ravenscraig. The greater part of the Peterhead portion was purchased by the Governors at public roup in 1728 for £3420 2s. 7d. The remainder of the estate (exclusive of Grange and Blackhouse), which comprehends the lands of Clerkhill, was sold by the trustees of the York Buildings Company in 1783, and was purchased by the Governors at public roup for £3886 16s. 7d. In 1831 and in 1857, the Governors purchased the lands of Grange and Blackhouse for £1508. The whole estate thus cost £8814 19s. 2d. The total outlay for improvements up to October 1860 was £43,905 10s. 3d., making a total expenditure of £52,720 9s. 5d. In 1861, the estate was valued by Mr. Alexander Scott, of Craiglockhart, the land adviser of the

From data contained in the charter of erection, in 1593, it is estimated that the number of the inhabitants amounted only to fifty-six. The feuars to whom the charter was granted were only fourteen; the ground feued out, about three acres. The original feuars appear to have been fishers; for each of them was permitted to have "an boat for whyte fishing, of the whilks the said earle and his forsaidis sall haif the teynd fische, the said earle and his forsaidis giving to the fishers reasonable fisher lands and reasonable duty; and sic as happen to pass to farr fishings, the said earle and his forsaidis shall have sic tynd yrof as the inhabitants of Anstruther pays."

A few houses are yet remaining that were built about the time the charter was granted. There is a house in Port Henry Lane, called Lord Marischal's House, of date 1599, on which is inscribed—

"Feir the Lord, fie from syn,
Mak for Lyf everlastin;
No this lyf is but vanity."

(A part of the inscription, however, is now well-nigh indecipherable.) In the same lane is a house with the date 1600 and the text (in antique letters) from

Governors, at 25 to 35 years' purchase of the gross rental and 20 years' purchase of feu-duties, at £100,981 18s. 1d. Deducting, for ground sold and feu-duties bought up in the interval, £6724 12s., the value of the estate stood, at 1st October, 1876, at £94,257 6s. 1d. The rental at this last-mentioned date was £5023 10s. 6d.; and, deducting public burdens, £1223 10s. 6d., the net yield was £3800, equivalent to £4 6s. 4d. per cent. on the valued price, £94,257 6s. 1d. (From a "Report on the Peterhead Estates," printed for the Merchant Company, Edinburgh, 1876.) The Governors of the Hospital are still the superiors of the town, and the management of their town lands is partly entrusted to an elective body of "Feuars' Managers."

Micah vi., 8—"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" The lintel of a door in the neighbourhood bears this inscription—"The Blessing of the Lord, &c.—Pro. 10, 22. 1639."*

The Earls Marischal are said to have incurred much popular odium for having interfered with the abbey-lands and buildings belonging to the monks of Deer, and for having carried off the stones of some cells or chapels for the erection of other buildings. The report of this crimination had probably reached the ears of the Earl, who, in contempt of public opinion, caused the following inscription to be put on the houses he built—

"THEY HAIF SAYD :
QHAT SAYD THEY ?
LAT THEM SAY."†

* Formerly, in the Long-gate, at the head of the Crooked Wynd, stood an old house with an inscription, containing an admonition that would not be altogether superfluous at the present time. It was simply—"SVEARNOTE." On a public-house, called the Canteen, near the Boat Harbour, was cut out a representation of Abraham offering up his son—the hand, with a knife, raised; a ram in the background; and a hand and arm, from a cloud above, laying hold of the knife. Over the figures was the inscription—"Have faith in the Lord." On the gable wall of a house in this vicinity—supposed, however, to have been removed thither from the Canteen or some of the older buildings—is a lion rampant, with the initials, "A.M., E.G.," and the date 1607.

† On a house which formerly stood at the foot of the Crooked Wynd, the inscription was thus varied—

"Thay saye—Thay saye :—
What saye thay?—
Do you weill; and lat them saye, saye."

The principal streets in the town are Broad Street and Marischal Street, running westward from the harbour; Chapel Street and Queen Street, running northward from Marischal Street; and St. Peter Street and King Street, intersecting Queen Street and parallel with Broad Street and Marischal Street. The houses are mostly built of Peterhead granite, said to be very similar, in colour and texture, to the Egyptian syenite, being composed of quartz, schorl or mica, and felspar. The Town House, situated at the west end of Broad Street, was built in 1788, and is surmounted by a spire in the Sir Christopher Wren style, 125 feet high, in which are a clock and bell. Behind it, and entering from Marischal Street, is the Music Hall, the chief public hall of the town, built in 1872. The Court House, in Queen Street, was built in 1869-70, from designs by Messrs. Peddie & Kinnear, Edinburgh. Near by, at the corner of Queen Street and St. Peter Street, is the Public Library and Museum—a building in the style of the English Renaissance, with a tower 73 feet high. It was designed by Mr. Duncan M'Millan, Aberdeen, and was opened in 1892. Mr. Andrew Carnegie, of Pittsburg, was one of the

Another variant of the inscription is to be seen in the entrance hall of Marischal College, Aberdeen—

“Thay Haif Said. Quhat Say Thay? Lat Yame Say.”

—a reproduction, it is understood, of an inscription that was on the old buildings of the College, taken down, in 1836, to give place to the present noble structure. Some interesting statements as to these varying inscriptions and curious speculations as to their origin appeared in the correspondence columns of the *Banffshire Journal* in January, 1888, one correspondent finding a connection between them and an inscription in Greek on a famous old onyx ring in the British Museum. References to the subject will be found in *Scottish Notes and Queries*, i., 139, 159, 179.

principal subscribers to the building fund (giving £1300), and Mrs. Carnegie laid the foundation-stone on 8th August, 1891, a great procession of trades marking the occasion, which was also utilised for the opening of a Recreation Park. The Museum originated in a collection bequeathed to the town by Mr. Adam Arbuthnot; it embraces a very extensive and valuable collection of coins, numerous specimens of the archæology and antiquities of Buchan, and articles illustrative of the Arctic whale fishing once actively prosecuted from Peterhead. There are a few pictures in the building—notably, a picture of the Hon. George Skene Duff's election committee, 1847, by the late James Forbes, artist, Peterhead*—and a number of casts of famous antique statuary presented by Lady Carnegie of Crimonmogate. The "art treasures" of the town, it may be mentioned, include a fine portrait of the late Provost William Alexander, by Sir George Reid, P.R.S.A., subscribed for as a public testimonial and presented to the Town Council in 1879. It is now hung in the Council Chamber of the Town House, along with portraits of the other Provosts of Peterhead. A former Provost, Roderick Gray, was the subject of one of the late Sir John Watson Gordon's most characteristic portraits; the picture was painted for the Merchant Maiden Company of Edinburgh (Mr. Gray having been their local factor in Peterhead) and is now in the Company's Hall in Edinburgh.† In the centre of Broad Street is what is now known as

* Purchased and presented to the Art Gallery by Mr. James Morrison, banker. (See *Daily Free Press*, 21 June, 1893.)

† Particulars regarding portraits of other Peterhead and Buchan notabilities are given in a Catalogue of a Loan Exhibition held in Peterhead, December, 1884–January, 1885.

the Market Cross—a Tuscan column of granite, surmounted by a lion rampant. The topmost stone of the pillar is ornamented with the coat of arms of the Marischal family (which constitute the arms of the town), and on its two sides are the following inscriptions :—“*Servate Terminos. Unanimitate, Virtute et Industria*” (“*Preserve landmarks. By unanimity, virtue, and industry*”) and “*Concordia Res Parvae Crescunt Discordia Maxima Dilabuntur*” (“*Small resources are increased by concord : wealth vanishes with discord.*”) The history of this Market Cross is involved in some obscurity. It was erected in 1832, and was ostensibly designed by Bailie (afterwards Provost) Roderick Gray and its other promoters as a restoration of the old Market Cross of Peterhead. Popular opinion, however, then and since, has persistently regarded it as a “*Reform Monument*” set up by the Tories ! On this theory, Peterhead has the unique distinction of possessing two Reform Monuments, the Whigs having erected (also in 1832) a “*Reform Tower*” on the rising ground of Meethill, a little over a mile from the town on the south road. This tower occupies a commanding site, but stands in the middle of a cultivated field without any access to it. It was fitted up as an observatory, but was never properly completed.*

* The foundation-stones of both the Market Cross and the Reform Tower were laid on 8th August, 1832, with considerable ceremony, there being a procession of the trades and others. In the foundation-stone of the Market Cross was placed a scroll bearing an inscription to the effect that “*this pillar*” was erected “*to commemorate the date of obtaining the Elective Franchise to the inhabitants of the Burgh of Peterhead.*”

On a slight terrace in front of the Town House stands a bronze statue of Field-Marshal James Francis Edward Keith, younger brother of the last Earl Marischal, who, exiled for his participation in the Jacobite rising of 1715, entered the Russian military service and afterwards became one of the famous generals of Frederick the Great of Prussia. The statue (executed by M. Geiss, Berlin) is a replica of a statue of Keith in the Wilhelm Platz, Berlin, and was presented to the town by King William I. of Prussia (afterwards Emperor William I. of Germany). The pedestal of Sterlinghill granite on which the statue stands bears the following inscription—

FIELD-MARSHAL KEITH,
 BORN AT INVERUGIE,
 1696.
 KILLED AT THE BATTLE OF
 HOCHKIRCHEN,
 14TH OCTOBER, 1758.
 THE GIFT
 OF
 KING WILLIAM 1ST
 OF PRUSSIA
 TO THE TOWN OF PETERHEAD,
 23RD AUGUST, 1868.
 PROBUS VIXIT, FORTIS OBIIT.

“Probus vixit, fortis obiit” (“Pure he lived; a hero he died”) was the reply given by Keith’s brother, the Earl Marischal, to a request for material for his biography. Field-Marshal Keith may be reckoned the “glory” of the Buchan district; he was probably the most renowned man it has produced.

Exiled, as already mentioned, in 1715, he took part in the feeble attempt, projected by Spain, to effect another Stuart rising in Scotland in 1719. The expedition was a complete failure; Keith's small force, landed in Lewis, was compelled, after what is known as the battle of Glenshiel, to surrender or disperse, and he himself was obliged to seek shelter, for some months, among the mountain fastnesses, eventually escaping to Texel by a vessel which sailed from Peterhead. After serving in the Spanish army for several years, taking part in the siege of Gibraltar in 1726-7, he entered the Russian service in 1728 with the rank of Major-General. He was actively employed in the war which Russia carried on in Poland against Stanislaus in 1733-5, occupying Volhynia and receiving the rank of Lieutenant-General. He was then entrusted with the command of all the Russian forces in the Ukraine, and participated in a subsequent campaign against the Turks, signally distinguishing himself at the siege of Otchakoff in 1737. He was rewarded with the Governorship of the Ukraine, and, later on, was engaged in the war with Sweden in 1741-3, being second in command and having ultimately the honour of being left in full command before Wybourg. On the conclusion of peace with Sweden, the country demanding assistance from Russia in view of a conflict with Denmark, Keith, at the head of 10,000 men, was despatched to Stockholm; acting in the double capacity of Commander-in-Chief of the Russian forces and Ambassador Plenipotentiary for his sovereign at the Court of Sweden, in which important offices he acquitted himself to the entire satisfaction of both Courts. He retired from the

Russian service in 1747, and joined his brother, the Earl Marischal, at Berlin. Frederick of Prussia, with eagle eye, at once perceived the value of the acquisition could he secure the services of so distinguished a general, and, consequently, he appointed Keith a Field-Marshal in the Prussian service. In the course of two years Keith received the appointment of Governor of Berlin. "From the first," says the account of Keith in the "Dictionary of National Biography," "Marshal 'Keit'—as Germans pronounce his name—became Frederick's right hand, and in the seven years' war, which broke out in August 1756, he was so closely associated with the King that a full record of his movements would involve a detailed account of the campaign." He accompanied Frederick when possession was taken of Saxony, he was present at the battle of Lowositz, and he was left in command of the army of Bohemia till it returned to winter quarters in Saxony. He was afterwards despatched by Frederick on a special mission to the Court of Poland. He had a leading command in the campaign against Austria and the invasion of Bohemia in 1757, and participated in the battle fought under the walls of Prague and in the unsuccessful siege of the city that followed. During the subsequent attacks on the power of Prussia—on the vigorous and successful resistance of which much of the military fame of Frederick was founded—Keith again acted a prominent part. He fell at the battle of Hochkirch in 1758. He was buried with military honours at Bautzen; but Berlin being anxious to become the depository of his remains, his body was exhumed and carried thither, where, on 3rd February,

1759, his funeral obsequies were conducted with great pomp. A marble statue of Keith was erected by Frederick in the Wilhelm Platz, Berlin, in 1786, but it was removed to the Cadets' Academy in 1857, its place being taken by a bronze reproduction, of which the Peterhead statue is a copy. A monument to the Field-Marshal was erected in Hochkirch Church by his kinsman, Sir Robert Murray Keith; it bears a Latin epitaph generally credited to Metastasio, but really by Ernesti, which inspired the following characteristic passage by Carlyle—"Keith sleeps now in the Garrison-Kirche; far from bonny Inverugie: the hoarse sea-winds and caverns of Dunnottar singing vague requiem to his honourable line and him, in the imagination of some few. In Hochkirch Church there is still a fine, modestly-impressive monument to Keith; modest urn of black marble on a pedestal of grey, and, in gold letters, an inscription not easily surpassable in the lapidary way—"Dum in Prælio non procul hinc Inclinatam Suorum aciem Mente manu voce et exemplo Restituebat Pugnans ut Heroas decet occubuit."* These words go through you like the clang of steel." In honour of Keith, the 1st Upper Silesian Regiment was, in 1889, re-named the Keith Regiment. "As a soldier," says the "Dictionary of National Biography," "Keith was beyond question by far the greatest of all 'Scots abroad'; and he may be fitly remembered as the inventor of Kriegspiel, or rather of its precursor, Kriegsschachspiel."

*This inscription may be translated—"While, in battle not far from here, he was restoring by courage, gesture, call, and example, the wavering line of his soldiers, he fell, fighting like a hero."

The Parish Church has an inscription above the door—"Founded, 25th May 1804; Opened, 14th August 1806." It has no particular architectural pretensions, but is a large building with a gallery running round three of its sides and contains over 2000 sittings; it is surmounted by a spire 118 feet high. The Episcopal Church, dedicated to St. Peter, is in Merchant Street, and was built in 1814. The style is a sort of Gothic, but far from pure; the windows in the apse, however, form an exception to the other parts of the building, and are deserving of notice for the purity and elegance of their tracery. The Free Church in St. Peter Street was built in 1842 as a chapel of ease to the Parish Church and was acquired by the Free Church after the Disruption; it also is of large dimensions, and was greatly improved last year. Most of the other ecclesiastical denominations are represented in the town, the churches including—East Parish, in Queen Street; Free South, Chapel Street; United Presbyterian, Charlotte Street; Congregational, Queen Street; Methodist, Queen Street; Baptist, King Street; and Roman Catholic (St. Mary), St. Peter Street. There are several schools in the town, noticeable among them being the old Academy (now the Central School), St. Peter Street, and the new Academy (designed by Messrs. Pirie and Clyne, Aberdeen), near the railway station.

The Parish Church was built to take the place of a church that stood on the Links and that was erected in 1770: a controversy as to whether it should be repaired or a new church built led to a litigation, the decision in which is a ruling case with

regard to the liability of burghal feuars for the erection and maintenance of ecclesiastical buildings. The 1770 edifice was preceded by one, the ruins of which are to be seen in the churchyard on the Links. Very little is known of the origin or early history of this building, of which all that remains is the bell tower. Adjoining the tower is a portion of what had been the chancel of a still older church, the rude and massive style of the chancel arch and walls indicating great antiquity, while the bell tower is comparatively modern. There is a Dutch bell of fine tone in the tower, on which is the following inscription—"Soli Deo Gloria. Michael Bvrgenhvys. Me Fecit 1647." The church of Peterhead was dedicated to St. Peter. The parish was originally called Inverugie, and probably included what are now the parishes of Peterhead, St. Fergus, Crimond, Longside, and Cruden.* A new cemetery was laid out in 1868-9.

There were formerly two batteries in Peterhead—the Muckle Battery and the Little Battery; the former commanding the south, and the latter the north bay. Upon the site of the Muckle Battery formerly stood a small fort, mounted with seven brass cannon, taken out

* Early Peterhead historians mention "the ruins of an abbey" near a windmill that once stood on what is now known as Windmill Brae; and an attempt has been made to identify this abbey with a settlement called Monkisholme believed to have been founded by the monks of Deir. The remains of a wall and pavement have been discovered in the vicinity, which are supposed to be fragments of a chapel or monk's cell, and near by is the "Abbot's Well." Some sculptured stones and grey slates have been dug up at this spot.

of the St. Michael, one of the Spanish Armada, which was wrecked on the coast in this vicinity. Several guns, of a smaller size, which had belonged to the same vessel, were mounted upon the Tolbooth Green, in 1715, on the landing of the Chevalier, for the defence of the town. These, with the guns in the batteries, were, soon after this event, taken to London—the Government, no doubt, wishing to mark its appreciation of the encouragement the “Pretender” had here received. The Chevalier landed on December 25th (Christmas Day), 1715, and resided for some time in a house at the south end of the Long-gate, where he was privately visited by Earl Marischal and other friends, previous to his leaving for Aberdeen.*

The following “Act of Counsell, ordaining guaird to be kept each night,” will give some idea of the spirit of the inhabitants in the cause of the exiled family—

“The Magistrates and Town Counsell of PHD having mett wt.in the Tolbooth therof, upon the fifth day of October, Jajvij and fifteen years; and taking to their serious consideration the hazard and danger the Town may sustain by the inconvenience of the present tymes, have therefor resolved unanimously, that, the said Town for their own safety and defence, keep Guaird, by calling out the rexive Inhabitants of the Town vicissim, and making ane division in four quarters, which quarters is to lie under the command of viz. first Quarter, George Cruickshank and Alex. Arbuthnot; second Quarter, Thomas

* As to the precise locality of this house, see *Scottish Notes and Queries*, i., 161, 180.

Arbuthnot and William Clark, sen. ; third Quarter Thomas Forbes and John Logan; and fourth Quarter, James Park and James Thomson; and ordains the said Quarters to keep Guaird nightly, either wt. their whole compy. or the half therof, as the Magistrates shall find expedient: and ordains the Captains to provyd themselves with offcrs Picts and Shazes, if they can. And all the other rexive fencible men wt. Guns and Swords in good order, and to meet at the Cross of Peterhead, upon the day, and under the penalty specified; and heirby authorises and appoints the sd. Eight Captains, or at least as many of them as are at present in Peterhead, to meet to morrow be ten of the cloak befornoon, at the Tolbooth therof, and to Inlist, and divide the whole ffenceable men wt. in the sd. Barony, and to insert their names and divisions in this Book. And ordains the Thesaurer to caus make ane new head to the Drummer, ffour Serjants Picts, wc. is to be paid out of the first end of the Publict.

“Follows ane list of the whole Inhabitants of Peterhead who are obliged to carry armour, who is under the rexive command of the Captains under-written, conform to the four Divisions specd.”*

In this list of “ffencible inhabitants” we find the names of the following worthy dames—Janet Dickie, Margaret Greig, Geills Scott, Margaret Dun, Elspat Mitchell, Janet Cruickshank, Widow Bodie, Widow Brown, Elsie Bruce, and Mrs. Walker. No stronger proof of the enthusiasm with which the fair

* Transcribed from Peter Buchan’s “Annals of Peterhead.” “Rexive” is a contraction for “respective;” “picts” were picks, and “shazes” short swords. (See *Scottish Notes and Queries*, ii., 190.)

sex espoused the cause of the exiled family is needed than to find them ranked with those who were to be drawn up nightly, and supplied with "ane sufficient gun charged with powder and bullets, and ffour spair shots besides, and ane sufficient suord."

Peterhead was long noted for its mineral springs, one of which, the Wine Well, was greatly celebrated for its medicinal qualities. There is another mineral well at the Geddle Braes. About the beginning of the present century, Peterhead was a fashionable watering-place. With the view of accommodating visitors, Mr. James Arbuthnot, in the year 1800, formed, at great expense, a spacious basin, 90 feet by 30, cut out of the solid rock, and capable of holding six feet of water—the bottom being level and covered with sand. This fine bath is filled every tide with pure sea-water, its depth being regulated by a sluice, with a flight of broad steps leading down to it. Rooms were provided for the accommodation of bathers, but in course of time these became neglected and dilapidated; a movement is now on foot, however, (1898) for the reconstruction and improvement of this bathing-place. In 1799, a bath, 40 feet by 20, had been erected by the Mason Society. The town was also formerly famous for its warm baths. In 1802, Mr. Arbuthnot, the spirited individual already mentioned, erected two suites of apartments, containing twelve warm baths, with a complete set of apparatus, by which patients might be accommodated with warm, steam or vapour, hot air, projecting, and shower baths, at any temperature that might be required.

The port of Peterhead, from its peculiar situation on the most easterly promontory of Scotland, is one of

considerable importance, being often the first place reached by vessels overtaken by storm in the North Sea ; and at one time its relative importance—wholly due, probably, to its situation — seems to have warranted something in the nature of national subscriptions for the maintenance and repair of its harbour.* The earliest notice of these harbours is in the charter of erection of the burgh already mentioned, in which the Earl Marischal bound himself “to build ane bulwark at the mouth of the haven called Port Henry.” According to the Countess of Erroll’s MS., however, Port Henry “hath its name from one Henry Middleton, in Clerkhill, who in the said Earl George his time, was instrumental under the said Earl to have this erected from an open shore to a secure harbour.” A creek about 200 yards north of the old Port Henry Pier called “The Almanythie” was once used as a harbour for small fishing boats. In 1705, an Act of the Privy Council of Scotland was passed, authorising a voluntary contribution for repairing the harbours of Peterhead to be made throughout the three Lothians and all north of the Forth. In 1729, an Act of the Convention of Royal Burghs was obtained in favour of the town of Peterhead, for a voluntary contribution throughout all the burghs of the country for the repairing of its harbours ; and in the following year the shipmasters of Leith and the merchants of

* References to collections in the diocese of Aberdeen for “repairing the broken bulwarks of the towne of Peterhead” (1662) and repairing the harbour (1678) will be found in “Records of the Meeting of the Exercise of Alford” (New Spalding Club, 1897).

Edinburgh gave an attestation of the great public utility of these harbours. The Town Council of Edinburgh authorised a collection to be made in all the churches of the city and its neighbourhood on behalf of the Peterhead harbours, the result of which was £240 14s. 6d.; and so great was the interest felt in these harbours that an "Assembly" was held in Edinburgh in 1740 in aid of the other collections for their repair. The building of the present South Harbour was commenced in 1773 after designs by Smeaton. It was deepened in 1807, on a plan furnished by Rennie, and an addition of about 200 feet was made to the west pier. The construction of the present North Harbour, on a report and design by Telford, was commenced in 1818, but in the following year, while the work was still in an unfinished state, a tremendous storm destroyed all that had been done. The east pier, however, the breakwater, and what is now known as the old graving dock—140 feet long in the bottom—were finished in 1821. The south and west piers of the North Harbour, including a new graving dock—144 feet long in the bottom—were partly executed in 1840 and completed in 1855. A passage between the North and South Harbours, from plans by Messrs. Stevenson, was opened in 1850; it is spanned by a cast-iron swing bridge. Further improvements were carried out in 1872-3 and 1875-6, including the construction of a Middle Harbour on the west side of the North Harbour and the formation of a boat harbour at Port Henry; and when these works were completed the harbour consisted of three basins covering an area of $21\frac{1}{2}$ acres, with a depth of

water varying from 12 to 18 feet at spring tides. Still further improvements have recently been executed. An Act of Parliament was obtained in 1894, authorising the expenditure of £40,000, the works contemplated including the deepening and extension of Port Henry Harbour, and the erection of a Fish Market. The work in connection with Port Henry Harbour was carried out in 1897 under the superintendence of Mr. James Barron, C.E., Aberdeen. The harbour was deepened to an extent, all over, of six feet, at low water; a quay, 800 feet long, was constructed along Seagate; and a jetty was projected from it, 280 feet long and 35 feet wide, dividing the harbour into two nearly equal portions. The excavations were utilised in reclaiming $4\frac{1}{4}$ acres of the foreshore of the South Bay, extending from Merchant Street to Love Lane, and forming thereon a landing quay about 800 yards long. A memorial stone commemorating the improvement of Port Henry Harbour was laid with Masonic rites on the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Day (22nd June, 1897), on which occasion Mr. William Boyd, Provincial Grand Master of East Aberdeenshire, who performed the ceremony, suggested that the harbour should be designated Port Royal, contending that its original name was Port au Roi—the port or harbour of the king—that it was so designated in connection with a visit to the town or neighbourhood of Peterhead by James VI., and that the designation had become corrupted into Port Henry.

In 1884, a long controversy as to the most suitable place for a national Harbour of Refuge on the east coast of Scotland was ended by a special

committee appointed by Government recommending the selection of the South Bay of Peterhead. Strong representations had previously been made in favour of that selection, in which the superior advantages of the South Bay were thus specified:—

“It is situated mid-way between the Firths of Forth and Cromarty. The coast on either side of it is of an exposed and dangerous character ; it is the centre of the great fishing industry on the east coast ; it is an easy point of access and departure, being the most prominent headland on the coast ; it is so formed by nature as to afford all the physical advantages of ample space, depth of water, and anchorage of the best description ; and it is in the vicinity of extensive granite quarries from which inexhaustible supplies of material can be obtained for the construction of the works.”

The late Sir John Coode was employed in 1885 to prepare plans of a harbour of refuge ; and he proposed to enclose the South Bay by the construction of a breakwater across the bay from Salthousehead to the north end of the south breakwater of Peterhead Harbour, and this scheme was subsequently adopted by the authorities. The proposed breakwater is to be 1400 yards long, with an opening 600 feet wide ; at the opening, the breakwater will have a depth of 85 feet ; and the water area enclosed will be about 400 acres, though the navigable area will be limited to 140 acres. The breakwater will practically be a wall of concrete blocks, weighing from 27 to 50 tons each, faced with granite, and resting on a rubble base consisting of large blocks of granite. An Act of Parliament authorising the construction of the harbour was passed

in 1886. Since that time a large Convict Prison has been built (a subsidiary part of the scheme being the utilisation of convict labour), an extensive yard has been enclosed and shops erected for the necessary works, and a line of rails has been laid to quarries purchased at Stirlinghill; and the breakwater itself has been (1898) built out from the Salthousehead end to a distance of about 1000 feet. The works are under the superintendence of the Admiralty. The Harbour of Refuge is expected to cost something like a million of money, and to occupy twenty-five or thirty years in construction.

Peterhead possesses many advantages in a maritime point of view, of which it has largely availed itself. For many years it sent more vessels to the Greenland and Davis Straits seal and whale fishing than any other town in Great Britain. It first embarked in this enterprise in 1788; but down to 1803 only one vessel prosecuted the fishing. During the next twenty years, the number was increased to 16; in the twenty years following, the fishing being less successful, the number decreased to 10 or 11. In 1857 it had again increased to 31, though one vessel (the *Gipsy*) was lost, and only 30 returned from the fishing; but since then the industry has greatly fluctuated and has now practically ceased. One of the leading "whaling skippers" was Captain David Gray, who died on 16th May, 1896; and the biographical sketches of the Captain furnished by the Peterhead and Aberdeen newspapers gave a number of interesting details with regard to the history of the Peterhead whale and seal fishing. The prosecution of the herring fishing is now, and has been for many

years, the principal industry of the town. It met with a serious reverse—not only in Peterhead, but along the whole of the north-east coast—in 1886, when the over-stocking of the Continental markets caused a heavy drop in prices. A financial catastrophe ensued; but more judicious trading resulted, including the abolition of the bounty system, and the industry has once again assumed large proportions, particularly at Fraserburgh and Peterhead. The total quantity of herrings landed at Peterhead during 1896 was 157,100 crans. By far the greater proportion was cured and sent to Continental markets, and of the remainder 11,914 crans were kippered, 2,600 crans sent to the south markets in a fresh state, 370 crans tinned, and 203 crans made into red herrings. The herring fishing is liable to fluctuations: in 1897, the total catch at Peterhead fell to 74,065 crans; in 1898—an exceptionally good year—it rose to 173,083 crans. There is also a large white fishing industry at Peterhead; a great number of coopers are employed in the manufacture of barrels, &c.; and boatbuilding is also carried on to some extent. Shipbuilding, which at one time was largely prosecuted, has virtually ceased in the town.

A remarkable and destructive tidal wave occurred at Peterhead on 10th January, 1849, a detailed account of which, written by Mr. William Boyd, solicitor, appeared in the third edition of this work. A severe easterly gale prevailed on the day mentioned, and the sea, which was rolling very heavily at the back of the North Harbour, threw down about 186 yards of the enclosing wall bounding it on the east,

and swept away some herring-curing yards. Heavy masses of water rushed through the breach into the harbour, throwing to some distance disengaged masses of masonry of several tons' weight—parts of the enclosing wall—and scattering over the roadway and quay and hurling into the harbour an immense quantity of the stones with which the wall and buildings had been erected. Several whale ships lying in the harbour broke from their moorings, owing to the weight of water thrown in through the breach; and when the tide had somewhat receded, preparations were begun for securing these vessels by new moorings, and workmen were employed to clear away the loose stones from the roadway and quay. No danger being apprehended till the return of the next tide, the work was actively prosecuted for about an hour, when, at nearly five o'clock, about half-tide, a tremendous wave dashed through the breach, spreading over the quay to a great depth and submerging the men at work. It was immediately followed by another wave still more awful, supposed to have been from 14 to 15 feet in depth—in the words of a spectator, “like as if the whole North Sea was bursting through the breach.” This wave covered the men many feet deep, washed them into the harbour, which was now a boiling flood, and threw with them an immense mass of stones, the wreck of the wall and buildings—one solid mass of masonry, calculated to weigh 50 tons, was torn from the enclosing wall, and was moved wholly for several feet. Fifteen persons perished in the catastrophe.

The manufacture of linen yarn was at one time carried on to a considerable extent, but it is now

entirely given up. In the early part of the present century, a woollen manufactory, belonging to Messrs. Arbuthnott, Scott, & Co., situated in the Kirktown, attained great celebrity. The texture and finish of the superfine cloth, it was said, were equal to those of the best West of England manufacture; and in 1814 this firm received the two first premiums from the Society for the Encouragement of Manufactures in Scotland. The value of cloth annually sent out from the works was from £10,000 to £12,000. On the death of some of the partners, the firm was broken up, and the premises converted, first into a corn mill, then into a distillery; and then they were occupied for many years by Mr. Alexander Murray as a saw-mill and bone-crushing establishment. But at Whitsunday 1854, Messrs. Thomas Smith & Company purchased the buildings and revived the woollen manufacture; and since then they have more than doubled the extent of the buildings, which are now known as the Kirkburn Mills and employ a large number of hands. Mr. John Smith, now the senior partner of the firm, has been for several years, and still (1899) is Provost of the town. Another prominent industry in the town is that of granite polishing, monument-making, &c., represented mainly by the Great North of Scotland Granite Polishing Company and Messrs. Heslop, Wilson, & Company, Millbank.*

* For fuller details of the career of Field-Marshal Keith, see the Dictionary of National Biography; a Memoir published by the Spalding Club; Peter Buchan's "Family of Keith;" "Memoir of Marshal Keith, with a Sketch of the Keith Family, by a Peterheadian" (Peterhead, 1869); "Castles of Aberdeenshire;" Carlyle's Life of Frederick; John Hill

Burton's "Scot Abroad;" "A Fallen Star," by Charles Lowe (1895); "The Pupils of Peter the Great," by R. Nisbet Bain (1897); "Marshal Keith," by Frederick Dixon, in *Temple Bar*, June 1898; and Dr. Mackintosh's "Historic Earls and Earldoms of Scotland."

Interesting particulars relating to the early history of Peterhead are to be found in "Peterhead: Parochial and Ecclesiastical" by James Aiken, in "Transactions of Buchan Field Club," 1887-90; and "Old Church, Peterhead," in *Scottish Notes and Queries*, ii., 171. Among other authorities referring to Peterhead may be mentioned—the New Statistical Account (the "account" of Peterhead in the volume having been prepared by Provost Roderick Gray); "The Annals of Peterhead" by Peter Buchan; "An Account of Peterhead, Its Mineral Well, Air, and Neighbourhood," by William Laing, M.D.; J. T. Findlay's "History of Peterhead" (*Buchan Observer*); "The Whale Fishing Industry of Peterhead," *Aberdeen Daily Free Press*, 27 and 31 January and 9 February, 1893; "Life on a Greenland Whaler," by A. Conan Doyle, in *Strand Magazine*, January, 1897; "Notes on Place Names" in *Scottish Notes and Queries*, i., 178; and "Peterhead Burgh Affairs of Last Century" in *Scottish Notes and Queries*, ii., 72, 89. The modern progress of the town, with some details of the herring fishing industry, was briefly sketched in an article on "Peterhead in the Queen's Reign" in the *Aberdeen Free Press*, 21 June, 1897. See also "Peterhead Harbour Improvements" in *Free Press*, 16 November, 1895, and "Peterhead Convict Prison" in *Free Press*, 30 March, 1896. Reference may also be made to two articles, "In and about Peterhead" in *Weekly Free Press*, 29 December, 1871, and 12 January, 1872.

Peter Buchan, whose name is mentioned among the authorities just cited, was a notable native of Peterhead. Born in 1790, he set up a printing press in 1816, having, as he himself said, "long witnessed with feeling regret the inconvenience his native town laboured under, no printing press at the time being nearer than Aberdeen." He made the press himself, "with no assistance from any other person, being wright and blacksmith alternately." In the following year, he started a newspaper, the

"Selector"—a four-page foolscap 8vo paper, published fortnightly; the first newspaper published in Peterhead. Begun on 6 June, 1817, the paper came to a sudden end on 21 November following. Buchan was the author of several works which he printed himself at the "Auchmedden Press," as he called his establishment, the principal being "Annals of Peterhead" (1819), "An Historical and Authentic Account of the Ancient and Noble Family of Keith, Earls Marichal of Scotland" (1820), and "The Peterhead Smugglers" (1834). He acquired some reputation as a ballad collector, and in 1828 published two volumes of "Ancient Ballads and Songs of the North of Scotland"—a reprint of which was issued by William Paterson, Edinburgh, in 1875. He died in 1854. (See "Autobiographical Sketch of the Life of Peter Buchan," Glasgow, 1839; the Dictionary of National Biography; "The Bards of Bon-Accord," by William Walker; Scott's "Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border," and "Letters to and from Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe"—in which Sir Walter Scott makes several references to Buchan and his collections of ballads; "Bibliography of Peterhead Periodical Literature," by W. L. Taylor, in *Scottish Notes and Queries*, ii., 147; and an article in the *Daily Free Press*, 22 February, 1898.) Buchan's eldest son, Dr. Patrick Buchan (1814-81), was the author of two poems, "The Guidman o' Inglismill" and "The Fairy Bride," the former containing two excellent songs in "broad Buchan" dialect—"Watt o' the Hill" and "Tipperty's Jean." (See "Bards of Bon-Accord.")

The whale fishing industry so long carried on from Peterhead not unnaturally reared a number of intrepid "whaling skippers." One of the oldest survivors, and at the same time one of the most notable of the race, was Captain David Gray, who made no fewer than 49 voyages to the Arctic regions. An account of his career and of his whaling operations was given in the *Daily Free Press*, 18 May, 1896, on the occasion of his death; and it was supplemented by more detailed accounts in the Peterhead papers about that date.

CHAPTER VI.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF PETERHEAD.

LIKE many other coast towns, Peterhead is favourably situated for the playing of golf—an ancient game, the revival of which has become greatly popular of recent years. The golf course is on the Links of St. Fergus, a little distance to the north of the town, and on the north side of the river Ugie, the Club-house being within easy reach of a convenient ferry. The Links themselves—pleasant, breezy, downs, where Grass of Parnassus grows in abundance*—stretch for several miles along the coast—practically to Rattray Head; and a walk along or across them is a fine tonic for jaded spirits or depressed feelings. The original Castle of Inverugie is said to have been located a little to the west of the ferry, on the north bank of the river; but the site has long since been obliterated. Mr. Alexander Hepburn, in his "Description of the Parish of Peterhead" in 1721, must have had this place in view when he said—"On the north side of the river stands the Place of Inverugy; '*Jam seges est ubi Troja fuit*'" ("Now corn grows where Troy was"),† and the author of the

* See an article on this grass by Rev. Hugh Macmillan, D.D., in "Grass of Parnassus from The Bents o' Buchan."

† A similar allusion is found in an inscription on a lintel at Roseheart. See Chapter xvi.

“View of the Diocese” is of opinion that in this “old Inverugie” is fulfilled a prophecy, said to be by Thomas the Rhymer—

“ Inverugie by the sea,
 Lordless shall thy lands be,
 And beneath thy ha’ hearth-stane
 The tod [fox] shall bring her bairns hame.”*

Further west, the Ugie is joined by the Collie Burn, which descends through a confined valley extending to the Howe of Buchan—a glen not without its legendary traditions, having once been a famed locality for supernatural beings. “Howes”—literally, hollows—are not infrequent in Buchan, despite the comparatively level character of the country. They are simply little glens, occasionally picturesque, and sometimes striking by contrast with the monotonous features of the adjoining landscape, from which they are entirely shut in. This particular one has inspired a song with the refrain—

“ The Howes o’ Buchan, they are bonny and braw,
 The Howes o’ Buchan, they are bonny and green,
 The Howes o’ Buchan, they are bonny and braw”—

*This latter prediction has a family likeness to one regarding the Rhymer’s own fortunes—

“ The hare shall kittle [litter] on my hearth-stane,
 And there will never be a laird Learmont again.”

“On the shadowy borderland between myth and reality, in the early literary history of Scotland, stands The Rhymer, Thomas of Ercildoune. Few names are more familiar than his in the folk-lore of the north, yet regarding few is so little generally known. With his fame as a maker of early Scottish romance a weird reputation for prophecy has been handed down by tradition.” (“Thomas the Rhymer” in “Early Scottish Poetry,” the first volume of the “Abbotsford Series of the Scottish Poets,” edited by George Eyre-Todd.)

which is probably all that can really be said about them. The House of Howe of Buchan, which now belongs to Mr. William Heslop, Peterhead, was formerly the property of Mr. John Brown, a descendant of the Browns of Aslead, a family of some note in the parish of Monquhitter previous to the Jacobite rising in 1745.

Walking along the Longside road for about two miles from Howe of Buchan, the old road from Peterhead to Kinmundy is reached by turning to the left. Pursuing this latter road for about a mile, a road again branches off to the left, leading to Cairn Catta and passing near the Dens of Peterhead—a group of pretty, wild glens, of a character to delight the lovers of natural scenery. Of these the Mill Den (sometimes called the Den of Faichfield) is the principal. Its salient features are rocks of a rude and grotesque form, covered with a variety of lichens and mosses, and jutting up from the bosom of a deep wooded valley. Through this meanders a rippling stream of water, making music as it flows, and, like a coy beauty, peeping out here and there, to hide itself again behind the next miniature promontory which interrupts its course. On the eastern side was once a mill, of which Mr. Peter Buchan gave the following description—“There is in this romantic and extensive glen a curiosity in nature—a meal-mill of great antiquity, supposed to be the oldest in Scotland, and which claims the particular attention of the antiquary and the man of taste. One of its ends, and part of one of its sides, were built at the creation of the world, and by the great Architect of nature, so that its antiquity cannot be disputed by

the most captious sceptic." Mr. Buchan further described the Den as the haunt of the heron and the wild duck, and stated that a great number of foxes formerly found shelter in the caverns and crevices of these "ghastly rocks." In this Den, according to tradition, resided the Lady of Raven's Craig, after the death of her husband; Sir Reginald Cheyne; and though no vestiges of the house are to be found; it still goes under the name of "the Lady of the Craig's Place."

About a mile to the southward of the Dens is Cairn Catta (modernised into Cairn Catto)—*Cath*, *Cathie*, said to signify a battle; *Cairn Cath*=the Battle Cairn—a large heap of stones on a hill and farm of the same name, at the southern extremity of the parish of Longside, and about five miles south-west of Peterhead. When entire—for it has been sadly demolished—it is said to have had something of the appearance of a lion couchant, being higher and broader at the east end than at the west, and to have resembled, in shape, Arthur's Seat at Edinburgh. The cairn is doubtless on some great battlefield; which must have been chosen with considerable skill, as it would have been (at the time of the probable conflict) flanked on the right, towards the north, by an extensive morass, while the ground in front, to the westward, is traversed by a narrow ravine called the Leaca Howe, extending to the left for several miles. On its south-western declivity, in the direction between the Cairn and Aldie House, the hill was at one time covered with small circular mounds of earth and stones. There were also several circular foundations, measuring 21 feet in

diameter, and level in the middle, the circumference being marked by stones and earth raised a little above the surface of the ground. Near the south-west boundary of the slope were twin mounds containing graves, which were about the usual size—4 feet long, 22 inches wide, and about 2 feet deep. Modern agricultural improvement, however, has swept most of these mounds, rings, and graves out of existence. South of and adjoining the hill of Cairn Catta is a hill called Dun-na-Cluaich, and at its base is a large block of granite, calculated to be about 20 tons, mistakenly described on the Ordnance Survey map as a cromlech.

On the slope of the opposite hill, and three-quarters of a mile westward from Cairn Catta is the Camp Fauld—presumably the position of the force opposing that which may be conjectured to have been assembled on Cairn Catta. Here, till about 1840, was a series of round holes, called the Camp Pits. These holes were eleven in number, from 4 to 5 feet deep and 8 yards apart, and extended in a straight line. There were wells also, called the Camp Wells, near the farm steading of Newton of Savoeh. In 1845, an urn, in a good state of preservation, was found not far from this spot; and several stone cists were found in 1864. About a quarter of a mile nearer Aldie, on the opposite side of the hollow from the large stone already mentioned, are the remains of a sepulchral mound, in which is an excavation known as the King's Grave. It is 3 feet 10 inches in length, 22 inches in width, and 25 inches deep. It lies east and west.* Farther up the acclivity of the hill, in the

*Since this was first written, the mound called the King's Grave (2) has been examined, and two other graves (1, 3) were

corner of a field now enclosed, was a mound called the Silver Cairn, which, on being removed, was found to contain an urn with calcined bones. There were other mounds on this hill, but they are now wholly obliterated.

Ascending the slope, on the Cairn Catta side, in a south-easterly direction from Dun-na-Cluaich, the Hill of Gask is reached at a distance of about half a mile. Nearly a mile due south from Cairn Catta, on the western slope of the hill, there existed, till 1866, the vestiges of what is supposed to have been a Pictish village; but, as they were in the vicinity of the great battle-field, they may possibly indicate the place of encampment of one of the contending armies. These were pits of a roundish shape, varying in diameter from 7 or 8 to 12 or 16 feet, the depth being from 18 inches to 3 feet. In what seems to have been the centre of this encampment, and near the brow of the hill, there was a cluster of these pits, all within a circle of about 40 yards in diameter. Others, to the number of a hundred or more, might still be counted, ranged

discovered. One of these (1) was opened. It was 3 feet 6 inches by 2 feet 8 inches, and rudely paved in the bottom.



Measuring from the north side of this grave to the south side of the King's Grave (2) the distance was 7 feet. From the line of the east end of 1 and 2 to the west end of 3, was 7 feet. No. 3 was only 2 feet 3 inches by 1 foot 4 inches. The King's Grave mound is now marked by a circle of stones partly sunk into the ground.

around this centre, in something like an arc of a circle. Three, and in some places four rows or lines, were still distinctly traceable. The pits were apart from each other at distances varying from about 15 to 40 feet along the lines; the space between these slightly curved lines was from 20 to 30 yards. The pits were so arranged that each one in every line faced the vacancy in that immediately in front of it—a diamond-shaped arrangement in fact. From the centre of this camp, and at about 180 yards in a southerly direction, there was a mound, partly artificial, on the highest point of the hill.

Many years ago, with a view to draining off the water from the hollow in which the central group of pits was situated, the proprietor—the late Mr. James Shepherd, yr. of Aldie—was having a ditch carried to the westward. When the man employed had reached the centre of the ridge, and was using his mattock in the bottom of the ditch, some three or four feet down, the ground suddenly gave way, and he was precipitated into a subterranean vault or cavern, five or six feet deep, irregular in its form and winding in its course. Its exact locality was between the old road from Cruden to Peterhead, and that which branches off to Longside by Cairn Catta. The roof of this cavern was a sort of conglomerate, or “pan,” from 18 inches to 2 feet thick, and extremely hard. Another circumstance in connection with this locality is worthy of notice. There had been a manufactory of flint arrow-heads here. Along the whole western slope of the hill might once have been seen, every here and there, a stone with a flat surface from a foot to 18 inches above ground, around which heaps

of chips of the flints so plentiful in this locality lay scattered. These stones had apparently been used as anvils, on which the rough flints were broken.

The Leaca Howe—*Lech* or *Leac*, a stone—having the hills of Cairn Catta and Dun-na-Cluaich on its eastern margin, and the hills of Aldie on its western, had, at a remote period, been well stocked with trees, the trunks of which are still to be found in the bottom of the hollow. Extending northwards, this ravine had terminated in an extensive wood, now a bleak and barren waste, known as the Moss of Savoch of Longside. Both sides of the ravine were, till improved cultivation set in, covered with the vestiges of the terrible conflict which had taken place in its vicinity. The number of flint arrow and spear heads that have been picked up, and the endless recurrence of tumuli, may be looked upon as the unwritten records of the battle—its remote date and sanguinary character. The mounds on the slopes of the hills to the east of the Howe, might at one time have been counted by the hundred. They were of different sizes, varying from 6 to upwards of 20 feet in diameter, and were generally elevated above the surface of the field from 8 inches to a foot. Eighteen or twenty of these, in a south-westerly direction from the Cairn, were apparently formed with great care, being quite circular, flat on the top, 7 or 8 feet in diameter, and raised 6 or 8 inches above the surface. They were altogether of a different character from the ordinary mounds in the vicinity. For what purpose these were constructed, it is difficult to imagine.

In one of the mounds on the estate of Aldie—opened about 1834—several flint arrow heads were found,

together with a long, thin piece of flint, neatly serrated, which had obviously been used as a saw. Celts of various sizes have often been found in this part of the district, more especially in the moss of Lochlundie, on the south-western border of the parish of Cruden. Specimens may be seen in the Museum at Peterhead and at Slains Castle. Two very fine examples were found at Berry Moss, near Hardslacks, lying side by side, on the trunk of a tree which had for centuries lain buried under a peat bog. A stone, inscribed with rude characters, now in the garden at Aldie, was found at some little distance eastward from the Silver Cairn. It is 26 inches by 17, and about 4 inches thick. The characters have the appearance of common Roman letters reversed, but it is doubtful if they are of ancient date. Near the summit of the Hill of Aldie, about two miles north-west from the house, is a low mound, surrounded, with the exception of small spaces on the north and west, by a broad, shallow, grassy ditch, the mound itself and the surrounding hill being covered with heath. The enclosure is elliptical, about 60 yards from north to south, and 25 from east to west.

Presumably the site of an ancient battle-field, Cairn Catta is fertile of busy memories and vain conjectures. Who were the belligerents or who the conquerors in the deadly conflict is now lost in the obscurity of the past—the Cairn and its surrounding tumuli are the only existing records of the event. That which to the eye of the beholder is now a scene of well-cultivated farms was once contested, inch by inch, by hostile armies; but whether Picts were here opposed to Scots, or whether the conflict was between races still

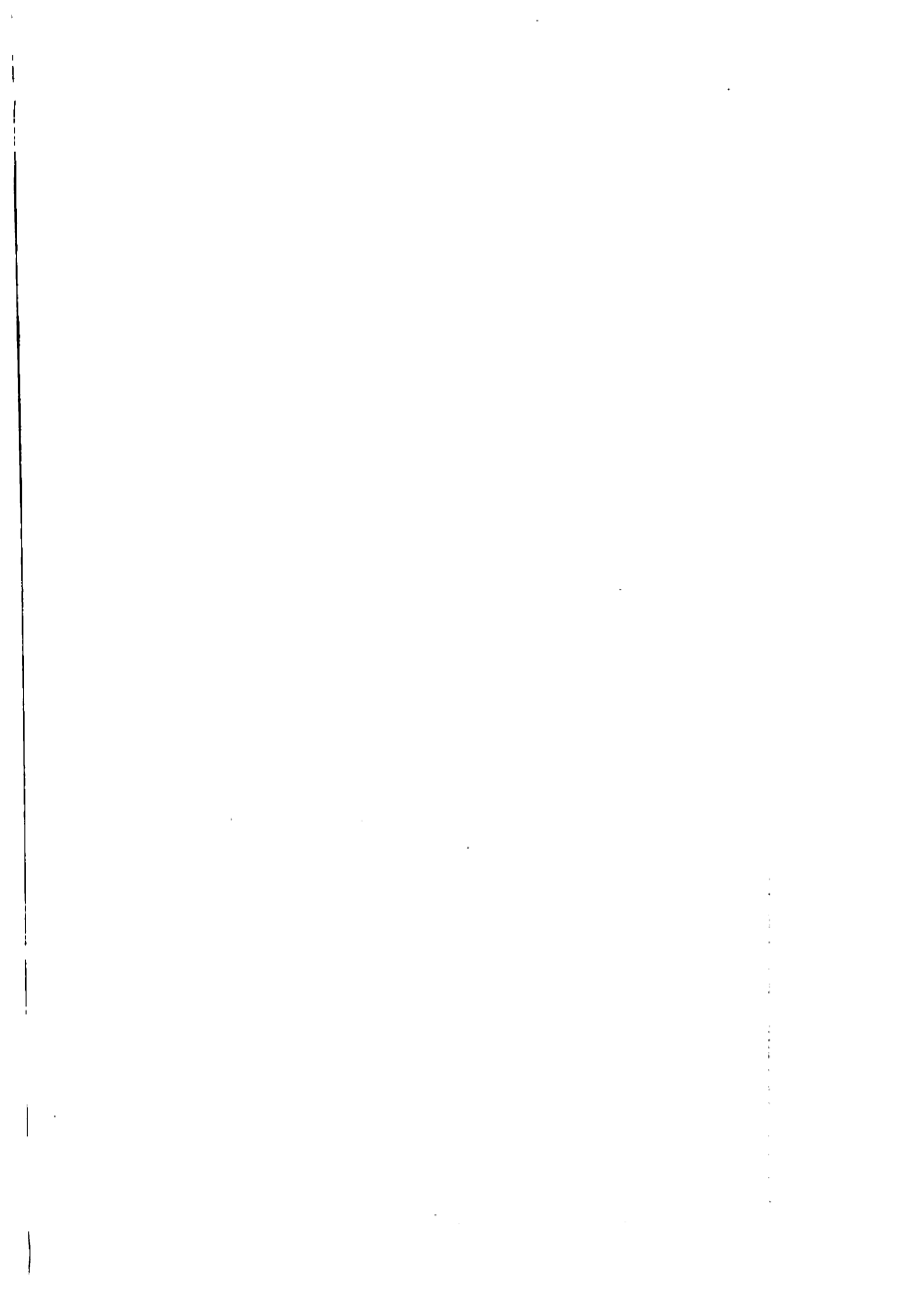
more remote than either—whose implements of war were flints for arrow-heads, sharpened stones for battle-axes, and wooden clubs for swords—is now a matter of vain inquiry.

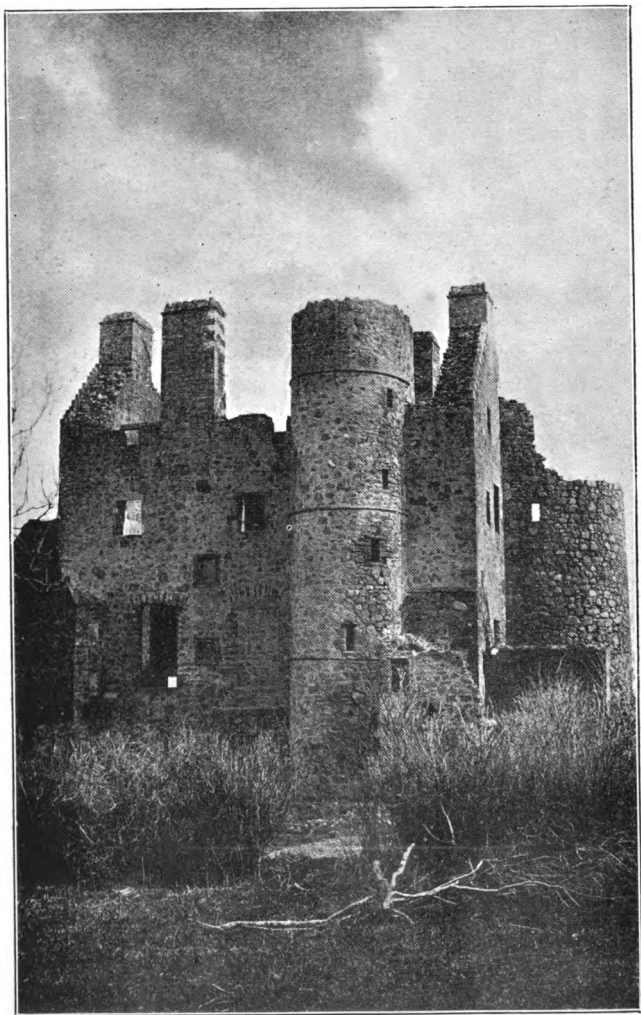
About half a mile north-west of Cairn Catta, near the brink of the ravine already mentioned, were nine fine, clear springs, called the Morris Wells, which probably took their name from the ancient Scottish custom of dancing round a spring of water on the first of May, somewhat analogous to that of dancing round the Maypole in England. These wells, one of which was slightly mineral, formed a semicircle extending to the length of about 20 yards, and were divided into three equal groups. They have, however, all disappeared under modern improvement.

Returning from Cairn Catta, in the direction of the Buchan Ness Lighthouse, the Den of Boddam is reached. It runs along the western base of the Sterling Hill, and terminates in the immediate vicinity of Sandford Lodge—a solitary glen, traversed by a small stream, the waters of which, husbanded by means of a barrier built across the glen, form a pond of considerable extent. On the rugged and barren slopes along both sides of the glen are a number of excavations, of different sizes, large enough to contain from four to eight persons. These, tradition says, were the houses of the Picts or Peights. But considering their obscure position, one rather inclines to the opinion that they were places of concealment, probably for the women and children, during the incursions of an invading foe. The place is well adapted for such a purpose, being little calculated to excite the cupidity of the marauder. But even these

desolate habitations of a pre-historic race are being invaded by the operations of the husbandman, and, in the course of a few years, every trace of them will probably have been obliterated. This is greatly to be regretted, for such relics as these are distinct memorials of the obscure past, legibly impressed on the face of the country, and form, moreover, landmarks of the evolution of mankind.

Passing by the village of Boddam, and following a footpath along the beach, the mouth of the Lower Den of Boddam, in the immediate vicinity of Sandford Lodge, is crossed. The glen here partially resumes its wild and picturesque character, and considerable taste has been displayed in the formation of winding footpaths under the snug shelter of the braes, and leading to the best points of view. At some distance along the public road is the Meet Hill, on which the Reform Tower, mentioned in the preceding chapter, was erected. This hill, according to tradition, was a place for the administration of justice; but, judging from the discovery, while digging for the foundations of the tower, of a stone crypt containing a bowl-shaped urn (now in the Peterhead Museum), which enclosed some fragments of the bones of a human being, including the lower jawbone, with part of the teeth adhering, it may be supposed to have been a barrow, or place of sepulture. The urn was ornamented round the brim by a band of circular impressions, about the size of a shilling, and about one-eighth of an inch in depth.





INVERUGIE CASTLE (BEFORE BEING DESTROYED)

CHAPTER VII.

INVERUGIE CASTLE AND RAVENSCRAIG.

THE ruins of Inverugie Castle—which, after Dunnottar Castle, was the principal seat of the Keiths, Earls Marischal of Scotland—are situated on the north bank of the Ugie, about a quarter of a mile above the bridge by which the Peterhead and Fraserburgh road crosses the river. This bridge is about two miles from Peterhead (or somewhat less, now that the mileage of roads is computed from burgh boundaries instead of, as formerly, from the Market Cross). The Castle, however, may be reached by other roads from Peterhead, or by taking the train to Inverugie Station. It stands on a slight eminence, in a picturesque situation, the river winding round it on three sides, the banks being finely wooded. Almost immediately below it is a deep pool in the river called Pot-Sunken. “A legend, preserved in the form of a local ballad” (says Mr. Boyd in “Old Inverugie”), “suggests that its name is properly ‘Pot Sunk Ann,’ and attributes it to a romantic origin. It is said that one of the Keiths of the Craig married Ann, daughter of Crawford, Laird of Fedderat, and that, after a year of blissful wedded life, having been persecuted by the attentions of a lover, she was warned in a dream to fly from her husband’s house. She left the Castle” (? Ravenscraig) “in the midst of a furious

tempest, and, guided by a treacherous spirit which appeared to her, she was drowned in an attempt to cross the swollen stream. In the words of the ballad—

‘ She screamed for help, but none was near,
 No succour to implore ;
 She floated to the eddy neuk,
 Then sunk to rise no more.
 And to this day that fatal spot
 Is known to many man,
 And rustic neighbours point the spot,
 And tell you, ‘ There Sunk Ann.’ ”

A little to the westward is an old pigeon-house, the “Dowcatt” of the Castle of Inverugie ; and still farther along the north bank of the river, “Baubie Duthie’s Rock,” a slight eminence commanding a beautiful little stretch of the Ugie, and immediately opposite the ruins of Ravenscraig Castle. Inverugie Castle is sheltered on the north by rising ground and an artificial mound, called the Castle Hill. It is popularly supposed that, while Pot Sunken was the pot, the mound on the Castle Hill was the place of the gallows, when, in feudal times, the lords of Inverugie exercised the powers of “pot and gallows.” This notion, however, is now generally discredited. Mr. Boyd claims that the mound is a “tumulus or barrow, still in wonderful preservation, notwithstanding the ravages of time and agricultural improvements, a type of the favourite form of sepulchral memorials of pre-historic times.” Another theory is that it was a rath or hill-fort.

The ruins of the Castle consisted till recently of a square central mass, with two corner towers, a gateway and double court, and handsomely coped walls. The

greater part of the building represented by these ruins was supposed to have been erected about the close of the sixteenth century by George, fifth Earl Marischal ; but the Castle fell into decay after the downfall of the Keith family in the middle of the eighteenth century. There are many traditions about the Castle and the family, and the union—or, rather, disunion—of the two. Thomas the Rhymer, is said to have visited Inverugie, and to have poured forth his vaticinations from a stone in the neighbourhood. This stone was removed to build the church of St. Fergus in 1763, but the field in which it lay is still called “Tammass’ Stane.” The rhyme runs thus—

“ As lang’s this stane stands on this craft,
 The name o’ Keith shall be alaft ;
 But when this stane begins to fa’,
 The name o’ Keith shall wear awa’.”

Remarkable coincidences often give point to these traditionary predictions ; and the removal of the seer’s stone and the death of the last of the Marischal family were nearly coincident events. According to Mr. Boyd, when the Castle became untenanted—after the death of the Countess Marischal in 1729—“it was looted of such furniture and valuables as there remained in it, chiefly by predatory bands hailing from Peterhead, and then it rapidly fell into decay.” The Castle was partially restored by the late Mr. James Ferguson of Pitfour. The tower at the south corner contained the principal stairway to the top of the castle, from which a beautiful view of the valley of the Ugie used to be obtainable ; but in April, 1890, a large portion of the ruins collapsed after a westerly gale, including this tower and part of the south and west

walls. The greater part of what was called the Cheyne Tower fell on 1st January, 1899, after a three days' gale; and while operations were being subsequently conducted for removing most of the remaining walls—considered by the authorities so insecure as to be dangerous to the public safety—the ruins became so weakened by the blasting operations that it was deemed advisable to remove them altogether, and, accordingly, on 14th January, they were almost entirely demolished, lower portions of the walls alone being left standing.

Running southward from the outer gateway is a wall with a massive moulded cope, thus described by Messrs. Macgibbon and Ross—"The cope is ornamented with figures, representing a close carriage with four horses, and beneath it the initials G. B. (possibly those of the carver), and the date 1670—an early illustration and instance of such a vehicle in Scotland. In front of this are two mounted horsemen galloping at full speed, the Scotch thistle, and a lion close to the gateway, while at the extreme south end of the cope is another figure, but so much mutilated as to be now unintelligible."

According to historians, Inverugie Castle, was founded about the year 1380 by Sir John de Keth, who had received the lands of Inverugie as a marriage portion with his wife, Mariot Cheyne. This may substantially be correct, but from other accounts it would appear that part of the Castle had been erected at a much earlier period. That portion of the structure denominated Cheyne's Tower was probably built by the family of Cheyne, but at what particular period cannot now be ascertained. Doubt, however, has

been thrown on the existence of a Cheyne Tower at all, and Mr. Boyd writes—"There is a tradition that there existed a building of great antiquity, which was embraced in the present structure, and known as the Cheyne Tower. But although you will hear it spoken of freely, I have never found anyone who could point it out; and if it ever existed I presume its remains would have to be sought for among some of the ruins which are to be seen at the rear of the present Castle. But in the records of the time of Earl George, considerable alterations were effected in connection with the family possessions. . . . He added greatly to, if he did not actually build, the greater part of the now existing structure of the Castle of Inverugie." It is certain that the lands of Inverugie belonged to the Cheynes of the Craig, and that they came into the possessions of the Keiths through the heiress already mentioned. Sir Reginald Cheyne, the last of the name that possessed the Craig, died about the year 1350, leaving, by his wife, Mary, two daughters, who inherited the estates. Mariot, the elder, married, first, Sir John Douglas, and, secondly—he having died without issue—John de Keth, second son of Edward de Keth, the Marischal, by whom she had a son, Andrew. In 1513, Inverugie again fell into female hands. Sir William Keith of Inverugie, the descendant of John de Keth, the husband of Mariot Cheyne, fell at the battle of Flodden, leaving two infant daughters—the elder of whom married her kinsman, William, the fourth Earl Marischal, about 1538. By this marriage the castle and estates of Inverugie became the property of the Earls Marischal. *

Of the origin of the Keiths Marischal, as of that

of the Hays of Erroll, there are two accounts. One account is that they were descended from the Catti, a nation or tribe of Germany, which, about the beginning of the Christian era, inhabited the borders of the Saltus Hercynius, or Black Forest ; that a portion of the tribe, rather than submit to the Roman yoke, left their country and descended into Batavia (in Holland) ; and that, when eventually thrust out of that region by the natives, they took ship, and were driven on the north-western coast of Scotland, where, finding the country but thinly inhabited, they resolved to make good a settlement. Hence the name of the district, Catti-ness, or Kethness. It is added that in 1005 Malcolm II. rewarded Robert de Keth with large possessions, and invested him with the responsible office of High Marischal of Scotland, an office honourably borne by his descendants till the beginning of the last century.*

* According to Abercromby's " Martial Atchievements of Scotland," this Robert de Keth, or Robert, the Prince of the Catti, received these honours and rewards for the part he played in a battle at Barry, in Angus, between Malcolm and the Danes, who were headed by Camus, a man of extraordinary fame, both for bodily strength and martial exploits. The Scots having prevailed in the battle, Camus took to flight, but was pursued and overtaken by Robert, and a personal combat ensued between the two, resulting in Camus being slain. It is said that the king, desirous of viewing the dead body of one who had been so formidable in battle, went straight to the place where Camus lay stretched on the ground ; and that after commending Robert for his valour, he, for a memorial of it, dipped three fingers in the blood of the slain warrior, and drew three pales, or bloody strokes, on Robert's shield, saying at the same time, "*Veritas Vincit*," which pales and motto Robert and his successors ever afterwards bore on their shield, the motto, according to tradition,

Chalmers in his "Caledonia"—in the history of the Scoto-Saxon period—affirms, however, that this account of the origin of the Keiths is altogether fabulous. According to him, the first of the race who settled in Scotland was Hervei, the son of Warin, an adherent of David I. This Hervei obtained from his sovereign the barony of Keith, in East Lothian, and was succeeded by his son Hervei, who took the name of Keith, and held the office of Marischal under Malcolm IV. and William the Lion. A grandson of this latter Herveius de Keith, Philip of Keith, is called Great Marischal of Scotland in 1195; and fourth in descent from this Philip was Sir Robert Keith, who appears as Great Marischal of Scotland in 1294, when he received a charter from King John Baliol of the lands of Keith. He received several charters of lands from Bruce, including the forest of Kintore (Hallforest), and also a charter of the office of Marischal of Scotland; and he was appointed Justiciar of Scotland "from the Forth to the Month." He had command of the Scottish horse at Bannockburn, and materially contributed to the victory by attacking the English horsemen in flank and completely routing them. He was succeeded by his brother Sir Edward. Then came Sir William,

being suggested by an expression in Robert's address to his soldiers before the engagement. "God," said he, "whose house those savages have demolished, and whose service they despise, will give us the victory: *Truth will conquer.*" The arms of the Keith Marischals—a shield with three pales and the motto, "*Veritas Vincit*"—became in time and still remain the arms of the town of Peterhead. (See the Marquis of Bute's "The Arms of the Royal and Parliamentary Burghs of Scotland"—Blackwoods, 1897.)

3 Sir Edward's eldest son, who succeeded in 1350, built Dunnottar Castle, and died between 1406 and 1408; Sir Edward's second son married (as previously mentioned) Mariot Cheyne, the heiress of Inverugie. Later on, the barony of Keith was conferred on the family, and in 1455 the then Lord Keith was created Earl Marischal. William, 4th Earl Marischal (as before stated) married his kinswoman, the elder daughter of Sir William Keith of Inverugie. This earl accompanied James V. when he went to France in 1535 to be married to the daughter of Francis I. He was also present at the battle of Pinkie in 1547, and was a supporter of the Reformation. He was succeeded, in 1581, by his grandson, George, 5th Earl, who became a prominent statesman of his time—he was also a Protestant—being appointed in 1592 King's Commissioner in Aberdeen, Banff, and Kincardine, with special power to apprehend the Earl of Huntly and other Papists. He founded Marischal College in 1593, and died at Dunnottar in 1622.* William, 6th Earl, held the title from 1623 to 1635. Two of his sons succeeded to the earldom—William, 7th Earl (1635-71), and George,

* "About 1606 a dispute arose between the Earls Marischal and Erroll in regard to the functions of their respective offices of Marischal and Constable. Both claimed the privilege of keeping the keys of the houses of Parliament, but on 2nd July it was declared that the guarding of the outer bar 'appertains to the lord constable,' and that 'the keeping and guarding of the inner bar appertains to the marischal.' (Reg. P. C. Scot., vii., 221.) On a complaint by the Earl of Erroll in July, 1607, it was further declared that the guarding of the inner bar, and of all within the gates and bars, belongs to the marischal." (*ib.* p. 424.) ("Dictionary of National Biography.")

8th Earl (1671-94) ; while his fourth son became the first Earl of Kintore. William, 7th Earl, was the recognised head of the Covenanting party in the north. He joined the army of Montrose which entered Aberdeen in 1639, and took part in the subsequent battle of the Bridge of Dee. He afterwards sided with Charles II., and, after the King's defeat at Worcester, he was taken prisoner and confined in the Tower of London till the Restoration. William, 9th Earl (1694-1712), was a son of George, 8th Earl. He was succeeded by his son George, 10th and last Earl. This Earl, early in life, served under Marlborough, and in 1714 was appointed captain of the Scottish troop of horse, Grenadier Guards. Joining the Jacobites in 1715, he was attainted, his estates being forfeited to the Crown: they were ultimately sold to the York Buildings Company in 1720 for £41,172 6s. 9d. He took no part in the rising of 1745—owing, it is said, to some supposed slight, and shortly afterwards he went to live with his brother, Marshal James Francis Keith, in Prussia. He was appointed Prussian Ambassador to Paris in 1751, and, eight years later, Prussian Ambassador to Spain. The widow of the 9th Earl was allowed to reside in the Castle of Inverugie until her death in 1729. She is the heroine of the Jacobite ballad, "Lady Keith's Lament," which ends—

" My father was a guid Lord's son,
 My mither was an Earl's daughter,
 And I'll be Lady Keith again,
 The day our King comes o'er the water."*

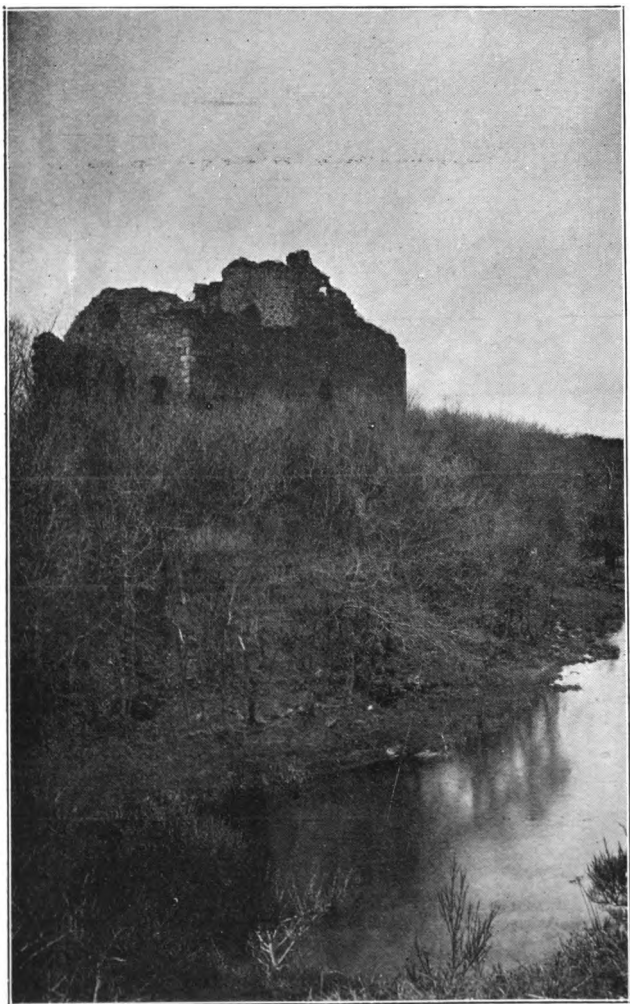
* "The ballad purports to have been written by the Countess herself, but there can be little or no doubt that it was the

Notwithstanding the attainder on Earl George, he was enabled, by a private Act of Parliament, "to take or inherit any estate which he was entitled unto before the attainder;" and the Earl afterwards succeeded to the estates of Kintore, and purchased back part of his lands, including those of St. Fergus and the Castle of Inverugie. "Taking a northward journey, he resolved to visit Inverugie, and formally take possession. He proceeded no farther than the Bridge of Ugie, however, being completely overcome by the sight of his home in ruins. He was moved to tears, it is said, at the sad spectacle; and grieved by this, as well as harassed by the fact that he could not manage to pay up the full price of his estate, he sold the lands, in 1766, to James Ferguson of Pitfour (in the possession of whose representatives they still remain), and returned to Prussia. He was a great favourite at the Court of Berlin, where he remained till his death in 1778." ("Howes o' Buchan.")

4 The family of Keith, it will thus be seen, became associated with Buchan about the middle of the fourteenth century; and from that time, down to the period of the Reformation, enjoyed an uninterrupted course of prosperity, being among the most wealthy in the kingdom, and also one of the most talented and distinguished. The cadets of the family were to be found in almost every corner of the lower districts; at Ludquharn, Bruxie, Clackriach, Northfield, and other localities, they had manors and estates. The family of Keiths, Earls Marischal, is generally

composition of James Hogg, the Ettrick Shepherd, in whose 'Jacobite Relics' it first appeared." (Taylor's "Great Historic Families of Scotland.")





RAVENS CRAIG CASTLE

supposed to be now represented by the Earl of Kintore; but while the present Lord Kintore is descended, through his great-great-great-great grandmother, from William, 6th Earl Marischal, co-heirs general of William, 9th Earl, are to be found in the persons of Clementina and Evelyn Maude, grand-children of Viscount Hawarden; while the heir-male of William, 2nd Earl, is understood to be George Elphinstone Keith, late Sheriff of Calcutta, now resident in London.* †

About half a mile from Inverugie Castle, and on the opposite bank of the river, stand the ruins of Ravenscraig, known also as the Craig of Inverugie, the ancient seat of the Cheynes. The Craig of Inverugie seems to have been the original name; Raven's Craig was probably an appellation arising from the place being at one time the haunt of ravens. Ravenscraig is a fine, rude specimen of the Anglo-Norman style of architecture. Built on a rocky plateau, at the northern base of which the river flows naturally, while a branch of the river had evidently been let in as a moat on the south, it must have been a place of considerable strength and security. The Castle is of square form, the walls being of run-work and extremely thick. "Its external appearance has, even within my recollection, undergone considerable change, and, at an earlier date, a round tower, rising from the interior of the building, the massive ruins of which are still discernible, had imparted to it a picturesque feature which is now lost.

* See "The Heirs of the Keiths" in *Scottish Notes and Queries*, vii., 177; x., 46, 59, 123, 161.

Inside, the building is now a complete ruin, and it is but just possible to trace the outlines of what had once been stately halls and spacious corridors. An apartment still exists, constructed in the thickness of the western wall, which had been used as an oratory or small chapel, and, within my recollection, its ceiling still exhibited simple, yet effective decorations in colours of red, black, and yellow. These, however, have now been almost entirely obliterated by the hands of reckless and mischievous persons, who appear to make the destruction of interesting relics of bygone times their special aim." ("Old Inverugie.")

' The Cheynes were of Norman origin. ↑ As, at a previous period, the Anglo-Saxons who followed Margaret, the youthful Queen of Malcolm Canmore, into Scotland, originated some of the noblest families in the realm, so, in the time of David I., who, with his sister Matilda, had been nurtured in England, we find a number of Anglo-Normans in his retinue, who, being raised to places of the highest distinction, and obtaining large possessions, established themselves in the country and became the heads of other families of no less note. Among these no doubt figured "Le Chien." ↑ Reginald le Chene was one of the Scottish barons who concluded a treaty with the Welsh in 1258; he became Chamberlain of Scotland in 1267. Sir Reginald Chene, his son, swore fealty to Edward I. in 1296, and in 1305 was appointed one of the Justiciaries in the northern parts beyond the mountains. He left a son, Reginald, who was taken prisoner at the battle of Halidon Hill in 1333, and died about 1350, leaving two daughters. By the marriage of the elder (already mentioned), the Castle and estate passed

(M. 1212)

into the hands of the Keiths of Inverugie. The present Castle appears to have been built—though possibly on the foundations of an earlier stronghold—in 1491, in which year Gilbert Keith of Inverugie had a charter from King James IV. of the superiority of the lands of Torterston, or Torrtastoun, and others, and the “rocks commonly called *le Ravinnsraig*.” Ravenscraig continued thereafter to be the principal castle of the barony of Torterston.*

Our ancestors, in choosing defensive positions for their castles, seem to have had a quick eye for sites capable of being made beautiful; for how often do we see these castles placed on a lofty eminence, on the rugged and picturesque rock, or by the side of the flowing river? And, as if in vindication of this selection, we find Inverugie and the Craig forming a nucleus for many pleasant mansions of modern date. Among these, Mount Pleasant, built and beautified by Mr. Robert Arbuthnot, and

* It has been suggested that the Craig of Inverugie was originally built by Le Neym, before the time the Cheynes settled in Buchan. The Le Neyms were also of Norman origin. (See “Old Inverugie” and “Castles of Aberdeenshire.”) Mr. Boyd (“Old Inverugie”) thinks there is a considerable amount of probability in favour of a tradition that King Robert Bruce visited the Craig of Inverugie in 1308, at the time of “the harrying of Buchan.” In “Gordon’s History of Scots Affairs” it is recorded that King James VI. “was at the Craig of Inverugie at the laird’s daughter’s marriage” in the summer of 1589. † Messrs. Macgibbon and Ross say—“Quite a fabulous antiquity is claimed for Ravenscraig Castle by local writers. . . . It has considerable affinity with other castles belonging to the Second Period (1300-1400), and was therefore probably erected by the Keiths during that period.” †

now the property of Mr. Alexander Young ; Ellishill (Miss Anderson) ; and the Castle Brae (Mr. William Boyd), a delightful residence in close vicinity to the ruins of the Castle, deserve especial notice. One who was familiar with the spot has addressed to it the following affectionate lines :—

“ O Ugie, tho’ nae classic stream,
 Nae far-famed poet’s chosen theme,
 Thou are the licht o’ mony a dream
 O’er lan’ an’ sea,
 In hearts aft lichted by a gleam,
 At thocht o’ thee.

Wha lives, that paidled in thy flood,
 Or crap amang thy stinted wood,
 When life an’ hope were haith in bud,
 But lo’es thee still?
 Gin there be sic, nae generous blood
 Those heart-strings thrill.

When thou hast on thy simmer dress,
 Wi’ life an’ form in ilka trace,
 When up an’ doun the wild flowers grace
 Baith knap an’ lea,
 Wha is there looks on thy sweet face,
 An lo’es nae thee?

I’ve seen thee in the fadin’ licht
 Frae aff Mount Pleasant’s bonny hicht,
 Half yieldin’ to the shades o’ nicht,
 Wi’ cot an’ ha’,
 An’ felt a rapture at the sicht
 That’s nae awa.

Thy aul’ grey brig, the steppin’ stanes,
 The Craig, an’ Castle—towers that ance
 Could boast their Marischals an’ their Cheynes,
 Noo still an’ wae ;
 A’ these, an’ mair, are treasured scenes,
 Till life’s last day.

Rin on, thou bonny wimplin' tide,
 Tho' thou hast nane to gar thee glide
 Amang the rivers, sung wi' pride,
 To classic ear,
 Thy sterling beauties winna hide,
 They sparkle here."*

The prospect from Mount Pleasant fully justifies its title. Among the features of the panorama which here presents itself are the ruins of Inverugie and Ravenscraig, the river with its many turnings and windings, the rich and fertile valley of the Ugie, the distant Mormond Hill, and the north and east view of the sea. The view commanded by the other residences mentioned, though less extensive, is exceedingly pleasing.

Further up are the Haughs of Rora, where—

“ Ugie said to Ugie,
 Where shall we twa meet?
 Down in the Haughs o' Rora,
 When a' men are asleep.”

In fact, at about five miles from the sea, the southern branch of this river may be seen descending sluggishly towards the place of rendezvous, and winding through broad, level meadows till within a few yards of the “trysting-place,” when, with a sort of coquettish caprice, it makes an abrupt turn to the right for about 150 yards, and then suddenly falls back towards the deep pool, which also receives, from a narrow, less fertile valley, the darker waters of its northern affluent. About a mile and a half above the point of

* By George Murray. (See “Literary Remains of George Murray. With Sketch of his Life by William M'Combie, editor of the *Aberdeen Free Press*.” Peterhead, 1860.)

confluence, the stream is spanned by the bridge of Auchlee, opposite Longside; and a mile further up, on the southern slope of the valley of the Ugie, lies Middleton of Inverquhomery, the residence of Mr. James Bruce of Inverquhomery and Longside.*

*For more detailed information about Inverugie and Ravenscraig, see "Castles of Aberdeenshire;" Macgibbon and Ross's "Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland;" Macleod's "Castles of Buchan;" Anderson's "Howes o' Buchan;" "Old Inverugie" by William Boyd (Peterhead, 1885); "Ha-Moss and the Castle Hill of Inverugie" by James Spence in "Transactions of the Buchan Field Club," 1891-2; and *Peterhead Sentinel*, 25 April, 1890. For fuller accounts of the Earls Marischal, see the references quoted for Field-Marshal Keith on p. 93, the "Dictionary of National Biography," Anderson's "Scottish Nation," "The Great Historic Families of Scotland" by Dr. James Taylor (London, 1889); "Earl-Marischal and Field-Marshal" in the *Scottish Review*, October, 1898—an article in which are embodied some letters of the last Earl Marischal; and "The Companions of Pickle," a sequel to "Pickle and Spy," by Andrew Lang (Blackwoods, 1898). "Being engaged on the subject" (says Mr. Lang in his preface) "I made a series of studies of persons connected with Prince Charles and with the Jacobite movement. Of these the Earl Marischal was the most important, and by reason of his long life and charming character—a compound of 'Aberdeen and Valencia'—the most interesting. As a foil to the good Earl, who finally abandoned the Jacobite party, I chose Murray of Broughton." Particulars as to the sale of the Earl Marischal's estates are given in "The York Buildings Company" by Dr. David Murray (Glasgow, 1883). The career of the tenth Earl Marischal was summarised in an article on "The Last Earl Marischal" in the *Aberdeen Free Press*, 11 November, 1897.

A portrait of George Keith, the last Earl Marischal, painted at Rome in 1752 by Placido Costanzi, is now in the National Portrait Gallery, London, having been transferred thither from the

British Museum, to which it had been presented by Lord Glenbervie. There is also a portrait of the Earl in the National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh. The Marshal staff of Scotland, borne by the Earls Marischal, is now in the possession of the University of Aberdeen, having been presented to Marischal College by the last Earl Marischal in 1760. It is about two feet long, and is of brass, gilt; at one end it bears a representation of the Keith arms, and at the other the Royal arms of Scotland, both in iron or steel.

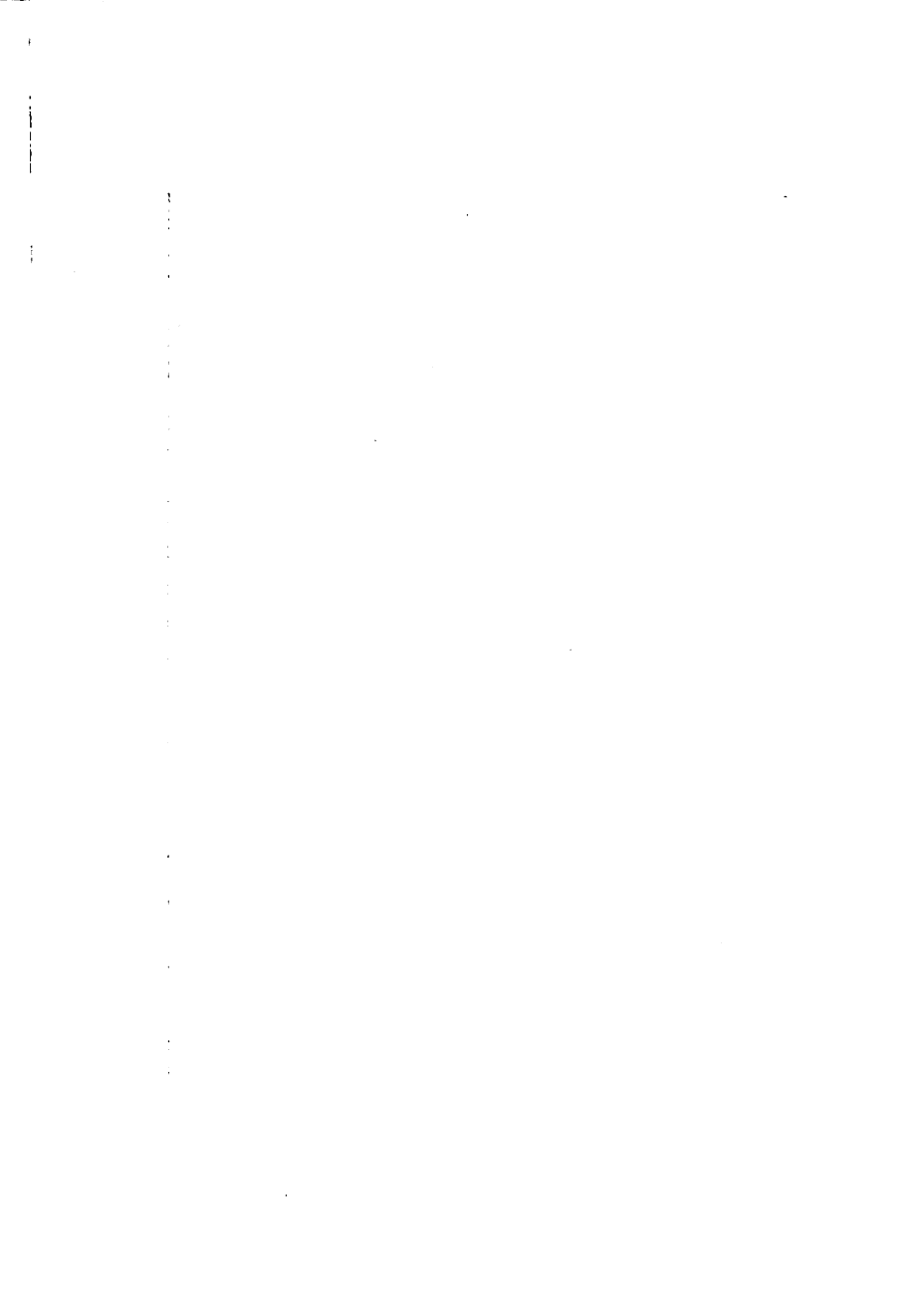
† It is said that Burns's paternal grandfather, Robert Burnes, was gardener to the last Earl Marischal, "went out" with him in the '15, and was ruined in consequence. "My forefathers," says Burns, in his autobiographical letter to Dr. John Moore, "rented land of the famous, noble Keiths of Marshal, and had the honor to share their fate;" and, according to Ramsay of Ochertyre, Burns attributed his † being a Jacobite "to his grandfather having been plundered and driven out in the year 1715, when gardener to Earl Marischal at Inverury"—it is contended by some that Inverugie is really here meant. "It is not incredible that Robert Burnes left the farm he occupied in Kincardineshire to be gardener to Earl Marischal at the latter's Aberdeenshire Castle, and afterwards returned to Clochnahill. There is undoubted evidence as to the interchange of servants between the two residences of Earl Marischal at the beginning of the eighteenth century. It is beyond question that the Earl raised a regiment for the Chevalier in conjunction with Stuart of Inchbreck, proprietor of Bralinmuir, of which James Burnes, father of Robert of Clochnahill, was tenant, and the latter, whether as farmer or as servant, was bound, and could have been forced, to join it." (Chambers's "Life and Works of Robert Burns." Revised edition, 1896.) Whether Robert Burnes was really a gardener to Earl Marischal, either at Inverury or Inverugie, is, however, matter of considerable doubt. (See "The Grandfather of Burns in Buchan" in *Aberdeen Journal*, 22 and 26 November, 1897, and "The Home of Burns' Ancestors" by William Will; Aberdeen, 1896). †

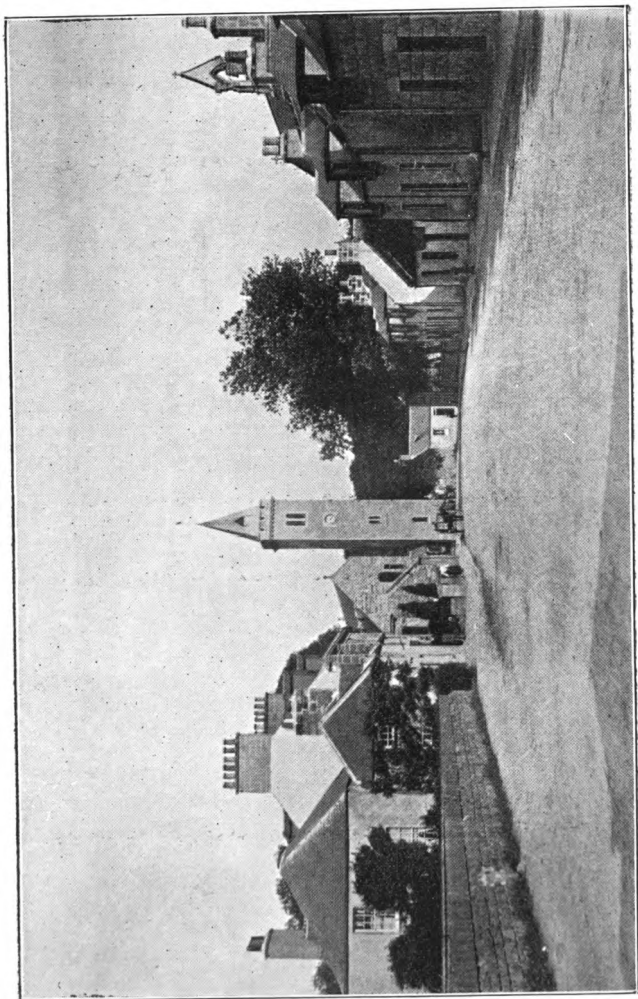
CHAPTER VIII.

OLD DEER.

THREE miles further up the Ugie is the rich and fertile valley of Deer, beautified by the woods and plantations of Aden and Pitfour. For a distance of three miles the scenery is strikingly pleasing—gentle undulations here and there swelling into hills, the ever-varying course of the stream, and the broad and massive features of the thick hanging woods delighting the eye. In the centre of this scene, softly embosomed among trees, lies the ancient village of Deer, skirted by the grounds of Pitfour and Aden; further on are the crumbling ruins of the old Cistercian Abbey; and on the left, looking back as it were, is the quiet, low-lying village of Stuartfield, with the mansion-house of Crichtie among the woods on the rising ground beyond it.

The village of Deer (now commonly called Old Deer) is of great antiquity, but of recent years the majority of the old houses have been replaced by new and superior ones. At one time it was, like most old villages, a mean, unsightly place, consisting of one street, separated into two branches at the kirk-stile, most of the houses being built with the gable to the road. The features of the place are now completely

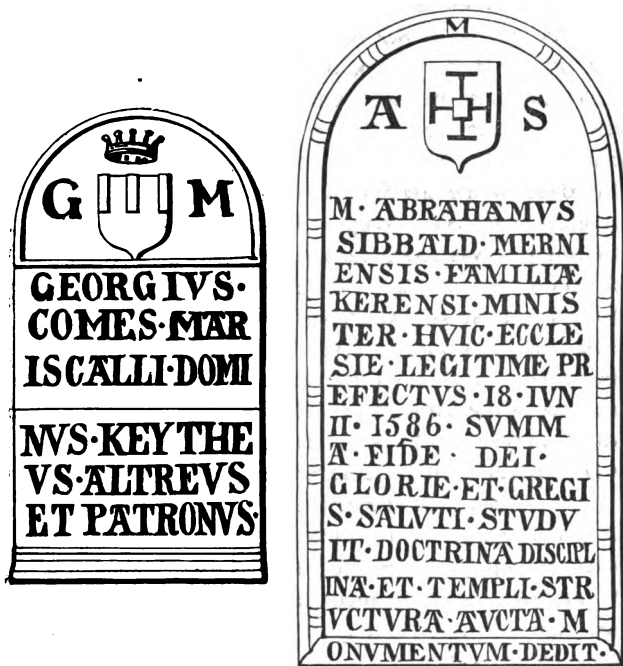




OLD DEER.

changed, only one or two of the old buildings remaining; while modern characteristics have been introduced, such, for instance, as a public hall—it is designated the Aden Hall and was erected by Mrs. Russell of Aden in 1892. The parish church stands near the middle of the village, and within 50 yards of the river. It is a large building; it was erected in 1788, and is in the style common to the period—plain and substantial, but with no particular architectural character. Its appearance, however, has been greatly improved by the erection, a few years ago, of a tower, designed by Sir George Reid, *P.R.S.A.*; and, internally, it was totally reconstructed in the beginning of 1898, on a plan of renovation designed by Mr. A. Marshall Mackenzie, *A.R.S.A.*, architect, Aberdeen. A finely carved communion table was introduced as a memorial of Rev. John Morrison, minister of the parish from 1822 to 1854, and a pulpit with carved work was erected in memory of Rev. James Peter, minister of the parish from 1854 to 1886. At the east end of the church there are some remains of the former church, now used as a place of sepulture by the families of Pitfour and Kinmundy. This fragment exhibits specimens of a fine style of architecture. A doorway in the south wall, with a pointed arch and very good mouldings, and the remains of a piscina in the east wall, point to a different mode of worship from that conducted in the present church. In this doorway (now built up) there are inserted some rudely sculptured stones, bearing the arms of the Keiths, and apparently including those of the Douglasses; the date is 1603. A Latin inscription commemorates the name of

Robert Keith of Alt Maud, who died in 1637. On the north and south walls are several monuments, the inscriptions on two of which are here reproduced.



The name of the parish has been variously spelt at different times. The writer of the Old Statistical Account cites Deare, Diere, Dier, and Deer; to which the late minister of the parish, Rev. Alexander Lawson—now (1899) Professor of English Literature at St. Andrews—adds Dear, Dere, Deyre, and Deir.

Deir prevails in the oldest writings, but Deer has for long been accepted as the common spelling. The meaning attributed to the word is equally varied. According to the former of the two authorities just referred to—"The word is said to be of Gaelic origin. *De a' r'*, contracted from *De adhra*, signifies the worship of God, and may have been applied to this place because here probably the first church in this corner was erected." Mr. Lawson, on the other hand, says—"Deir is really Oakwood—old Gaelic, or Irish, *dair* or *daire*, an oak—and one naturally concludes that there were oak forests in the neighbourhood, and that they were not so common elsewhere in the region, although abundant in this nook of it;" and he also associates this meaning with the derivation of the word from *deara*, tears, "tears and oak being not unconnected in the Celtic idea of the House of God," two of the earliest Irish words for a church signifying "the house made of oak" and "the house where tears are shed." This latter derivation—from *deara*, tears—is connected with the legendary foundation of the district of Deer by St. Drostan (or Drostane), now its patron saint. The story is thus told in the "Book of Deer":—

"Columcille [Columba] and Drostan, son of Cosgrach, his pupil, came from Hi [Iona], as God had shewn them, unto Abberdobboir [Aberdour], and Bede the Pict was Mormaer of Buchan before them, and it was he that gave that town in freedom for ever from Mormaer and Toisech. They came after that to the other town [Deer], and it was pleasing to Columcille because it was full of God's grace, and he asked of the Mormaer, to wit, Bede, that he should

give it to him ; and he did not give it, and a son of his took an illness after refusing the clerics, and he was nearly dead. After this the Mormaer went to entreat the clerics that they should make prayer for the son, that health should come to him ; and he gave in offering to them from Cloch in tiprat to Cloch pette meic Garnait [the stone of the well to the stone of the pett of the son of Garnait*]. They made the prayer, and health came to him. After that Columcille gave to Drostan that town, and blest it, and left as his word ‘Whosoever shall come against it, let him not be many yeared or victorious.’ Drostan’s tears (*deara*) came on parting from Columcille. Said Columcille ‘Let Dear be its name henceforth.’”†

“Deer,” says the writer of the New Statistical Account, “if not the first, was probably one of the first places in Buchan where a Christian church was erected.” There is a legend that some pious individuals, forming the design of building a house for

* It has been conjectured that “from Cloch in tiprat to Cloch pette meic Garnait” means from the well still known as St. Drostan’s well in the bay of Aberdour to Macknagran, a hill near the Burn of Auchentumb, in Tyrie. (See “The Personal and Place Names in the Book of Deer” by John Gray in “Transactions of Buchan Field Club,” 1892-95.) This interpretation, however, is disputed by Mr. Lawson.

† St. Drostan’s bones were preserved in a stone coffin in the church of Aberdour, where they are said to have wrought several miraculous cures. (See the chapter on Aberdour—Chap. xvii.) Part of them were afterwards removed to Old Deer, where they remained until after the Reformation, when they became either lost or scattered. It is supposed that Dustane or Drostane Fair was named in honour of St. Drostan, as it occurred in the week of his festival ; and that Aikey Fair was held on the festival of the translation of his relics to Old Deer.

the worship of God, selected various spots as appropriate for the object, but were interrupted from time to time by a voice declaring—

“ It is not here, it is not here
That ye sall big the kirk o’ Deer,
But on the tap o’ Tillery,
Where many a corpse sall after lie.”

“ A church accordingly was built on a knoll or small mound, embraced by a semi-circular bend of the Ugie, and, as was customary, a piece of ground around it set apart for a burial-place, so that the weird is fully verified.” The history of Old Deer is necessarily, for the most part, connected with that of the Abbey, but the church of Deer was built long before the Abbey, and was never subject to it. “ It was one of the *Ecclesiæ Matrices*, or mother churches, of these bounds.”

Buchan has been called “ the stronghold of Episcopacy in the north.” Whatever may be its claims to this distinction, it is matter of history that great difficulty was experienced in inducing the inhabitants of many of the parishes—such as Deer, Cruden, Lonmay, and Rathen—to embrace Presbyterianism, or surrender their churches to the ministers of that denomination. In the quaint verses of Meston—

“ The people who this land possesses,
Live quietly and pay their cesses ;
They fear the Lord, and till the ground,
And love a creed that’s short and sound :
'Tis true their speech is not so pointed,
Nor with screw’d looks their face disjointed ;
If scant of Theory, their Practice
Supplies that want, which most exact is.

They are not fond of innovations,
 Nor covet much new reformatiōns;
 They are not for new paths, but rather
 Each one jogs after his old father."*

The people, attached to the old Episcopalian system, stood out against the innovation of Presbyterianism for nearly a quarter of a century after the Revolution of 1688, and then in many instances yielded only to force; and "the Rabbling of Deer," as it was termed, furnishes no bad illustration of this spirit of resistance.

This incident occurred in 1711. Mr. George Keith, who was the last incumbent of Deer under the Restoration regime, being settled in the parish in 1683, managed—despite the change from Episcopacy to Presbyterianism effected by the Revolution Settlement—to retain the benefice until his death in July, 1710, partly because "nearly all the gentry, from the Earl Marischal downwards, and, with them, a very considerable body of the people were attached to Episcopacy and to the Stuart dynasty," and partly because the local Presbytery, being "tolerant and

* "Mob Contra Mobbed, or the Rabblers Rabbled," in "The Poetical Works of the Ingenious and Learned William Meston, A.M., sometime Professor of Philosophy in the Marischal College of Aberdeen" (1767). Meston is described by Joseph Robertson as "a gay, thoughtless, clever, extravagant, restless, indolent, careless, unsteady, witty, dissipated dog." He lost his professorship by joining the Earl Marischal, when the Earl proclaimed the Chevalier de St. George king at the Cross of Aberdeen in 1715; he subsequently found an asylum in Inverugie Castle, under the patronage of the Countess Marischal, and after her death he kept an academy at Elgin and then at Turrieff, and for some years he was tutor in the family of the Oliphants of Gask. (See Walker's "Bards of Bon-Accord.")

humane," allowed Mr. Keith to enjoy the living. On Mr. Keith's death, no legal appointment having been made within six months, the Presbytery, on 20th February, 1711, presented Mr. John Gordon. Mr. Gordon's settlement was fixed for the 23rd March, but was forcibly prevented, the church doors being kept locked and entrance to the church denied; and, although the Presbytery were aided by "some people of Aberdeen, to the number of seventy horse, or thereby," they and their "satellites" were "soundly beat off by the people, not without blood on both sides." The Presbytery, on 8th April, by instructions from the Synod, ordained Mr. Gordon in Aberdeen. The opposition to Mr. Gordon's settlement emanated from the supporters of Mr. William Livingstone, an Episcopalian clergyman in the parish. On the subsequent Jacobite rising in 1715, when the Chevalier landed at Peterhead, this Mr. Livingstone "invaded or intruded into the Church of Deir, and prayed therein *nominatim* for the Popish Pretender."

Wodrow, in his "Analecta" (1., 328-9), gives an account of the "Rabbling of Deer," part of which may be quoted—

The matter, in short, came to this: Mr. Gordon, a very pretty youth, had a presbyteriall call (if I mistake not) to that parish [Old Deer]. The gentlemen are very much against a presbyterian settlement; however, the presbitry went on, and fixed a day for his ordination. When it came, Mr. Gordon and his father, and several of his friends, and some ministers (who had all a great value for him), came to wait on him; and, fearing a rable, ther wer some arms among them. When the presbitry and they came to the place, they found the church guarded, and the outter gate of the church not only locked, but barricaded with stones. They had a

favourable justice of the peace with them, and the presbitry instrumented, in terms of the act of parliament, to make patent dores for them. All this time noebody appeared ; but as soon as the justice of the peace ordered his constables and others to goe to the outter gate of the churchyard and force it open, and the presbitry and Mr. Gordon's men went after them into a narrow passe, between the side-wall of one house and the gavell of another, and are all standing in a throng, the house topes fill full of people with stones, etc., which they throw down upon them standing all together in the passe, and hurt some ministers and others. Upon which two musketts wer discharged in the air to fright them ; but this not prevailing, the Aberdeen's men, several of them being hurt, offered to shoot among the rable, but were prevailed with by the ministers to desist, otherwise ther had been severall lives lost in the case. The presbitry and company retired, and ordeaned Mr. Gordon in a neighbouring church. Meanwhile the rable they rise and insult all the people in the place that wer for Mr. Gordon, and goe into the house where some interteanement was prepared for the presbitry and company by Mr. Gordon's friends, and bring out all the meat, and ale, and wine ; and drink, as is said, the Pretender's health in the streets.

In the " Report on Church Patronage in Scotland," Dr. Lee says :—" I have in my possession a letter from Mr. Auchinleck, minister at Fraserburgh, to Mr. Spence, agent for the Church of Scotland, dated January 1st, 1713, in which the writer states that the Master of Saltoun had said to him that the rabble of Old Deer procured the Acts of Toleration and Patronages."

Besides the parish church, there is an Episcopal church (St. Drostan's), erected in 1850, on ground granted by the late Mr. James Russell of Aden, who with Mrs. Russell, was otherwise a large contributor to the building. It is in the Early English style, beautiful in its general features, and, on the whole, correct in

the details. It consists of a nave and chancel, and is entered by a porch on the north side. The bell turret is deserving of attention, as a successful example of that part of a church which seems to be the *crux* of ecclesiastical architects. The bell, which is of good tone, bears the following inscription—

DEO ET S. DROSTANO ABB. ET CONFES. MDCCCLI.
FUNERA PLANGO, FULGURA FRANGO, SABBATA PANGO :
EXCITO LENTOS, DISSIPO VENTOS PACO CRUENTOS.
C. ET G. MEARS, LONDINI, FECERUNT.

The east window, a memorial one of three lights, is very fine. This window is richly filled with stained glass, and was dedicated by Mr. and Mrs. Russell of Aden to the memory of their eldest son, Alexander Cumming Russell—a young officer who was drowned in the memorable wreck of the “Birkenhead” in 1852,* and of their only daughter. The other windows in the church have also been filled with stained glass, as memorials of members of the congregation; one of them is a memorial of the late much-respected

* A cenotaph in memory of young Russell was subsequently erected in the Chapel at Glenalmond College, where he was educated. It bears the following inscription by Rev. John Huntley Skrine, Warden of Glenalmond—

“ There the wave urns thee deep ; thine urn
Here, comrade, is thy living deed.
Sleep in our midst, or waking learn
That hero blood was hero seed.”

(See Mr. Skrine’s “Songs of the Maid and other Ballads and Lyrics.”) Ensign Russell has a special title to remembrance in connection with the heroic demeanour of the soldiers on board the “Birkenhead.” He was one of those who were being saved, when he sprang out of a ship’s boat to rescue a drowning man. He succeeded, but the effort cost him his own life.

incumbent, Rev. Arthur Ranken, D.D. This is the third sacred edifice that the Episcopalians of Deer have erected since the establishment of Presbyterianism in the parish in 1711. The first stood in the grounds of Aden, a short distance eastward from the house. It was burned down by a party of the king's troops, soon after the rising in favour of the Stuarts, in 1745. The next was built in 1766, on the north bank of the river, at a little distance above the bridge. It was a large, unsightly building, capable of accommodating about 500 worshippers. Having fallen into disrepair, and some difficulties having arisen relative to its restoration, it was abandoned and the present church was erected in the village to supply its place.

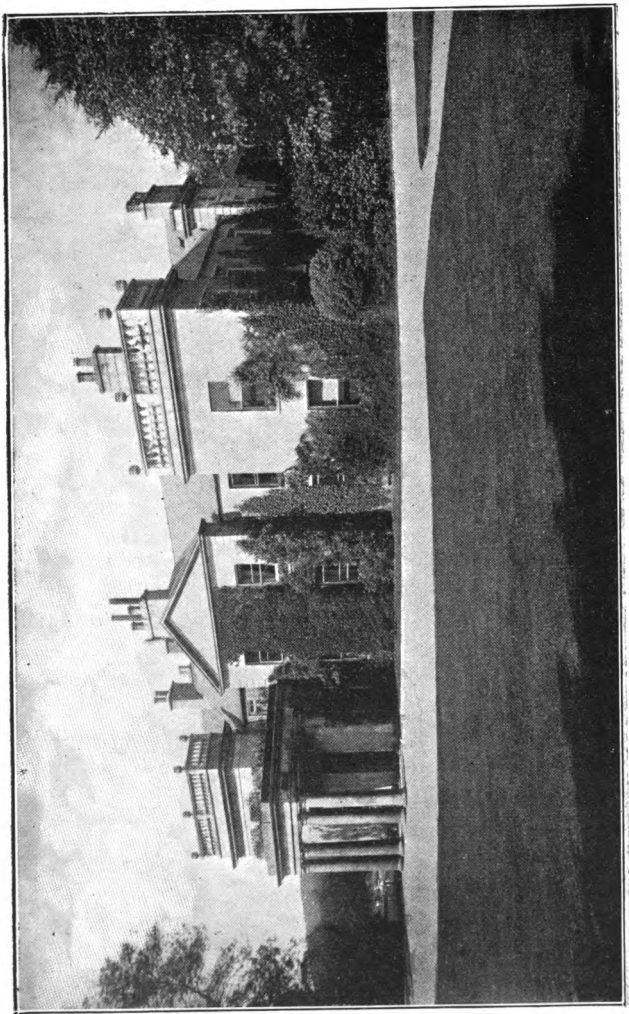
Whilst on the subject of churches it may be as well to give an account of the other ecclesiastical edifices in the parish. The parish itself, ecclesiastically considered, has of late years been considerably curtailed, portions of it having been disjoined to form, with portions from neighbouring parishes, the *quoad sacra* parishes of Kininmonth, Maud, Savoch, and Ardallie. On the other hand, the number of Dissenting Churches was lessened by the union (in October, 1897) of the Free Church and United Presbyterian Church congregations of Stuartfield, the united congregation becoming a congregation of the U.P. Church, the place of worship being the former Free Church. Stuartfield is a little village to the south of the village of Old Deer: it was formerly (is even yet, occasionally) called Crichtie, being situated on the estate of that name. The old Free Church (now the U.P. Church) was erected soon after the Disruption in 1843: it is a neat building, with a belfry on the south gable. The

U.P. Church (not now used)—an edifice in an Early Gothic style—was built in 1867-8, replacing a United Secession Church on the south-west side of the square that was built in 1822. There is also a Congregational Church in Stuartfield, built in 1810; and in 1892, on Rev. George A. Johnston, then minister of the parish of Old Deer, being deposed, a large portion of the congregation left the parish church, and formed what is known as the East Independent Church. This church is a wooden building, with a slated roof, situated near the extreme south end of the village. What was formerly a private chapel stands in the park of Pitfour; it is conspicuous for its tower. There used to be an Anti-Burgher or Original Secession Church at Clola, which now belongs to the Free Church, the congregation having "gone over" in 1852. The Secession of 1733 found prominent sympathisers in Buchan in Rev. William Mercer, of Pitsligo; Rev. Mr. Mair, of New Deer; Rev. John Forbes, of Old Deer, familiarly known as "Old Pitney," from his small ancestral estate of Pitneycalder or Pitnacadell, in Aberdour; and Mr. James Ferguson, the first proprietor of Kinmundy of that name, and his wife. The first church of the new denomination in Aberdeenshire (outside Aberdeen) was erected at Craigdam, in Tarves; but in 1769, a number of the congregation from the parishes of Old and New Deer formed a separate congregation under the title of the General Associate Church of Clola and Whitehill. The Clola Church was not only one of the parent churches of Secession in Buchan, the congregations of Whitehill, Peterhead, and Ellon being formed out of it; but it was also the parent of Independency in the district, the

Congregational Church at Stuartfield being formed by a "secession" from it, and from this Congregational Church emanated the congregation in Peterhead.

Fetterangus, another small village in the parish, is situated about two miles and a half in a north-easterly direction from the village of Old Deer. Like St. Fergus, (see Chap. xiii.), Fetterangus (including the district formerly forming the parish of that name) was at one time a detached portion of Banffshire, but it was formally incorporated in Aberdeenshire by an order of the Boundary Commissioners in 1890. A Hall and Institute was opened in 1896, the building being named the Chalmers Institute, after Rev. Andrew Chalmers, Wakefield, a native of the district, who contributed largely to the building fund and the library. There are a Mission Church of the Church of Scotland and a United Presbyterian Church in the village; and a few hundred yards west of the village, in the north-west corner of a small churchyard, are the ruins of the old parish church of Fetterangus. The church had been built on a slight eminence, and had been of diminutive size, measuring inside 33 feet by 12. The entrance was in the south wall, towards the west end. Not enough of the walls remain to indicate the number of windows. There are some peculiarly-shaped tombstones in the churchyard—half circles and half octagons of about twenty inches diameter—bearing the inscription, not on the face, in the usual way, but round the top, the stones being seven or eight inches in thickness. The following hieroglyphics and inscription are on a large flat stone in the south-west corner. In the top compartment there is a shield, surmounted by the head





ADEN HOUSE.

and wings of an angel, rudely carved. On the shield are the letters "A. G." and "C. M.," and on the left and lower angle of the compartment is a skull, opposite to which is a skeleton, all rudely chiselled. The inscription occupies the rest of the surface—

Here lies, in hopes of a blessed resurrection, the corps of Alexander Gordon of Cloves, who departed this life, Aprile the 22nd, 1710; also the corps of James Gordon his son, who departed this life Aprile 21, 1712; also here lie the corps of Charles Morrison of Fetterangus, who departed this life the 26th January, 1733 years; also five children of Sir Robert Innesis and Dame Janet Gordon of Balvenie; also Jean Morrison, spouse to Alexander Gordon of Cloves, who died May 5th, 1739, aged 65; also the body of Charles Gordon of Fetterangus, who died October 4th, 1767, aged 62.

The memory of all these is now lost even to tradition.

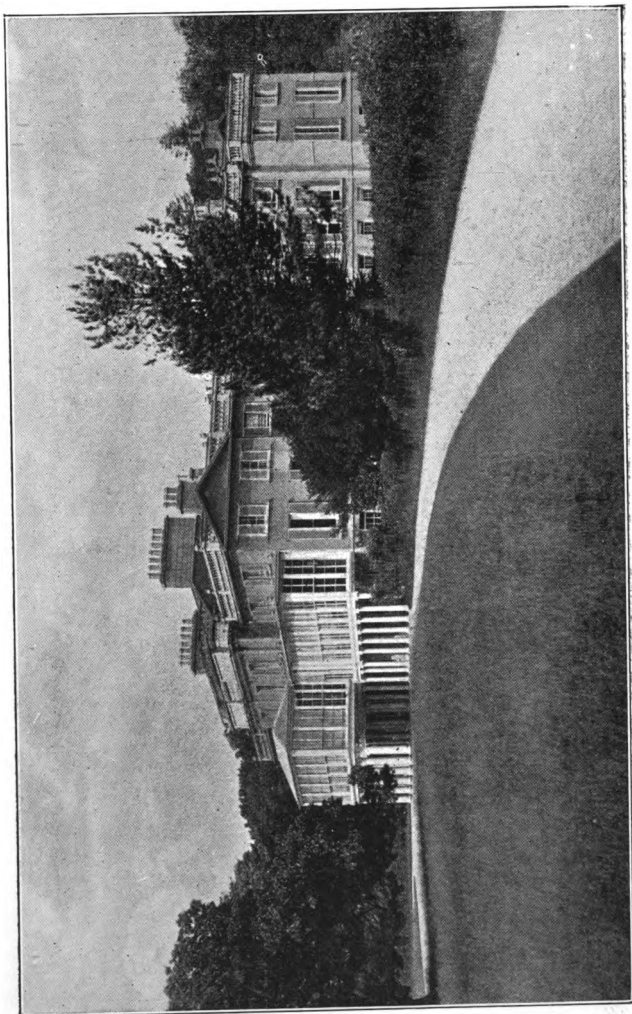
But to return to Old Deer. At less than a quarter of a mile east of the village, and on the opposite side of the stream, is Aden House, an elegant and commodious mansion, built in a regular square. The west front is chaste and classical. The grounds, possessing great natural capabilities, have been improved to very great advantage. All that a refined taste could suggest has been brought to bear on the rugged outlines of nature. The sloping banks of the stream have been clothed with lofty trees and cut into numerous footpaths; and the visitor to these charming grounds is impressed with the quiet seclusion of the leafy woods, the song of birds, and the everlasting music of the river, which here well sustains its character—

"Thou art the poet of the woods, fair river;
A lover of the beautiful."

Aden is one of the oldest properties in the parish. It is mentioned in the "Book of Deer," being there specified

as Aldin Alenn or Alden Aluinn—"the bonnie burn" or "the bonnie brae-side." It was at one time the great barony in the parish, and became the property of the head of the house of Keith, by gift of King Robert the Bruce, in 1324. By the seventeenth century, however, it had become part of Kinmundy, and was in possession of the Gordons of Pitlurg. Kinmundy was sold, in 1723, to James Ferguson, who, in 1758, sold Aden and Old Deer to Alexander Russell of Montcoffer; and Aden has remained in the Russell family ever since. The writer of the account of the parish in the New Statistical Account (Rev. John Morison, 1840) says—"The father of the present proprietor of Aden was at singular pains in raising forest trees, and ornamenting his place or manor. When he succeeded to the property it was rather naked; but he left on the portion of it immediately attached to the domain a great many acres of thriving wood, not short of 300 acres, I should suppose, in masses, clumps, belts, and hedges-rows." The present owner of Aden is Major-General Francis Shirley Russell, C.M.G., M.P., who served in the Ashanti campaign, the Zulu war, and the Boer war, 1880-1, and was Military Attaché at Berlin from 1889 to 1891. He unsuccessfully contested East Aberdeenshire, in the Conservative interest, in July and December, 1892, and was elected M.P. for Cheltenham in 1895. He is married to a daughter of the late Right Hon. Henry Baillie, M.P., of Redcastle, Inverness-shire.

Pitfour House is about a mile north of the village of Old Deer. The house and grounds are on a large scale, the former having from time to time received



PITFOUR HOUSE.

considerable additions. The grounds are remarkably fine, containing a lake of 40 or 50 acres in extent, shrubberies, ornamental flower-gardens, carriage-drives, and winding footpaths, several *jets d'eau*, and a miniature model of the temple of Theseus. These, with the fine, old timber, thriving modern plantations, and occasional distant views of the country, altogether make Pitfour one of the most distinguished residences in the district. The estate of Pitfour was bought by James Ferguson of Badifurrow, early in the eighteenth century, the original estate being subsequently added to by the purchase of the Earl Marischal's estates of Inverugie. James Ferguson's son (also proprietor of Pitfour) was an eminent Judge of the Court of Session, having the title of Lord Pitfour (1764-77). Lord Pitfour's eldest son, James, was M.P. for Aberdeenshire from 1790 till 1820. He was an intimate personal friend, as well as steady supporter, of Pitt and Dundas, and he erected a monumental slab of granite to their memory at the entrance gate to Pitfour, bearing the following inscription:—

MEMORIÆ
GULIELMI PITT
ET
HENRICI DUNDAS
VICCOMITIS MELVILLE
PRISCÆ VIRTUTIS VIRORUM
EX INDIGENIS MARMORIBUS DURISSIMIS
AT QUIBUS ILLORUM FAMA PERENNIOR
DONUM DEDIT
JACOBUS FERGUSON
DE PITFOUR
ANNO SALUTIS M.D. CCC. XVI.

He died unmarried, and was succeeded as proprietor of Pitfour by a younger brother, George, for many years Governor of Tobago, who, in turn, was succeeded by his son, Admiral George Ferguson, who was M.P. for Banffshire, 1833-7, and died in 1867. The present proprietor is Admiral Ferguson's son, George Arthur Ferguson, formerly a Captain and Lieutenant-Colonel in the Grenadier Guards. He is married to the Hon. Nina Maria Hood, V.A., Bedchamber Woman to the Queen, daughter of the first Viscount Bridport and grandniece of Admiral Lord Nelson.

Kinmundy House, built in 1736, "is interesting as a specimen of the house of that period, being formed by a centre to the south and two wings to the north, connected by a curtain wall, and so forming a court, from which originally the main entrance was gained. The centre house was widened in 1820, and the entrance thrown out to the south. The courtyard, however, retains all its original features, which are carefully preserved by the present proprietor. Among the old papers preserved here are certain returns of the killed and wounded at the battle of Blenheim, when the founder of this branch of the family commanded as Brigadier-General under Lord Cults."* The estate

* "The house" (of Kinmundy) "was plundered and almost burnt by Gordon of Glenbucket's Highlanders in the 'Forty-five.' The strong Presbyterian convictions and Hanoverian sympathies of 'the Lady Kinmundy' led her to take an active part on the Government side; and Glenbucket's 'rude civilities' were repaid by her active co-operation with Lord Mark Kerr's dragoons and the Campbell militia, who carried out the orders for the destruction of the non-juring places of worship in Buchan. The well-known song, 'O Logie

of Kinmundy was bought by James Ferguson (a member of the family from which the Fergusons of Pitfour proceed) from Gordon of Pitlurg in 1723. His eldest son and successor, James, made a "runaway love match," the "unfortunate result" of which was (according to the "Records of the Clan") "the sale of the Aden portion of the Kinmundy estates." To him succeeded his son James, known as "the lame laird," who married a daughter of Rev. William Brown, of Craigdam; and he, in his turn, was succeeded by his eldest son, James. Few estates in Buchan have undergone a more marked improvement than Kinmundy. In 1816, when the last-mentioned James Ferguson succeeded to the property, great part of it came under the designation of "boggis and marshes;" the name Kinmundy—in Gaelic, Ceann-monadh—signifies "the head of the moss." Under his encouraging auspices, however, and through the intelligence, skill, and enterprising spirit of his brother, Mr. John Ferguson, Brae of Coynach, hundreds of acres were reclaimed, drained, and enclosed, and the whole property brought into a very high state of cultivation. The present proprietor of Kinmundy (1899) is a grandson of the last-mentioned James Ferguson—Mr. William Ferguson, LL.D., Chairman of the Great North of Scotland Railway Company: he succeeded to the estate in 1862.

o' Buchan,' written by the Jacobite schoolmaster, on whose head the Duke of Cumberland set a price for having written, 'Awa', Whigs, awa', 'originally began with the line—

'O woe to Kinmundy, Kinmundy the laird.'

("Records of the Clan and Name of Fergusson.")

Mention was made at the beginning of this chapter of the properties of Knock and Crichtie. Crichtie is situated near Stuartfield. The estate at one time formed part of the lands belonging to the Earls Marischal, but was in possession of a family named Stuart by the end of the seventeenth century, a sister of Captain Stuart of Crichtie marrying Mr. James Ferguson, who bought the lands of Pitfour. It passed from the Stuarts by the marriage of a female member of the family, and in 1769 became the property of Mr. John Burnett of Dens through his mother, Mrs. Theodosia Burnett or Stuart. This Mr. Burnett was the founder of the Burnett Trust (now the Burnett Lectureship) in Aberdeen University. The present proprietor—Mr. E. R. Burnett-Stuart of Dens and Crichtie—is his lineal descendant. Knock was at one time the property of the Burnetts of Dens, but was acquired by Mr. James Buchan of Auchmacoy in 1787, and is still in possession of the Buchan family. A family of Keiths have been continuously tenants of the farm of Wester Knock since 1741—for five generations.*

*See "The Keiths of Wester Knock" in *Aberdeen Daily Free Press*, 23 November, 1892.

In the revision of this chapter for the present edition, considerable use has been made of the information supplied in "A Book of the Parish of Deir," edited by Professor Lawson, late Minister of Deer (Aberdeen, 1896). A detailed and very interesting account of "The Lands of the Parish and Their Owners" is given by Professor Lawson, and the work also contains a paper on "Eminent Men and Women" (of the parish) by Mr. John Fullerton, and much other valuable material relating to Old Deer. Rev. James Cooper, D.D., then of the East Church, Aberdeen, now Professor of Ecclesiastical History in Glasgow University, contributed a sketch of St. Drostan.

Dr Cooper also furnished "Notes on the Columbite and Cistercian Monasteries, and the Parish Church of Deer in Aberdeenshire" to the "Transactions of the Aberdeen Ecclesiological Society," 1895. Reference may further be made to "Saint Columba: A Record and a Tribute" by Rev. Duncan Macgregor, Inverallochy (Aberdeen, 1898), and the chapters on Columba and Drostan in "The Lights of the North" by Rev. James Stark, D.D. (Aberdeen, 1896). Quotations have occasionally been made in the text from a "Description of the Parish of Old Deer, M.DCC.XXIII. By Mr. Willox," reproduced in the "View of the Diocese;" and a great deal of matter relating to the district will be found in "A Gossip about Old Deer and Its Neighbourhood" [by William Boyd, Stuartfield] contributed to the *Aberdeen Free Press* at irregular intervals between 20 July, 1855, and 14 March, 1856, and in "Random Recollections of Buchan and Buchan Worthies, by a Septuagenarian" [also by Mr. Boyd], contributed to the *Aberdeen Weekly Free Press*, between 13 June, 1891, and 30 January, 1892. Abundant particulars regarding the families of Ferguson and Pitfour and Ferguson of Kinmundy are to be found in "Records of the Clan and Name of Fergusson or Ferguson," edited by James Ferguson and Robert Menzies Ferguson, 1895. Mr. John Burnett of Dens is biographised in "Chambers's Encyclopædia" and the "Dictionary of National Biography;" see also *Aberdeen Free Press*, 6 November, 1883, and Mr. John Fullerton's "Eminent Men and Women." Reference may also be made to "The Great North of Scotland Railway" by W. Ferguson (of Kinmundy), 1881; and to papers on "The Barony of Fetterangus," "The Reformation Beside the Ugies," and "Early Protestantism Beside the Ugies," by Rev. Andrew Chalmers, Wakefield, in "Transactions of the Buchan Field Club," vol. iv., 1896-98. The history of Dissent in the parish of Old Deer is to be found in "The Secession in the North" by James Thomas Findlay (Aberdeen, 1898). An account of "Stuartfield and Its Churches" was given in the *Aberdeen Evening Express*, 13 October, 1897. Reference may also be made to "Old Deer as a Summer Resort" in *Daily Free Press*, 23 April, 1891, and "County Mansions in East Aberdeenshire" in the same paper, 21 September, 1892.

James Mitchell, compiler of "The Scotsman's Library: being a Collection of Anecdotes and Facts illustrative of Scotland and Scotsmen," and author of various works, was a son of the first Seceder minister of Clola. He received the degree of LL.D., from King's College, Aberdeen, and presented the University Library with a unique collection of 23 "Grangerised" volumes. Mr. James Robertson, who was Congregational Minister at Stuartfield [Crichie] in the early years of the nineteenth century, had several notable descendants. His son, Peter Robertson, Rector of the West-End Academy, Aberdeen, had a daughter, Jane, who married Rev. W. P. Smith, D.D., minister of the Free Church of Keig-Tough, and was mother of Dr. William Robertson Smith, LL.D., the brilliant Professor at the Free Church College, Aberdeen, who was prosecuted for Biblical criticism of a "dangerous and unsettling tendency." One of Mr. James Robertson's daughters, Margaret Murray, went to Canada and gained a considerable reputation as an author—she wrote "The Two Miss Dawsons," "Christy Redfern's Troubles," etc. Another daughter, Mary, married Rev. Donald Gordon, a Presbyterian minister in Canada; she was the mother of Rev. Charles Gordon, also a Presbyterian minister in the Dominion, who, under the pseudonym of "Ralph Connor," has written a novel entitled "Black Rock"—a striking tale of mining life in the Canadian Rocky Mountains. Among the eminent men connected with the parish is Mr. George Smith, who emigrated to the United States in 1833 or 1834, and became connected with financial undertakings in the North-Western States, amassing a large fortune. He has gifted various sums to Old Deer for prizes to school children.

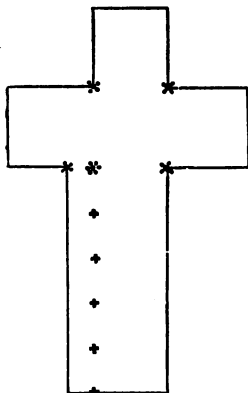
CHAPTER IX.

THE ABBEY OF DEER, DRUIDICAL CIRCLES, Etc.

OBJECTS of interest from the antiquarian, the archæological, and the historical point of view, abound in the parish of Old Deer, perhaps the most interesting being the ruins of the Abbey of St. Mary of Deer. The foundation of this Abbey was due to the William Comyn who, by marrying the only child of Fergus, Earl of Buchan, acquired the earldom. (See p. 4.) Imbued with that regard for the honour of God and the interests of religion which was characteristic of the Norman race, and which, for several centuries after its settlement in the kingdom, continued to distinguish it even amid the comparative barbarism of the age, Comyn, soon after his marriage, made preparations for the erection of an Abbey on his newly-acquired estates. The place selected for the building was on the north bank of the Ugie, about three-quarters of a mile west from the parish church, in the valley between two hills, Saplin Brae and Aikey Brae. It is supposed to have been, at the time, a sort of marsh, but sheltered from the north by Saplin Brae, which rises abruptly from the plain at less than 100 yards behind the site of the

abbey. According to Spottiswood and others, the foundations were laid on 1st March, 1218, although a record or tradition, preserved in the abbey until the middle of the sixteenth century, makes the date of the building 29th January, 1219. This discrepancy can only be reconciled on one of two hypotheses—either that the foundations of the church were laid on one of these days, and those of the monastery on the other; or that the building was in a state to receive the three monks who formed the first detachment at the latter-mentioned date, which there is some reason to believe was the case.*

The church was built in the form of a cross, and consisted of a nave with a north aisle, transepts, and chancel. The internal dimensions were as follows—



	Feet.
Total length of nave and chancel,	150
Across the transepts,	90
Width of nave and aisle,	38½
Length of nave,	90
Length of chancel,	30
Width of nave or chancel,	27
Width of transepts,	30

The nave was divided into five bays, the chancel not extending beyond the line of

*“Anno Dom. 1219, fuit erectio Monasterii a Deir quarto calendas Februarii, et eodem die profecti sunt aliquot monachi ex Kynlos in Deir tanquam in novam coloniam; monachorum nomina sunt Hugo, Ardorus, et Joannes.” (“Excerpta ex Joannis Ferrarii Historia Abbatum a Kynlos.”)

pillars which divided the aisle from the nave. The bases of the pillars could, till 1854, be traced along the nave. Those forming the angles of the transepts with the nave were of greater diameter. In all probability they had supported a central tower, and perhaps a spire. From a few mouldings and top arches of windows found amid the ruins of the Abbey, it is evident that the church was built in the style peculiar to the age—namely, the first pointed, or Early English. The arches were lancet-shaped, and the mouldings were deeply cut in red sandstone,* which is said to have been brought from a quarry at Byth, a distance of twelve miles.

The church formed the north-west portion of the abbey buildings. The monastery and other houses round it for the accommodation of the monks and secular servants were very plain, most of the doors and windows having circular arches without any ornament. The church stood east and west, and, from the fragments that remain, a tolerably accurate idea of its design and proportions may be formed. Standing at the western entrance, we may fancy a building, long, lofty, and with no great profusion of architectural ornament, yet chaste and graceful in all its parts. Slender pillars, a high-pitched roof, long, lancet-shaped windows, of narrow lights; the font near the door; the high altar in the far east—all meant to shadow forth some article of the Christian faith. “*Bonum est nos hic esse, quia homo vivit purius, cadit rarius, surgit velocius, incedit cautius, quiescit securius, moritur felicius, purgatur citius,*

* A feature peculiar to this style—namely, the mouldings cut so as to hold water—is here very marked.

præmiatur copiosius”—such were the words usually inscribed by the Cistercians on the walls of their religious edifices.*

As the Abbey of Deer was at first occupied by Cistercian monks, it was, like all the houses belonging to that order, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. At a subsequent period, the monks of Deer were changed into Bernardines. Only three brethren are mentioned as the original occupants of the abbey—Hugh, Arthur, and John—who were brought by the founder from the priory of Kinloss, a house of the Cistercian order, “which the royal bounty of good St. David had planted in Moray during the previous century.” According to the tradition of the abbey, and on the authority of a marginal correction in the Chronicles of Melrose, Hugh may be set down as the first Abbot of Deer, the 29th January, 1219, being the commencement of his rule. Other accounts make Robert, who, it is said, was translated to Kinloss the following year, the first Abbot. These, however, are not consistent with other records, which show that Ralph was Abbot of Kinloss at the time of the erection of Deer, and that he continued so for upwards of fourteen years afterwards. According to still another account, the first Abbot of Deer was Alexander, Prior of Kinloss, who died in September, 1233, while on a journey to

* Rendered by Wordsworth as follows—

“ Here man more purely lives, less oft doth fall,
 More promptly rises, walks with stricter heed,
 More safely rests, dies happier, is freed
 Earlier from cleansing fires, and gains withal
 A brighter crown.”

(“Cistercian Monastery” in the “Ecclesiastical Sonnets.”)

Citeaux, in France, to assist at a General Chapter, and was buried in a monastery of the Cistercian order, called Vallis Sanctæ Mariæ. A "scanty list" of the Abbots of Deer—as the editor calls it—is given in the "Antiquities of the Shires of Aberdeen and Banff," ii., 409-22; this volume also contains copies of charters granted by Comyn to the Abbey (426-28). "The foundation charter is not known to exist; but it would seem to have conveyed to the brethren the churches of Deir and Inverugie St. Peter (or Peterhead), together with the broad lands which they held in these parishes. By subsequent grants of their munificent founder, they acquired the lands of Fechil, on the banks of the Ythan, and the lands of Barre, in Strathisla" (*Ibid*, 410). The Founder—who, with the consent of the Countess Marjory, his wife, thus endowed the abbey, and who granted to it numerous valuable perquisites besides—died in 1233, and is said to have been buried, according to his own request, within the consecrated walls of the church.

Of the particular working of the Abbey and Monastery of Deer, there is no record extant; and conjecture only lands us in controversy. The occupants of abbeys and monasteries have been, on the one hand, denounced in a body as lazy, over-fed, and not over-moral set of drones, who left others to fulfil the duties of life, and revelled in the fruits of their industry. On the other hand, the monks have been extolled as the conservators of learning, promoters of the industrial arts, and agricultural improvers; it has been claimed for the monasteries that they were the only hostelries for the traveller, the only shelter for the

oppressed, the only almonries for the poor—in short, the church, the seminary, the dispensary, and the mill were the essentially component parts of the monastery of the middle ages. The Abbey of Deer, in all probability, had its good features, and no less its bad features; at any rate, there is mention—within less than half a century of the establishment of the Abbey—of the deposition, for some unspecified misdemeanour, of the Abbot, Henry, who had been Abbot of Kinloss. A monk of Melrose, Adam of Smalham, was chosen to succeed him; but, in the year 1267, he demitted office of his own accord, “choosing rather to live in the sweet converse of the brethren of Melrose,” says the proud Chronicle of that house, “than to govern an unworthy flock under the lowly roofs of Deir.”*

Between 1290 and 1308 the Abbey obtained from John, Earl of Buchan, the grandson of the founder, a grant of the patronage of the Church of Kynnedor

* It was about this time that the Holy Rood, a sort of hospital or cell, subject to the abbey, was built by the Abbot of Deer at Newburgh, in the parish of Foveran, and endowed by Alexander Comyn, Earl of Buchan, “for the benefit of his soul, and that of the Countess Ysabelle, his spouse.” The Earl, “of his bounty, gave, conceded, and confirmed” certain lands “to six poor prebendaries, dwelling (*commorantibus*) at Newburgh, in Buchan, and to their successors for ever.” All that now remains of “the Rood Kirk of Buchan” is part of the foundations, which may, with some difficulty, be traced in a small churchyard on the right bank of the Ythan.

There is reason to believe that the monks of Deer built another cell in the neighbourhood of Fraserburgh, and the one before-mentioned on the Windmill of Peterhead.

(King-Edward). To quote from the "Antiquities of the Shires of Aberdeen and Banff" (ii., 415-16)—

This gift from the grandson of their founder was the last which the brethren of Saint Mary were fated to receive from his race or lineage. In the memorable revolution which placed the Earl of Carrick on the Scottish throne, the illustrious family of Cumyn was so utterly overthrown, that, says a Chronicle of the age, "of a name which numbered at one time three earls and more than thirty belted knights, there remained no memorial in the land, save the orisons of the monks of Deer." The new king, though, in the rage of war, he wasted the heritage of the Cumyns with such cruel severity

" That eftre that, weile fifty yer,
Men menyt The Herschip of Bowchane,"

did not withhold his favour from the abbey of their foundation, when the sanguinary struggle came to an end, and his dominion was established in peace. ✧ The rolls of King Robert I. make mention of three charters which he granted to the Monastery of Deir: one, conveying to it the church of Foveran; another, ratifying the gift which it had received of the church of Kynedwart; and the third, apparently confirming the possessions of the brethren generally.

For two hundred years after this, there are no records of any remarkable event in the history of the Abbey. ✧ Occasionally we find the monks granting leases of some of their estates, or receiving some additional privileges, or the Abbot taking part in the transactions of the district or in the affairs of the kingdom. As time passes on, however, incidents begin to be noted which bear mournful evidence of the decay of morals in the establishment, paving the way for the disasters that followed. To quote again from the "Antiquities" (ii., 421-2)—

In the year 1543, Robert Keith, brother of William, fourth Earl Marischal, was presented to the abbey by the Queen

Dowager. He was not yet inaugurated in July, 1544, when he is styled postulate-abbot in a deed by which the convent appointed certain procurators for the recovery of lands belonging to them in the burgh of Aberdeen. There seem, at this time, to have been, in all, fourteen brethren in the monastery, including the abbot, the prior, the sub-prior, and two economists. The abbot, Robert, is praised by Dempster for his zeal in reforming the prevalent immorality of the clergy; and so scandalous were the vices of churchmen in that age, that the praise may not have been undeserved, though it is scarcely doubtful that he himself left a son, the fruit of his amours, who was created Lord Dingwall in the year 1584. He died at Paris, June 12, 1551, and was buried before the altar of St. Ninian of Galloway, in the church of the Carmelites.

This Robert Keith was succeeded by his nephew, Robert, the second son of the fourth Earl Marischal, who is known in history as "The Commendator of Deer." The Commendator seems to have been sordid and double-minded, ever ready to make public professions for the sake of retaining the temporalities of his monastery. Incited by cupidity, as well as by his hostility to the Reformation, and countenanced, as it would appear, by "the good Regent," he attempted to deprive of their stipends the Reformed preachers appointed to the churches dependent on the abbey. According to the "Antiquities" (ii., 422-3)—

Though sharing largely in the spoils of the ancient faith, he would appear to have been at first no friend to the teachers of the new doctrines. To a request preferred by him in the year 1569, with the countenance of the Regent Murray, that he might be relieved from certain payments due by him to the preachers at the Abbey's churches, the General Assembly gave for answer that "the Kirk can in no wise remitt the thing that pertains to the poor ministers, 'especially to such a one as' my Lord of Deir, who debursed his money to the enemies of God, to prosecute his servants and banish them out of the realm."

It is difficult to suppress a smile when we see this

same stickler for the temporalities, if not for the faith of the old regime, when he found the Reformation to be clearly in the ascendant, turning suddenly round, and, in the most venal terms, abjectly craving for their conversion into a temporal lordship in his own favour, as exhibited in the following document—

Unto the richt excellent, richt heich, and michtie prince oure Souerane Lord, King James the Sext, be the grace of God, King of Scottis ; Your Heines humble and obedient subjectis, Robert, commendatour of the Abbay of Deir and convent thairof, Greiting. Forasmeikle as we, vnderstanding that the monastical superstitioun, for the quhilk the said Abbay of Deir was of auld erectit and foundit, is now, be the lawis of this realme, alluterlie abolisheit, sua that na memorie thairof sall be heirafter : And considering that the maist pairt of the landis and rentis doittit to the said Abbay, proceedit of auld from the dispositioun of the progenitor and predecessor of the richt nobill and potent lord George, erle Merschell, lord Keith, etc., and that the propertie of the maist pairt thairof is alreddie set in feverme to the said Erle and his predecessouris, lauchfullie confirmit be your Maiestie and your Heines vmquhile darrest mother. . . . Thairfor, and for diverss vtheris ressonable caussis and consideratiounis moving us, . . . we . . . resigne, renunce, simpliciter discharge, ourgive, and demitt frae ws and our successouris, all and sundrie the landis, lordschippis, . . . quhairof the Abbotis and Convent of the samen has bein in possessioun in ony time bypast, in your Maiesties handis, to the effect vnder specifeit, and for erectioun of the same in ane temporall lordschip, as followis : That is to say, the Maner Place of Deir, of auld callit The Abbey of Deir, with all the houssis, biggingis, orchardis, yairdis, and vther pertinentis thairof, . . . in favour of me, the said Robert, commendator, and of the said George, Erle Merschell, ffor erectioun of the same landis, lordschippis, . . . in ane temporall lordschip, to be callit in all tyme cuming The Lordschip of Altrie.*

* *Ibid*, 437-9. The document from which the above quotation is made—"Lettres of procuratorie and resignacioane

On the death of the Commendator—or, as he must now be designated, Lord Altrie—which took place before the year 1590, the estates and title descended to his nephew, George, Earl Marischal, and his heirs-male and assigns. †The Earl was not allowed to enjoy his newly-acquired honours and possessions in peace. His own brother, Robert Keith of Benholm, seized on the Abbey, and kept forcible possession of it for several months. Judging from the following excerpt from the Minutes of Council of the city of Aberdeen, of date October 15, 1590, it would appear to have been no easy matter to dislodge him—

For sending out of fourtie hagbutteris to Deir.—The said day the haill toun being lauchtfuillie warnit to this day, baytht frie and onfrie, be the hand-bell passing throw the haill rewis and strettis of the toun, quhairupon the bearer mad faytht, and compearand for the maist pairt representand the haill bodeye off the toun ; it was exponit to thame be Alex. Cullen, prouest, that his Maiestie had directit chargis and lettres charging the haill inhabitantis and his Graceis liegis within the schirefdomes of

of the Abbacie of Deir" (1587)—contains a detailed list of the lands surrendered. These included, in addition to "The Maner Place of Deir of auld callit The Abbey of Deer," the lands of Clerkhill, Quartailhouse, Dennis, Meikle Auchrydie, Auchmwnyel, Carnebannoch, Lital Auchrydie, Craigmylne, Glauckriauch, Littill Elrik, Auldmad, Badforsky, Auchleck, Acherb, Cryalie, Skillymarno, Auchmacher, Altrie, Biffie Raw of Biffie and Parkhouse of Biffie, Brucehill, Scrogghill, Kirktown of Deir, Benvells, Meikle Elrik, Fechill, Monkishill, Grange of Raehill, Carkinsche, Monkisholme, and Overalterlandis and Nethir Alterlandis of Fourene, the mills of Crichtie and Bruxie, and the Abbey mill of Deer, the "fischertown of Peterheid," the salmon fishings of Inuervgie, the lands of Barre in Banffshire, and the teinds of Deir, Petervgie, Fouerne, and Kenedward. (See "The Lands of the Parish and their Owners" in Professor Lawson's "Book of the Parish of Deir.")

Forfar, Kincardin, Aberdene, and Banff, to pas fordwart and accompany the Erll Merschall, his Graceis commissioner in that pairt, to Deir, for recovery of the house of Deir, presentlie takin and withaldin be Mr. Robert Keytht and his complices, . . . desyring of thame to knaw gif thay wald obey his Maiesties charge thairanent, or giff they wald be content to furneis out ane number for the hail inhabitantis of this burght with hagbuttis to pas with the said Erll to the effect forsaid (as the borrowis of Dundie, Montroiss, Brechin, and Forfar, subject to the said proclamatioun and charge hes done), gif the said Erll wald be thairwith content.

Notwithstanding the aid thus afforded to the Earl by the northern counties and burghs, Robert Keith held out till 15th December, when, being dislodged, he withdrew to Fedderat, whither the Marischal and his company pursued him. They laid siege to the castle, which they were unable to reduce; so, after three days, a truce was agreed upon between the belligerent brothers, after which little more is heard of the quarrel.

✕ Any history of the Abbey of Deer would be incomplete without the "relacioun of a wonderfull vision," which, "according to popular belief, foretold that the ancient house of the Marischal of Scotland was to date its slow decay and assured overthrow from the day of its 'sacraledgeous medling with the Abisie of Deir.'" It is thus recorded in "A short Abridgement of Britane's Distemper, from the yeares of God 1639 to 1649," by Patrick Gordon of Ruthven—

This was a fearfull presage of the fattall punishment which did hing over the head of that noble familie by a terrible vission to his grandmother, efter the sacraleidgious annexing of the Abacie of Deir to the house of Marshall, which I think not unworthie the remembrance, wer it bot to advice other noblemen therby to bewar of meddling with the rents of the

church, for in the first fundation therof they were given out with a curse pronounced in ther charector, or evident of the first erectione, in those terms :—*Cursed be those that taketh this awmy from the holy use wherwnto it is now dedicat* ; and I wish from my heart that this curse follow not this ancient and noble familie, who hath to their praise and never dieing honor continued ther greatness, maintained ther honor, and both piously and constantly hes followed forth the way of vertu, from that tym that the valoure, worth, and happie fortoun of ther first predecessore planted them ; and ever since the currage of his heart, strength of his arme, and love of his country, made him happily to resist the cruel Danes. George, Earle Marshall, a learned, wise, and wpright good man, got the Abacie of Deir in recompence from James the Sixt, for the honorable chairage he did bear in that ambassage he had into Denmerk, and the wyse and worthie accompt he gave of it at his returne, by the conclusion of that matche whereof the royall stock of Brittaines monarchie is descended.

This Earle George, his first wyfe, dochter to the Lord Hom, and grandmother to this present Earle, being a woman both of a high spirit and of a tender conscience, forbids her husband to leave such a consuming moch in his house, as was the sacraledgeous medling with the abisie of Deir ; but fourtein scoir chalderis of meill and beir was a sore tentatione, and he could not weell indure the randering back of such a morsell. Upon his absolut refusall of her demand, she had this vission the night following :—

In her sleepe she saw a great number of religious men in thir habit com forth of that abbey to the stronge craige of Dunnotture, which is the principall residence of that familie. She saw them also sett themselves round about the rock to get it down and demolishe it, having no instruments nor toilles wherwith to perform this work, but only penknyves, wherwith they follisly (as it seemed to her) begane to pyk at the craigie. She smyled to sie them intende so fruitles an enterpryse, and went to call her husband to scuffe and geyre them out of it. When she had fund him, and brought him to sie these sillie religious monckes at ther foolish work, behold, the wholl craigie, with all his stronge and stately buildinges, was by their penknyves

wndermynded and fallen in the sea, so as ther remained nothing but the wrack of ther riche furnitoure and stufte flotting on the waves of a raging and tempestuous sea.

Som of the wyser sort divining upon this vission, attribute to the penknyves the lenth of tym befor this should com to pass, and it hath been observed by sindrie that the earles of that hous befor wer the richest in the kingdom, having treasure and store besyde them, but ever since the addition of this so great a revenue, they have lessed the stock by heavie burdens of debt and ingagment.

It is thought to have been in reference to this legend, or to some reproaches of a similar nature which were heaped on the Marischal family at the time, in consequence of their sacrilegious appropriation of the Abbey and its possessions, that they inscribed the unavailing defiance—

THAY SAY,
 QUHAT SAY THEY?
 THAY HAIF SAYD,
 LAT THAME SAY—

on several of the buildings which they erected. The inscription appears in Marischal College, Aberdeen, which the fifth Earl Marischal founded in 1593, and endowed with a portion of the doomed spoil.* (See pp. 73-4) Within seventy years of the time that Patrick Gordon wrote, all the Marischal estates were confiscated, and an additional half-century witnessed the extinction of the family. The Commendator, who took his title from Altrie, one of the estates of the Abbey, lying between Bruxie and Brucklay Castle, left no

*The properties formerly belonging to the Black Friar, and White Friars of Aberdeen, and to the Chaplainries of Bervie and of Cowie. (See "Records of Marischal College and University," edited by P. J. Anderson, New Spalding Clubs, i., 39.)

child to inherit his honours ; and so utterly has the name perished, that instead of being "callit in all tyme cuming the Lordschip of Altrie," the name scarcely remains even as a tradition !

" Meddle nae wi' haly things,
For gin ye dee,
A weird, I rede, in some shape,
Shall follow thee." †

Altrie is now called Overtown and Newton of Bruxie. The downfall of the Keith family has been narrated in a previous chapter (Chap. vii.).

The history of the Abbey since the time of the Reformation may soon be told. There is no account of its having been inhabited at a later period than the end of the sixteenth century. It soon fell into decay. The roofs and other parts of the building likely to yield money were probably sold, as nothing of them has ever been discovered among the ruins. The walls were used as a quarry by any one who wanted material to build a house or a dyke, or to construct a drain. In 1809, Mr. James Ferguson of Pitfour enclosed the Abbey and the grounds around it with a high wall, including what had been the orchard and gardens. These he restored, laying out the grounds in the more immediate vicinity of the ruin with considerable taste. The workmen, in carrying on their operations, approached somewhat near to the walls, when they came upon some graves. Mr. Ferguson, much to his credit, gave orders for these not to be disturbed, and the labourers not to proceed farther. He also, with laudable respect for this monument of the piety of former generations,

preserved the ruin, during his time, from further destruction. By removing the rubbish, the several parts of the monastery became clearly distinguishable—portions of the walls, from twelve to eighteen feet high, still remaining. The church had become more dilapidated, but its outline could be distinctly traced. The foundations of the nave, chancel, and transepts, and the bases of most of the pillars which divided the aisle from the nave, with a considerable portion of the walls, were still standing. For several years, the ruin continued much in the same state; and it is deeply to be regretted that these carefully treasured remains of a beautiful and imposing structure should have been sacrificed even to a sacred domestic feeling—a regret greatly enhanced by the ill-judged substitution of an erection which, in style, cannot even claim to be of Christian origin. In clearing the ground for this building—a mausoleum for the Pitfour family—the remaining walls of the church and the bases of the pillars were, by the directions of Admiral Ferguson, removed even to their foundations; the ground where the church had stood was lowered nearly three feet; a vast number of skulls and other human bones were dug up, as were also several stone coffins, a leaden shell, and other reliquæ of the dead. Three of these coffins were near the high altar, and probably contained the ashes of the noble founder and the remains of abbots who had ruled over the monastery. It was an unfortunate thought that suggested this irreverent measure; and those who probably looked forward to rest their mortal remains within these sacred precincts might have hoped to sleep none the less peacefully if unaccompanied in

their passage to the tomb by the reproachful recollection of this most lamentable desecration.*

It has now been ascertained that there was a monastery in the neighbourhood of Deer long before William Comyn invited the Cistercian monks of Kinloss to settle on the banks of the Ugie. This was mainly established by a manuscript volume, known as "The Book of Deer," brought to light in 1860, through the research of Mr. Henry Bradshaw, the librarian of the University Library, Cambridge, which carries us back to a period several hundred years anterior to the founding of the Abbey of St. Mary. "The Book of Deer" is a memorial of the monastery founded at Deer by St. Columba and his disciple Drostan. It contains the Gospel of St. John complete, and portions of the other three Gospels, in writing probably of the ninth century, the Apostles' Creed, the fragment of an office for the Visitation of the Sick, and a charter of King David I. to the clerics of Deer; and it also contains a number of Memoranda of grants to the monastery made by the Celtic chiefs of Buchan, written in Gaelic, at a later time, on blank pages or on the margins. It is also illuminated, the style of ornament of the illustrations being similar to that

*Dr. Skene Keith, in his "Agriculture of Aberdeenshire," inserted a rough engraving of the ruins of the Abbey as they appeared in 1770. A ground plan of the Abbey Church and Precincts, made for Mr. James Ferguson in 1789, is reproduced (on a reduced scale) in Professor Lawson's "Book of the Parish of Deir," a chapter of which is devoted to the Abbey. For further information respecting the Abbey of Deer, reference may be made to the authorities cited in the immediately preceding chapter, and to Macgibbon and Ross's "Ecclesiastical Architecture of Scotland." vol. ii.

used in many of the early Irish Books of the Gospel all of a date prior to the ninth century.* The history deducible from the marginal memoranda is thus summarised by Dr. John Stuart, in his preface to the second volume of "The Sculptured Stones of Scotland"—

In "The Book of Deir," which preserves to us the legend of Drostan, the companion of St. Columba, and their joint mission from Iona to the Celtic people of Buchan, in the sixth century, when Bede, the Pict, was Mormaer [High Steward] of Buchan, we find notices of clans in that district, and of their Toisechs, or captains. Bede, the Mormaer, gave to Columcille and Drostan the town of Aberdour, in freedom for ever from all claim of Mormaer or Toisech; and also another town, which got the name of Dear from Columcille, and became the seat of a monastery. Then came grants of lands from various individuals, some of them with the like freedom from Mormaer and Toisech. In one case, the offerings are declared to be free from all burdens for ever, except so much as would fall on four davachs, of such burdens as came upon all the chief monasteries of Alba generally, and upon chief churches.

A church or monastery was accordingly built—about 580 A.D., it is conjectured, or some time between 565 and 597—and dedicated to "Christ and the Apostle Peter, and to Columcille and Drostan." It becomes a question, then, whether or not this Columban monastery occupied the site on which the Cistercian abbey was afterwards erected. There is a gentle eminence, near the south end of the village of Stuartfield, through which the road to Upper Crichtie is now carried, known as "the Chapel Hillock," and near it is "the Chapel Well;" but formerly

* See "The Book of Deer." Edited for the Spalding Club by John Stuart, LL.D., 1869.

these were always spoken of as "St. Colm's Hillock," and "St. Colm's Well," and, if local traditions are to be believed, vestiges of buildings have been discovered on the spot. On these data it would not be safe to speak positively; but that this was the site of the Columban monastery is by no means a remote inference, especially as the Cistercians are known to have chosen their own independent places for building, and, what is more to the purpose, there is no record to the effect of their having, in the case of the Abbey of Deer, built on any former foundation.*

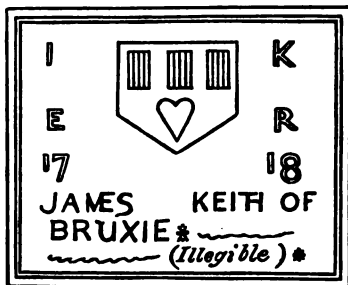
"The Stone at Deer" is one of those of which a fac-simile is given in "The Sculptured Stones of Scotland," published by the Spalding Club. It was whinstone. The cross was incised on the face of the pillar, and on the obverse was the now well-known, though yet undeciphered semi-lunar hieroglyphic. Nothing is known as to the precise original locality of the stone, although at one time it stood at the west end of the old Abbey Church; but it, unfortunately, shared the same fate as the stone mouldings and other materials of that sacred building. All disappeared together in 1854.

According to local tradition, it was beneath a willow on the river bank, immediately under the walls of the Abbey, that Sir James the Rose—the subject of the well-known and pathetic ballad—was wont to meet the fair Matilda, the daughter of Buchan's cruel lord, and it was here he fell a sacrifice to the rage and jealousy of Sir John the Græme. Haddo, in the

* The University of Cambridge possesses other documents, once the property of the Abbey of Deer. (See Professor Lawson's "Book of the Parish of Deir.")

parish of Crimond, claims the honour of Sir James the Rose's grave. The tradition that locates the story of Sir James the Rose in Buchan is, however, more than apocryphal.*

The Ugie is crossed a little above the Abbey ruins by the "Abbey Brig," an inscription on which



indicates the date of its erection and the person by whom it was probably erected. Ascending Aikey Brae, on the south side of the Ugie, the hill of Parkhouse is reached, about a mile south-west of the Abbey. Here there is a Druidical circle—one of the most complete of the Druidical circles

* See the chapter on Crimond (xiv.). The beautiful ballad of "Sir James the Rose," by Michael Bruce, gives the details of this tragic love story. An older ballad, "The Young Heir of Balleichan," is apparently founded on the same event. The location of the scene of either ballad in either Old Deer or Crimond is totally unwarranted; the "lowlands of Balleichan," where Sir James the Rose was slain, are on the Tay, near Logierait, in Perthshire. (See "The Ballad Minstrelsy of Scotland" and "Auld] Scots Ballants," edited by Robert Ford.)

remaining in Buchan. These ancient remains are so similar in their character, wherever found, that a description of one, generally speaking, answers for all. A circle of great blocks of stone, irregular and of unequal height, some standing and some evidently fallen down or knocked over, is the general feature. Sometimes inside the circle, sometimes in the circumference of the circle itself—as is the case at Parkhouse—there is one conspicuously large stone, lying flat, which is frequently designated the altar-stone; some modern investigators prefer to term it the rostrum. It is often the case that the stones composing the circle, and especially the altar-stone, are of a different kind from the stones commonly found in the neighbourhood. The space within the circle is called “The Temple.” Some later writers have laboured hard to throw doubts on the Druidical claims of these circles, maintaining that they are of Scandinavian origin—the temples of Thor, on the altar-stone of which deity human victims were immolated.* Others, again, are of opinion that, although they may have been adopted by the Scandinavian worshippers, the circles are unquestionably of Druidical or Buddhist origin, having been spread over the world from the far East at a period long anterior to all written record. They were essentially religious structures; but, as the Druids, and afterwards the priests of Thor, were at once the ministers of religion, the legislators, and the judges among the people, the circles were probably in many instances what the Icelandic writers term

* *Archæology of Scotland*,” by Daniel Wilson, pp. 109-10. See also “The Druids” by Dr. Pratt.

“Doom Rings,” or “Circles of Judgment.”* That these places may have been used for sepulchral purposes need not be disputed; but to argue that, because the area of our old churches were places of sepulture, the buildings themselves were, therefore, not places of worship, would scarcely be admissible; and to assert that the marks of sepulture found in connection with stone circles are sufficient to exclude the possibility of their having been temples, seems to be equally gratuitous.

But, leaving the point under discussion in its present unsettled state, the existing monuments may simply be referred to by the name by which they will be best understood, namely, as Druidical Circles. These appear to have been more than usually numerous in the parish of Deer. According to the account of the parish in the Old Statistical Account there were, a few years previous to its date (1795), the remains of upwards of a dozen within its boundary. That on the hill of Parkhouse was then the most entire, and is now one of the very few that the utilitarian hand of improvement has spared. The diameter of the space enclosed by the inner circle is about 50 feet. Only four of the upright stones now remain; they are from 14 to 17 feet apart. Six upright stones have been overthrown and lie about in fragments, great and small. The principal or altar-stone, placed on the south side of the circle, and lying east and west, is 14 feet 9 inches long, 5 feet 9

* It is conjectured that our words, *kirk*, *church*, are derived from *circus*, *kirkus*. It is said that, at some places in the county, the Druidical circle is called “the auld kirk,” as at Auchterless.

inches in height, and 5 feet 9 inches in width, and it is calculated that it weighs about 20 tons. The stone is of primitive trap.*

The northern declivity of the hill of Parkhouse is called Aikey Brae or Yackie Brae. The name is said to be derived from the "aiks" (oaks) with which the hill was once clad. Another theory is that the hill owes its name to Achaicus or Yochock, a king of the Picts, and brother of Drostan, the patron saint of the parish. As already mentioned, the removal of a portion of the relics of St. Drostan from Aberdour to Deer is still commemorated by a fair, known as Aikey Fair, held on the third Wednesday of July. This fair was for long a famous one, but it is now of much less note.† Aikey Brae

* For a more detailed account of the Parkhouse Circle, as also of Druidical Circles in Louden Wood, in the grounds of Pitfour, in Whitecow Wood, near North Auchmachar, and at Backhill of Auchmachar, see a paper on the "Stone Circles of Old Deer" by James Spence, in "Transactions of Buchan Field Club," 1887-90, and "Notes on the Parkhouse Circle," by H. B. Mitchell in the "Transactions," 1896-8.

† "Seventy or eighty years ago, Aikey Fair was the largest fair in the north of Scotland. A legendary account of its origin is to the effect that a packman of unknown antiquity, Aul' Aikey by name, in crossing the river Ugie, on stepping-stones, a mile west of the ancient Abbey of Deir dropped his pack. On fishing it out of the water, then slightly flooded, he proceeded some three hundred yards farther on, to what is now known as Aikey Brae, which was then, as it still is, covered with short grass and heath. Here he spread out his goods to dry. The contents of the pack consisted of prints and woollens, some of them being of gaudy colours. A good many people passed during the day, and being attracted by his stock, bought up all the articles in it. Aul' Aikey was charmed with the success which followed what he had regarded as a calamity—the accidental soaking of his pack.

is the traditionary scene of two remarkable incidents, belonging respectively to the times of Alexander III. and Robert I. The first of these two incidents is thus recounted in the "View of the Diocese" :—

On Aiky Brae here (that is, the Hill of Oaks) are certain stones called the Cummin's Craige,* where, 'tis said one of the Cummins, Earl of Buchan, by a fall from his horse at hunting, dashed out his brains. The prediction goes, that this Earl (quho lived under King Alexander III.) had called Thomas the Rhymer by the name of Thomas the Lyar, to show how much he slighted his predictions; whereupon that famous fortune-teller denounced his impending fate to him in these words, which, 'tis added, were all fulfilled literally—

Though Thomas the Lyar thou call'st me,
A sooth tale I shall tell to thee :
By Aiky-side thy horse shall ride,
He shall stumble and thou shalt fa' ;
Thy neck-bane shall break in twa,
And maugre all thy kin and thee,
Thy own belt thy bier shall be.

The second incident is connected with the "Harrying of Buchan," to which reference has already been incidentally made. According to tradition, Aickey Brae witnessed the final defeat of the Comyns in the time of King Robert the Bruce. After the battle of Barra, in 1308, Edward, Robert's brother,

Apologising to his purchasers for the meagreness of his stock, he promised to show them something better worth looking at if they would meet him next year at the same time and place. He kept his word, while the report of his gains brought others with goods for sale to the same place, and so traffic gradually increased year by year till Aickey Brae, from its central position, became a general mart for the large and populous district of Buchan." ("Notes and Sketches of Northern Rural Life," by William Alexander, p. 79. This work contains some interesting details about Aickey Fair. See also "Notes on Aickey Brae" by John Milne, Atherb, in "Transactions of Buchan Field Club," 1887-90.)

* The "Craige" is gone : some quarry-pits near the market-place are said to mark its site.

who had the command of the army during the king's illness, pursued the Comyns, first to Fyvie, and afterwards into the lower district of Buchan. He is reported to have encamped on a hill about two miles west of the village of New Deer, which has since been known as the "Bruce Hill" (see, however, p. 186). From thence he marched in pursuit of his foe, "to a place near the village of Old Deer, called Aiky-Brae." According to Forsyth's "Beauties of Scotland," this is partly corroborated by John Major, who says ("De Gest. Scot.," lib. 5, fol. 83) that Edward there gave battle.

Tytler, in his "History of Scotland" says—

Into Buchan, the territory of Comyn, his mortal enemy, Bruce now marched, and took ample revenge for all the injuries he had sustained, wasting it with fire, and delivering it over to unbridled military execution. Barbour informs us that, for fifty years after, men spoke with terror of the harrying of Buchan; and it is singular that at this day, the oaks which are turned up in the mosses bear upon their trunks the blackened marks of being scathed with fire.

Barbour's own account in "The Bruce" is as follows (he is speaking of Bruce):—

And gert his men burn all Bouchane
 Fra end till end, and sparit nane;
 And heryit them an sic maneir,
 That eftir that, neir fifty zheir,
 Men meny^t* the heirschip[†] of Bouchane.

Here, then, in the very centre of their own domain, was the power of the noble and warlike, though turbulent and designing, house of Comyn completely broken, their estates confiscated, and their name

* Meny^t—bemoaned or bewailed. † Heirschip—harrying or plundering.

proscribed; and the family that had played so conspicuous a part in the history of the kingdom, and had been able almost to cope with royalty itself, were driven from the stage and perished in the last act of their own domestic tragedy.

The writer of the account of Old Deer in the New Statistical Account sets forth that "there are visible proofs still remaining that this parish was formerly the scene of warfare, occasioned by family feuds, civil strife, or the invasion of the country by foreigners." He instances traces of fortifications and encampments on the top of the Hill of Bruxie, and at the Den of Howie, near Fetterangus; but he mistakenly assumes some turf seats near the foot of Aikey Brae, probably erected for the convenience of the frequenters of the fair, for "a cluster of tumuli pointing out the graves of warriors who fell in a bloody contest." This writer also mentions that, in the insurrection of 1745, there were risings in the district in behalf of the exiled Stuarts, many of the heads of families being attached to the Jacobite interest, and he refers, in particular, to the "rude civilities" shown by "that rough partisan of the fallen cause, Gordon of Glenbucket," to the house of Kinmundy and its lady, mentioned in the preceding chapter.

On the northern side of the hill of Parkhouse, about a quarter of a mile from the Druidical circle, there were, about the middle of last century, the remains of a village, commonly called by the country people the Picts'—or Pechts'—houses. The village consisted of between sixty and seventy small huts, from 6 to 12 feet square, irregularly huddled together. The walls were built of small stones, cemented with

clay; the floors were paved with stones; and a number of small yards or gardens were enclosed with stone dykes. As late as 1821, about a dozen of the huts were still standing; but since then every vestige of this pre-historic village has been obliterated by the ploughshare. On the north-western brow of the Windhill, about a mile southward of the hill of Parkhouse, there was once a cairn, the original boundaries of which may still be traced. It had been an exact circle, of about 24 yards diameter, and had covered several cists. One of these was laid open in 1856, and other two were discovered in 1863. This cairn was only one of a great number with which the district, till a comparatively recent period, was thickly studded. Till the beginning of the nineteenth century, the neighbourhood of Fortrie and Drakemyre, on the south-western border of the parish, afforded a rich field for the labours of the archæologist. Circles, cairns, and mounds, containing arrow-heads, urns, and other relics, were numerous. The features of the place, thus so strongly marked, have been gradually smoothed down into well-cultivated fields, enclosed by stone dykes, the materials for which were found in these monuments of antiquity.

The parish has also its holy wells, hare or march stones, and even imaginary camps, as the following quotation from "A Gossip about Old Deer" will show—

In "Pigot's Directory" for 1835, the remains of a Roman Camp or series of intrenchments is mentioned as being at that time quite traceable on some of the hills of Skelmuir. It is, however, necessary to state that, although I have made diligent inquiry regarding the whereabouts of this camp, I have been unable to gain any satisfactory intelligence regarding it.

There is a block of quartz at a place called Carlingdale, near Fortrie, called the "Carline's Stone," which is spoken of by the people in that neighbourhood with a vague feeling of mysterious awe, as if some horrible incident were connected with it.

There is a well in the hollow between Clackriach and Bruxie, called the "Lady's Well," in all probability in honour of the Virgin Mother, to whom the neighbouring abbey was dedicated; another called "Teet's Well," near Pitfour; whilst we have "Anna's Well," on the west side of the hill of Dens.*

On the farm of Crichtie there once stood a huge block of quartz, called the "White Cow of Crichtie," which must have been many tons in weight. It was visible from almost every commanding part of the district, except where the woods, by which it was in a great measure surrounded, obstructed the view, and it formed a striking object in the landscape. It seems to have formed, as the name Crichtie implies, a march or boundary, from a very remote period. The last time we hear of it being mentioned in this character, was when the lands of the last Earl of Buchan, in this district, were divided between the Marischal of Scotland and the eldest son of the Earl of Mar. At that time an imaginary line, drawn from the hunt-stone of Mormond to another large stone near the house of Pitfour, and from thence on to the "White Cow," divided the lands of the two proprietors, who do not appear to have been quite so fastidious with regard to their marches as the lairds of the present day.

Immediately above the Abbey Bridge, the Ugie receives a small tributary, issuing from the swamps of Croilaw and Bogenjohn. It is said to have been formerly called the Burn of Bogenjohn; at present it seems to be anonymous. Further up the Ugie, there are, on the northern bank, Bruxie House, once a seat

* With regard to Teet's Well—or Tait's Well or Tate's Well, as it is alternatively written—it may be mentioned that in a list of place names in Arran given in "Landmarks of Scottish Life and Language" by William Lyttele (Edin. 1877), Teit's Well is said to signify the learned cleric's well and Tait's Cross the Abbot's cross.

of a cadet of the Marischal family ; and higher up the stream, and on the same side, Newton of Bruxie and Overtown of Bruxie, formerly, as has already been observed, called Altrie, or, more particularly, Nether, Middle, and Over Altrie. Whether or not Altrie included the present Mains of Bruxie, it is now difficult to determine. On the south bank, and opposite Altrie, is the old manor-house of Clackriach, now in ruins. It stands on the brow of a rising ground, nearly a mile from the stream. Clackriach also belonged formerly to one of the Keiths. In the "Poll-Book of Aberdeenshire," it is stated that, in 1696, "John Keith, late of Clackriach," is "out of the kingdom;" but "Elizabeth Sutherland, his ladie," and "their seven children," and "their nurse" and "servants," are all mentioned as coming under the poll-tax. "Mr. Alexander Litster" is set down as "present heretor thereof." The old manor-house was inhabited till within the last seventy years. The third or upper storey is now removed, and the walls are fast falling to decay. The house had been large, and of considerable strength, but without any architectural pretensions. It has been supposed that the site of an older building may be traced in the vicinity of the present ruin. "The castle of Clackriach" (says Mr. Boyd in his "Gossip about Old Deer") "stands upon a slight eminence in the centre of the farm of that name. It is a quadrangular building, having a projecting wing, and its only title to the name of a castle is the fact that it has possessed a turreted staircase and arched doorway and windows—one of the latter having been secured by iron stanchions, portions of which still remain firmly fixed in the walls.

With the utilitarian taste so particularly characteristic of our agricultural friends, advantage has been taken of the walls of this building that are yet entire to form a part of a series of cowhouses and stables, which have been built around it, and do not appear to be by any means calculated to add to the imposing nature of its appearance. The idea of its ever having been a Pictish tower is simply absurd, as neither in the thickness of the walls, nor in the extent of the building, does it much exceed the dimensions of many farm-houses of a very modern date."

The Ugie here bends in a north-westerly direction, having Over Altrie in its elbow ; but it soon resumes its westerly course, and when opposite Atherb, receives the Burn of Auchreddie. Near Atherb, and on the boundary line between the parishes of Old and New Deer, is the Cairn of Atherb. The locality is known as the "fear'd place." This cairn is rather a mound. On being opened for road-making purposes several years ago, great quantities of human bones and a broken clay urn were discovered. The bones were mixed with charred wood and stones, which bore marks of having been exposed to great heat, were heaped over these remains to the depth of about three feet. There was also found a quantity of flint arrow-heads. Near these relics, several circular and semi-circular cavities were discovered, carefully cut out and arranged, as if with a special design.*

* See "The Making of a Buchan Farm" by John Milne, Atherb, in "Transactions of Buchan Field Club," 1887-90 ; and "Excursion to Atherb" in the volume of "Transactions," 1892-5 ; and "Traces of Early Man in Buchan" in the volume for 1898-9.

CHAPTER X.

NEW DEER—BRUCKLAY CASTLE.

THE parish of New Deer is adjacent to that of Old Deer, the two villages bearing the respective parish names being about six miles apart, the road between them running along the northern base of Aikey Brae and the hills of Clackriach. Maud—or, as it is sometimes called, New Maud—a rising and rapidly increasing village, lies in a valley half-way between the two parish churches, and along the burn which divides the parishes, the original village, which was called Bank (from the name of an old farm, “Bank o’ Behitch”), being on the Old Deer side of the burn, and Maud proper on the New Deer side. The name Bank, however, has disappeared, and the entire village is now known as Maud. It is the junction of the Peterhead and Fraserburgh branches of the Buchan section of the Great North of Scotland Railway, and it is frequently made the meeting-place for administrative and consultative bodies, political gatherings, etc. The Buchan Combination Poor-House—as its name implies, a Poor-House for the joint accommodation of twenty-four Buchan parishes (opened in 1866)—stands conspicuous on the brow of a knoll a little distance southward. Another prominent building is the Parish Church, a *quoad sacra* parish having been formed in 1889, though the church (originally a mission) was built and opened in 1876; while a Central School, erected by both the

Old Deer and New Deer School Boards, was built in 1895-6. About 200 yards north-east of the Poor-House is a disused quarry with historical associations. According to Mr. John Milne, Atherb, it was the first regularly-wrought quarry in Buchan. The granite found in it was remarkable for its hardness. It is conjectured that it was from this spot that many of the stones used in the building of Fedderat Castle and the Abbey of Deer were obtained; and in much later times stones from the quarry were used in the building of Brucklay Castle, Nethermuir House, Aden House, and several other county mansions.

The village of New Deer is a long, straggling place, stretching from south to north for nearly a mile, picturesquely built along the ascending ridge of a hill, the upper (or north) end of the village being from 50 to 60 feet above the lower extremity. The principal building is the Parish Church (erected in 1839), which has considerable claims to notice, as for many years after its erection it was among the most ecclesiastical-looking structures of the Church of Scotland in Buchan. The style of architecture is of the earlier period of what is known as the perpendicular or third pointed; and the tower has a fine effect, giving quite a character to the village. This tower, which at first was carried up only to the level of the roof, was completed in 1865, and is furnished with a bell and clock, fitted up by no less famous an individual than Sir David Gill, now Astronomer Royal at the Cape. The church stands a little north of the site of the old church, built in 1622 by the Earl Marischal and the other proprietors, near the site of a pre-existing chapel, which was connected

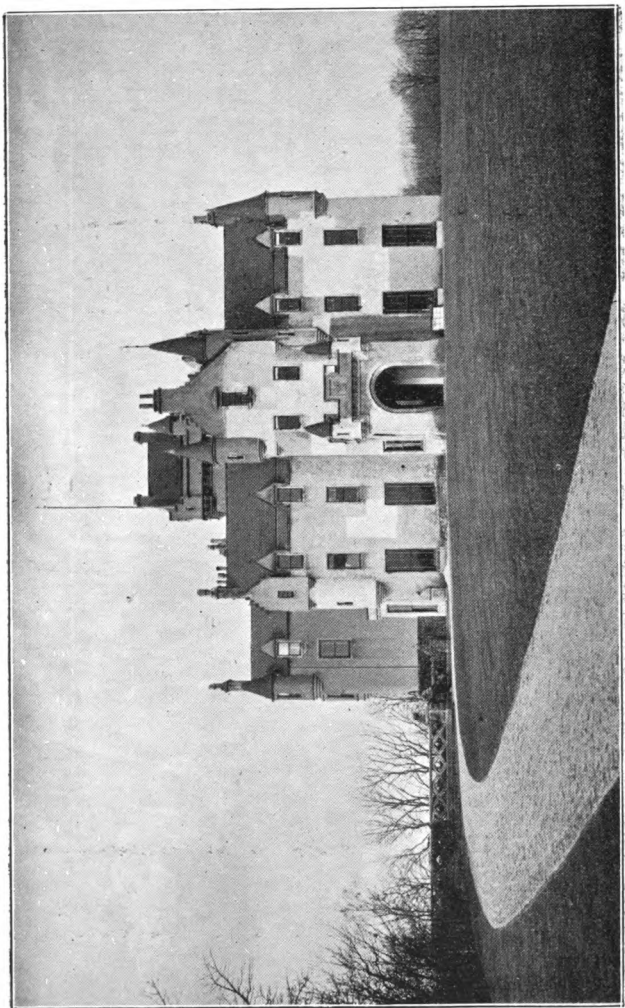
with the Abbey of Deer. According to the "View of the Diocese," the parish was wholly taken out of that of Old Deer, and had "four silver chalices, raised out of the gifts of the congregation by Mr. David Sibbald, minister here under Bishop Halyburton," who filled the see of Aberdeen from 1682 till the Revolution in 1688. The parish was at first called Auchreddie, and part of it, on the property of Lord Aberdeen, still bears that name. The west doorway of the old church was pointed and richly moulded, and the belfry of good design; but neither the door nor the belfry, it was for long believed, was thought worthy of preservation. The door, however, was discovered on the rafters of a barn at Auchreddie not very long ago, and is now in the possession of Rev. George Scott, a native of the village. A foot-note to the account of the parish in the New Statistical Account (revised, January, 1840) says—"Since this was written, a handsome church has been built, capable of containing 1500 persons, and the old church has been entirely demolished." This, however, is not strictly correct, seeing that the square enclosure to the right, as one enters the churchyard, known as "The Nethermuir Tomb," is part of the north wing of the old church. The Free Church was originally at the northern extremity of the village, in a striking situation; but in 1887 a new church was built in the centre of the village. The present United Presbyterian Church (built in 1876) is situated in the woods of Artamford, half a mile east of the village and in the direction of Maud—the former church, built in 1828, stood about half a mile to the north-east of the present one, but not a vestige of it now remains.

There is (or rather was) another U. P. Church at Whitehill. There is a Congregational Church in the village, the congregation having been formed by a secession from the parish church in 1876, on the refusal of the Presbytery of Deer to induct Rev. William Bruce, Portlethen, to the charge. Among the other more prominent buildings in the village is a Public Hall, built by a joint-stock company formed in 1863.

New Deer as a village was, it is supposed, established about 1805, the date of the first leases, although on one of the old houses there used to be seen the date 1777. It was, at the former date, the property of Mr. James Ferguson of Pitfour, M.P. From Pitfour, the village and adjoining lands passed into the possession of Mr. Gordon of Manar; and, in 1849, they were acquired by Captain Alexander Dingwall-Fordyce, who, being obliged to expend upon land money that fell to him as a result of his litigation with the proprietor of Fedderat, bought Cairnbanno, including Asleed and New Deer. There were then in existence leases for 73 years, dating from 1805. On these leases falling out in 1878, an opportunity was taken by the then representatives of the Dingwall-Fordyce family to remodel the village in conformity with a regular feuing and building plan, 99 years' leases being substituted, and the old thatched houses replaced by substantial stone and lime houses, with slated roofs. In many other respects, the proprietorial family has contributed to the improvement of the village and its amenities; in particular, a public park and reading-room have been placed at the service of the inhabitants.

The family of Dingwall-Fordyce owes its origin to an intermarriage between the Dingwalls of Brucklay and the Fordyces of Culsh in 1744. The Dingwalls are supposed to be descended from the Dingwalls of Cambuscarry, in Ross-shire, who are said to have come to Buchan about the end of the fifteenth century to escape from the violence of the Mackenzies, their hereditary foes. The first of the name in Buchan of whom there are any authentic accounts was William Dingwall, of Seilscrook, in Monquhitter, born 1590, whose eldest son, Arthur; married, in 1642, Lucretia Irvine, second daughter of John Irvine of Brucklay. There were two sons of this marriage—William, who succeeded to Brucklay; and Arthur, who inherited Brownhill, in Monquhitter. The descendants of the latter succeeded to Brucklay in 1840, when the elder branch became extinct. The Fordyces are descended from George Fordyce, who was settled at Haughs of Ashogle, near Turriff, and died in 1681, leaving two sons, John and George. John was the progenitor of the Dingwall-Fordyces of Brucklay; while George, who was six times Provost of Aberdeen, was the father of a remarkably distinguished family, which numbered amongst its members Sir William Fordyce, F.R.S., a celebrated physician, who founded the Agricultural Lectureship at Aberdeen University; David Fordyce, Professor of Moral Philosophy at Marischal College; and Rev. James Fordyce, D.D., a famous preacher and author. The succession to Brucklay fell, in 1840, on the death of John Duff Dingwall, to Arthur Dingwall-Fordyce of Culsh. He died in 1843, and was succeeded by a younger brother, Alexander, Captain in the Royal Navy, who

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BRUCKLAY CASTLE.

was M.P. for Aberdeen from 1847 to 1852. To the latter succeeded, in 1864, William Dingwall-Fordyce, who, two years later, was elected M.P. for Aberdeenshire—the first Liberal ever returned by the county. He died, in the prime of life, in 1875. His eldest son, Alexander, duly succeeded to Brucklay, his coming of age being celebrated in September, 1894. The estate of Culsh was, by a family arrangement, made over, on the death of their father, to James Dingwall-Fordyce, twin-brother of William Dingwall-Fordyce; and, on the death of James Dingwall-Fordyce, in 1899, the estate fell to his son, Alexander Dingwall-Fordyce.

Brucklay Castle is built on the north bank of the South Ugie, the ground rising gently from the stream to the site. It is not known by whom, or at what time, the original portion of the castle was built. Though very plain and simple, it had a considerable degree of that beauty and character which most of the houses erected in Scotland during the latter half of the seventeenth century possessed, arising chiefly from their loftiness and broken sky-line, relieved by turrets and crow-steps on high-pitched gables. A lofty central round tower, containing the staircase, was the principal feature of this castle. Considerable alterations and additions have been made at different times. In 1765, Mr. William Dingwall, and again, in 1814, Mr. John Dingwall, enlarged the building—the latter adding two capacious rooms and an entrance hall on the eastern side, but without any regard to the style of the old castle. Again, in 1849, the late Captain Alexander Dingwall-Fordyce, in order to secure an appropriate and correct style of architecture, called

in the skill and taste of Mr. James Matthews, under whose superintendence the two rooms which had been added in 1814 were carried up to the height of three storeys, and the front broken by extending the entrance hall and projecting a *porte-cochère*. The old circular staircase was removed, and a new one erected, in a square tower, carried up to the height of 75 feet, and terminated by a sort of keep on the top. The original style of the building was restored, and somewhat elaborated, by the introduction of corbelled turrets and dormer window-heads. Considerable additions—including a dining-room and other apartments, at the south-west corner—were made by Mr. William Dingwall-Fordyce, M.P.

The earlier additions were made chiefly with a view to increased accommodation; but the last two, with the same object, comprised the important design of converting the whole building into a mansion of the old Scottish castellated style, combining the grandeur of the middle ages with the elegance of the present. This has been successfully accomplished, and Brucklay Castle is now one of the most magnificent edifices in the district. The grounds about the castle are tastefully laid out, their great merit arising from the fact that nature had not here scattered her favours with a very profuse hand. The vicinity, formerly a bleak and barren waste, is now adorned with thriving plantations, verdant lawns, and highly cultivated fields. Near the gardens, to the south of the Castle, is an elegant obelisk in memory of Mr. William Dingwall-Fordyce, bearing the inscription—“To the dear memory of William Dingwall-Fordyce. “Born in Aberdeen, 31st March, 1836: died at

“Brucklay Castle, 26th Nov., 1875. In the sure hope of a blessed resurrection. ‘What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.’ “*In celo quies.*” And a little to the west of the gardens is a beautiful lake, covering five acres of ground, and adorned with a number of picturesque little islands. The fine terraces immediately south of the Castle, with their rich flower beds, are also worthy of note.

About a mile westward of Brucklay Castle, and on the opposite bank of the stream, are the ruins of the Castle of Fedderat. The earliest notice of Fedderat is in a charter given by Fergus, Earl of Buchan, to John, son of Uthred, who, at the beginning of the thirteenth century, seems to have been the proprietor of Cruden and Slains. Some time between 1203 and 1214, Fergus gave him, in exchange for these lands, the three Dauchs of Fedreth, namely—“Eister Auhioch, Auhetherb, Auhethas, and Conwiltes, together with the land of Ardindrach.” In an MS. account of “The Arms and Succession of the Crawfurds in Scotland,” in the possession of Mr. Crawford Noble, of Berryhill and Cocklaw, it is said that “William Crawford, first laird of Featherhead, was second son to the laird of Hayning, who was laird . . . also, who, going to the north, in King Robert Bruce’s wars, there married the daughter of Cumine, Earle of Buchan, and by her got the lands of Slayness, which he after exchanged for Featherhead. So he was first leard of Slayns in Buchan: thereafter of Featherhead.” It is not easy, however, to reconcile this account with the former, which makes the exchange of Slains and Arden-draught for the “three Dauchs of Fedreth” to have

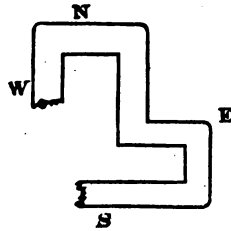
taken place in the time of Fergus, and not of Cumine; in favour of John, the son of Uthred, and not of Crawford; and at a date about a century earlier. It is scarcely probable that a transaction, so similar in its features, should have occurred twice; but as there are no means of determining the point, the two accounts are given.

In a "Description of New Deer," by Mr. Alexander Hepburn, 1721, "the manor of Culsh, the dwelling of William Lindsay of Culsh," is mentioned; and "at a little distance to the north-east, is the strong castle of Feddrat, belonging to Forbes of Balogie." In the Old Statistical Account, mention is made of Fedderat as follows—"About two miles north from the church (New Deer) stands an old castle, Fedderatt, which appears to have been a place of considerable strength. It is surrounded partly by a fosse, and partly by a morass, so that there could have been no access to it but by a causeway—which is still visible—and a drawbridge. Water, it seems, had been conveyed to it by means of pipes; for pieces of them have at different times been torn up by the plough." The state of the castle, in 1840, was thus given by Rev. James Welsh, minister of the parish, in the New Statistical Account—"Nearly all the best stones have been taken away by the farmers for building. It now stands in the middle of a field; a morass, now drained, surrounded it. There is no tradition as to when it was built. The floors are all arched with stone. It came into the possession of the Irvines of Drum, and is now the property of Mr. Dingwall-Fordyce of Brucklaw. It is said to have been one of the last strongholds of James II.'s (VII.'s) partisans,

who, after the battle of Killiecrankie, possessed themselves of Fyvie Castle, and, being obliged to abandon it, took refuge in Fedderat, but were pursued and expelled from thence by King William's troops." In another description of the parish, 1723, with a "draught of Ugie," by Mr. Fergusson, in "Macfarlane's MS. Geographical Collections," (frequently quoted in the "View of the Diocese"), there is the following statement with reference to this once famous stronghold—"The House of Fedderat was of old reckoned a great strength; and, about the Revolution, some dayes after the battle of Cromdill, severall gentlemen of the King's party came there, and caused the country people carry in a great deal of provisions for them; but after the regular forces had lyen some four weeks before it, they surrendered, and were carried abroad on the government's charge." There is a tradition connected with the Castle of Fedderat similar to that of Birnam wood coming to Dunsinane in "Macbeth," but it is possible that the good people of New Deer have appropriated, as belonging to themselves, a legend assigned by Shakespeare to Perthshire. The tradition is that Fedderat would never be taken till the wood of Fyvie came to the siege, and that the soldiers of William of Orange, on dislodging the adherents of the Stuart from Fyvie Castle, and knowing that they had taken refuge in Fedderat, cut down the wood at Fyvie, and carried it with them, to aid in the siege of the place.

The plan of the Castle had been an incomplete square of 54 feet, with a space of 30 feet by 16 wanting at the north-east corner. The south-west corner is razed to the foundations, 18 feet of the south

wall, and 15 of the west, being entirely gone. The corners are not angular, but rounded off. The walls are of great thickness, occupying half the area of the site. Part of a small chamber, in the south wall, where it is broken down, is still seen. Although much has been demolished, a great portion of the building remains. Judging from the tiers of windows, the Castle had been carried up to the



height of six or seven storeys. The breaches in the walls show clearly that it has sustained a siege, and been exposed to the action of heavy artillery. Although far from being a picturesque ruin, having no remarkable architectural feature beyond a plain string course carried round the building, Fedderat is not altogether devoid of interest, as carrying the mind back to a period and a state of society when, in the construction of a residence for the great, strength was deemed of more importance than elegance, and an impassable morass of greater consideration than a smooth lawn and easy approach.*

* Shortly after the above was written, a statement appeared in the *Banffshire Journal* to the effect that a great part of this ancient ruin had been blown up by gunpowder, to the lasting disgrace of the sordid perpetrator. "The ground floor and first floor were vaulted, and there seem altogether to have been four floors, although Dr. Pratt mentions that it was six or seven storeys high. . . . Judging from its style, the Castle was probably erected about the end of the fifteenth century." (Macgibbon and Ross's "Castellated Architecture," i., 357.)

There have been, as already indicated, many proprietors of the Castle and lands of Fedderat (now modernised into Fedderate). In 1737, Fedderate became the property of William, 2nd Earl of Aberdeen, and in 1839, it was sold by George, 4th Earl of Aberdeen, to Mr. John Duff Dingwall of Brucklay. On his death in 1840, it passed into the hands of his wife's father, Sir Henry Bridges, of Beddington House, Surrey, as he had destined it to his wife, who predeceased him by three months. Sir Henry Bridges was succeeded by his son, Rev. Alexander Henry Bridges, Rector of Beddington, and honorary Canon of Winchester; and Canon Bridges, in turn, was succeeded (in 1889) by his son, Mr. John Henry Bridges, of Ewell Court and Beddington Park, Surrey, the present proprietor. Mr. Bridges is also proprietor of the estate of Ardlaw, in the parish of Pitsligo.

The Ugie (the south branch) again appears at Mill of Fedderate, though above this place it is generally known as the Water of Fedderate, and, still farther up, as the burn of Aul'fat (Oldwhat). According to Fergusson's "Description of the Parish of New Deer," "the head of the water of Eugy comes from a town in the lands of Fedderat called Whytstanes, being a pretty high ground. It has three considerable spring wells on it: one, the head of Eugy; another runs into Divran; the third runs to Ithan: all waters very far distant from one another." A little to the north of Mill of Fedderate is Whitehill, for many years the site of a Secession (afterwards United Presbyterian) Church. A congregation was formed here about 1770, and for many years it worshipped in a barn. A

church was built in 1826: on the corner of its eastern gable is a stone with the inscription, "A. L.—1826," the letters being the initials of Rev. Adam Lind, then the pastor of the congregation. It became in time the oldest Secession Church in use in Buchan for religious purposes; but in January, 1898, a union was effected between the U.P. Church at Whitehill, and the Free Church at New Pitsligo, the united congregation becoming a congregation of the Free Church. To the west of Fedderate is the hill of Corsegight or Crossgight (619 feet), on the summit of which two main roads cross each other at right angles—one from Maud to Cuminestown, and one from New Deer to New Byth. A modern "hermit," a man Robert Henry Ironside, lived in a hut on the top of this hill for several years, and died there in 1896. Brucehill, an eminence about two miles west of the village of New Deer, is so called—the story goes—after Edward Bruce, brother of King Robert the Bruce, who is said to have encamped upon it when in pursuit of Comyn after the battle of Barra, though it is more likely that the encampment had been at Gellybrae, a mile and a quarter farther to the west, the place-name signifying "the retainers' brae."

On the hill of Culsh, at a little distance from the site of the old Free Church of New Deer, there was formerly a Druidical circle—the neighbouring farm being still known as "The Standing Stones of Culsh." It seems that the stones of this temple were removed about 1770, for the purpose of building the Parish Church manse, and now not a vestige remains. *Quid intactum nefasti liquimus?* Tumuli were also frequently to be met with in the parish, in which were

found urns of baked clay, containing human bones, and ashes. The ploughshare has passed over these also, and left no signs of the past! A new cemetery for the parish of New Deer was laid out on the hill of Culsh in 1890; and the hill is surmounted by a monument (in the form of a tower, with a view-platform in the interior) to the memory of Mr. William Dingwall-Fordyce, erected by his former constituents and friends—a monument which, from its conspicuous position, is seen from a great distance. A tablet above the door bears the following inscription—“Erected to
“the memory of William Dingwall-Fordyce, M.P.,
“born 31st March, 1836, died 26th November, 1875,
“by tenants and friends in token of their sorrow for
“his early death, and their warm remembrance of him
“as a just and liberal landlord, a trustworthy member
“of Parliament, and an exemplary Christian
“gentleman. ‘No man liveth to himself.’” From the hill of Culsh may be seen, on a clear day, the spires of Peterhead, about eighteen miles distant to the eastward; and, looking westward, Bennachie (about twenty-five miles distant), the Foudland hills, Lochnagar, the hills in the neighbourhood of Banff and Cullen, and Benrines.

Of late, the hill of Culsh has yielded rich rewards to the diligence of local antiquarians, who have discovered large numbers of flint implements. These finds include—(1) Flints in all forms, as knives, scrapers, cores, etc.; (2) Arrow heads—some rough, others exquisitely shaped, both leaf-shaped and barbed; (3) A beautifully-formed flint axe; (4) Stone axes; (5) Stone balls; (6) Stone anvils, evidently used in the manufacture of flints. There have been

found on the south and the south-east sides of the hill, stone cists with urns. Some of the flag-stones of these stone cists still exist. The flints—especially the rougher ones—are found in well-defined spots or areas on the south sides of the hill. From these circumstances it is believed—(1) that in primitive times the southern parts of the hill were clearly the seat of busy life ; (2) that flints and instruments of war and peace were manufactured in and around these human habitations ; (3) that the dead were buried near their houses. To give dates, even approximately, as flints belong to all periods, would be largely guess-work, the only certain thing being that the hill was a busy centre, and that the southern and eastern sides had manifestly been chosen for climatic reasons. The moss of Auchmaleddie has also yielded several antiquarian relics, the most interesting “find” being two bronze shields, discovered in May, 1897, by Mr. George Littlejohn, Mitchellhill, while casting peats. They were found 9 or 10 feet from the surface, and were in a good state of preservation: one of them was 28 inches in diameter, and the other 18 inches. They were claimed as treasure trove by the authorities, and have been placed in the National Antiquarian Museum in Edinburgh. A large number of flint arrow heads was found in the vicinity of the hamlet of Bulwark, about four miles south-east of the village of New Deer, in the end of 1895.

The Muckle Stane of Auchmaleddie is another remnant of past ages. It was once a rocking-stone of great bulk, movable at a particular point by the slightest touch ; but it now lies upon the ground, an inert mass of quartz rock. By whom, or for what

purpose, these rocking-stones were poised, is matter of vague conjecture. It has been supposed that they might have been used as stones of ordeal, by which the Druid or Scandinavian priest pretended to test the guilt or innocence of accused persons.

There were formerly several family residences in the parish, some of which have altogether disappeared, while others have passed into the hands of strangers. Of these, it will suffice to name Culsh, once the seat of Lindsay of Culsh; Artamford, the seat of Irvine of Artamford; Cairnbanno, the seat of Wilson of Cairnbanno—now all merged in the estate of Brucklay; Barrack, formerly the seat of Gordon of Barrack (now the property of Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen, being the bequest of Mr. Simpson of Collyhill); Fedderat—already mentioned; and Nethermuir. This last-named estate, situated about three miles from the village of New Deer, belonged at one time to a family of Gordons: it was bought in 1872 by Mr. William Leslie, Provost of Aberdeen, a native of New Deer, and it is now in the possession of his nephew, Mr. John Dean Leslie. Mention may also be made of the old mansion-house of Auchmunziel, about a mile west from New Deer village. The name is said to signify "the field near the moss"—a designation still just applicable to the spot on which it stands, the moss, which once covered a large area, being now a mere patch.*

* An interesting account of the village of Maud was given in an article on "The Making of an Aberdeenshire Village—A. Central Buchan Community," in the *Banffshire Journal*, 17 September, 1895. New Deer was similarly treated in "A Buchan Parish and Its Capital," *Banffshire Journal*,

30 June, 1895. Particulars respecting the educational facilities in the Maud district were given at the opening of the Maud Central School—see *Daily Free Press*, 29 April, 1896. Ample details respecting the Dingwall-Fordyces of Brucklay will be found in “Family Record of the Name of Dingwall Fordyce” (1885) and “Addenda and Appendix” (1888). Reference may also be made to an article titled “Majority of Mr. Dingwall-Fordyce of Brucklay” in *Daily Free Press*, 18 September, 1894. Much light has recently been thrown on the history of the Castle of Fedderat by Rev. John Paterson, minister of the U.P. Church, Whitehill, who read an exhaustive paper on “Fedderat and Its Possessors” to the Buchan Field Club, 12 July, 1893—a paper now incorporated in the Club’s Transactions. “Notes on the Moss of Auchmaleddie,” by G. Laurence, New Deer, will be found in *Scottish Notes and Queries*, xi., 26.

The history of “The Church of Whitehill and its Ministers” is detailed in J. T. Findlay’s “The Secession in the North.” The first meeting-place of the Whitehill Seceders was a “byre” or cow-shed, and the second a straw-thatched barn. Mr. Findlay writes—“Even this second building evidently fell far short of what a church should be. It is said Mr. Bunyan [the second minister of the congregation] once heard a traveller who was passing Whitehill ask his companion what long, straw-thatched, barn-like house that was standing beside the mansion-house [of Whitehill]. ‘Was’t a mill?’ he said. ‘Weel,’ was the reply, ‘it may be ca’ed a mill, but it gangs by win’—that’s juist the barn where the Seceder Minister o’ Whitehill thrashes the Established Kirk!’”

The story of “The Crossgight Hermit” was told in the *Aberdeen Weekly Free Press*, 1 July, 1893. His death was recorded in the *Daily Free Press*, 20 November, 1896.

A stratum of kaolin or china clay, underlying the gravel in a gravel pit, in the woods of Artamford, was discovered by Mr. Alexander Gray, Shoemaker, New Deer, in April, 1898; and there is a prospect of this seam of clay being utilised for the manufacture of fire-clay goods.

CHAPTER XI.

NEW PITSLIGO—STRICHEN—MORMOND.

THE North or Back Ugie is of quite a different character from its southern sister. It is no dashing, dancing, merry current, but a quiet, sober stream. Taking its rise among moors and mosses, and creeping through bogs and swamps, it cannot boast of a stainless origin or of a limpid course. But it is not without its peculiar attractions—at one time winding its quiet way round the foot of a sunny brae; at another, stealing, like the homely affections, into the deeper recesses of the sylvan heart, and giving back in tiny mirrors the form of the drooping harebell or the sweet-scented primrose—touches of nature's own grace—"bits," as the painter would call them, which, in this weary, work-a-day world, have a most soothing influence on the health of the mind. It rises in the Moss of Cowbog, between two and three miles west of New Pitsligo, and a short distance north of the source of the South (or Fore) Ugie. Its first tributary is the Black Burn, a rivulet descending from the northern slope of the Hill of Turlundie. A little above Tillinamolt, it is augmented by the Gonar, which has its source at Windyheads, in the parish of Aberdour. The united stream is known as the Gonar,

and is spanned at Craigmaud, a little below the point of confluence, by a modern bridge on a high level, replacing a low, rude structure of six or seven small arches (now demolished) which was of some interest as having afforded a hiding-place to Lord Pitsligo after the defeat of the Jacobites in 1746.

The village of New Pitsligo is in the vicinity of the sources of both branches of the Ugie. Picturesquely situated on the eastern slope of Turlundie, it extends for upwards of a mile in two parallel streets (High Street and Low Street). The houses and gardens are well sheltered, clumps of trees being interspersed through the village, which is also intersected by a wooded den; and owing to the comparatively high altitude of the village (about 500 feet), a commanding view is obtained over the adjoining country. The village was founded by Sir William Forbes, Bart., of Pitsligo, on 12th September, 1787, the name New Pitsligo being substituted for Cavocho (pronounced Cyaak), the designation of a farm house on Turlundie, said to have been a frequent resort of Lord Pitsligo when he was in hiding. About the beginning of the nineteenth century, New Pitsligo was one of the most wretched places in Buchan, the houses being mean and in a miserably dilapidated state, and the inhabitants poor, and almost to a man illicit distillers. The last proprietor, however—Sir John Hepburn-Stuart-Forbes—did a great deal to improve the houses and take advantage of the natural situation of the village, and also to promote the well-being of its inhabitants. A linen trade was at one time carried on to some extent in New Pitsligo. It gave place to handloom weaving, which, in its turn, was superseded by lace-making.

This last industry was revived by the late Rev. William Webster, incumbent of the Episcopal Church, and for several years gave employment to a considerable number of women. It, too, became dormant, but an attempt has again been made to revive it. There are one or two granite quarries in the neighbourhood. A house in Low Street has some claims on the notice of the antiquarian, being fitted up with materials purchased when the House of Auchmedden was dismantled, Panelled work, on which is a shield bearing the arms of the Bairds, with the initials L.B. and the date, 1607, has been employed to form the front of a bed. A pair of door posts, fluted after the manner of the fifteenth century, may also be seen. A board bearing a shield, with the family arms and the initials G.B. but without date, serves as a mantelpiece.

The Parish Church—at one time a chapel of ease to Tyrie, of which parish New Pitsligo was a part, till disjoined *quoad sacra* in 1853—is a prominent object in the village, being built near the summit of the hill. It was considerably altered and improved a number of years ago, on a plan furnished by Mr. John Henderson, Edinburgh. It is lighted by triple lancet windows, and is surmounted by highly-decorated crosses; it has a very beautiful belfry. The Free Church was built in 1846-7, but there is a proposal (1899) to erect a new building: the congregation, as already mentioned (p. 186) united with the U.P. Church of Whitehill in January, 1898. The Episcopal Church (St. John's) stands in High Street, pleasantly situated on the margin of the wooded glen that intersects the village. The present structure was opened in September 1871, replacing a church on the same site built in 1835.

It was designed by Mr. George Edmund Street, the celebrated architect ; it is in the Early English style of architecture, and is reckoned one of the best examples of Mr. Street's work in Scotland. It has recently been enriched by the addition of six stained-glass windows, by Messrs. Clayton & Bell, London, presented (in 1898) by Mr. J. H. Bridges of Fedderate, in memory of his father, Canon Bridges ; and of an organ designed to commemorate the Rev. William Webster, for fifty-two years (1841-93) incumbent of the church, and ultimately Dean of the diocese. There is a crypt beneath the chancel, notable for its groined roof of granite supported on a central pillar. There is also a Congregational Church in the village. A commodious Public Hall was erected in 1895.

The Gonar burn is further augmented at Skelmanaë, a mile below Craigmaud, by the Greenspeck. The united stream now takes the name of the Water of Strichen, and, after flowing about two miles reaches the village of Strichen, being joined at Braco by the burn of Craighill. The stream now receives the name of Little Ugie, and on the left bank the village of Strichen is very prettily situated, Mormond Hill rising immediately behind it. The western slope of the hill stretches out into a spur, terminating in a level plain, and upon this plain the village is built.

Various derivations have been suggested of the name Strichen—a modification of Stricheyn or Streichen, names which, in their turn, were modifications of the earlier Stratheyn, Stratheuchin, Stratheihan, Strath-echin. One of the most probable derivations is that

the name represents Strath-Uigin—the strath of the little water, or the strath of the Ugie. The whole valley of the Ugie is in certain old documents called Strath-Uigin or Strath-Ewan, the height on the coast at the river mouth being termed Craig-Ewan. The district of Strichen was a portion of the territory of the old Earls of Buchan, the first earl of the Comyn family gifting the lands and mill of Stratheyn and Kindrochet to Cospatric Macmadethyn. A family of the name of Chalmers came into possession of Strichen in the fifteenth century; and in 1558 the estate was sold to Thomas Fraser, a younger son of Sir Alexander Fraser of Philorth. This Thomas Fraser was murdered by Gordon of Gight on the bridge over the Ugie at Old Deer, and his widow married Thomas Fraser of Knockie, second son of Alexander, 6th Lord Lovat, to whom the estate was disposed in 1591. Strichen was erected into a parish in 1627, being formed of thirty-two “ploughs” taken off Rathen and six “ploughs” off Fraserburgh—“the six ploughs of Saithley.” The patronage of the parish was established in the person of Thomas Fraser of Strichen, who built a church and family burial aisle in 1620. A great-grandson of Thomas Fraser—Alexander Fraser—who ultimately succeeded to the estate, was a judge of the Court of Session (1730-75), bearing the courtesy title of Lord Strichen. He is said to have been one of the judges who sat upon the famous trial of Effie Deans, in 1736, and the Douglas cause, in 1767. His great-grandson—Thomas Alexander Fraser—who succeeded to Strichen in 1803, became heir to the Lovat estates about 1816, on the extinction of the main line of the Frasers of

Lovat, and had the dormant title of Lord Lovat adjudged to him by the House of Lords in 1857. He sold the estate of Strichen, in 1855, to Mr. George Baird, of the famous Gartsherrie Iron Works. Mr. Baird, who also owned the property of Stichill, in Roxburghshire, was the seventh son of Mr. Alexander Baird, of Lochwood, Lanarkshire, and a younger brother of Mr. James Baird of Auchmedden, the founder of the Baird Trust. He died suddenly at Strichen House in 1870, and was succeeded by his only child, Mr. George Alexander Baird (who became well known in sporting circles as Mr. "Abington"). Mr. G. A. Baird, who also succeeded to Auchmedden on the death of his uncle in 1876, died in March, 1893, at New Orleans. He was unmarried, and the estates of Strichen and Auchmedden are now in the hands of trustees representing his heirs—the families of all his full cousins; there are nearly seventy portioners. When Mr. George Baird came into possession of Strichen, there were only eight slated houses on the whole estate, but many comfortable farm-steadings have been erected since that time, much waste land has been reclaimed and fresh wood planted, and, generally speaking, the estate has been greatly improved and its value largely increased. In Strichen House there are two interesting portraits of Mr. Alexander Baird and his wife, the progenitors of "the Baird Family."

The village of Strichen—it was originally called Mormond Village—was founded in 1764, being established by Lord Strichen for the purpose of promoting "the Arts and Manufactures of this country, and for the accommodation of Tradesmen

of all Denominations, Manufacturers, and other industrious people to settle within the same." It is said that, according to the original charter, the houses were to be of uniform dimensions, and to have "two chimneys and a wooden lum;" and the person who had "the first reekin' lum" was to be paid a premium. Apparently, there were two winners of the prize, whose names have been handed down to posterity in a local couplet—

" Taylor and Deacon,
The first founders of the new town of Strichen."

The features of the village, architecturally, are neither numerous nor striking. The Town House, built in 1816, is the most prominent object in the village. At the north-east end of the building is a square embattled tower, surmounted by an octagonal lanthorn, also embattled, and a spire with an embattled belt about half-height. The corners of the tower are surmounted by round flat-headed turrets. The tower is furnished with a clock and a very good bell. The Parish Church is plain and unpretending, but commodious. It was built in 1799, in place of the first Parish Church erected by Thomas Fraser of Strichen. The Free Church, a new edifice, is a building of considerable architectural merit. The Episcopal Church, at the north-east end of the village, is a plain and somewhat meagre building in the Gothic style. The parsonage is situated higher up the hill, overlooking the church and the village. In a south-westerly direction, near the railway line, is the Roman Catholic Chapel—now practically unused, the congregation being merged in that of Fraserburgh.

Strichen House, to the south-west of the village, is an elegant building in the Grecian style of architecture, the front being relieved by a handsome portico with fluted Doric columns. It was built by Lord Lovat in 1821, from a design by Mr. John Smith, architect, Aberdeen. The policies were laid out by Mr. Gilpin, the eminent English landscape gardener, and have since undergone considerable improvement. Among the trees within the policies north-west of the house are the remains of a Druidical circle, two large upright stones and a large boulder between them being conspicuous features. Liberties have been taken with the circle, however—probably in the laying out of the policies; the circle has been placed on the south side of the large stones mentioned, whereas its original position was on the north side. At a short distance west of the house, and in a sort of hollow, stands a roofless Roman Catholic chapel, erected by Mrs. Fraser of Strichen (mother of Thomas Alexander, Lord Lovat) who was of the Balquhain family. On the outskirts of the policies, are the foundations of what had been a gaol. It is said that its chief use was in connection with the ancient fairs held in the neighbourhood, when “it was in requisition as a lock-up for the riotous.”

The neighbourhood of the village is well wooded, especially about Strichen House. The trees here drew a compliment from Dr. Johnson, who mentioned in his “Tour through Scotland” that, while he had travelled two hundred miles and had seen only one tree older than himself, at Strichen he saw trees at full growth worthy of his notice.

Mormond Hill (already alluded to—see p. 12) is

the highest eminence in Buchan (769 feet), and is a conspicuous feature in the landscape for miles, owing to the level character of the surrounding country. According to an old distich, it was a sailors' landmark—

“ Keep Mormond Hill a handspike high,
And Rattray Briggs you'll not come nigh.”

There is also a mysterious allusion to the hill in the following doggerel, attributed to Thomas the Rhymer—

“ When Mormond Hill is clad in red,
Den Callie Burn will run wi' bleed ;
An' gin the saut rise 'been the meal—
Believe the mair in Tammas' tale.”

On its south-western brow there is the figure of a horse cut out in the turf, the spaces thus made being filled with white quartz—the rock of which the hill is formed. The figure—which occupies nearly half an acre of ground—is known as the White Horse of Mormond. The horse measures about 126 feet in height, from the hoofs to the ears ; the body is about 106 feet in length ; the distance from the fore-shoulder to the tip of the nose is about 36 feet ; the head is about 35 feet in length ; the trunk of the body is about 41 feet in depth ; and its extreme length, from the tip of the nose to the outer point of the tail, is about 162 feet. The designing of this White Horse is generally attributed to Lord Strichen's son—a man of somewhat eccentric character—who, four years after succeeding to the estate of Strichen (which embraces a part of Mormond Hill), built the Hunting Lodge, now in ruins, which stands on the western brow of the hill. An epigraph, still legible on a stone on the front

of the building, is indicative of the "stark love and kindness" with which he was wont to entertain his brother-sportsmen in this moorland mansion—

IN THIS
HUNTERS LODGE
ROB GIBB
COMMANDS
MDCCLXXIX.*

Various suggestions have been made as to the meaning of this inscription, and as to the significance of the White Horse; it is supposed—and not unreasonably—that the idea of the horse was derived from the famous White Horse in Berkshire. On the south side of Mormond is a stag, with antlers, constructed, in the same manner as the white horse, by order of Mr. W. F. Cordiner, of Cortes, in 1870. It measures 240 feet from the tip of the antlers to the hoof, and occupies a space of nearly an acre.† Before Strichen was erected

* Many erroneous versions of this inscription are extant, and it is perhaps necessary to say that the version here given was carefully copied from the stone itself, and the copy verified on a second visit to the hill. The name is plainly "Rob Gibb"; not "Rob Gib," as frequently reproduced. The only dubiety is as to whether "Hunters Lodge" should be "Hunter's Lodge" or "Hunters' Lodge."

† On a cairn in the immediate vicinity is an inscription—
"This cairn was erected on November 5, 1870, to perpetuate in the memory of the latest posterity the laying down of the Cortes Stag on the Hill of Mormond, completed this day by William Fraser Cordiner of Cortes, and it is by him and others concerned requested that, if by accident, or the ruthless hand of mischief, this monument should be impaired or demolished, they will please remember the Christian maxim, 'to do as they would be done by,' and replace the memoranda for future generations."

into a parish, the people had to cross Mormond to the church of Rathen, and the footpath may still be traced. They had to carry their dead to the same place; and there is a cairn on which they were wont to rest the coffin before climbing the steepest part of the hill. It is still called "the resting-cairn," and lies between Dencallie and the Hunt-stone.*

* In a clever review of an earlier edition of this work, in the *Edinburgh Daily Express* of February 27, 1858, it was asked— "Why have we no hint of that famous though rather mythical waterspout, which burst on the south-west shoulder of Mormond Hill, tearing vast masses of moss from their native bed, and hurrying them to and down the North Ugie; so that, as a local poet has pithily expressed it—

' It took the peats to Peterhead;
The people there had muckle need?'

On making inquiry subsequently as to the particulars of this event, the author learned, from a credible eye-witness, that the waterspout on Mormond occurred early in July, 1789. It happened about five o'clock in the morning. The farmers of Techmuiry, Hatton, and Forrest, in their way to the Corbie Hill, near Kirkton of Philorth, for sea sand, found, on their return, the bridges swept away, and the brooks converted into raging torrents, which they were unable to cross. The author's informant, who was then a lad of fourteen, had the curiosity, along with multitudes far and near, to inspect the cavities in the hill, some of which were eighteen or twenty feet deep. Peats were cut, not only in the Haughs of Rora, but at Inverugie, from immense solid masses of moss carried down by the torrent.

The author was under great obligation to the late Mr. Alexander Cruickshank, LL.D., Aberdeen, for much valuable information on the history and characteristic features of Buchan. Dr. Cruickshank wrote that, on making inquiry, he found that Rob Gibb was jester to Charles II.; and that, as is said, the King on one occasion asked, "What serve you me for?" to which the jester replied, "I serve your Majesty for stark love

The valley of the Ugie immediately below Strichen is very beautiful, the stream tranquilly pursuing its course through finely undulating ground with occasional clumps of trees—a picturesque view, seen to best advantage on leaving the village by the road to Mintlaw. The Ugie then flows through a more cultivated district, by Auchrynie, Kindrought, and Gaval. At Mill of Gaval, about four miles below Strichen, there is a bridge which carries the old road (passing through Fetterangus) from Old Deer to Lonmay; and about half a mile farther down, the road from Mintlaw to Fraserburgh crosses the river at Denhead, Mintlaw being two miles southward. Following the course of the river as it creeps gently onwards by Hythie, the Lint Mill, and Mill of Rora, a mass of buildings in ruins is reached at Auchlee. These buildings were occupied by Messrs. Kilgour as a cloth manufactory seventy years ago; but it is said that the distance from a seaport prevented full advantage being taken of this otherwise very eligible situation—a mill-dam or reservoir having been formed by diverting the river into the Loch of Auchlee—and

and kindness.” In the political changes which followed, the Aberdonians adopted the quaint words, Rob Gibb, as the concluding toast of the day, by which they meant, “Loyal and true;” as much as to say, “We Jacobites are loyal and true, not for the sake of reward, but simply from affection and duty.” This, doubtless, supplies the key to Strichen’s enigmatical inscription.

Rob Gibb and his motto figure in a novel, “For Stark Love and Kindness” by N. Allan Macdonald (Oliphant, Anderson, & Ferrier, 1896), but are there relegated to the time of Flodden.

in 1828 the establishment was broken up. Below Auchlee, the northern Ugie effects a junction with the southern branch of the river at Rora.*

*For further particulars about Strichen see "Notes of Strichen and Its Neighbourhood" in *Banffshire Journal*, 8 and 15 February, 1859; "The History of Strichen" by Robert Anderson in "Transactions of Buchan Field Club," 1891-2, and authorities there quoted; and "Historical Notes on Strichen" by John Gray, B.Sc., in "Transactions of Buchan Field Club," 1892-5. An account of the lace-making industry of New Pitsligo is given in Mr. Moir's *New History of Buchan (Peterhead Sentinel*, 16 November, 1897); reference may also be made to articles on "The Village of New Pitsligo," "New Pitsligo and Its Lace-making Industry," and "New Pitsligo—A Summer Resort," in *Daily Free Press*, 22 November, 1895, and 23 August, and 13 September, 1898. The genealogy of the Chalmerses of Strichen is given in Dr. Temple's "Thanage of Fermartyn."

There is a house in the village of Strichen, on the door lintel of which is inscribed, "A.A : J.S. 1765." These initials stand for Alexander Anderson and Jane Shearer, the parents of Rev. William Anderson, a former minister of the parish, whose son was Sir Alexander Anderson, Lord Provost of Aberdeen, 1859-66.

Mr. Moir refers to a song, "Mormond Braes," familiar, he says, to every ploughman in Buchan, but owing its popularity and longevity more to its melody than its words. The precise history and even the words of the song are matters of dispute (see *Peterhead Sentinel*, 26 October and 9 November, 1897), but the first and last verses seem to be as follows—

"As I gaed doon by Strichen toon
I heard a fair maid mournin',
And she was makin' sair complaint
For her true love ne'er returnin'."

"So fare ye well, ye Mormond Braes,
Where oft times I've been cheery;
So fare ye well, ye Mormond Braes,
For there I lost my dearie."

According to some authorities, however, this last verse forms a chorus to each verse. (See "Vagabond Songs and Ballads of Scotland," by Robert Ford.)

CHAPTER XII.

LONGSIDE—MINTLAW.

THE Ugie having, in the immediately preceding chapters, been traced to its two sources, and the principal features of interest along the banks of both its branches having been noted, the district of Buchan may now be surveyed in other directions; and this survey may again be conveniently pursued from Peterhead. Leaving Peterhead, then, by the Kirktown, and proceeding in a westerly direction, the first object of note is the Manse of the parish, on the left-hand side—a modern building in the Elizabethan style. It is flanked by the low square tower of the old church, the burying-ground of which is still used. The road gradually ascends, till, about a mile from the town, the mansion-house of Howe o' Buchan (see p. 98) is reached. A mile farther on, is Berryhill, a large house on the right; and beyond Berryhill, on the same side of the road, is Downiehill, in the immediate vicinity of which is a brick and tile works. The site of what is said to have been a Roman camp may still be traced on Berryhill, about a quarter of a mile north-east of the house. In 1828 or 1829, however, a road-maker removed the stones, and, as

far as possible, obliterated every vestige of the camp. About three miles from Peterhead, a small glen is crossed—a glen threaded by a narrow streamlet, dividing the parishes of Peterhead and Longside. Another mile farther on is the old mansion-house of Faichfield, on the right, prettily situated among clumps of trees, and near the margin of a brook ; and a little farther on is the house of Monyruy.

Near Monyruy is the entrance to the granite quarries of Cairngall. These quarries were for many years skilfully and extensively worked by the late Mr. John Hutchison—they are now the property of his son, Mr. W. E. Hutchison. Granite excavated here was used in the foundations of the Bell Rock Lighthouse, in the foundations of London Bridge, and in the pier-walls of the Houses of Parliament ; and some of the finest blocks in the kingdom have been taken from these quarries. They furnished the greater number of the pillars in Covent Garden Market, London ; but perhaps the most splendid specimens of Cairngall granite ever turned out are eight pillars in St. George's Hall, Liverpool, each of one polished block, 18 feet in height. The sarcophagus in which the Prince Consort rests at Frogmore was made of granite from Cairngall. In recent years, however, these quarries have not been utilised for the production of massive blocks for pillar or monumental purposes, but extensive operations are carried on in the making of "setts" for street paving. On the opposite side of the Ugie, in the Rora district, a quarry has been opened by Messrs. Heslop, Wilson, & Company, which yields a very fine granite of a more bluish tint

than the Cairngall granite. Near the sixth milestone is the house of Cairngall, standing on a fine lawn, and well sheltered by thriving plantations.

A little beyond is the village of Longside. This village belongs entirely to the nineteenth century. Prior to 1801, the farm-house of Kirkton, which stood nearly opposite the "Kirk stile," and the "ale-house" of Sandhole, close to the north wall of the churchyard, were the only dwellings on the site of the village. In that year, Mr. Ferguson of Pitfour, then proprietor of the estate of Inverquhomery, cut off about 100 acres from the farm of Longside, and these, with the "Rigs of Kirkton," were laid off as feu crofts, and leases of 57 years' duration were granted to persons who chose to build. The main street of the village is only a few feet above the level of the Ugie, which pursues a meandering and sluggish course through a flat tract of ground lying between the village and the railway station—ground that used to be frequently flooded when there was a spate in the river, an occurrence that ultimately necessitated the raising of the roadway from the railway bridge at Auchlee to the village and an improvement of the channel of the river. Part of the village, however, is built on a slight eminence, sloping gently on all sides, and on the summit and centre of the hillock stand the old and new parish churches, nearly side by side.

Of the former, the following account is given in the "View of the Diocese"—"Longside, called at first New Peter, was built about A.D. M.DC.XX., under Bishop Patrick Forbes, the parish being taken out of those of Peterhead and Crimond. It has a good

clock and ten doors ; also four silver chalices, gifted to it by Alexander Galloway, Goldsmith in Aberdeen." It was for some time termed "the Ower Kirk of Peterugie," then "New Peter-ugie," and then this was contracted into "New Peter"; the name Longside, appears to have been adopted from the name of the farm on which the church was built. The old building having become too small for the greatly increased population, it was superseded by a new church built in 1835. The following modest reference to this church is made in the New Statistical Account—"A plain building for about 1000 sitters was founded in 1835, and opened for public worship on the 7th August 1836." The edifice is commodious and well-proportioned, and has a steeple with a clock and bell. The lych-gate at the entrance to the churchyard is an object of considerable interest to the student of ecclesiology, there being, it is said, only one other example of the lych-gate in Scotland. A finial over the gateway is dated 1705, but the gateway is believed to have been built earlier. The old church—the walls of which still remain—was surmounted by an ornate belfry. About 100 yards westward from the village, on an eminence to the left, stands the Free Church, surmounted by a slender spire. At the east end of the village is St. John's Episcopal Church—a striking building, strictly correct in its ecclesiastical character, designed by Mr. William Hay, and erected in 1854. It is in the severest style of the thirteenth century, and consists of a nave, with north and south aisles, and a chancel. Between the nave and the chancel a central tower rises to the height of about 90 feet, the upper storey of which is

pierced on each of its faces by a double lancet and quatrefoil, under a hood-moulding; it is finished with a pack-saddle roof, an old Scottish feature in ecclesiastical architecture. The great chancel window is a fine triplet, the centre light considerably higher than the others; it has been filled with stained glass, in memory of Rev. John Skinner. The west gable is pierced by two remarkably fine lancets. The church is entered on the south side by a porch of excellent proportions, in the second bay from the west. The nave and aisles are divided by granite pillars, and form four fine bays. These support the clerestory, which is lighted with appropriate windows. The chancel arch is of granite, and is very fine. The font, of Caen stone, stands near the entrance. The chancel is paved with encaustic tiles.

The first chapel of the Episcopalians was erected on the farm of Tiffery: it was burned down by the King's troops in 1746. The second chapel—or, rather, open court where the congregation assembled—was at Linshart. The third chapel was erected (about 1800) on a knoll, about 200 yards southward from the village; it was superseded by the present church. Linshart, the house occupied for upwards of half a century by Rev. John Skinner, the learned ecclesiastical historian, theologian, and poet, is still standing. It is about half a mile southward from the village, and is a low thatched building, in the form of a half square, the kitchen being in the angle, the bedrooms in the north-east arm, and what was Mr. Skinner's sitting-room in the south-west. It was here that the congregation gathered, at a time when it was unlawful for more than four persons, besides the clergyman's

own family, to meet within a house for religious worship. The congregation assembled outside, in the area formed by the two wings of the house, and Mr. Skinner read the service from the window, alike through summer's heat and winter's cold.*

Mr. Skinner is more widely known as the author of "Tullochgorum," which Burns described as "the best Scotch song ever Scotland saw." Burns, on finishing his Highland tour (1787), met Skinner's son (Bishop Skinner) in Aberdeen, in the printing office of Mr. Chalmers, to whom he expressed great regret that he had not learned, before leaving Banff, that Mr. Skinner lived at Linshart, "as he would have gladly gone twenty miles out of his way to have seen

* Mr. William Boyd, Stuartfield, the writer of "A Gossip about Old Deer," in a letter to the editor of the present edition. says—"There is a curious tradition about Longside, which I have verified—so far as such stories can be verified. Longside formed part of the sequestrated estates of the Earl Marischal, and the people were all staunch Jacobites and equally staunch Episcopalians. One form of the display of their principles was the ringing of the church bell on the anniversary of James VIII's birthday. When Prince Charles died and the penal laws from which the Scottish Episcopal clergy suffered were relaxed, it was resolved to transfer the ringing of the bell to the birthday of George III. But the bell would seem to have held more decided Jacobite principles than the parishioners, for at the first toll it suddenly cracked, and has remained silent ever since." Another version of the story is that the bell was rung on the birthday of the Earl Marischal and that on the last occasion on which it was rung, news arrived that the Earl Marischal (the last of the race) had taken the oath of fidelity to George III. in London, whereupon "the bell was rent in twain and was silent." "Ken ye what the bell says by that?" inquired a zealous Jacobite of his companion; "Even the deil a cheep mair sall I speak for you, Earl Marischal!" (See Mr. Andrew Lang's "Companions of Pickle.")

the author of 'Tullochgorum.'" Skinner afterwards addressed several versified epistles to Burns, the first of which opened with an expression of his pleasure at his son having met Burns, and a regret at his own absence—

“ Oh happy hour for evermair,
That led my chill up Chalmers' stair,
And ga'e him, what he values sair,
Sae braw a skance
Of Ayrshire's dainty poet there,
By lucky chance.

Waes my auld heart, I was na wi' you,
Though worth-your-while I could nae gi'e ydu,
But sin I hadna hap to see you,
When ye was north,
I'm bauld to send my service to you,
Hence o'er the Forth.”

Burns characterised this as the best poetical compliment he ever received. Mr. Skinner was also the author of “The Ewie wi' the Crookit Horn”—“another excellent song” wrote Burns. He died in the house of his son, Bishop John Skinner, of Aberdeen, in 1807, and was buried in the churchyard of Longside, his grave, in conformity with his own request, being selected as close as possible to that of the Rev. John Brown, who was parish minister in his time, and who died in 1790. “I would like to be buried,” he said, “beside old John Brown; we were good neighbours in this world, and I don't want a better companion in the next.” A large marble tablet, inserted in a granite border, marks the spot. There is a conspicuous monument in the churchyard, erected over the supposed burial-place of a once noted character in the district, of whom many stories are

retailed—Jamie Fleeman, “the laird of Udny’s fool.” It consists of a handsome polished granite obelisk, bearing the following inscription—

ERECTED
in 1861

to indicate the grave of
JAMIE FLEEMAN
in answer to his prayer

“DINNA BURY ME LIKE A BEAST.”*

* The inscription on Mr. Skinner’s tombstone is as follows—
“Glory to God above. Sacred to the memory of the Rev. John Skinner, for 64 years and upwards Episcopal clergyman in this parish, whose attainments as a scholar, and scriptural research as a Divine, of which many written documents remain, acquired him a name, never to be forgotten in the Church in which he exercised his ministry, while his pastoral labours in the charge committed to him endeared him almost beyond example to the sorrowing flock, by whom, in testimony of their heartfelt regard, this monument is erected. On the 16th day of June, 1807, aged 86 years, he slept the sleep of death in the arms of the Right Rev. John Skinner, Bishop of the diocese of Aberdeen, his only surviving son, who, with his family, and other numerous descendants, shall never cease to feel the most devout and lively veneration for the talents, the acquirements, and character of a progenitor, who lived so justly respected, and died so sincerely lamented.”

The churchyard of Longside is exceptionally rich in epitaphs, particularly epitaphs with verses. [See an article on “Three Buchan Churchyards” (Longside, Fetterangus, and Old Deer) in *Weekly Free Press*, 3 May, 1873]. One of the rhyming epitaphs may be reproduced, though it is to be found in other churchyards—

“Our life is but a winter day.
Some only breakfast and away,
Others to dinner stay, and are full fed;
The oldest man but sups and goes to bed.
Large is his debt who lingers out the day;
Who goes the soonest has the least to pay.”

Longside, as already indicated, is built on the estate of Inverquhomery, the name of which is derived from the Quhomery, a stream rising in the hills of Skelmuir, and falling into the Ugie. Inverquhomery was purchased from Mr. Ferguson of Pitfour by the late Mr. James Bruce, a shipowner in Peterhead, on whose death (in 1862), it passed to his nephew, Mr. James Bruce, the present proprietor. The late Mr. Bruce, who amassed a large fortune, left the bulk of it to the poor of the Presbytery of Deer—a charity now known as the Bruce Bequest. He belonged to a family that has been settled in Buchan for at least 300 years; the arms of the family, with the initials G. B. (George Bruce) are still to be seen in the belfry of the church of Longside. Ludquharn, another estate in the parish of Longside, lying to the south of Inverquhomery and the village, was at one time the property of the Keiths of Ludquharn, already mentioned (p. 65) as having had their seat at the old Castle of Boddam. The writer of the "View of the Diocese" (1732) refers to Ludquharn as "lately belonging to Keith of Ludquharn, baronnet, now to Guthry of Ludquharn, son to Guthry of Kingedward." The estate now belongs to Major-General Russell of Aden, in the possession of whose family it has been for a considerable number of years.

The village of Mintlaw, also in Longside parish, is two miles from Longside, and eight miles from Peterhead: the road from these two places passes through what may be termed the village square near its northern end, and is crossed at right angles by the road from Aberdeen to Fraserburgh. The village,

with the exception of a few houses near the square, is built along this latter road, and forms one very broad street, with small flower gardens in front of the houses, interspersed with trees. Like many other villages, its amenities have of late years been increased by the erection of a public hall: to these were lately added (1897) a clock and bell, mainly provided by a bequest by Mr. Sylvester Davidson, wholesale merchant, Mintlaw station, supplemented by a liberal donation from the late Mr. Charles Farquhar, bank agent.

Between Longside and Mintlaw is the estate of Auchtydonald, now part of the Pitfour estates. In 1329, King Robert the Bruce granted a charter of it to Robert de Keith, Marischal of Scotland. By a charter recorded in the "Registrum Episcopatus Aberdonensis," and "dated at his manor of the Forest of Kyntore," October 8, 1378, "William of Keith, Marischal of Scotland, gave six merks yearly, from the lands of Auchtidonald, to endow a chaplainry (called the chaplainry of Auchtidonald), in the choir of the Cathedral of S. Machar at Aberdeen, 'for the soul's health of his well beloved Clerk, Sir William of Calabre, Prebendary of Ellon and Canon of Aberdeen.'" This grant of six merks was confirmed by Pope Clement VII. in 1380, and by King Robert II. in 1385. By consent of Sir William of Calabre, the chantry was suppressed in 1392, and the six merks were bestowed on the Staller or Vicar Choral of the Prebendary of Ellon. From a decree of the Lords of Council, in 1493, directing Thomas Davidson in Auchtidonald, and Andrew Keith in Aden, to pay to Arthur Forbes of Keres, the price of

certain corn and oxen, taken from the land of Terwechty, it may be inferred that, at that date, Auchtidonald was occupied by Davidson. According to Mr. Alexander Hepburn's description of Longside in 1721, William Scott was the name of the then laird of Auchtidonald, and his manor-house was of feal!

Mintlaw is in proximity to Aden House, Pitfour House, the Abbey of Deer, and Old Deer, already described; and the road from Peterhead, skirting the policies of Pitfour, goes to Brucklay station, New Pitsligo, and Macduff, cross roads leading to New Deer, Strichen, and Newbyth.*

* For further particulars respecting the Cairngall quarries, reference may be made to "Granite in its Industrial and Commercial Aspects" by Andrew Wilson, in "Transactions of Buchan Field Club," 1891-2, and "A New Granite in Buchan" in *Daily Free Press*, 23 January, 1893. Biographies of Rev. John Skinner of Linshart, the author of "Tullochgorum," are to be found in "Songs and Poems by the Rev. John Skinner, with a Sketch of his Life, by H. G. Reid" (W. L. Taylor, Peterhead, 1859); "The Life and Times of the Rev. John Skinner, M.A., of Linshart, Longside, Dean of Aberdeen," by the Rev. William Walker, Monymusk (Skeffington & Son, London, 1883); and "The Life and Times of John Skinner, Bishop of Aberdeen," by Rev. William Walker (Aberdeen, 1887); reference may also be made to "The Lights of the North" by Rev. Dr. Stark (Aberdeen, 1896). A description of Skinner is given by Sir John Skelton in his "Crookit Meg," and is reproduced in Mr. Ferguson of Kinmundy's "Guide to the Great North of Scotland Railway." For accounts of Jamie Fleeman, reference is made to "The Life and Death of Jamie Fleeman, the Laird of Udney's Fool" (Lewis Smith & Son); "Jamie Fleeman" by Rev. J. B. Pratt, in "Selections from the Aberdeen Magazine;" and William Anderson's "Howes o' Buchan." Illustrations of the belfry and the lych-gate of

Longside Church are given in Macgibbon and Ross's "Castellated and Domestic Architecture" (v., 182, 392). A description of St. John's Episcopal Church, Longside, with illustrations of the Church and the chancel and reredos, appeared in the *Scottish Standard-Bearer*, March, 1893.

The author of the sketch of Skinner's life prefaced to the edition of his poems, quoted above, is one of the principal men of mark of latter-day Buchan. Sir Hugh Gilzean Reid is a native of Cruden, and was born in 1837. He was the son of a crofter, and for a considerable time worked in the field himself. He subsequently taught a relief school at Auchleuchries, and ultimately drifted into journalism. He started the *Buchan Observer* (the first number of which was issued on 16 January, 1863), and afterwards had a distinguished journalistic career in England. He was M.P. for Aston Manor, 1885-6; was the first President of the Institute of Journalists, 1890-1; was knighted in 1893; and received the honorary degree of LL.D. from Aberdeen University in 1897. He is the author of several works, including "Tween Gloamin' and the Mirk" (1894)—tales and sketches of Scottish Life, embracing Buchan characteristics.

Dr. Archibald Campbell Tait, Archbishop of Canterbury (1868-82), was descended from a Mr. Thomas Tait, mason, Netherton, Longside, who died in 1770, and is interred in Longside churchyard. The old bridge of Auchlee, on the road leading into Longside, is said to have been built by the Archbishop's grandfather.

Mr. A. H. Duncan, Monyruy, in an address on "The Folk Lore of Buchan" at Longside on 27 December, 1895 (published a little later in the *Peterhead Sentinel*), cited several rhyming prophecies regarding Longside. Two of these may be reproduced—

"A day will come when through Longside
An iron horse will swiftly glide;
And those who in the parish byde
Will cease to practise walking."

"Though Fergusons there may na' be
At Pitfour or at Kinmundee,
Nor Stuarts at Crichie, there will be
A Chevas aye in Rora."

CHAPTER XIII.

ST. FERGUS AND LONMAY—INVERALLOCHY AND CAIRNBULG.

THE route from Peterhead to Banff by the high road through Mintlaw having thus been traversed, another route between these places—by the old road along the coast—may now be followed. This road strikes off at the end of Queen Street, Peterhead, and ascends the Windmill Brae; and, about a mile beyond the old Windmill (already referred to—p. 82), it crosses the Ugie by the bridge previously mentioned, a little past the house of Balmuir, the parish of St. Fergus being entered when the bridge is crossed. From the bridge there is a fine view of Inverugie Castle on a rising ground skirted by the windings of the river; and, soon after, a striking view is obtained of Ravenscraig, which, seen from the high ground on the right, presents a very imposing and venerable appearance. The road now stretches onward through the broad and highly-cultivated lands of St. Fergus, the general aspect of which is flat, though here and there relieved by gentle undulations. The parish may almost be described as treeless, only thirty acres being under wood.

The parish of St. Fergus, though locally situated in the county of Aberdeen, was, by a feudal peculiarity, reckoned, along with Fetterangus and a portion of

Castle Street of Aberdeen, to be in Banffshire, until formally transferred to Aberdeenshire in 1890 by the Boundary Commissioners appointed under the Scotch Local Government (or County Councils) Act of 1889. It was originally the property of the Cheynes, who, being the hereditary Sheriffs of Banff, were naturally desirous to have their family domains within their own jurisdiction, and were able to secure its annexation to Banffshire. The lands of St. Fergus, embracing the whole parish, passed, by marriage, about 1358, to the De Keths, of the Marischal family, with whom they remained till the forfeiture in 1715. They were again purchased by the attainted Earl Marischal in 1761 for about £12,620, or thirty years' purchase of the then rental of £420 13s. 8d.; but in 1764 they were re-sold to Mr. James Ferguson of Pitfour, and they have since remained in the Pitfour family, except a portion sold from the north-west corner. Among improvements undertaken by Mr. Ferguson was the construction, at great expense, of a canal along the south side of the parish. It was contemplated to extend this canal to Peterhead, and thus open up a waterway to the Pitfour estates in the interior; but the canal was never completed, and has for long been neglected.

The village of St. Fergus—a rambling hamlet of no particular note—is situated about four miles from Peterhead. The church was built in 1869, replacing a former edifice built in 1763; extensive alterations and improvements in the interior of the building were made in 1898. In regard to the 1763 edifice, the Presbytery Records contain many references to the trouble the Presbytery had in getting the Earl Marischal to build a new church in a more central

position in the parish, and more especially to suit the needs of the inhabitants of the old parish of Fetterangus, which was being gradually merged with that of St. Fergus. Prior to 1616, the church stood in the old churchyard near the sea-shore, about two miles eastward from the present building. The parish was then called Longley, and, at a still more remote period, Inverugie. At the removal of the church in 1616, the parish took the name of St. Fergus, its tutelar saint. St. Fergus, appropriately termed "Buchan's third great apostle," was one of the early Scoto-Irish missionaries. A legendary account of him is given in the preface to the "Book of Deer." He was for a time located in Caithness, "where he preached to the rude people of the country and drew them to the faith, not more by the truth of his doctrine than by the greatness of his virtues." He then arrived in Buchan, "in the place which came commonly to be called Lungley, and where the church which he built is dedicated to his memory." His name is also perpetuated in Fetterangus, where he is supposed to have founded another church. The crozier of St. Fergus possessed much virtue; with it he is said to have calmed a tempest and saved his boat and crew. The old churchyard—still used as the burial ground of the parish—is a retired and solitary spot, in the midst of "those pleasant and extensive downs called the Links of St. Fergus." Dr. Beattie, the author of "The Minstrel," took a peculiar fancy to this quiet and secluded spot, and was known to have expressed a wish to have his last resting-place in the churchyard of St. Fergus. There are still to be seen fragments of the font and some pieces of

rude sculpture belonging to the old church, of which part of the south wall, to the height of several feet, still remains, but now completely covered outside by the accumulated soil. The area of the church, which is still traceable, shows it to have been a long narrow building. The churchyard contains many interesting tombstones, particularly one to the memory of the grandparents of Dr. John Arbuthnot, the friend of Pope. The ancestors of Sir Andrew Clark, the eminent physician, and of the Andersons, the founders of the Orient line of steamers to Australia, are also interred here.

St. Fergus was one of the Buchan parishes in which considerable difficulty was found in rooting out Episcopacy and establishing Presbyterianism in its stead. Mr. Alexander Hepburn, who was minister in 1716, was deposed for aiding and abetting a mob to proclaim the Pretender King and for praying for the Pretender under the title of James VIII. After a long vacancy, during which the majority of the parishioners—or, at least, the most influential of them—adhered to the ministry of Mr. Hepburn and kept possession of the church, Mr. William Leslie became the first Presbyterian minister of the parish in 1728, having been translated from Chapel of Garioch.

About six miles from Peterhead is the former toll-house of Rattray, and here the old coast road branches to the right, leading past Rattray House, which stands about a mile off the present highway to Fraserburgh. The estate of Rattray was bought by Mr. Adam Cumine in the beginning of the nineteenth century, and was held by his son, Mr. James

Cumine, for fully fifty years. Mr. James Cumine, who died in 1894, was succeeded by his grandson, Mr. George Cumine, civil engineer. About a mile farther along the old coast road stands the old Chapel of Rattray. A stone with the inscription "A.D. 911" was put up on its west wall by Mr. Alexander Davidson (afterwards referred to), but has very properly been taken down, as there is no authority for assigning this as the date of the erection of the chapel. According to a story in the "View of the Diocese," a son of one of the Comyns, Earls of Buchan, was accidentally drowned in a well here, "whereupon this chappell was founded for his soul." The following reference to the chapel is made in the "Antiquities of the Shires of Aberdeen and Banff" (ii., 394-5)—

"Between the years 1214 and 1233, William Cumyn, earl of Buchan, granted the lands and mill of Stratheyn and Kyndrochet to Cospatric Macmadethyn, for the payment of two stones of wax at Whitsunday yearly. This rent was afterwards given by the Earl of Buchan in free alms for ever to the chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the town of Rettre in Buchan. ('Registrum Episcopatus Aberdonensis,' vol. i. pp. 14, 15.) At a later period the payment was changed into one of money. In the year 1451, Master Richard of Forbes, the chamberlain of the crown lands in Marr and Buchan, in accounting for the issues of the barony of Kynedwarde, then in the King's hands by the death of Alexander, earl of Ross, makes deduction of six shillings paid to the chaplain of Rattre from the lands of Strichen. ('The Chamberlain Rolls,' vol. iii., p. 529)."

The Chapel is thus described in the Old Statistical Account—"It is supposed to have been a private chapel, for the use of the Earl's family. The length is forty-five feet within the walls; the breadth, eighteen feet; the thickness of the walls, three feet; and the height of the end walls still above ground, thirty-two feet. In the east end of the chapel are three arched windows; the largest, which is in the middle, is eleven feet high, and two feet wide. The other two are each seven feet high and two wide. The walls are built of very small stones, firmly cemented with lime." The west gable seems to have had one window, but of what kind can no longer be seen. The entrance was in the south wall, towards the west end. The main portion of the interior is now the family burying-ground of the Cumines of Rattray. The ruins stand in a small churchyard. The walls of this churchyard had been allowed to fall into a state of complete disrepair, so that cattle had free access to the burying-ground, which had come to be accounted part of the neighbouring farm. In 1848, however, Mr. Alexander Davidson, Kandy, Ceylon, a native of the parish of Crimond (in which the old chapel is situated), applied to the proprietor for permission to reinclose the churchyard and put a gate on the entrance, at the same time setting apart a sum of money for keeping it in repair in all time coming. The late Mr. James Cumine of Rattray at once acceded to the request, detached the churchyard from the farm, and restored it to its former use as a burial ground. It is now enclosed and protected from further desecration. Several inscriptions on the wall denote and detail the work of restoration. Mr. Davidson had also a

notion of having the chapel rebuilt and restored, and bequeathed £50 in trust to the Bishop and Dean of the diocese of Aberdeen and the incumbent of St. Drostan's, Old Deer, and their successors in office, as the nucleus of a fund for that purpose; and one of his last acts in connection with the ruins was to deposit in one of the walls of the chapel a bottle and a leaden case containing correspondence and newspaper articles relating to the restoration of the walls and the proposed restoration of the chapel. A small stone marks the place of the deposit, inscribed as follows:—"P.C. 1877. The above was placed by the kind consent of the proprietor. Refer to 'Guardian' and 'Pratt's Buchan.' 25th Jan., 1878." The letters "P.C." are a little enigmatical, but, according to Mr. Davidson himself, they were intended to denote "Proprietor's Consent."

Near the chapel of Rattray formerly stood a burgh of that name. The origin of the erection of this hamlet—for it apparently was nothing more—into a royal burgh is singular. "Ther being a hot contention," says the author of the "View of the Diocese," "under Queen Mary, between the Earls of Errol and Marishal, about the superiority of this little town of Rattray, the Queen, to prevent further dispute, erected it into a Royal borough: whence, at this day, ther is no custom paid at its markets, nor do its inhabitants hold by the tenure of common tennants, but as feuars; the town having lost its honours and magistracy, and yet none (but the King) being properly superior of it." "Rattray," it is added, "had once a good harbour, which is now choaked with sand; and the town consists but of nine or ten

houses, belonging to Haddo and Broadland." Such is the account of this burgh a century and a half ago. The burgh has long since vanished, the hamlet even has disappeared and cultivated fields now occupy its site, on which occasionally ancient coins have been turned up.

The Castle Hill, about a quarter of a mile north from the chapel, is believed to have been the site of a castle that formed one of the seats of the Comyns, Earls of Buchan. The spot is rather quaintly described in the Old Statistical Account—"At the east end of the loch of Strathbeg, in a very pleasant situation, there is a small hill, of a circular form, whose top is exactly half a Scotch acre in extent, called 'The Castle Hill.' It rises thirty-eight feet above a small plain, on the north-east, but is only twelve or fourteen feet above the higher ground on the opposite side." The existence of a castle here has been disputed; but local tradition, and the popular designation of "The Castle Hill," are both favourable to the idea. The Statistical Account says—"About sixty years ago [that is, about 1734] Mr. Arbuthnot, then of Broadland, caused dig up an eminence at the south-east side of the Castle Hill, where he found a great number of stones, supposed to belong to the kitchen of the castle, as the workmen found large hearthstones, covered with ashes." Rev. James Forrest, the present minister of Lonmay, states that during the construction of some drains for the farmhouse of Rattray a few years ago, a well-made causeway was discovered at the foot of the mound under which the castle is said to be buried.

It has already been mentioned that in the

“Description of Buchan,” supposed to have been written by Lady Anne Drummond, Countess of Erroll, it is stated that one of the most remarkable things in the district is “the multitude of selchs that come in at Strabegge.” The former plenitude of seals here is also referred to in the “View of the Diocese”—“Strathbeg-water (in history called Rattray, from the little village at its mouth), has been taken notice of for its singularity in yielding no salmon; but this is no great matter of wonder, for the seals here, being many, devour that fish, and the water itself is small, till it come near the sea, where being choaked with sand, it overflows and stagnates. On this part of the coast is the best small cod, taken in great plenty; so that Rattray codlings are much sought after.” The Loch of Strathbeg is $2\frac{2}{3}$ miles long, and from 2 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ furlongs broad, and is said to cover 550 Scotch acres—410 in the parish of Lonmay, and 140 in Crimond. At the beginning of the eighteenth century, it was of much smaller extent than it is now, being confined to a small part at the east end, and having a communication with the sea there, so that vessels of small burden could enter it. But somewhere about 1720 a furious wind-storm from the east formed a sand-bar, thus stopping the communication between the loch and the sea, and the low-lying ground to the west was soon over-flowed, the extent of the loch being much increased. In the end of the eighteenth century, an attempt was made by a Mr. Sellar to drain the loch. Large sums were expended, but the effort proved a failure, and it is still considered problematical how far, even if successful, the draining of the loch would have repaid the outlay. The loch abounds

with trout, both red and yellow, perch, fresh-water flounders, and eels of immense size. An old chronicle of Lonmay, of date 1722, speaking of the water of Strathbeg, says—"which water produceth abundance of cockles, and also trouts and fleuks, but no salmon."

From Rattray Head a dangerous reef of rocks runs out into the sea, on which numerous shipwrecks have taken place. This reef—locally known as Rattray Briggs—is referred to in a distich already quoted (p. 199). In the course of twelve years—from 1871 to 1883—there were no fewer than 24 wrecks on Rattray Briggs—an average of two annually: the vessels wrecked hailed, as a rule, from Scandinavia, Denmark, and Germany. A lighthouse, with a fog-siren, was erected here in 1895. It is 120 feet high, and was designed by Mr. David A. Stevenson, engineer, Edinburgh. The light is so arranged as to give three flashes in quick succession every half-minute: it can be seen at a distance of about 18 miles.

Rattray House, Rattray Chapel, and Rattray Head are all situated in the parish of Crimond (described in the chapter following), while, as just mentioned, the Loch of Strathbeg is partly in Crimond and partly in Lonmay, the adjoining parish. Crossing into Lonmay, the first object deserving of note is Crimonmogate House. Built about sixty years ago by Sir Charles Bannerman, the eighth baronet of Crimonmogate, it is an elegant and commodious mansion of the Classical style of architecture, and is well sheltered by wood. Unfortunately, however, it is placed in a low situation, which greatly circumscribes

the view. Excellent gardens, laid out with much taste, are attached. In the neighbourhood of the house is an obelisk "Erected to the Memory of Patrick Milne by Charles Bannerman," and bearing records of the deaths of various members of the Bannerman family. Crimonmogate has been long in the possession of the Bannermans of Elsick, Kincardineshire. The surname of "Bannerman" is derived from the office of standard-bearer, which, from a very remote date, was hereditary in this family. One of the family was among the "Equites Scuti" in the time of James II.; another was Sheriff of Aberdeen in the early part of the sixteenth century; and, two hundred years later, one of the family (Patrick) was Provost of Aberdeen (1715-16). Crimonmogate came into the possession of the family through the Provost's youngest daughter, Margaret, marrying Alexander Milne, merchant, Aberdeen, who purchased the estate, which his son Patrick, who succeeded him, bequeathed to his relative, Sir Charles Bannerman, eighth baronet, who was at one time a manufacturer in Aberdeen—head of the firm of Gordon, Barron & Company. Sir Charles was succeeded by his son, Sir Alexander Bannerman, who unsuccessfully contested the Elgin Burghs in 1847, and who was Whig candidate for Aberdeenshire in 1861, withdrawing, however, before the election. On his death (in 1877) the estate fell to his only child, Ethel Mary Elizabeth, who married (1891) Lord Carnegie, eldest son of the Earl of Southesk. Crimonmogate at one time belonged to a William Abernethie, who is buried in Lonmay churchyard, his eldest daughter (wife of James Reid of

Alehousehill) being interred in St. Fergus churchyard. There is a very perfect Druidical circle near the farm of Lumbs, on the estate of Crimonmogate.

About two miles north-west of Crimonmogate, near the brow of a gentle acclivity, is Cairness House, a conspicuous object in the surrounding country. The building, from the designs of James Playfair, was finished in 1799, and is said to have cost about £25,000. It is in the Grecian style of architecture. The porch is exceedingly chaste, the Ionic columns and cornices being of granite from the Cairngall quarries. The main structure is of greenstone, quarried on the estate. The gardens are large, productive, and tastefully laid out. The mansion-house is remarkably well situated, being effectually sheltered from the north. At a little distance from it once stood an Observatory, erected by the late General Gordon, and completely furnished with astronomical apparatus; but it is now demolished. The lands of Cairness and Cairnglass were purchased from Lord Saltoun, some time after 1732, by George Barclay and James Barclay, sons of Rev. James Barclay, the last minister of Peterhead before the Revolution of 1688. These two Barclays had become possessed of a large estate in the West Indies; and, both dying without issue, they left their property to their only surviving sister, Jane, wife of Charles Gordon, merchant, Aberdeen. She, in 1776, conveyed Cairness to her son, Charles Gordon, who had succeeded to Buthlaw, part of the old barony of Drumblade, and who afterwards purchased the estate of Lonmay: he it was who built the present mansion-house. He was succeeded by his eldest son,

Thomas Gordon, who, in his early life, was an officer in the British Army, but went to Greece in 1821 at the beginning of the war of independence, and took an active part in the campaign. He assisted the Greek leaders with large sums of money, and obtained the rank of General in the Greek Army. He commanded the expedition to the Piræus to relieve Athens in 1827, and repulsed the Turks with heavy slaughter at Port Phalerus, and he was subsequently appointed Director-General of Ordnance. He married a Greek lady, and settled down at Cairness after the emancipation of Greece. He died at Cairness in 1841. The present proprietor of Cairness is his grandson, Mr. Charles Thomas Gordon, advocate (Edinburgh), who unsuccessfully contested the Elgin Burghs in the Unionist interest at the general election of 1895. The estate of Lonmay (now incorporated in the lands of Cairness) was, at the beginning of the eighteenth century, in the possession of Patrick Ogilvy, brother of the Earl of Findlater, and M.P. for Cullen in the first Parliament of Great Britain. He was married to Elizabeth Montgomery, daughter of Francis Montgomery of Giffen. Lonmay was sold by Patrick Ogilvy to James Fraser, brother of Lord Saltoun, in 1718. His widow sold it in 1762 to William Moir, from whom it was purchased in 1768 by Alexander Garden of Troup; and from him it passed to Lord Gardenstone, his brother, who left it to his nephew, Francis Garden, from whom it was purchased by Charles Gordon, the great-grandfather of the present proprietor, in 1796. When James Fraser was proprietor, he began to build a mansion-house, now called "The Pavilions," but, owing to his joining the

Young Pretender, it was never completed. The building was intended to form a quadrangle. Two sides of the quadrangle only were ever built ; and the erection being pavilion-roofed, it thus acquired its present name of "The Pavilions." Only one end now remains.

The Parish Church of Lonmay stands near the south-east corner of the Park of Cairness. It is a neat building, much in the style of the latter part of the eighteenth century. It was built in 1787, replacing an older one built in 1607, of which only a portion of the south wall is now to be seen in the churchyard. On each side of the gateway of the churchyard a stone is built into the masonry, the one on the north side having the arms of Patrick Ogilvy, and the one on the south side the arms of Elizabeth Montgomery, his wife, with the motto "Toutjour" over the shield to the left, and "Garde bien," over the shield to the right. The initials below the shields are those of their wearers—P^{DN}O. and E^{DM}. The churchyard was extended in 1880, and in the part then added once stood the old school, where for some time Bishop Jolly, when a young man, served as parish schoolmaster. A public hall, erected on the estate of Cairness, near the schoolhouse, was opened in 1898. Till the year 1607, the Parish Church, dedicated to St. Columba, the tutelar saint of the parish, was situated near the sea-shore, in the village of the same name (St. Colm's). In 1607, when James VI. was making efforts for the restoration of a regular Episcopacy throughout Scotland, the Church of Lonmay was removed from St. Colm's to the more central situation it now occupies. In the New

Statistical Account there is the following transcript of a quaint entry in the Session records—" 1732, Dec. 10. —The minister reported that qun the fore-wall of the church was taken down, yr was a little cut stone above the big door, containing an account qun and by qum ys church was built, with the ministers' names and entry there in office, and yt ye cutting of ye sd stone was very bad, and so defaced yt it was scarce legible, and yrefore he had caused buy, cut, colour, and set up another stone, containing what was written on the former." This stone is built into a wall (still standing) of the church erected in 1607, in the present churchyard, and bears the following inscription—"This house was built for the worship of God by the parish of Lonmay, 1607—Mr. Thomas Rires being minister then, and three years before at the Old Church. After him, Messrs. William Rires, James Irvine, and John Houston, were ministers successively; next Mr. Thomas Gordon was ordained Minister of the Gospel by the Presbytery of Deer, with consent of all concerned in the Parish, Sept. 24, 1709."

It is doubtful, however, judging from another entry in the same register, whether the "consent" was so cordial as the terms in which it is recorded would seem to indicate. The truth is that in this, as in almost every other parish in the north of Scotland, the heritors and majority of the common people were far from being favourable to the introduction of the Presbyterian religion. Nor did they always rest satisfied with passive submission to the new order of things. The following entry from the Session records indicates that the heritors of the district were a source of no small anxiety to the

minister—"1727, April 9.—The minister reported that he understood there was a design among the heritors of this and the two neighbouring parishes of Rathen and Crimond to erect ane Episcopal meeting-house near to this church, as ye place most central to them all; and it was found by the unanimous sentiment of the Session, that this designed meeting-house was promoted from very malice and splen (*sic*) to the established government of church and state, and to instil into the people of this corner principles of rebellion against the government and favour for a Popish Pretender; and, as they were persuaded of this for weighty reasons, which are not proper to be insert here, so particularly from this consideration, yet all the common people of these three parishes, and especially in this, had always been most punctual and precise attenders upon, and partakers of, all gospel ordinances dispensed by yr respective ministers, had frequently signified their satisfaction with yr ministers, and resolution to adhere to yr ministry, unless they should be compelled (as they feared) to attend a worship fringed with ceremonies (by yr respective masters)," etc. Whatever these "weighty reasons" of which the Session was cognisant might have been, the heritors did certainly carry out their intention of building a "meeting-house," which, after being twice restored, is still in existence, and is now known as the Episcopal Church of Lonmay. One can hardly suppose it, however, in its original condition, to have been the cause of much uneasiness to the minister and kirk-session, for a more humble structure can scarcely be imagined—low in the walls and thatched with heath. It was burned down by Lord Ancrum's

soldiers after the battle of Culloden. But although the persecution was then at the hottest, no great time elapsed before the Episcopalians, under the auspices of Rev. John Jaffray,* erected another house of prayer of somewhat higher pretensions than the former. This stood till 1797, when the present church—situated within a quarter of a mile of the Parish Church—was built, having a cross surmounting the eastern gable, and a cock on the western; these were the only symbols of Christian architecture about the building. This church underwent a thorough repair in 1862. A chancel, of fair proportions, was added to the old church, which now forms the nave; and a porch, with an arched doorway and a steep gable, surmounted by a cross, was built at the west end. The church was dedicated to St. Columba, the patron saint of the parish.

The fishing village of St. Combs (a corruption of St. Colm's) is situated about two miles north of Cairness. The ruins of St. Colm's kirk are to be seen at the east end of the village. The church stood

* Mr. Jaffray was the first Episcopal minister at Lonmay after the establishment of the Presbyterian Church. He is said to have inherited a considerable patrimony, and to have purchased the estate of Park, in the parish. He died in 1768 in the 70th year of his age, and the 41st of his ministry. In 1769, he was succeeded by Rev. William Sangster, the last clergyman in the north who actually suffered under the penal statutes. He was tried for publicly officiating to more than four persons, and imprisoned for some months. He ministered in the charge for nearly 57 years, and died at the age of 80. The church, as it remained till 1862, was erected during his time, 181 members—heads of families—subscribing to the work. The congregation at the time numbered upwards of 800.

on a knoll about 150 yards from the sea. The situation is similar to those in which the Columban monks seemed to delight, and commands a fine view of the ocean. On the north, bent-clad hillocks rise between it and the beach, the knoll itself sloping rapidly down on the east upon a broad, level plain, a bluff headland terminating the view. The outside dimensions of the church had been 60 feet by 21; the thickness of the walls 27 inches. A considerable part of the west gable—pierced by a window 21 inches wide by 42 high—is still standing. Part of the north, and very small portions of the south walls remain; the east wall is quite gone. The churchyard continues to be used as a place of sepulture. The Castle of Lonmay stood on the coast, about a mile and a half south-east of St. Combs; but nothing now remains of it except the name of “The Auld Places.” Adjacent to St. Combs is the small fishing village of Charlestown.*

About a mile and a half westward from St. Combs, a small stream divides the parish of Lonmay from that of Rathen, and the village of Inverallochy from that of Cairnbulg. Near these villages lie the Cairnbulg Briggs—a ridge of rocks stretching 400 or 500 yards into the sea, and

*The name Lonmay is probably derived from “Llan” and “Magh”=kirk and plain, and may have originated either from the standing stones in the circle at Lumbs, or from the Kirk of St. Columba, which stand at the opposite ends of the same plain. (See in support of this view articles on “To go to the Stones” or “Clachan” in *Scottish Notes and Queries*, viii., 110, and ix., 63.) Another derivation—from “Lon,” a marsh, and “Magh,” a plain—is favoured by many.

mostly covered at high water. About the middle of this dangerous ridge, there is a gap—or what the fishermen term a hause—called “The Trath,” through which, at stream tides, small vessels occasionally pass. The villages of Inverallochy and Cairnbulg are practically one large sea-town, the only division being a very small stream of water. Together, they number some 260 houses, and have a population of over 1100 inhabitants. The provision of an adequate harbour for these villages and the neighbouring village of St. Combs has been discussed for several years, but the question has been complicated by a “battle of sites” between Whitelinks Bay and Westhaven. A light railway is about to be constructed between Fraserburgh and St. Combs for the convenience of the fishermen in these villages in prosecuting their calling from the harbour at Fraserburgh during the fishing seasons.

The Castle of Inverallochy, a bare and desolate ruin, is situated a little inland from the village of Inverallochy—is, indeed, nearer St. Combs. It occupies three sides of a courtyard, with a high enclosing wall along the fourth or south side, the sides being all of unequal length. The castle belonged to the powerful house of Comyn, and was probably built by one of that family. There is no date to the building, and no satisfactory account can be obtained of its origin and fortunes. It is said that, in the end of the last century, a stone was discovered in the vicinity, which had obviously been placed over the entrance to the castle. It bore the sculptured arms of the Comyns, with the following legend—

“ I Jurdun Comyn, indwaller here,
Gat this hous and lands for biggin' the Abey o' Deer.”

It is pointed out in Macgibbon and Ross's "Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland" (ii., 331) that, "As the Abbey of Deer was erected in the beginning of the thirteenth century, it is obvious that its builder, William Comyn, and the builder of Inverallochy were separated from each other by centuries, so that the foregoing rhyme, in whatever way it may be explained, gives no information as to the date of the castle."* Possibly the rhyme refers to the square tower, the original part of the building. The castle and estate of Inverallochy belong to the Frasers of Castle Fraser, Aberdeenshire. The family was founded by the Hon. Simon Fraser, a son of the eighth Lord Fraser of Philorth, who married the daughter of the seventh Earl of Buchan. The name of Mackenzie was assumed by the family, in addition to that of Fraser, by royal licence, soon after the foundation of the house. The third Fraser of Inverallochy was succeeded in possession of the estate by his eldest daughter. She married

*The authors further say—"On making inquiry regarding the above stone, we were informed by a very old man that a carved stone taken from the castle was built in the walls of a neighbouring cottage. Thinking this might be what we were in search of, we visited the cottage, and found, instead of it, the stone shown in Fig. 782. It measures about 18 inches by 12 inches, and contains a shield within a quatrefoil, the whole encircled by a ribbon, having an inscription, of which only a letter here and there can be made out. Of these, on the upper part of the ribbon, are the initials, "W.C.," doubtless those of William Comyn. The arms on the shield are unfortunately too much wasted to be made out. In this cottage was the old chair shown in Fig. 783, believed to have been part of the furniture of the castle."

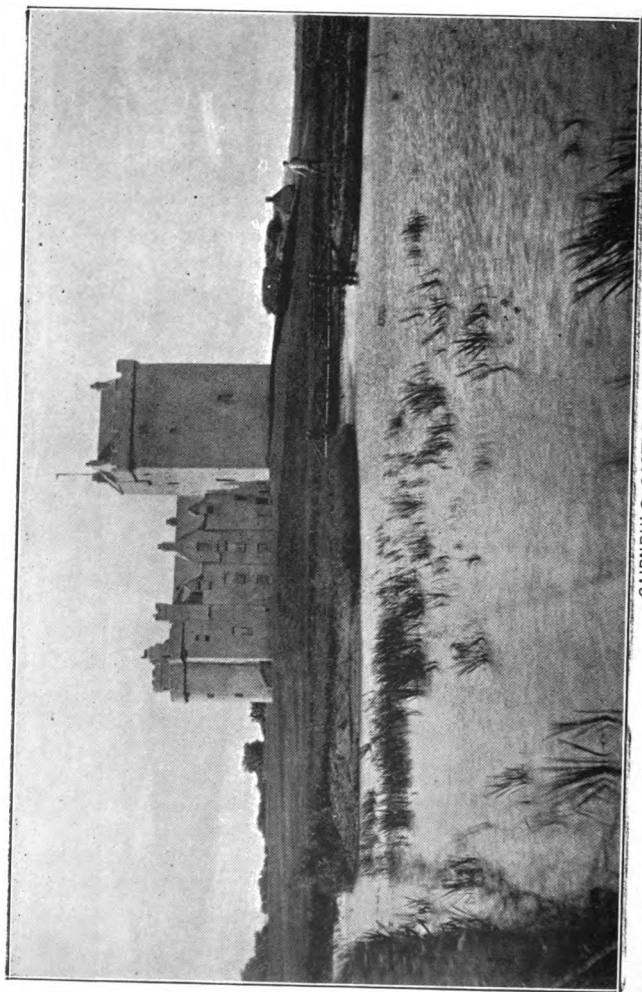
Mr. Colin Mackenzie of Kilcoy, and her second son, a distinguished soldier and M.P. for Ross-shire, succeeded to Inverallochy, and derived from his maternal aunt the estate of Castle Fraser. This gentleman married a daughter of Lord Seaforth, and was succeeded by his elder son, Charles, who married a daughter of Sir John Hay of Hayston, Bart. Charles died in 1871, and was succeeded by his fourth and youngest son, Colonel Frederick Mackenzie Fraser, who died without issue in 1897.

About two miles to the north-west of Inverallochy Castle, the old road from Peterhead to Fraserburgh crosses the Water of Philorth, and a quarter of a mile above the bridge, on the east bank of the stream, stands the Castle of Cairnbulg. It is placed on a knoll, which, at some former time, had probably been surrounded by a moat, and it is at the distance of about three-quarters of a mile from the sea. The old castle had evidently been a structure of imposing magnitude. It is thus described in Macgibbon and Ross's work (i., 309)—

“Cairnbulg Castle consists of buildings of two periods. There is first the large oblong keep, which probably dates at the earliest from the end of the fifteenth century, and the buildings of a later date, which have been so contrived as to convert Cairnbulg into a castle with diagonally opposite towers, the old keep being made available as one of these towers. The keep is oblong on plan, with a projection for the wheel staircase at the south-east end. It measures 41 feet in length by 29 feet 8 inches along the west end, and along the east end and staircase projection it measures 40 feet, with walls from 6 feet to 7 feet

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CAIRNBULG CASTLE.

thick. . . . The building of the second period measures from east to west 77 feet 2 inches by 29 feet in width, with a round tower about 27 feet in diameter projecting at the south-east corner. This tower had been four storeys high, with probably an attic, but it is, like the keep, in a state of great ruin. . . . The noble keep is unfortunately in a very rent and torn condition. The parapet, with its open corbelled bartizans and embrasures, is evidently of the end of the fifteenth century. The corbel table of the south-east tower, which is much later in date, has been executed in imitation of the older one."

The castle was in a habitable condition till the year 1785. There is a remarkably fine fascia under the parapet of the keep, which is repeated under the parapets of the round and entrance towers. A rather singular feature is an opening formed in the lintels over the principal entrance, and running up through the heart of the wall to a passage above. The purpose for which this was intended must be, in a great measure, conjectural. It may have been to signal information to or from the hall above, or it may have been a means to defend the door from the assaults of the besieger. A reconstruction of the ruined portion of the castle, took place in 1896-7, the keep, round tower, and entrance tower being repaired and roofed, and a building erected between them of much the same style and on the same foundations as the original. Unfortunately, the restoration had hardly begun when a portion of the old round stone staircase fell. It was rebuilt, however, and the work of restoration fully carried out in harmony with the main features of the ancient edifice.

The lands of Cairnbulg, with the castle, formed part of the extensive domains of the Comyns, Earls of Buchan, and were, with the other estates of that family, confiscated to the Crown in 1308, after the defeat of the third Earl at Barra and the subsequent "Harrying of Buchan." They were included in the lands, afterwards designated Philorth, which, on the dispersion of the Comyn estates, came into the possession of Sir Walter Leslie; and in 1375 Sir Walter assigned the lands of Philorth to Sir Alexander Fraser, who married Johanna, the second daughter of William, Earl of Ross.* The Frasers of Philorth seem, for two centuries, to have made Cairnbulg Castle—originally designated the Manor Place of Philorth—their principal residence; but whether the most ancient part of the castle—the square tower—was erected by the Comyns, the Rosses, or the Frasers, cannot now be determined. The other portions were built about 1545 by Sir Alexander Fraser, the seventh laird of Philorth, whose grandson and successor, Sir Alexander Fraser, the eighth laird, being in distress for debt, disposed the barony of Cairnbulg to Robert Fraser of Doors (Durris), who subsequently disposed it to Andrew Fraser of Stonywood, father of the first Lord Fraser of Muchalls. Forbes of Pitsligo and Fraser of Lovat appear to have had a share in these transactions. The whole of Sir Alexander Fraser's estate had been "apprised" by Forbes of Pitsligo in respect of a loan. Lovat afterwards acquired right to this apprising, and, in 1613, with the concurrence of Sir Alexander Fraser,

* See account of the Frasers of Philorth in Chap. xv.

conveyed the lands of Cairnbulg and Invernorth to Robert Fraser of Doors—the former for £38,000 Scots, and the latter for 20,000 merks, which was far within the real value of the lands; and the lands of Inverallochy to Lovat's own son, Simon Fraser, for 54,000 merks. These sums seem to have satisfied the debt for which the apprising was made, and to have relieved Sir Alexander Fraser of his difficulties. An attempt was afterwards made by Alexander Fraser, tenth Lord Saltoun, to have the sale of the lands and castle of Cairnbulg declared illegal, as contravening certain stipulations in the original arrangement, but, after several years' litigation, it proved unsuccessful, the legality of the sale being upheld by the Court of Session. Spalding, in his "History of the Troubles in Scotland," mentions the Castle of Cairnbulg twice in 1644, and, in both instances, in connection with its then proprietor, Lord Fraser of Muchalls, a strenuous supporter of the Solemn League and Covenant. In 1703, Charles, the last Lord Fraser, sold the castle and estate to Colonel John Buchan of Auchmacoy; and, in 1739, it came, by purchase, into the possession of Mr. Alexander Aberdein, merchant in Aberdeen, whose son, Mr. Alexander Aberdein, yr. (Provost of Aberdeen, 1742-3), disposed of it to George, third Earl of Aberdeen, who, at his death, in 1801, bequeathed it to his son, John Gordon, at whose death, in 1862, the estate was bought by the trustees of Mr. William Duthie (one of the family of well-known shipbuilders in Aberdeen), who established the first regular line of vessels between Britain and the Australian Colonies. He died in 1861, but his trustees, acting according to his will, bought

this estate and entailed it to his nephew, John Duthie and his heirs male. Mr. John Duthie was succeeded by his brother William, who died in 1896; and William was succeeded by his eldest son, Mr. John Duthie, barrister-at-law, London, the present proprietor, to whom the restoration of Cairnbulg Castle is due.

From Cairnbulg Castle the Links of Philorth extend to Fraserburgh. On the margin of these links is the burying-ground of an old parish church. "The Old Church of Philorth," says the "View of the Diocese," "stood among the sands; it was dedicated to St. Medan, a bishop in great favour with King Couran, about A.D., DIII. His feast was kept on the 14th of November."*

* For additional information regarding places and persons mentioned in this chapter, see the New Statistical Account (St. Fergus, Crimond, and Lonmay); "Excursion to Links of St. Fergus," "The Burgh of Rattray," by Mr. James Cumine of Rattray, "Excursion to Loch Strathbeg and Vicinity," and a number of papers on Inverallochy and St. Combs—all in the "Transactions of the Buchan Field Club;" "A Glimpse into Church Life in the Presbytery of Deer during the Commonwealth," by Rev. James Forrest, Lonmay ("Buchan Field Club Transactions," 1887-90); Mr. Anderson's "Howes o' Buchan;" and Dr. Temple's "Thanage of Fermartyn." An account of the Andersons, the founders of the Orient Line (who hail from St. Fergus), was given in the *Peterhead Sentinel*, 7 September 1897. A "watch-house" overlooking the old churchyard of St. Fergus was erected in the days when "body-snatching" by "resurrectionists" was rife; and an episode in connection therewith is incorporated in a description of the churchyard in the *Weekly Free Press*, 1 May, 1897. Rattray Chapel and St. Colm's Church are described and illustrated in Macgibbon and Ross's "Ecclesiastical Architecture of Scotland" (ii., 292, and iii., 587)—enough of the former remains, say these authors, to show that it is a genuine church of the thirteenth

century. Details of the "laying" of the "P.C., 1877" stone in Rattray Churchyard are given in the *Scottish Guardian*, 25 January, 1878; an article in the *Guardian*, 21 July, 1876, gives particulars of Mr. Davidson's bequest. A description of Rattray Head Lighthouse was given in the *Daily Free Press*, 20 August, 1895. Further particulars of the Bannerman family will be found in "Aberdeen: Its Traditions and History," by W. Robbie; "Memorials of the Aldermen, Provosts, and Lord Provosts of Aberdeen," by Alexander M. Munro; "Account of the Family of Bannerman of Elsick;" and an article in the *Weekly Free Press*, 28 April, 1877. Accounts of the career of General Gordon of Cairness will be found in the "Dictionary of National Biography," and "Notable Aberdeenshire Families" in *Aberdeen Weekly Journal*, 21 September, 1898. It may be mentioned that "The Heiress of Inverallochy" is the title of a sketch in Sir Hugh Gilzean Reid's "Tween Gloamin' and the Mirk." An article on "Scotch Fisher Life, As it Was and Is" in *Chambers's Journal*, 22 July, 1899, contains references to Cairnbulg, Inverallochy, and St. Combs.

The account in the text of the transference of Cairnbulg from the Frasers of Philorth to the Frasers of Durris is taken from the pleadings in a lawsuit, Laird Philorth *contra* Lord Fraser, Feb. 4, 1663, reported in Lord Stair's "Decisions of the Supreme Court" (i., 169 *et seq.*). The transaction, however, was an exceedingly complicated one, and a slightly different version of it is given in Lord Saltoun's "Frasers of Philorth." Reference may also be made to "Annals of Lower Deeside" by John A. Henderson. The restored Cairnbulg Castle was described in the *Aberdeen Evening Express*, 11 September, 1897.

General John Gordon, C.B., a son of Mr. John Gordon of Cairnbulg, had a distinguished military career in India, having served throughout the Mutiny campaign. He died on 1st January, 1899. A younger brother, William, was also a General in the Army; and another brother, Alexander Crombie Gordon, rose to the rank of Vice-Admiral in the Navy.

CHAPTER XIV.

CRIMOND—RATHEN—TYRIE.

RETURNING to the main road from Peterhead to Fraserburgh (*via* St. Fergus), which was left in the previous chapter at the branch leading to Rattray, and keeping along it, the parish of Crimond is soon reached. The ancient spelling was Creichmont, the name being probably derived from two Gaelic words—*Crioch* and *Moin* or *Monadh*=the boundary of the moss, or the boundary hill. The Parish Church, built in 1812, has a spire, a bell, and a clock; and, standing on the lower edge of an extensive plain, it forms, for several miles around, a prominent feature in the landscape. The old church stood a little to the north. The Old Statistical Account informs us that “it was built in 1576; at least this date is above one of the doors. It is probable, however, that it had only been repaired that year, as there is still a font-stone in the east end.” This “font-stone” was probably the piscina—a font in the east end of a church would have been an anomaly at any time antecedent to this

period. According to the "Registrum Episcopatus Aberdonensis," the church of "Crechtmont" was erected into a prebend of St. Machar at Aberdeen by Bishop Richard Poiton, in 1262.

Crimond belonged in former times to the Earls of Erroll, one of whom received it by charter in 1459 from James II. About two hundred years subsequently, it was purchased by Alexander Cumming, factor on the estate, from whose son it was again purchased by one of the Irvines of Artamford. It then passed into the hands of Forbes of Crimond, and afterwards became the property of Sir Alexander Bannerman of Crimonmogate. Logie, sometimes called Logie-Crimond, also became the property of Sir Alexander. It was formerly the seat of Gordon of Logie. It lies westward from the church, and is interesting as the scene of the beautiful and pathetic Jacobite ballad, "O, Logie o' Buchan." "The hero of that song," says Rev. George Cruden in the account of the parish of Logie-Buchan in the New Statistical Account (noting the fact that Logie-Buchan can lay no claim to the song of "Logie o' Buchan"), "was a gardener at Logie in Crimond, about the middle of last century; the heroine, a good-looking little woman, whom I have often seen in my early years, then married to a respectable farmer; and its author, said to be Mr. George Halket, a poetical genius, who taught a school in that neighbourhood, and whose rise in life was probably prevented by his Jacobitical principles. He is reputed to have written some of the popular songs that greatly aided the Pretender's cause in Scotland." Unbroken tradition in the neighbourhood assigns the authorship of "O, Logie o' Buchan" to

Halket. The heroine of the ballad was Isobel Keith, who died in 1826 at the age of 89, and lies buried in Lonmay churchyard. On the farm of Nether-ton of Logie, on the north-east side of the estate of Logie, are the remains of a well-defined Druidical circle, in a high state of preservation. Logie is said to be a Gaelic word signifying the lower part of a hollow glen or valley. The name is also applied to the ashes found at the bottom of a kiln ; and, connected with Druidical circles, it is "the place of utterance."

The site of the old chapel of Kininmonth, on the south border of the parish of Lonmay, about two miles from Logie, is still pointed out. In a "Description of the parish of Lonmay, A.D. M.DCC.XXII.," among Macfarlane's "Geographical MS. Collections," this chapel is mentioned—"Half a mile to the east from Kininmonth, ther is the remains of an old chappell and a burial-place, though now in dessuetude. The King's highway goeth from Inveralochie, south by the church, to The Calsay of Kininmonth, being thorough a moss, one mile to the west of the house of Kininmonth ; near to which causay, on the north side, ther's The Loch of Kininmonth, which will be two miles in circumference, but produceth no kind of fish." A number of years ago, a finely-cast bronze vessel, in good preservation, was dug up from the moss in the neighbourhood of this chapel, and is now in the possession of the proprietor, Major-General Russell of Aden. The loch of Kininmonth was drained twenty years ago. About 1838, a Chapel of Ease was built on the estate of Kininmonth, nearly two miles west of the house of that name : it is now a *quoad sacra* church.

Knowsie, situated in a clump of wood, is passed on the left, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Crimond Church. The estate was purchased in 1898 from Mr. John Lumsden Gordon Shirrefs by Mr. William Macconachie, fishcurer, Provost of Fraserburgh. Farther along, and also on the left side of the road is Mormond House, an excellent family mansion, built early in the present century by Mr. John Gordon of Cairnbulg, but now the property of Mr. William Fraser Cordiner of Cortes, to whom the estate, burdened with certain legacies, was left by Miss Strachan. With great natural capabilities, Mormond House has received every accession that the hand of taste could devise to render it a delightful residence. Lake, lawn, and woodland, shady glens, and sunny slopes alternate with an ever-pleasing variety. Away to the right may be seen Craigellie, a comparatively modern mansion-house erected about 1850, formerly belonging to a family of the name of Shand, but now the property of Mr. John Henderson Milne. In this neighbourhood, the boundary between the parish of Lonmay and the parish of Rathen is reached.

The Church of Rathen, was dedicated to St. Ethernan, Bishop of Aberdeen, whose feast was kept on the second day of December.* The old

* "Saint Eddran lived towards the end of the sixth century. He was bred to religion from his childhood, but, being grown up, went over to Irland for his farther improvement among the clergy, who were then famous there. By them he was made a Bishop, and, returning into Scotland, took into his company certain priests and deacons, whom he had before instructed, and with whom he travelled over the country, as a Pilgrim, labouring indefatigably for the salvation of souls. Wheresoever he came

church—one of the oldest in the county—is said to have been given by Marjory, Countess of Buchan, to the monks of Arbroath; and in 1328, the benefice was gifted by Robert the Bruce to the College and Canons of St. Machar—the incumbent being the stipendiary of the Dean and Chapter till the period of the Reformation. The church consisted of a nave and aisle. The aisle, which bears date 1633, and belonged to the Frasers of Memsie, contains a recess, or aumbry, in the east wall; above the aisle door is the inscription, “Alexander Fraser of Philorth, Patron.” On the south face of the belfry is the date 1782; on the west the initials $A^L S$ (supposed to represent Lord Abernethy and Saltoun), and on the north $w^M C$ (Magister William Cumine, minister of the parish); and the bell bears the inscription “Peter Jansen, 1643.” The old church underwent repair in 1767, but was replaced in 1870 by a new church—a Gothic building, with a spire—erected to the west of the old site. There is a Free Church in the parish. It was built shortly after the Disruption, and was greatly altered and improved in 1896.

Near the Parish Church, and scarcely a mile apart, are two mounds, apparently artificial; the one is called Trefor hill, and the other St. Oyne’s hill. They are nearly circular, and level on the summit,

he visited the sick, (and, it is said, often cured them); and baptized and confirmed, where there was need. He also consecrated several churches, and particularly Rethin, which was afterwards dedicated to his own memory; and in that parish there is a den, said to have been his Hermitage, and to this day called Saint Eddran’s Slack”—on the east side of Mormond. (“View of the Diocese of Aberdeen.”)

where they measure about 30 yards in diameter. The Trefor hill, north-east of the church, appears to have been fortified at some period, traces of walls and trenches, of earth and stone, being still visible. It has been suggested that this mound may have been partly formed by the eddying of the water of Philorth when the river filled the adjacent plain much more completely than now, and that the mound thus formed may have been used as a fort or rath. "If this conjecture be correct," says the writer, "possibly this place may have given the name to the district—Rath-aan, or Rath-aven—'the river fort.'" Of the mound of St. Oyne, or St. Eyn, little is known. A parish in the Garioch bears the name of Oyne, but was originally called Unyn. Unyn or Eunan is a contraction of Adamnan, but there is no tradition connecting the saint with the mound which apparently bears his name. South-west from the church, and two miles distant, there is a stone, the only one remaining of a Druidical circle on the estate of Cortes, from which that property is said to derive its name—Cortes, in Gaelic, signifying a circle.

Rathen belonged originally to the Frasers of Philorth, but afterwards became the property of a family named Craufurd; the greater portion of the parish is now once more part of the Philorth estates. About a mile westward from the church of Rathen the old mansion-house of Auchiries, standing on the south bank of the Burn of Camculter, a tributary of the Water of Philorth, into which it runs about half a mile east from the house. The grounds in the neighbourhood are wild, but not very picturesque. Auchiries belonged to the Earls Marischal. Patrick

Ogilvie of Hallyeards, a cadet of the noble house of Findlater, purchased the lands of Auchiries and Cortes from William, Earl Marischal, about 1701-2. These estates remained in the possession of the Ogilvies for about a century. In 1806 or 1807 they were sold—Auchiries to Mr. Charles Gordon, and Cortes to Mr. John Gordon of Cairnbulg; and in 1816 or 1817 Mr. Gordon sold Auchiries to Mr. J. C. Hunter of Tillery, in the possession of whose descendants it still remains.

This old mansion, now fast falling into ruin, was the scene of a singular episode in the life of the last Lord Pitsligo, which is thus recorded in Lord Medwyn's biographical sketch of that nobleman—

In March 1756, and of course long after all apprehension of a search had ceased, information having been given to the then commanding officer at Fraserburgh, that Lord Pitsligo was at that moment in the house of Auchiries, it was acted upon with so much promptness and secrecy, that the search must have proved successful, but for a very singular occurrence. Mrs. Sophia Donaldson, a lady who lived much with the family, repeatedly dreamt on that particular night, that the house was surrounded by soldiers. Her mind became so haunted with the idea, that she got out of bed, and was walking through the room in hopes of giving a different current to her thoughts before she lay down again: when day beginning to dawn, she accidentally looked out at the window as she passed it in traversing the room, and was astonished at actually observing the figures of soldiers among some trees near the house. So completely had all idea of a search been by that time laid asleep, that she supposed they had come to steal poultry, Jacobite poultry-yards affording a safe object of pillage for the English soldiers in those days. Under this impression Mrs. Sophia was proceeding to rouse the servants, when her sister having awaked, and inquiring what was the matter, and being told of soldiers near the house, exclaimed, in great alarm, that she feared they

wanted something more than hens. She begged Mrs. Sophia to look out at a window on the other side of the house, when not only soldiers were seen in that direction, but also an officer giving instructions by signals, and frequently putting his fingers on his lips, as if enjoining silence. There was now no time to be lost in rousing the family, and all the haste that could be made was scarcely sufficient to hurry the venerable man from his bed, into a small recess behind the wainscot of an adjoining room, which was concealed by a bed, in which a Lady, Miss Gordon of Towie, who was there on a visit, lay, before the soldiers obtained admission. A most minute search took place. The room in which Lord Pitsligo was concealed did not escape: Miss Gordon's bed was carefully examined, and she was obliged to suffer the rude scrutiny of one of the party, by feeling her chin, to ascertain that it was not a man in a lady's night-dress. Before the soldiers had finished their examination in this room, the confinement and anxiety increased Lord Pitsligo's asthma so much, and his breathing became so loud, that it obliged Miss Gordon, lying in bed, to counterfeit and continue a violent coughing, in order to prevent the high breathing behind the wainscot from being heard. It may easily be conceived what agony she would suffer, lest, by overdoing her part, she should increase suspicion and lead to a discovery. The ruse was fortunately successful. On the search through the house being given over, Lord Pitsligo was hastily taken from his confined situation, and again replaced in bed; and as soon as he was able to speak, his accustomed kindness of heart made him say to his servant, "James, go and see that these poor fellows get some breakfast, and a drink of warm ale, for this is a cold morning; they are only doing their duty, and cannot bear me any ill will." When the family were felicitating each other on his escape, he pleasantly observed, "A poor prize had they obtained it—an old, dying man!" That the friends who lived in the house—the hourly witnesses of his virtues, and the objects of his regard, who saw him escape all the dangers that surrounded him—should reckon him the peculiar care of Providence, is not to be wondered at; and that the dream which was so opportune, as the means of preventing his apprehension, and probably of saving his life, was supposed by some of them at least to be a

special interposition of Heaven's protecting shield against his enemies, need not excite surprise. This was accordingly the belief of more than one to their dying hour.

In a north-westerly direction from Auchiries, and rather more than a mile distant, is the mansion-house of Memsie. According to the author of the "View of the Diocese of Aberdeen," Memsie was, at the time he wrote, "the seat of Fraser of Memsie, one of the immediate cadets of Philorth, and of three hundred years' standing." Judging from its style, the present house (now a farmhouse) must have been built about the middle of the eighteenth century. The wainscoting and other peculiarities are interesting, as specimens of the style of that period. The estate of Memsie was ultimately sold to one of the Lords Saltoun in the early part of the nineteenth century.

The Cairn-moor of Memsie lies north-east from the house. In a "Description of Rathen, by Mr. Alexander Hepburn, A.D. M.DCC.XXI.," among Macfarlane's "MS. Geographical Collections," is the following account:—

North from Memsie, is a large muir, named The Carnmuir, from three very great carns of stores, half a mile north-east from Memsie. They are about a hundred yards distant from one another: each is near a hundred yards of circumference at the basis, and about forty foot perpendicular hight. There are many little carns in this muir, which seem to be the burial-places of common souldiers slain there, as the great carns appear to be monuments raisit upon the chiefs that have there fallen. There is no probable tradition about these carns, nor history that I know of, that mentions them; but I shall tell you my conjecture, and the reason for it. Some years ago I read, either in Hector Boethius or Dr. Abercromby's Scots Worthys, I have forgot which, that the Danes landing upon the Buchan coast, and being by the Scots defeat at Cruden, the remains of their army, instead of taking ship again, endeavour'd to join a colony

of their countrymen who were then settled in Murray. Now, it is probable, their march would be this way, because in their distress they would not adventure to go far from the coast, where they might expect some relief from their ships.*

Only one of these cairns now remains. Mr. Cock, in the *New Statistical Account*, says—"It is composed of small round stones, is about 60 feet in circumference at the base, and about 15 or 16 feet high. In the foundation of one of the former cairns, there was discovered an urn of peculiar shape, containing calcined bones. There were also found several human skulls, and a short sword with an iron handle. The foundation of one of these cairns exhibits a large mass of vitrified matter, resembling what is found in vitrified forts." Mr. Cock adds—"On a rising ground east of the church, there have been found at various times urns of different sizes. In one of these a large boar's tusk was discovered." There appears to be a great discrepancy between these two statements; but this doubtless arises from the gradual diminution in the size of the cairns—about 120 years having intervened between the two accounts. With the exception of the trifling remains of this one magnificent specimens of these cairns, of which the

* This conjecture is not borne out, at least by Abercromby, who represents the battle of Gamery to have occurred when the Danes, after their defeat at Aberlemno, were making their way to their friends in Moray. This was several years before the battle of Cruden. Their fleet being detained in the Firth by stress of weather, and pressed by want of provisions, five hundred of the bravest of them ventured to land on the coast, near Gamery, when they were attacked by Mernane, Thane of Buchan, and, after a desperate resistance, put to the sword to a man.

dimensions have just been given, it is much to be regretted that all these rude records of a past age have been heedlessly or wilfully removed for the building of dykes and such-like utilitarian purposes.

A little beyond Memsie, to the west, the parish of Tyrie is reached. It is a long, irregularly-shaped parish, stretching down to that of New Deer, and including, as already mentioned, the village of New Pitsligo. The name Tyrie, it has been suggested, is derived from the Gaelic *Tigh rìgh* or *Tigh an rìgh*, meaning "King's house." The explanation given in the Old Statistical Account is that the name was taken from a religious house that once stood upon the ground occupied by the old manse. No record, however, can be found of any religious house in the parish; and recourse is had to the view that the name *Tigh rìgh* arose from some petty Pictish king having resided in the district—mention is made in the "Book of Deer" of a Celtic chief dwelling in the neighbouring parish of Aberdour. Another suggestion is that Tyrie is derived from *Tigh a fhraeigh* (pronounced Ty-aree), meaning "house of the heath;" but this derivation, like the other, is dubious.

The original church of Tyrie was one of great antiquity. It is referred to in Macfarlane's "MS. Geographical Collections" (1723) as "the oldest in this diocie, being very short and high-walled like to a chappell;" and in Hepburn's "Description of Buchan" (1721), it is said to have been known as "the White Kirk of Buchan," and to have been built before John Knox was born, "the oldest date legible upon any of the antient pews" being 1596. Drummond of Hawthornden, in his "History of Scotland,"

mentions that the Queen Dowager of James I., "to counterbalance her plot, giveth out a pilgrimage to The White Kirk of Buchan;" but judging from an allusion by Hector Boece, the first Principal of King's College, Aberdeen (who was apparently at one time rector of Tyrie), in his History, "this shrine could scarcely have been in the parish church of Tyrie, which we know was dedicated to Saint Andrew the Apostle, while the Queen's pilgrimage, we are told, was to a chapel of the Blessed Virgin." ("View of the Diocese"—Tyrie, footnote.) The present church was built in 1800.

In digging up the foundation of the old church, says the New Statistical Account, "there was found deposited in the north-eastern corner, as the foundation stone, a rough unhewn shapeless mass of blue clayish-mica-stone, with a hieroglyphic or other figure, which has puzzled the conjectures of the most learned of our antiquarians." This stone is now known to antiquarians as the Tyrie Stone, but in the district it is called the Raven Stone, from a bird bearing a resemblance to a raven forming part of the sculpture on it; a drawing of the stone is given in the Spalding Club's "Sculptured Stones of Scotland." The New Statistical Account adds—"A few years ago, there was standing, in the immediate vicinity of the church, a sort of circular mound, called the Moat, the work of a very remote era, but at what time, or for what purpose erected, we do not pretend to conjecture." May it not be imagined that this mysterious stone, antecedent to its being placed in the foundation of the church, had formed the centre of the religious rites or judicial acts of a pre-historic age, of which the

mound had been the local seat? The hieroglyphics have been thought by competent authorities to be of Eastern or Buddhist origin, which greatly strengthens this conjecture. This interesting relic, after having lain for some years in the churchyard, is now located in the porch of the church, having been placed there with a view to its better preservation.

There is a flat tombstone in the churchyard, with the following inscription in Latin round the edge—

INSPEBEATAERESSURRECTIONISFILIA **EZAG**
RDELMRIEZTEGICVRAVITOSSAPATRICICVMIN &
 CHRISTINAESVAECONIVGIS & ENATISQUORVNDAM.

In the centre, the stone bears the following—

MORSDO . MINVMSER . VOMORS . SCEPTRALI
 GONIBVS . ÆQAT

The first inscription may be translated—"In the hope of a blessed resurrection, the daughter of Eliza Gordon (or Garden) and Henri Cuming caused the bones of Patrick Cumin, Christina his wife, and several of their children, to be entombed or covered;" the second—"Death levels the master with the man, and sceptres with dung-forks." Nothing is known of the family to which this tombstone must have at one time belonged.

The principal mansion-house in the parish is Boyndlie House, situated on the crest of a deep wooded ravine—the Den of Boyndlie—through which winds an approach fully a mile in length, forming one of the most picturesque walks or drives in Buchan. The natural beauties of the Den were greatly enhanced by the late proprietor, Dr. Ogilvie-Forbes, who planted numerous trees of various kinds and constructed

walks throughout the grounds. The House itself is a comparatively modern mansion, having been built in 1814. It stands on the site of an older mansion, a quaint account of which is given in Macfarlane's "MS. Geographical Collections"—"The other remarkable house in this parish [in addition to Tyrie] is that of Boynlie, built in *anno* M.DC.LX., by Boynlie, the late tutor of Pitsligo, but much augmented and beautified by Captain Forbes of Boynlie, his son, by the addition of two jambs, and a fore parlour or vestibule 'twixt them, and a balcony above, making the house double. It is situat in the center of a rock, in the middle of a glen, which affords terraces on each side . . . in the middle of the entrie, and of a pair of stairs, ascending by twelve steps to the house from a handsome avenue and square, from the utter gate. The east side or back of the house is a story higher, by the cellars being cut out of the rock; and below are three handsome terraces, and ane opposite bank, where as many are designed. There runs a handsome brook northwards, thorow a large low orchard, which has its rise from two springs, half a mile or more above the house; the one whereof, within a large inclosure of a den, called Cairnmurnin, remarkable for sending out such a great quantity of fyne water from the fountain-head, fronting eastward, that it chiefly supplies a cornmilne, lately built near the hous and foot of the said inclosure. This is the head of the water which passes northward to the church and hous of Tyrie, falling into the forsaid canale. From this hous, invironed with fine gardens, well planted, and walled with rounds on every corner, half rounds on each side of fore and back entries,

on the east and west, with a summerhouse and ducat on the south and north, and standing in the low parlour, has a small viese to each airth, there are some remarkable echos, which will repeat severall words distinctly." A winding footpath through the den leads to the "Murnin" Well.* The terraces near the house have been abandoned, but are still traceable. The gardens are very productive, their sheltered situation being favourable to the choicest kinds of fruit, even kinds that have been thought to require a southern climate; peaches and apricots, for instance, ripen on the walls in great abundance.

The first house of Boyndlie was built by a Forbes of Boyndlie, who is described by the author of the "View of the Diocese" as "the latest cadet of Pitsligo." He was killed in the battle of Craibstone in 1575. His descendant, John Forbes of Boyndlie, commonly known as "The Tutor of Pitsligo," rebuilt the house in 1660; and in 1690 his son, Captain Forbes, greatly enlarged it. Captain Forbes died soon after, and was succeeded by his son, John Forbes. He died in 1741, his two daughters succeeding him as heirs-portioners. The estate was sold, about 1781, to a Captain George Irvine. He died about 1797, and in 1812 his executors sold the estate to John Forbes of Ladysford and Upper Boyndlie (properties purchased by his great-grandfather from Lord Pitsligo in 1711). In 1814, John Forbes pulled down the old mansion, and

* There are also a "Murnin" Den and a Cairn "Murnin," and a farm called Marno. Probably all these names refer to a man called Mernane or Marnan; but whether he was a saint or a chief is uncertain.

erected the present one on its site. Seven of his eight sons died, either young or unmarried : of his daughters, Katherine, the eldest, was married to Alexander Scott of Craibstone; Jane, the fourth daughter, was married to John Charles Ogilvie, M.D., of the family of Ogilvie of Auchiries; the other two died young. On his death, in 1824, he was succeeded by his second son, Alexander Forbes. Alexander Forbes died in 1862 without issue, and was succeeded by his sister, Mrs. Ogilvie, who assumed the name of Ogilvie-Forbes. She was succeeded in 1876, by her eldest son, Dr. George Ogilvie-Forbes, who was Professor of Physiology in Aberdeen University (1860-77) and the author of "Early Progress of Christianity in Buchan" ("Club of Deir" Papers, 1873.)* He was succeeded, in 1886, by his only son, Mr. John Charles Matthias Ogilvie-Forbes, the present proprietor of Boyndlie.

The estate of Tyrie was for long the property of the Frasers of Tyrie, a branch of the family of Frasers of Philorth : it now belongs to Lord Saltoun. There was once a mansion-house on the estate, which is thus described by Macfarlane—"Tyrie, about half a mile east from the church, being an avenue the whole way. Its a large edifice, of forty foot square, and a large round on every corner, with a pavilion roof; the upper story of three being one rouse, of forty foot square, having four large chimneys and eight windows, and so many in each of the lower stories, with a coat of armes, weel cutt, for the lintels, as the branshes of the family.

* See sketch of Dr. Ogilvie-Forbes by Professor John G. M'Kendrick, Glasgow, in "Aurora Borealis Academica" (Aberdeen, 1899).

This house not being finished in the rounds, throw the death of James Fraser of Tyvie, the founder, in *anno* M.DC.XC. is like to turn ruins, throw disorder of his sons affairs, now abroad. It has large orchards, and . . . of barren planting; and, at foot of the parks, below the house, eastward, is a pretty canal or water draught, of twelve foot broad, near a mile in length, running eastward, and falling in, below Philorth and Cairnbulg, into the sea." (This stream, in conjunction with others, ultimately forms the Water of Philorth).

The other antiquities of the parish are thus described in the New Statistical Account—"Barrows or tumuli we possess, as well as other minor indications of battle and frays fought in our neighbourhood. Connected apparently with the authenticated coast-wise line of march of the Danish army, though partially diverging from but afterwards converging to their line of march through the fastnesses of Auchmedden to the bay of Gamrie, our principal tumuli seem to point out the scenes of successive conflicts and defeats of the retreating army, and to mark the graves of some slaughtered Danish or Scottish chieftain. About three miles farther west, almost in the entrance of the defiles of Auchmedden, stands the Law Cairn. This has been partially explored for the purpose of antiquarian research, but nothing was discovered. Not far distant, however, there were found, about twenty-two years ago (1819), in the course of quarrying some outlying stones, remains of ancient armour, probably Roman." These mounds, like the Moat, have almost entirely disappeared.

Returning from Memsie by the Cairnmair road to the Peterhead and Fraserburgh public road, and proceeding in the direction of Fraserburgh, the south lodge of Philorth House, the seat of Lord Saltoun, is passed. The approach to the house from this lodge is nearly two miles long and winds through thick plantations. The house itself was modernised and largely rebuilt in 1874. Part of it is said to be very old, "1666" being incised on one of the walls, probably indicating the date of this particular portion of the edifice—"a fine example of a simple but picturesque Scottish mansion of the seventeenth century." (Macgibbon & Ross's "Castellated and Domestic Architecture," ii., 507). It is believed to have been built by Alexander, tenth Lord Saltoun, on his failing to recover the old Manor Place of Philorth (Cairnbulg Castle) in consequence of the adverse decision respecting the lands of Cairnbulg already adverted to. Philorth House then became the seat of the family. From the north-west entrance to the Philorth policies, the distance to Fraserburgh is two miles. About half-way, and near the farm of Kirkton, is the churchyard of the old church of Philorth. The church seems to have been removed to Fraserburgh (then called Faithlie) soon after the Reformation, but the churchyard continued to be the place of interment for Fraserburgh people till superseded, several years ago, by a cemetery laid out alongside it.*

* The parish of Crimond is the reputed scene of a tragic event celebrated in ballad literature. Tradition locates at a spot called "the Battle Fauld," near the Mill of Haddo, the grave of Sir James the Rose, who was slain in mortal combat by Sir John the Graeme, when contending for the hand of

Lord Buchan's daughter. The tradition, however, is contrary to the real facts. (See *ante*, p. 163.) The honour is sometimes attributed to Crimond of having given birth to Arthur Johnstone, the famous Latin poet of the sixteenth century; but Keith-hall lays claim to this celebrity, and on evidence that can hardly be set aside. It may be mentioned, however, that Bilbo, in Crimond, was the birthplace of John Farquhar, known as "the rich Farquhar of Fonthill." Amassing a fortune as a contractor to the Bengal Government, Farquhar returned to this country and became associated with a great agency house in London. He bought Fonthill Abbey from William Beckford in 1822, but sold it three years later. He died in 1826. His wealth amounted to about a million and a half, and, as he left no will, it was divided amongst his seven nephews and nieces, almost all of whom belonged to Aberdeenshire. (See Anderson's "Scottish Nation" and the "Dictionary of National Biography.")

George Halket, the author of "O, Logie o' Buchan," was born at Mill of Savock, in the parish of Lonmay. In the years 1736-37 he was schoolmaster at Rathen, whence he removed to Cairnbulg owing to a scuffle he had in the church of Rathen one Sunday with the minister, Mr. James Anderson, Junior (who died in 1740). After continuing for a long time as a popular teacher in Cairnbulg, he removed in 1750 to Memsie, where he had as pupils Colonel Fraser of Memsie and the children of Sir James Innes, then residing at Tyrie. Halket's troubles arose from staunch support of the Jacobite cause, for his devotion to which he had to flee from Memsie and hide for a considerable time. He was subsequently engaged as a private teacher in Tyrie, whence he returned to Memsie, where he died in 1756. (See Note at the end of Peter Buchan's Ballads.) He is credited with the authorship of "Whirry Whigs awa', man"; but, according to Mr. Walker's "Bards of Bon-Accord," it is doubtful if he was actually the author of that ballad. [See "Two Buchan Songs" by Gavin Greig, Whitehill, New Deer—in "Transactions of Buchan Field Club," 1899 (vol. v.), and "Logie o' Buchan" by Gavin Greig (Aberdeen: D. Wyllie & Son, 1899).] For further details of Halket's career, reference is made to the notice of Rathen in Jervise's "Epitaphs." Here also will be found mention of the grandfather

of Sir Theodore Martin, the author of the "Bon Gaultier Ballads," and "The Life of the Prince Consort." He was ground officer on the estate of Cairnbulg, and was buried in Rathen churchyard.

In the year 1808, Mr. Gordon of Cairnbulg, being in Devonshire, saw the scythe used in reaping the grain crops, and at once introduced the practice into Buchan. On the Home Farm of Cortes he that same year had a field of oats reaped in this way, and was laughed at for his pains by the neighbouring farmers. However, in the course of a very few years they all saw the advantage of adopting an improvement which they, *more agriculturali*, had thus ridiculed.

An ancient manuscript—to which the title of "The Rathen Manual" has been given—was recently discovered in the library of the late Rev. John F. M. Cock, D.D., who was parish minister of Rathen from 1841 till his death in 1895. It is (though incomplete) what is technically known as a manual or portiforium, and was evidently intended for some pre-Reformation Scottish priest. A paper on this Manual was read by Rev. Duncan MacGregor, Inverallochy, at a meeting of the Aberdeen Ecclesiological Society, 15 September, 1896.

A curious dispute occurred about 1637 between Lord Fraser of Muchalls, proprietor of Cairnbulg, and the then Laird of Philorth, Alexander Fraser, who subsequently became the tenth Lord Saltoun. In the rebuilding of the kirkyard dyke of the parish church of Rathen, the rebuilding of the stile or entrance fell to Lord Fraser, who placed his arms over the stile. This incensed Philorth, the patron of the church, who caused boards bearing his arms to be placed over the sculptured arms of Lord Fraser. A litigation in the Court of Session ensued. (See Lord Saltoun's "Fraser of Philorth.") The old church of Rathen is described and illustrated in Macgibbon & Ross's "Ecclesiastical Architecture of Scotland" (iii., 601). An account of the parish of Rathen is also given in Jervise's "Epitaphs" (ii., 57-63).

CHAPTER XV.

FRASERBURGH.

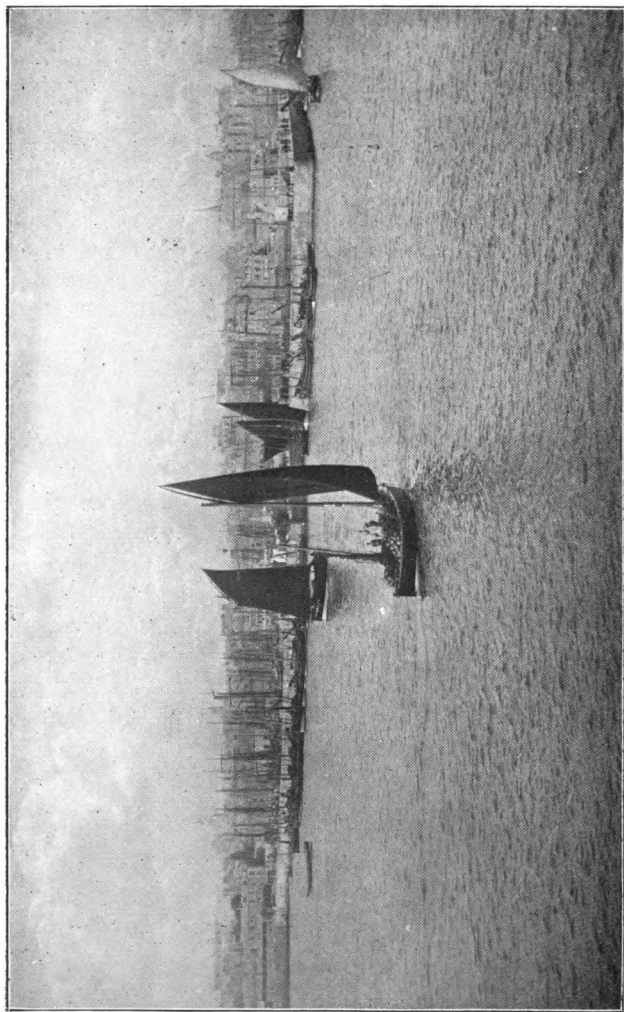
FRASERBURGH is the second town in Buchan, having a population (1891) of 7466. A busy and thriving town, and the terminus of a section of the Great North of Scotland Railway, it has of late years become the largest centre of the herring fishing industry in Scotland, the quantity of herrings landed on its quays during the season being greater than that landed at any other port between Wick and Eyemouth.

The town was founded by one of the Frasers of Philorth, and the family—now represented by Lord Saltoun—has been intimately connected with the development of the burgh, the superiority of which it has always retained. The honour of a prediction by Thomas the Rhymer is claimed by the family in a couplet, the old reading of which was—

“Quhen there’s ne’er a Cock o’ the North,
You’ll find a Firzell in Philorth,”

and this prediction, of course, may be supposed to have been verified in the lapse for many years of the title of Duke of Gordon—“The Cock o’ the North.” The version of the rhyme preserved in the family, however, is somewhat different—

“While a cock craws in the North,
There’ll be a Fraser at Philorth.”



FRASERBURGH (FROM THE BREAKWATER).

The family of Fraser (or Frisall, Frisel, Frasel, Freysel, as it used sometimes to be written) is said to have come into England with the Normans and entered Scotland with the Gospatricks, Earls of Northumberland, who were driven from England, in consequence of rebellion against William the Conqueror, during the latter half of the eleventh century. The Frasers of Philorth are descended from the family of Frasers of Touch-fraser, near Stirling. This family was founded by Sir Alexander Fraser, who was Lord Chamberlain of Scotland from 1319 to 1326, and who married Lady Mary de Bruce, sister of King Robert the Bruce. He was succeeded by his eldest son, John, who, in turn, was succeeded by his only daughter, Margaret, who married William, eldest son of Sir Edward de Keith, the Marischal. The greater part of her grandfather's extensive estates passed with her into the family of the Keiths, being eventually divided between the Earls Marischal, the Earls of Huntly, and the Setons of Touch-fraser. The representation, in the male line, of the family of Sir Alexander Fraser passed to the descendants of his second son, Sir William Fraser, who received from David II. in 1369. a charter of the thanedom of Durris and the thanedom of Collie (or Cowie), in Kincardineshire. Sir William's elder son, Sir Alexander Fraser, who was Sheriff of Aberdeenshire for the greater part of his life, married Johanna, second daughter of William, Earl of Ross; and in 1375 he and his wife received from Sir Walter Leslie (who had married Euphemia, the elder daughter and heiress of William, Earl of Ross), a charter of all the lands of Philorth, in compensation and satisfaction of

his wife's claims as heir-portioner upon the lands of the earldom of Ross. These lands are thus enumerated in the charter—"Terras de Kirktown, Cairnbuilg, Inuerolochy, Ardglassey, Kinglassie cum molendino, Kinbog, Ardmakren, duos Brakours, Auchintuin, Auchmacludy, Braklawmoir, terras de maiore Drumquhendill et minore Drumquhendill, Auchinchogill, Plady, Loncardy, et Delgady, cum le Querell, terras de maiore Fintrie, Balchern, et Blaktoune." These lands, constituting the ancient lordship of Philorth, comprised very considerable portions of the present parishes of Fraserburgh, Rathen, Pitsligo, Aberdour, Tyrie, and Strichen.* The outlying portions—the lands of Auchinshogill, Plady, Loncardy, Delgady, and others in that neighbourhood, in the valley of the Deveron—were granted by Sir Alexander Fraser to his brother, John Fraser, in 1376, Sir Alexander Fraser, the first Fraser of Philorth, died in 1411, and was succeeded by his son, Sir William Fraser, who had, three years before, obtained, on the resignation of his father, the lands of Over and Nether Pittullie, Pitsligach, Culburty, and others in the barony of Aberdour. This laird of Philorth, however, was obliged to part with very considerable portions of the estate; and the process of divestment he was compelled to initiate was followed by others

* These lands, in fact, were a part of the ancient earldom of Buchan. After the "Harrying of Buchan," King Robert the Bruce divided the lands of the Earl of Buchan among his friends and followers, and among those who got a share was the Earl of Ross, who had married Bruce's sister, Matilda. (See account of King-Edward in Chap. xix.)

of the family so that to-day the lands of Philorth are but a fragment of the original possessions of the Frasers.

The "founder" of Fraserburgh is ordinarily regarded as Sir Alexander Fraser, the eighth laird of Philorth; but the honour has to be divided with his grandfather and immediate predecessor, Alexander Fraser, the seventh laird. This Alexander Fraser constructed "a convenient harbour" at Faithlie—the original designation of the town, and still occasionally used figuratively, though "The Broch" has become the colloquial appellation—and, in respect of that and "for other good services," he received a royal charter in 1546, erecting the place into a free burgh of barony, with the usual privileges to the burgesses, including authority to hold markets and practise various trades, etc. He also enlarged the family property, purchasing, in particular, in 1549, the Muircroft of Kirkton, Tyrie, together with the superiorities of Ardlaw and Bodychell. His grandson succeeded to Philorth in 1570, having previously succeeded to Pittulie on the death of his father in 1564, the lands of Pittalochy having also been settled upon him by his grandfather, when he married in 1559. This Alexander Fraser (the eighth laird of Philorth), according to Crawford's "Lives of the Officers of State in Scotland," enjoyed an eminent degree of favour with King James VI., both before and after his accession to the English throne, and had several charters of land from the monarch "upon narratives" that were much to his credit; and he was one of the barons upon whom the king conferred the honour of knighthood at the baptism of his son, Prince Henry.

August 30, 1594. He must have been a man of a very enterprising turn. Immediately after acceding to his estates, he "began to build a large and beautiful town at Faithlie, where his family had formerly a burgh of barony." On March 6, 1570, he laid the foundation of "the Tower of Kynnaid's head," since called the Castle of Fraserburgh; and the next year he built a new church. On March 9, 1576, "he began to build a large and convenient harbour at the same place, and himself laid the first stone of it, *in nomine Patris, Filii, et Spiritus Sancti.*" After this, "he continued to beautify and enlarge the town with publick buildings and fine streets." He received a charter of reinfestment in his lands from James VI., on April 9, 1588, in which a grant of novodamus was inserted erecting Faithlie into a free port and burgh of barony. Another charter was granted on July 1, 1592, creating Faithlie a burgh of regality with a free port, "and ordaining that the same shall in all time coming be called the burgh and port de Fraser," and authorising the building of a College and founding a University "that should enjoy as ample rights, privileges, and immunities as those of any other University in the kingdom;" and by a third charter, dated April 4, 1601, James VI. ratified and confirmed to Sir Alexander Fraser and his heirs all the grants mentioned in the two previous charters and all the powers and privileges conferred by them, these including the nomination of the Magistrates and Town Council. The Aberdeen Town Council instituted proceedings to have the creation of Fraserburgh as a burgh of regality and free port declared illegal, on the contention that the privileges

of trade, etc., granted to Aberdeen, included the whole ~~shires~~ of county; but the proceedings, after dragging on for several years, were eventually abandoned, and Fraserburgh was left in the peaceful enjoyment of its privileges. "Crawford," says the late Lord Saltoun, in "The Frasers of Philorth," "has placed on record a Latin epigram by Mr. David Rattray, then minister of Philorth, who thus, according to the fashion of the age, celebrated the institution of the burgh:—

' Hæc tibi Fraseria populi Rex curia nomen,
Hæc dedit a proavis nobile nomen eques;
Vive diu felix, vero pietatis amore:
Vive memor tanti nominis usque tui.'

Which may be rendered into English in the following words:—

' The king, O Fraserburgh! has given to thee
A name, through ages known to knightly fame.
Long flourish thou! upheld by piety;
And aye be mindful of thine honoured name.' "

Sir Alexander Fraser's eldest son, Alexander—who became the ninth laird of Philorth—married Margaret, daughter of George de Abernethy, seventh Lord Saltoun, in 1595, and had a son Alexander, who ultimately became the tenth laird of Philorth, though, by the time of his accession, the family estates had, owing to various causes, been considerably diminished. This tenth laird of Philorth figured prominently in the Covenanted struggles between 1640 and 1648, but subsequently became ardently devoted to the cause of Charles II. In 1668, his cousin, Alexander de Abernethy, ninth Lord Saltoun, died without issue. Lord Saltoun's only sister died

unmarried soon after, and Alexander Fraser, the tenth of Philorth, became the tenth Lord Saltoun, taking his seat in the Scottish Parliament in 1670. It is unnecessary to dwell on the Saltoun lineage in detail ; to mention one or two of the more prominent members of the family will suffice. Alexander Fraser, fifteenth Lord Saltoun (1781-93), was a member of the Scottish bar and published "Thoughts on the Disqualification of the eldest sons of the Peers of Scotland to sit for that country in Parliament, with observations on the civil polity of the Kingdom." He married Margery, daughter and ultimately heiress of Simon Fraser, of Ness Castle, and, in consequence of this alliance, his son and successor acquired a considerable increase of property. Simon Fraser, moreover, bought back a large portion of the lands sold by former lairds of Philorth, and entailed them on his daughter's descendants. Alexander George Fraser, sixteenth Lord Saltoun (1793-1853), was a distinguished military officer, attaining the rank of Lieutenant-General. He served in the Walcheren Expedition and the Peninsular Campaign, and was present at the battles of Quatre Bras and Waterloo, playing a conspicuous part in the occupation and defence of Hougomont. He subsequently served in the Chinese Campaign, 1842-3, under Sir Hugh Gough, and, on its successful termination, was left in command of the Army of Occupation at Hong Kong. He was made a K.T. and K.C.B.; he was for many years one of the Scottish representative peers; and he was married to a daughter of Lord Chancellor Thurlow. Alexander Fraser, seventeenth Lord Saltoun (1853-86), was a nephew of the sixteenth peer, being a son of

William Fraser, third son of the fifteenth peer, his mother being a daughter of Mr. David Macdowall Grant, of Arndilly, Banffshire. He married Charlotte, daughter of Mr. Thomas Browne Evans, of Dean House, Oxfordshire; and was succeeded by his son, Alexander William Frederick Fraser, the present Lord Saltoun, formerly Major and Lieutenant-Colonel in the Grenadier Guards. He is one of the Scottish representative peers, and was Grand Master Mason of Scotland, 1897-99 (inclusive). He is married to Mary Helena, sister of Sir Henry Christopher Grattan-Bellew, Bart., of Mount Bellew, Galway; hence, it may be presumed, the name Grattan given to one of the latest-constructed streets in Fraserburgh.

Perhaps the most curious feature in the history of Fraserburgh is the grant to Sir Alexander Fraser, the founder of the burgh, of the privilege of founding a University, "with power to him and his heirs to appoint and remove the masters, teachers, and officials of the university, and to enact and cause to be obeyed such rules and regulations as might be necessary for its government"—this authority for the foundation of a University being confirmed by an Act of Parliament, dated 16 December, 1597, which granted the University the four parish churches of Philorth, Tyrie, Crimond, and Rathen, and constituted their ministers its teachers. Of the College or University, however, exceedingly little is known. In the account of the parish furnished to the New Statistical Account by Rev. John Cumming, the minister, in 1840, the following occurs—"At the west end of the town is an old quadrangular tower of three

storeys, which formed part of a large building originally intended for a college by Sir Alexander Fraser of Philorth, who, in 1592, obtained a charter from the Crown, in which powers were given to erect and endow a college and university—to appoint a rector, a principal, a sub-principal, and all the professors for teaching the different sciences they should think proper and necessary—and to make laws for the preservation of good order, with authority to enforce them. Every immunity and privilege of an university was granted for it, as appears from the following words of the charter—‘In amplissima forma, et modo debito, in omnibus respectibus, ut conceditur et datur cuicunque collegio et universitati intra regnum nostrum erecto seu erigendo.’ In 1597, the General Assembly recommended Mr. Charles Ferme, at that time minister here, to be principal; but owing to some cause, which has not been sufficiently explained, most probably to the want of funds, the matter here stopped, for nothing farther was done in it.” According to Wodrow, the Assembly’s appointment of Mr. Ferme was made in 1600—“In the year 1600, Mr. Ferme entered upon his work as Minister in the town of Frazerburgh, and Master of the Colledge there, and continued a burning and shining light, singularly usefull in that place and to the country round, for 17 years, but sadly interrupted by the persecution of prelates, for more than half that time.” In a “Note on the University of Fraserburgh” in “Selections from the Records of Marischal College,” vol. i. (New Spalding Club), Mr. P. J. Anderson indicates that the work of the newly-founded College probably went on without interruption for five sessions;

but that the scheme received its death-blow in 1605, owing to the ecclesiastical troubles of the time. Rev. Dr. Lippe, however, in his introduction to the New Spalding Club's volume of "Wodrow's Biographical Collections," says—"No positive authority has ever been adduced to prove that the College was opened for students, or even that the buildings were actually finished. . . . There is no contemporary notice, direct or indirect, that the College was in actual operation with students in attendance under either Ferme or the other designate regents."

After being shut up for about half a century, the College buildings were suddenly called into requisition in a peculiar manner. "The plague," which had existed in the southern districts of Scotland for two years, broke out in Aberdeen in June 1647, and continued its ravages till about the end of October; during the following winter, the Universities removed to Fraserburgh and Peterhead, where they sat during that session—the students of King's College proceeding to Fraserburgh, where, it is conjectured, they occupied the old College buildings. The "old quadrangular tower" could not have been standing at the time that Mr. Cumming wrote, having been demolished many years before, but it was in existence as late as 1793. The Old Statistical Account, describing the erection of a new schoolhouse in Fraserburgh, states that there was built into it "a good carving of Moses and the ten commandments on free stone found in the College of Fraserburgh, and said to have been intended for the altar-piece of its chapel." A large house that formerly stood in High Street, and was taken down

in 1898, was said to have been built with materials taken from the College. Four stones, built into the front of this house, had inscriptions, probably renewed at the time of their removal. They were—"Trust in God, for he is good," "His mercy is for ever," "Give Him thanks for all you have," "For He's the only giver."* It is noticeable that a street in Fraserburgh still bears the name "College Bounds"—the house just referred to was only 20 or 30 yards from College Bounds.

The Castle of Kinnaird's Head stands on a rocky headland, generally believed to be the *Taezalum Promontorium* of Ptolemy, which he speaks of as at the entrance of the *Æstuarium Varariae*, or Moray Firth. It was built (1570) in the form of a parallelogram, but the tower only now remains, and has been converted into a lighthouse, having been acquired by the Northern Lighthouse Commissioners and fitted up by them for that purpose, in 1787, being one of the first three lighthouses established in Scotland. This tower is a structure 39 feet long by 27 feet wide, rising to a height of four storeys, and furnished with battlements, having a lantern chamber on the top. The light is 120 feet above high-water mark, and is seen at sea at a distance of 17 miles. The castle commands an extensive view. Looking

* A sketch of the doorway of this house is given in Macgibbon & Ross's "Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland." In the tympanum were the initials—P.D. and P.R., with the device of an anchor above, and the date 1718. The authors also give a sketch and description of a house with courtyard and arched gateway—an "interesting survival of the style of early Scottish houses"—that stood in High Street, but was taken down several years ago.

westward, the eye traverses the whole expanse of the Moray Firth, resting on the far-off hills of Caithness which, at the distance of 60 miles, melt into the soft haze of the dipping clouds. The huge crags of Pennan and Troup Head give character to the centre of the picture, while, in the near distance, are seen the villages of Pittulie, Sandhaven, and Broadsea, nestling along the shore. Eastward stretches the fine bay of Fraserburgh, with its curving beach, embracing a three miles' circuit, bounded at the farther extremity by the fishing villages of Inverallochy and Cairnbulg.

The Wine Tower is an old quadrangular building, rising from a rock which overhangs the sea, about 50 yards south-east of the Castle of Kinnaid's Head. It is carried to the height of three storeys, and is 25 ft. 3 in. long, by 21 ft. wide at the base, and about 25 ft. high on the land side, but much higher seaward. There was at one time no visible entrance, except a sort of doorway in the third storey, but no trace now remains of any stairway to this storey. An aperture in the floor of the third storey admitted to the chambers beneath, and a stone staircase from the same storey led to the top of the structure. All three storeys are arched. The lower storeys are without windows, but in the upper storey there are four windows and a fire place. Here, moreover, there are evident attempts at decoration. Seven finely-carved pendants in freestone are inserted in the roof. The three central pendants consist of representations of the arms of Scotland, the House of Philorth, and a religious device respectively. The other pendants contain various armorial bearings, including the arms of the Forbeses, one of the quarterings of which shield

is charged with the three-rosettes pearl of the Frasers. A detailed description of the carvings is given in "Castles of Aberdeenshire," and they are also illustrated in Macgibbon & Ross's work (ii., 31). No history of this singular structure seems to be extant. The late Lord Saltoun suggested that the tower derives its name from a winding pathway from the castle, called the "Wynd," and not long ago one of the lighthouse keepers discovered the end of an underground passage, built of stone, close to the foot of the structure. Tradition has it that the building is much older than the Castle itself, but, unless the pendants mentioned had been inserted at a later date, this does not seem to be the case. The armorial bearings of the House of Philorth as represented on more than one of the pendants are identical with those used by the founder of Fraserburgh and the builder of the castle. Under the tower is a cave running into the rock for a short distance, and known as the Selch's Hole. The tower has, of course, a legend, and this is perhaps best related in the following verses—

LEGEND OF THE WINE TOWER.

Love wore a chaplet passing fair,
Within Kinnaird's proud Tower;
Where joyous youth and beauty rare,
Lay captive to his power.

But woe is me!—alack the day!
Pride spurned the simple wreath;
And scattering all those blooms away,
He doomed sweet love to death.

No bridal wreath, O maiden fair !
 Thy brow shall e'er adorn ;
 A father's stern behest is there,
 Of pride and avarice born.

What boots to him thy vows, thy tears ?
 What boots thy plighted troth ?
 One rich in pelf, and hoar in year,
 Is deemed of seemlier worth

Than he who, with but love to guide,
 Keeps tryst in yonder bower ;
 Where ruffians—hired by ruffian pride—
 His stalwart limbs secure.

.
 Where rolls old ocean's surging tide,
 The Wine Tower beetling stands,
 Right o'er a cavern deep and wide—
 No work of mortal hands.

Dark as the dark expanse of hell,
 That cavern's dreary space ;
 Whence never captive came to tell
 The secrets of the place.

There, bound in cruel fetters, lies
 The lover fond and true ;
 No more to glad the maiden's eyes,
 No more to bless her view !

No pitying hand relieves his want,
 No loving eye his woe ;
 A hapless prey to hunger gaunt—
 He dies in torments slow !

.
 Thus slept the youth in death's embrace :—
 Darkly the tyrant smiled ;
 The corse then dragged from that dread place,
 And bore it to his child.

“ Ay, say,” he cried, “ what greets thy view ;
 Canst trace these whilome charms ?
 Henceforth a fitter mate shall woo
 And win thee to his arms.

‘ Didst think that these, my brave broad lands,
 His love would well repay ?
 No, minion, no !—far other hands
 Shall bear the prize away.”

These direful words the maid arrest,—
 A marble hue she bore ;
 Then sinking on that clay-cold breast,
 “ We part,” she cried, “ no more !

“ No more shall man his will oppose,
 Nor man the wrong abet ;
 Our virgin love in fealty rose,
 In fealty it shall set.”

Then clasping close that shrouded form,
 Which erst her love inspired ;
 Fearless she breasted cliff and storm,
 By love and frenzy fired.

“ Farewell, ’O ruthless sire,” she cried,
 “ Farewell, earth’s all of good :
 Our bridal waits below the tide”—
 Then plunged beneath the flood !

At the southern extremity of the town, in Dalrymple Street, in the vicinity of the railway station, is a house that used to be known as “The World’s End.” There is a tradition that, in remote times, a castle, called Kinbucket, stood on its site ; but, so far as can be learned, there is no existing record of it, either printed or written. In much later—indeed, quite recent—times, there was a mineral well in its immediate vicinity.

The town of Fraserburgh—or, rather, what is now

the older portion of it—is built on a small plain, about a quarter of a mile southward from Kinnaird's Head, and in form nearly resembles a square, the streets generally intersecting each other at right angles ; but the town has of late years extended considerably to the north and west, many fine streets having been laid out by Lord Saltoun. The eastern quarter, lying close upon the harbour and bay, appears to be the most ancient part of the town ; and in this quarter are situated the Cross, the Town House, and the Parish Church. The Cross is a stone pillar rising to the height of 12 feet, surmounted by the royal arms and the armorial bearings of Fraser of Philorth. It stands in the centre of the square (formerly known as the Green), its original site, to which it was restored several years ago. For about forty years previously it had been located on the east side of the square ; it then stood upon an extensive basement, ascended by nine steps. The Town Hall—a fine building, containing several spacious rooms—was opened in 1855. It is surmounted by a domical tower of good design, which, however, is situated too near the Parish Church to show to advantage. Placed less in proximity to a building of such marked contrast to itself, it would have been unimpaired in its bold and striking effect. In a niche in the tower is a statue of General Lord Saltoun, the Waterloo hero. His portrait also hangs in the Town Hall, which is on the second floor ; and here also are a portrait of Sir Alexander Fraser—the founder of the town—a copy of Sir George Reid's portrait (in the Aberdeen Council Chamber) of Sir Alexander Anderson ; and portraits of other men prominent in

the history of the place, including Mr. John Park, the first elected Provost. The ground floor of the Town Hall was at one time used as a market. A Temperance Jubilee fountain was erected on the Square in 1889.

The Parish Church, as just indicated, is adjacent to the Town Hall. Fraserburgh was originally part of the parish of Philorth, and, as mentioned at the end of the previous chapter, the old churchyard of Philorth still remains at Kirkton, on the Links to the south of Fraserburgh, where, it is conjectured, there was at one time a fishing village. The foundation-stones of the old church, still held together with lime, are occasionally encountered in the digging of graves. A new church was built in Fraserburgh by Sir Alexander Fraser, the founder of the burgh, in 1571, and was apparently "augmented" or enlarged about 1628, being further repaired in 1688. According to the New Statistical Account, this church (or mayhap another) "was rebuilt in 1802; is a large, plain structure, and capable of containing 1000 sitters; has a spire with a bell, which was built by subscription, and cost about £300 sterling." It was renovated in 1873-4, and an organ was introduced in 1892; a large scheme of reconstruction, including the heightening of the steeple, the addition of a porch, etc., was carried out in 1898-9. The church contains a memorial tablet to Rev. Peter M'Laren, minister of the parish, 1861-87. The West Parish Church (*quoad sacra*), built in 1877, is situated on a commanding site at the end of Victoria Street, and has a very effective spire. The old Free Church was replaced in 1880 by a handsome and striking structure, in Seaforth Street, designed by the late Mr. John B. Pirie, architect,

Aberdeen ; it occupies the site of the old parish school. The former Episcopal Church (St. Peter's) in Mid Street, was also replaced, in 1891, by a church erected as a memorial of the learned and pious Bishop Jolly, who for half a century (1788-1838) was incumbent of the congregation. It is situated in Charlotte Street. Designed by Mr. John Kinross, architect, Edinburgh, it is in the Norman style of architecture, modified, however, by local treatment—what may be called Scoto-Norman. It consists of a massive western tower (not yet completed), heavily buttressed, which forms a porch or ante-chamber to the church, 26 feet square ; a nave of five bays, with conterminous aisles, 70 feet long ; and a chancel 33 feet long ; the nave and the chancel being of equal width—21 feet. The material used for the exterior is pink Corrennie granite. There are two memorial tablets in the church—one, of white marble, in memory of Bishop Jolly ; and another, of Sicilian marble, in memory of David Macdowall Fraser, third son of General the Hon. Sir David Fraser, K.C.B., and nephew of the seventeenth Lord Saltoun, who—one of the troopers who took part in the Jameson raid into the Transvaal in January, 1896—was mortally wounded, and died at Krugerdrorp. The building formerly used as an Episcopal Church was bought by a section of the Free Church congregation, and now forms the Free West Church. The other churches include—U.P. (built 1875), Congregational (1853), Evangelical Union (1854), Baptist (1880), and Roman Catholic (“Our Lady, the Star of the Sea”—built in 1896).

Other prominent buildings in the town are thus

succinctly enumerated in the article on Fraserburgh in the latest edition of "The Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland"—"The Academy, opened in 1872, was built at a cost of £2700, and further endowed with £5000, by the late James Park, merchant; the Girls' Industrial School (1863) was mainly founded by the late Miss Strachan of Cortes, as a memorial to her brother, James Strachan, M.D., Inspector-General of Army Hospitals, Madras; and a public school, costing over £6000, was opened in September, 1882. It has accommodation for 754 children" [now increased, by additions to the building, to 1000] "and superseded the former burgh school. The Hospital was built by the late Thomas Walker, fishcurer, and gifted by him to the town; whilst the Dalrymple Public Hall and Café was built at a cost of £4500, upwards of £2300 of which was given by the late Captain John Dalrymple. It is Scottish baronial in style, and the hall has accommodation for 1100 persons."

The municipal administration of Fraserburgh (as well as the management of its harbours), was conducted for over two centuries by magistrates and a Town Council nominated by the successive Lords Saltoun, the superiors of the burgh, who were also its hereditary Provosts, and were generally represented at the meetings of the Council by a Baron Baillie (ordinarily the estate factor). All this was gradually changed by the adoption of successive Police Acts. The provisions of the General Police Act referring to lighting were adopted by the town in 1840, and the other provisions of the Act were adopted in 1850; and in 1872 the General Police and Improvement

Act of 1862 was adopted. The adoption of the latter measure led to the constitution of a Police Commission which removed entirely from the old Town Council the powers of municipal administration. By the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act of 1892 the hereditary privileges of the superior as Provost came to an end, the Town Council ceased to exist, and a body of feuars' managers was created under a new agreement between the feuars of the town and the superior. The feuars' managers administer the common good of the burgh, which includes spacious links and several parks and properties. The harbours ceased to be managed by the Town Council in 1818, when a Harbour Act was obtained.

A harbour at Fraserburgh was, as already mentioned, first erected towards the end of the sixteenth century. It was, however, of small dimensions, affording neither accommodation for the increasing trade of the place nor security against the storms from the north and north-east which frequently prevail here. In 1745, a stone pier was built, and in 1807 a north pier was commenced; it was completed in 1812, being about 300 yards in length. The provision thus afforded still proved inadequate, however, and an Act of Parliament for further enlarging and improving the harbour was obtained in 1818, and a south pier was built of the same length as that on the north. In 1830, a middle pier—broader and superior to the others—was erected. The construction of a new north harbour, enclosed by a pier and breakwater, was begun in 1855. A considerable portion of the pier had been built, when the greater part of the outer wall was demolished by a storm, but the work

was resumed and completed in a more substantial manner. The breakwater, however, was left unfinished till 1875, when it was carried to a length of 850 feet. About this time, a scheme of harbour extension was devised and carried out by the late Sir Alexander Anderson, Lord Saltoun's Commissioner and Baron Baillie of the burgh; it included the extension of Balaclava breakwater and the enlargement of Balaclava harbour, constructed several years before to the west of the existing harbour, and designed mainly for the use of the herring fishing fleet. A further scheme of harbour improvement was resolved upon in 1893, mainly at the instigation of Mr. John Dickson, then Provost of the burgh, and was carried out in the next few years at a cost of about £80,000. Its main features were the deepening of the harbours, the widening of the quays, the erection of jetties, the completion of the south breakwater, and the reclamation of about four acres of foreshore. As now completed—including the area enclosed by the new south breakwater—the harbours have a total area of forty acres, with an average depth of water—in the main harbour—at low tide of 6 feet, rising to 18 feet at high water. The herring fishery has been prosecuted at Fraserburgh for many years, and has assumed large dimensions, the total catch, in 1898, amounting to 277,850 crans, secured by a fleet of 700 boats, sometimes largely augmented, the fleet on one occasion numbering 850 boats.* An extensive

* A curious estimate of the "vastness" of the herring fishing at Fraserburgh was made in an article on "A Vision of Herrings" in the *Daily Free Press*, 8 September, 1898. See also "The Herring-Fishery and Fishermen" [by John Cranna, Jun., Fraserburgh] in *Chambers's Journal*, 15 and 22 May, 1886.

business is done in the curing of herrings and in their export to the Continent, while the cognate industries of barrel-making and boat-building are largely prosecuted. A new fish market was opened in March, 1899, and a fleet of steam trawlers has lately been added to the port.

There are very spacious links on the south side of the town, and a good golf course (leased from Lord Saltoun) still further south on the links, dominated by the Corbie Hill. The construction of a light railway from Fraserburgh to Cairnbulg and St. Combs was sanctioned in 1897, and a light railway from Fraserburgh to Rosehearty has been projected.*

* The account of the Frasers of Philorth given in this chapter is mainly derived from the late Lord Saltoun's work on the subject. For further details of the Parish Church and particulars regarding the ecclesiastical history of the parish reference is made to a series of articles on "Broch Kirks and Ministers" in the *Fraserburgh Herald*, 1888 (beginning 28 February); "The First Church of Fraserburgh" by P. M. [Rev. Peter Milne] in the *Fraserburgh Herald*, 8 August, 1893; and "Fraserburgh and Its Old Church Life" by Rev. Peter Milne, B.D., [formerly] Assistant Minister, Fraserburgh, in the *People's Journal*, 3, 10, and 17 February, 1894. Reference may also be made to other articles by Mr. Milne, notably "A Fishing Community of 100 Years Ago" in the *Daily Free Press*, 27 and 29 March, 1894, and "Fraserburgh One Hundred Years Ago" in the *Fraserburgh Herald*, 22 January, 1895. The Episcopal Church is described in "Some Ecclesiological Notes from Fraserburgh, with an account of the Bishop Jolly Memorial Church," by Rev. Henry Fyfe, B.A., in "Transactions of the Aberdeen Ecclesiological Society, M.DCCC.XCIII." Interesting details of Episcopacy in Fraserburgh and of the town itself are given in the "Life of Bishop Jolly" by Rev. Dr. Walker, Monymusk (Edinburgh, 1878).

About two miles to the south-west of Fraserburgh, on the old road to Strichen, are two crofts—the name of the one, Chapelton; of the other, The College. On the former there were, till the early part of the nineteenth century, considerable portions of a cell or chapel, formerly belonging to the monks of Deer. The stones of this cell have all been removed for the purpose of building dykes, houses, etc., and the Saint's Well was filled up a number of years ago, and its waters carried off by a drain. The College, which stood on the croft still bearing its name, had no connection with the buildings erected by Sir Alexander Fraser. The site of this older college, which, for the sake of distinction, may be termed the Monks' College, was traceable as late as the early part of the nineteenth century, but it has since been entirely obliterated by the plough.

According to an MS. in the library of the late Mr. John Gordon of Cairnbulg, a Danish fleet appeared off Fraserburgh about 1730. The Admiral and some of his officers went on shore, and were hospitably entertained by the Lord Saltoun at that time, who was then residing at the Castle of Kinnaird's Head. Whilst they were at dinner, a small boat was observed to put off from one of the ships, manned by a solitary individual, and to make for the shore at Broadsea. The man was sent for, and being asked by the Admiral why he had left his ship and come ashore without any companion, he said that on the preceding night he had dreamed three times in succession that his wife in Denmark had appeared to him and conjured him to leave the ship and proceed to land, as the next night a violent storm would come on which would break the whole fleet in pieces and cause to perish every soul on board; and he had been so impressed by the dream that he had determined, whatever might be the consequences, not to neglect its warning. "The wonderful part of the story remains to be told. A most violent storm and hurricane came on suddenly that very afternoon, so disastrous in its effects that the whole fleet was wrecked, and the poor man, thus singularly forewarned, was the only individual saved, with the exception of the officers who had been on shore at the castle before the storm broke out, and who were unable, so rapidly did it increase, to return to their respective ships." A

ballad descriptive of the incident [by William Skea, Aberdeen], entitled, "The Fate of the Fleet," appeared in the *Peterhead Sentinel*, 21 April, 1891—

The gallant ships of Denmark's fleet
Lay at noon in Faithlie's Bay;
But long before the midnight mirk,
The gallant ships were cast away.

Morning broke o'er the cold North Sea,
The sun with blood rose dim;
He scowl'd o'er Denmark's peaceful homes,
And Buchan's Bullers grim.

To Hans anon the message came—
A wild, imploring cry—
Loud in his ear, aloft or below,
"Quit ye the ship, or die!"

"Dreamer, Hans," laughed his shipmates all,
"Love's fire thy brain still burns;
Come, messmate, we'll soon homeward steer,
When our Admiral returns!"

The Danish chiefs had met to feast
In yonder castle grey,
Whence Faithlie's lord, from bluff Kinnaird,
Looked down on Faithlie's Bay.

And the roof-tree of the Frasers' Tower,
Shook with their shouts of glee;
Loud was the song and the wassail deep
Of their rude fraternity.

And suddenly out of the bleak north-east
He saw the storm-fiend frown:
The hurricane, scattering clouds and sea,
On the ships of the fleet swoop'd down.

They sank at sea or drove ashore—
Their crews lie in the deep.
Ah! man, 'tis said, of dreams is made;
His life rounds in a sleep.

The burgh of Fraserburgh was considerably enlarged in 1899. (See description of the new boundaries in *Daily Free Press*, 10 October.)

CHAPTER XVI.

PITSLIGO CASTLE AND CHURCH.

LEAVING Fraserburgh by High Street, passing the fishing village of Broadsea, and proceeding along the public road to Banff for about a mile, the coast line is again reached by following the old Banff road, which branches off to the right a little beyond the farm-house of Broadsea. The coast here is low, alternating between rock and sand. The parish of Pitsligo is entered near Sandhaven, a fishing village a mile and a half from Fraserburgh. There is here a small harbour, erected by a former proprietor, Sir John Hepburn-Stuart-Forbes of Pitsligo, and enlarged by his successor, the Hon. Charles J. R. Hepburn-Stuart-Forbes-Trefusis. Adjoining Sandhaven is Pittulie, another fishing village, also on the Pitsligo estates. In the vicinity there were at one time several cairns—the Cairns of Pittulie they were called; they are described in the Old Statistical Account, but have long since disappeared, though traces of them are still apparent on the farm of Moss-side.

Farther along the coast, and within half a mile of the sea, are the ruins of the Castle of Pittulie—an irregular

building, with a front about 60 feet in length. Turrets evidently sprang from the corners at about 12 feet from the ground, their corbelled bases still remaining; and at the north-west angle there is a square tower, with small angular corbelled turrets on the two corners next the sea, pierced by windows, lighting what is popularly called "The Laird's Room." The tower seems to be of a more recent period than the other parts of the structure, the respective dates of these older portions, as recorded at one time on the walls, being 1651, 1674, and 1727. The castle would seem to have been built by the Fraser family, as their coat-of-arms, carved in stone, was on the original part of the building—it was, however, removed several years ago. Mention is made of Sir William Fraser of Philorth acquiring the lands of Over and Nether Pittulie, on the resignation of his father, Sir Alexander Fraser, in 1408; and of Sir Alexander Fraser, the eighth of Philorth, settling the estate of Pittulie on his eldest son, Alexander, on his marrying Margaret, daughter of the seventh Lord Saltoun, in 1595. A stone bearing the arms of the Cheynes, built into the wall of the byre on the adjoining farm, is said to have been at one time placed in a niche over the principal entrance; and it is conjectured that, if this was so, the laird who built this part of the house had married a lady of the family of Cheyne. Pittulie continued in the hands of the Frasers until about 1670, when it passed to Mr. William Cumyn (or Cumine), who sold his paternal lands of Lochterlandich to Alexander Duff of Braco, and bought Auchry and Pittulie, Auchry going to his elder son, John, and Pittulie to his

younger son, George.* The Cumine family retained possession of Pittulie till about 1787, when it was bought from Mr. William Cumine by Sir William Forbes. One of the latest members of the Cumine family was an adherent of the Stuarts and an Episcopalian, who, like his contemporary, the last Lord Pitsligo, adopted the tenets of the Quietists, writing a volume of letters on these peculiar views addressed to his daughters. Between Pittulie and Rosehearty a chapel, it is said, was erected about the time of the Reformation as "a chapel of ease" for the family of Pitsligo, before the parish of Pitsligo was separated from Aberdour; its foundations are now entirely blown over with sand, but its site—or professed site—is still indicated. The priest's house is said to have been near by, at a spot called the Priest's Knowe. The tradition locates a churchyard beside the chapel, and human bodies have been dug up in the neighbourhood in making kilns for burning kelp—a practice once common all along the shore between Fraserburgh and Rosehearty, but now entirely abandoned.

About three-quarters of a mile west of Pittulie are the ruins of the Castle of Pitsligo. According to the "View of the Diocese," this castle was built in the early part of the fifteenth century, by the founder of the family of Pitsligo, Sir William Forbes. It consisted originally of a keep or tower (near the south-west corner of the existing ruins), erected in 1424, and was subsequently extended in

* According to "Family Records of the Bruces and the Cumyns," by Mrs. Cumming-Bruce of Roseisle and Kinnaird. See also account of Auchry in Chap. xx.

conformity with what is now generally known as the courtyard plan. When entire, the castle formed an oblong hollow square, erected on a sort of table-land, on the northern slope of a hill, about half a mile from the sea. It was a plain, rude, massive building, without any claims to architectural beauty. "It is well known," says the author of the "View of the Diocese," in speaking of this place, "that these old castles, built during the feuds, though strong and thick, were yet very clumsy, and the rooms in them were few and sorry; insomuch that, having nothing of the present politeness and variety, they serve for little but to show the ancient grandeur of the family." Patrick Cook, in his "Description of the Parish of Pitsligo, 1723," says—

"To show the simplicity and rudeness of these times, the Old Tower of Pitsligo was built about three hundred years ago, eighty foot long, and thirty-six foot broad, the walls nine foot thick. It was about one hundred and fourteen foot high,* divided into three storeys, of which two are yet standing. The whole house consisted of three rooms; the lowest was the kitchen, and is twelve foot high; the second was the eating-room, and is twenty-five foot high; the third, which was taken down about twenty years ago, was the sleeping-room for the whole family, and had in it twenty-four beds. Both the lower rooms were vaulted."

Above the entrance gateway is a stone which once bore the following inscription—

A. L. P.
HÆC CORPUS :
SYDERA
MENTEM

* "This is evidently an over-statement." (Macgibbon & Ross's "Castellated Architecture.")

but the inscription is no longer discernible. Of other inscribed stones, the following account is given in Macgibbon & Ross's "Castellated Architecture"—

"Over the gateway that opens into the inner courtyard, a panel contains four coats, quarterly—Forbes and Fraser impaled with the three garbs of the Cumings. Above are the initials of Alexander, 2nd Lord Pitsligo, and his wife, Lady Mary Erskine, and beneath the date 1663, being the year in which he was served heir to his father, the 1st Lord Pitsligo. On the south wall of the staircase tower, at the north-east angle of the courtyard, is a panel containing the royal arms with the initials I.R. (for James VI.) and the date 1577. On the east wall of the same tower is another shield with the date 1603. This shield is quartered with the arms of England and Ireland—the date is that of James's accession to the throne of England."

The castle was unroofed after being sold to Mr. Garden of Troup in 1759, the wooden materials disposed of, and the building allowed to go to ruin; portions of the building still remaining are used as a residence by the tenant of the adjoining farm. According to Patrick Cook, there was, a little to the south of the castle, "a well of extraordinary fine water, and one of the largest springs that's to be seen. It is called the Nine Maidens' Well, and probably takes its name from the nine muses." It is rather a singular circumstance that the gardens of Pitsligo Castle, though situated on a northern slope on a bleak coast, should yield some of the finest fruit in the county.

The estate of Pitsligo consisted originally of several lands in the parishes of Aberdour and Fraserburgh, which at one time formed part of the huge possessions of the Comyns, Earls of Buchan. Somewhere about a century after the downfall of the Comyns in 1308, Sir William Fraser of Philorth

obtained from James, Earl of Douglas, a charter of these and some adjoining lands, which are therein described as including Over and Nether Pettonley and Petslegach. In 1423, Sir William's only daughter, Agnes, married Sir William Forbes of Kinaldy, son of Sir John de Forbes of that Ilk, Lord of the barony of Forbes, commonly called "Sir John with the black lip;" and on her marriage she got from her father the Petslegach lands, otherwise described as Pitsligo and Boyndlie. There is a tradition that her father agreed to allow her as much land as she could ride round on one day from dawn to sunset, and that she had well nigh completed an extensive circuit when her horse stumbled in a "sligo pit" (a pit containing the bark of trees); hence the name of the estate, Pitsligo.* Sir William Forbes (who was a brother of the first Lord Forbes), had at any rate, a charter of lands in Aberdour, resigned by William Fraser of Philorth in favour of him and Agnes Fraser, his wife, in 1423, and a charter of the lands of Cairneywhing (New Pitsligo), dated in the same year; and he obtained from his father-in-law in the following year the lands which afterwards formed the barony of Pitsligo. He was the first Forbes of Pitsligo—the founder of the Pitsligo family; and, as already mentioned, he built the Castle of Pitsligo—or, at least, the tower, the oldest part—in 1424. He was succeeded by his son, Sir Alexander, who married a daughter of the Earl of Erroll; and who, in turn, was succeeded by his son, Alexander. The fourth knight was Sir John; and his son—also Sir John—the fifth

* As to the name Pitsligo, see *Scottish Notes and Queries*, i., 61.

knight, married a daughter of Sir William Keith of Inverugie, and was succeeded by his son, Sir Alexander, known as the Red Laird, who fought at the battle of Pinkie in 1547. Two sons of the Red Laird became successively lairds of Pitsligo; and then came the ninth of the title, Sir John Forbes, who was M.P. for Aberdeenshire in 1612. Sir John's son and successor, Sir Alexander Forbes, was raised to the peerage in 1633 by the title of Lord Forbes of Pitsligo, and was married to Lady Joan Keith, daughter of William, Earl Marischal. The peerage was attained in the person of Alexander, fourth Lord Pitsligo—the most notable member of the family, or, at any rate, the one possessing the most romantic career. Succeeding to the title and estates in 1690, he took part in the rising of James Stuart (the Chevalier St. George) in 1715, was present at the battle of Sheriffmuir, and had to fly with the rest of the Jacobite nobles. After several years' exile, chiefly spent at James's "Court" at St. Germain, he was permitted to return to his estates, where he devoted several years to literary and mystical studies, publishing "Essays, Moral and Philosophical," and "Thoughts Concerning Man's Duties and Hopes." When the young Chevalier (Prince Charles Edward) landed in the Western Highlands in 1745, Lord Pitsligo, though an old and "done" man (he was then over 67), joined the Jacobites at Aberdeen, participated in the march to Derby, and shared in the battle of Culloden. Attainted for high treason and his estates confiscated, he lived for years as a fugitive and an outlaw; and innumerable stories are told of the well-nigh miraculous escapes he made

from capture. (See pp. 248-50.) After a time, the heat of the persecution abated, and Lord Pitsligo was allowed to remain at the residence of his son at Auchiries, where he died in 1762, in the 85th year of his age. His son—known as the Master of Pitsligo—bought back the estates, but, in 1759, sold the “lower barony,” or Pitsligo proper, to Mr. Alexander Garden of Troup, who had been appointed factor or manager for the Government on the estates being confiscated to the Government. He married a daughter of Mr. Ogilvie of Auchiries, and died at Auchiries without issue in 1781. His widow was the last of the family buried in the vault in the old church of Pitsligo. The eldest sister of the last Lord Pitsligo married John, the elder son of Sir William Forbes, the fourth baronet of Monymusk. John died before his father, but a son of his became the fifth baronet, married a daughter of a relative, John Forbes of Upper Boyndlie, and was cut off in the prime of life, leaving two infant sons. The elder became Sir William Forbes, sixth baronet of Monymusk—better known, perhaps, as a celebrated Edinburgh banker, partner of Sir W. Forbes, J. Hunter & Company, author of “Memoirs of a Banking House,” and warmly eulogised by Scott in the introduction to one of the cantos of “Marmion.” On the death of the Master of Pitsligo, Sir William Forbes inherited, by right of his grandmother, the additional designation of “Pitsligo,” and also succeeded to the “upper barony,” called “the six ploughs in the moors”—what is now known as the estate of New Pitsligo. In 1780 he had purchased from Mr. Garden of Troup the “lower barony” of Pitsligo, embracing

the lands of Pittulie and Pittendrum, as well as the Castle of Pitsligo and some 70 acres adjoining. The remainder of the Pitsligo estates, consisting principally of the burgh of Rosehearty and the lands adjoining, continued in the possession of the Garden family till 1818, when it was sold to Mr. John Dingwall of Brucklay; it is still owned by the Dingwall-Fordyce family. Sir William Forbes's eldest son, William, who succeeded to the baronetcy and the estate of Pitsligo, married the only daughter of Sir John Stuart, Bart., of Fettercairn, and was succeeded by his second son, Sir John Hepburn-Stuart-Forbes. The latter had only one child, a daughter, who married the Hon. Charles Henry Rolle Trefusis, now Lord Clinton. On the death of Sir John Hepburn-Stuart-Forbes in 1866, the baronetcy of Pitsligo passed to his nephew, William Stuart-Forbes, but the estates of Pitsligo and Fettercairn passed to his daughter, Lady Clinton, and on her death (in 1869) to her elder son, the Hon. Charles John Robert Hepburn-Stuart-Forbes-Trefusis, the present proprietor. Mr. Trefusis, who is the heir presumptive to the barony of Clinton, unsuccessfully contested the representation of Kincardineshire, in the Unionist interest, at the general election of 1895. He is Convener of the county of Kincardine. He married, in 1886, Lady Jane Grey M'Donnell, daughter of the fourth Earl of Antrim.

About three-quarters of a mile south-west of the Castle of Pitsligo, and on the southern slope of the hill, is the Parish Church, standing almost in the centre of the parish, at the intersection of the Strichen and old Banff roads. It replaced—after eleven years'

litigation*—an old building, the walls of which are still standing, and it has been said of it that, “it represents the first attempt in Buchan to carry out in Presbyterian church-building the principles of ecclesiology.” It was built in 1890 from designs by Messrs. Matthews & Mackenzie, architects, Aberdeen, the style being Early English of the thirteenth century. Standing east and west, the church consists of a nave (with south porch), north transept, three-sided apse, and a south “aisle” or transept, an exact reproduction in size of the Pitsligo Aisle of the old church. This south aisle has been fitted up with the beautifully-carved woodwork of the old aisle, which is traditionally asserted to have been brought from Holland by Lord Pitsligo, but is really believed to be of Scottish design and execution, and constitutes one of the best examples of Jacobean Scottish woodwork extant; Mr. Jervise regarded it as “certainly, in every respect superior to the carved work at King’s College.” It consists of a front of carved oak, 4 feet high and 13 feet broad, divided into six panels, surmounted by an open canopy, 5 feet high and 4 feet wide, this canopy being supported in front by two fluted pillars, and at the back by a row of six pillars of the same pattern. The front panels and overhanging canopy are richly carved, leading features of the ornamentation being initials—here standing singly and there combined in monograms—representing the names of Lord (Alexander) Pitsligo and his wife, Dame Jane Keith, while the three boars’ heads of the Forbeses and the pale of the Keiths adorn various shields.

* See *Aberdeen Daily Free Press*, 2 October, 1890.

On the spandrels of the canopy is the date 1634, and beneath, on the one side, the letter B, with a hatchet attached, and on the other side, the letters M.V. The aisle has an alcoved roof, with panels containing coats of arms carved in oak, and with elaborately carved pendants. This interesting piece of woodwork was for long concealed under a plaster of white paint, but was "restored" to something like its original beauty and effect in 1861 through the instrumentality of a former minister of the parish, Rev. Edward Hume, with the help of the late Mr. William Troup, F.S.A., then Librarian of St. Andrews University. Mr. Hume was successful, too, in rescuing various samples of the old pew-panelling of the former church that were scattered throughout the parish; and these have been utilised in the new church, being fitted into the pulpit and otherwise distributed. One portion, bearing the date 1634 and the initials A.C., is supposed to have formed part of the seat of Andrew Cant; another, dated 1635, with the initials I.R., to have been part of the Laird of Ardlaw's seat.

According to the "View of the Diocese," the old church "was built about A.D. 1630, by Sir Alexander Forbes of Pitsligo, created afterwards the first Lord Pitsligo." This was in the reign of Charles I., when Episcopacy was the established religion in the country. The see of Aberdeen was, at that period, filled by Patrick Forbes of Corse, under whose auspices many of the parishes of Buchan were divided, and new churches built. The parish of Pitsligo was chiefly taken from the parish of Aberdour. According to a tradition, Pitsligo owed its separate parochial existence to a quarrel between a minister

of Fraserburgh and the lairds of Pitsligo, Pittulie, and Pittendrum as to the extension or repair of the ecclesiastical buildings, the clergyman publicly denouncing these places as "the three pits of hell" and expressing a wish to be free of them, whereupon the laird of Pitsligo offered to hold him at his word. A more authentic version of the creation of Pitsligo as a parish, however, is that Lord Pitsligo got it disjoined from Aberdour "out of the fervent zeale quhilk he has to the glorie of God, and for the mair ease to himselff and remanent parishioners of the said parochine qha dwells besyde him at the eist end of it." Prior to the year 1793, when the old church underwent repair, the galleries were reached by flights of stone steps outside the church. There are indications of an east window, now built up. In the west gable there is a stone with the following rather equivocal legend—

QUÆRO SOLUM
CÆLUM NON.

Another bears the same sentence under the following metathesis—

CÆLUM NON
SOLUM QUÆRO.

The lower part of the aisle or transept on the south side was used as a place of sepulture by the Pitsligo family; the upper part formed a loft or gallery fitted up for the accommodation of the family and was adorned with the woodwork already described, which was transferred to the new church. The lower part has since been enclosed by Mr. Trefusis; and upon a fine oak door, shielded by an iron gate, has been put

a large brass plate bearing an inscription recording the names of the members of the Pitsligo family interred in the vault. The inscription is as follows, the dates given being the most accurate that could be found—

Within this vault rests all that is mortal of the following members of the family of
FORBES OF PITSLIGO.

ALEXANDER, 1st LORD OF PITSLIGO. Died 1636.

His wife JOAN KEITH, daughter of William, Earl Marischal.

ALEXANDER, 2nd LORD FORBES OF PITSLIGO. Died 1677.

His wife MARY ERSKINE, daughter of James, Earl of Buchan.

ALEXANDER, 3rd LORD FORBES OF PITSLIGO. Died 1690.

His Children CHARLES and JEAN.

His wife SOPHIA ERSKINE, daughter of the Earl of Mar.

ALEXANDER, 4th LORD FORBES OF PITSLIGO. Attainted 1746.
Died 1762.

His first wife REBECCA NORTON.

His second wife ELIZABETH ALLEN.

JOHN, MASTER OF PITSLIGO. Died 1781.

His wife REBECCA OGILVIE, daughter of James Ogilvie
of Auchiries.

In their memory this plate is erected by their
successor and descendant,

CHARLES FORBES TREFUSIS,
OF PITSLIGO.
1893.

The belfry, which is of beautifully-carved stone and is very striking in appearance, seems to be a mixture of the Italian and the Dutch styles. It consists of an open arched square of four pillars, within which was suspended the church bell. This rare piece of stone-carving is said to have been brought from Holland; and, although the belfry was not erected

till 1635, the materials must have been in a state of preparation early, as it bears the same date as that of the oldest portion of the edifice, 1632.

The first minister of the parish (1633-9) was the celebrated Andrew Cant, a prominent Covenanting clergyman—denominated, indeed, “The Apostle of the Covenant in the North”—who subsequently became minister of Aberdeen; he is described by Spalding as “a gryte covenanter, veray bussie in thir alterationis, and mortall enemy touardis the bishoppis.” There is a time-honoured but wholly unwarranted legend that the word “cant” is derived from his name; and there is a rather apocryphal story that, on his leaving the parish the people, as a significant expression of the estimation in which he was held by them, had his initials, reversed (C.A.), cut under his effigy on a stone on the east wall of the church, so as to indicate, “Canting Andrew;” the initials are still observable, but are said (and probably with much more truth) to indicate the name of the mason who built the church—Charles Allan. Among Cant’s successors were Duncan Forbes (1646-62), “a very popular and evangelical minister,” ejected for non-compliance at the Restoration; and William Swan (1686-1716), who received similar treatment from the other side after the ’15. The last incumbent, Rev. Walter Gregor, LL.D. (1863-97), was distinguished as a folk-lorist and philologist; he was the author of several works, notably one on “The Folk-Lore of the North-East of Scotland.” A mural tablet in the old church commemorates Rev. James Robertson, D.D., Professor of Divinity and Church History in the University of Edinburgh—a native of

the parish—whose name (says the inscription) “will ever be handed down in connection with the great enterprise of the Church of Scotland for endowing her new chapels, with parishes annexed.” There are several interesting inscriptions on tombstones in the churchyard.

The little town of Roseheartly is situated on the shore, about half a mile north of the Castle of Pitsligo; the name is supposed to be a compound of “Ross,” a promontory, and “ard,” a height, or “Ross-achdair” = promontory and anchor; anchorage ground near the promontory. It is said that, as early as the fourteenth century, a farm on this spot was divided into crofts, and that several huts were erected a little westward of the oldest part of the present town; and that a party of Danes, either landing or being shipwrecked near the place, took up their residence among the inhabitants, and that, having been bred to the fishing in their own country, they instructed the crofters in the art. Be this as it may, fishing has been prosecuted at Roseheartly for centuries, though, till about the middle of the sixteenth century, the village consisted of a number of small farms or crofts, the houses being built near each other. Two large houses were then erected, one of which was called the “Jam”—the date of its erection, 1573, is inscribed on a stone in the wall. The other was named “The Lodging-House,” being built as a residence for a Dowager Lady Pitsligo. There was a stone above the entrance with a rose and heart and the inscription—“Nunc Troia ubi Seges”—“Troy now stands where corn waved”—(see p. 96), and under this inversion of the classic line 1760 was inscribed—obviously put in place of the original date, which had been either worn out or

defaced. This interesting house has now disappeared a block of modern buildings having been built on its site in 1899. Roseheartly was created a burgh of barony by royal charter, dated 13 July, 1681, which was supplemented by a charter of date 1 October, 1684. The superiority of the burgh, originally granted to the second Lord Pitsligo, passed with the property of the burgh itself to the Dingwall-Fordyces of Brucklay; it has, however, as in the similar case of Fraserburgh, been considerably restricted by the passing of the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act of 1892.* The seal of the burgh consists of a rose and a heart, with the motto "Corde et Manu." The harbour, recently improved, is fairly commodious, and the herring fishery is prosecuted to some extent. There are two churches in the town—a Free Church and a U.P. one. A granite fountain in the square was erected in 1897 in commemoration of the sixty years' reign of Queen Victoria: it occupies the site of the old Market Cross.

About two miles from Roseheartly is the Cave of Cowshaven, or, as it is more frequently called, Lord Pitsligo's Cave. It is on the farm of Ironhill, in the parish of Aberdour, and is almost inaccessible, being about midway down the face of the rock. The entrance is narrow. After passing through two smaller cavities, a large vaulted chamber is reached, in which is a spring of water issuing from a crevice in the

*See decision of Sheriff Brown in an action by Mr. Dingwall-Fordyce against the feuars, freemen, and burgesses, in relation to their respective rights under the ancient charters of the burgh, reported in *Daily Free Press*, 17 October, 1896.

rock, and falling into a cistern cut out by the hands of the last Lord Pitsligo, who was frequently compelled to resort to this dreary place of concealment.*

* See "Biographical Sketch of Alexander, Lord Pitsligo," by Lord Medwyn.

For detailed accounts of the Forbeses of Pitsligo reference may be made to Anderson's "Scottish Nation" and Jervise's "Epitaphs and Inscriptions," vol. ii.; see also "The Family of Pitsligo" in *Aberdeen Daily Free Press*, 21, 22, and 28 January, 1884. References to the more modern family of the Forbeses and to Sir John Stuart-Forbes and his descendants will be found in "The History of Fettercairn" by Dr. Archibald C. Cameron (1899). The woodwork in the aisle of Pitsligo Church is described in the "Edinburgh Architectural Association Sketch-Book, 1883-1886," vol. i., New Series; the *Building News*, 24 June, 1887; and *Scottish Notes and Queries*, ii., 65. A notice of the new church by Rev. Thomas P. Milne, Paisley, appears in "Transactions of the Aberdeen Ecclesiological Society, M.DCCC.XCI." Fuller particulars regarding Andrew Cant will be found in Gordon's "History of Scots Affairs," Spalding's "History of the Troubles in Scotland," Jervise's "Epitaphs," and "The Lights of the North" by James Stark, D.D.; see also *Scottish Notes and Queries*, iii., 72, 84. The Castle of Pittulie, as well as that of Pitsligo and Pitsligo Church, are described in Macgibbon & Ross's "Castellated Architecture." References to the Covenanting tendencies of "my Lord of Pitsligo" (Alexander, the second Lord Pitsligo), and the "Lairds of Philorth" will be found in the "Records of the Meeting of the Exercise of Alford," edited by Rev. Thomas Bell (New Spalding Club, 1897), p. 32 and Note 18, p. 409; also references to collections for building the harbour of Rosehearty, pp. 336, 343. A chapter of J. T. Findlay's "Secession in the North" is devoted to "The Church of Rosehearty and its Ministers," a Secession church having been built here in 1787-8, so unecclesiastical-looking an edifice as to have been likened by Dr. James Brown, of Paisley, to "an auld wife's tea-caddy." "A Historical Sketch of the United Presbyterian Congregation of Rosehearty" by Rev. William Paton Ogilvie was published in 1881.

CHAPTER XVII.

ABERDOUR AND PENNAN.

ABOUT a mile westward of Lord Pitsligo's Cave are the scanty remains of the Castle of Dundarg (or Dundargue), situated on a high peninsular rock of red sandstone: Dundarg = dun, fortress, and dearg, red. Vestiges of a large court and buildings may still be traced. A strong arched gateway that had guarded the entrance remained entire until July 1873 or 1874, when it was destroyed by lightning. Near the neck that joins the rock to the mainland are a triple ditch and ramparts of considerable extent. The Old Statistical Account, describing "the entry" of the Castle, says—"The whole breadth of the front is only 12 feet; the door is 4 feet 2 inches wide, 6 feet high, and is arched; the height of the walls, 12 feet 7 inches; the length of the side walls, still standing, is 10 feet 6 inches; there are no other remains of the walls except the inside of the foundation, the outside having fallen down, owing to the mouldering away of the rock on which it was built. There is a fine level green, where the outworks have been." The castle was a stronghold of the Comyns, Earls of Buchan, and, after the defeat of John, the third Earl, by Bruce, in 1308, it was held by

Henry Beaumont (or de Beaumont), who had married a niece of the Earl of Buchan, and claimed the Earldom of Buchan in right of his wife. Beaumont figures prominently in the turbulent history of the time, having co-operated with the disaffected nobles, sided with Edward Baliol, and supported Edward II. He was ultimately besieged in Dundarg Castle in 1334, by Sir Andrew Moray of Bothwell, then Regent of Scotland, and was compelled to surrender, the stronghold being reduced—so the tradition goes—by cutting the underground pipes that supplied the garrison with water. The castle was afterwards owned by the Cheynes of Esslemont, and subsequently (along with the barony of Aberdour), by the Frasers of Philorth, and then by the Forbeses of Pitsligo. It is now the property of Mr. Dingwall-Fordyce of Brucklay.

Westward from Dundarg are the ruins of the old church of Aberdour, standing on a sort of ledge within 150 yards of the shore. A deep glen or ravine skirts the churchyard on the west, through which flows a small stream, the Daur or Dour, which, it is conjectured, gave the name to the parish, Aberdour meaning the mouth of the Dour. The spot is a picturesque one, the braes of Auchmedden stretching away inland, while huge rugged rocks of red sandstone rise from the pebbled beach, the clear blue sea filling up the distance in this lovely picture. The red sandstone terminates abruptly at the burn of Aberdour, the rocks on the Auchmedden (or west) side being slaty in formation. The church was one of the oldest in the north of Scotland, and was dedicated to St. Drostan, the disciple and companion of St. Columba

of Iona, who, as already mentioned, introduced Christianity to the shores of the Moray Firth as early as the sixth century, (see pp. 127-8). According to the "Aberdeen Breviary," "Aberdour church is dedicated to Saint Durstan. He was of the royal blood of Scotland; and being dedicated to religion from his childhood, was sent over to be bred under St. Colm in Ireland, where he became Abbot of Dalquhongle; but, leaving that country, he became a hermit, and returning home, he built the church of Glenesk. His bones were kept in a stone chest at Aberdour, where they were conceived to work several cures." Although St. Drostan's name had probably been long venerated as that of the patron saint of Aberdour, it would appear that, in later times, it was not generally known that his ministrations were exercised at so early a date as the sixth century, or that his visit to Aberdour was anterior to the acknowledgment of the Pope's authority by the Scottish Church, for in a description of the parish of Aberdour by "Auchmedden" in 1724 (given in Macfarlane's "MS. Geographical Collections") the following appears—"Near the sea-bank there is a fine spring below the church, called St. Durstan's Well, from a bishop of that name who lived thereabouts in the times of Popery; and the well is still reckoned sacred by the country people." This well is situated on the beach about 150 yards eastward from the point where the Burn of Aberdour joins the sea. It is a copious spring of the purest water, bubbling up from a rocky bottom, at the mouth of Durstane's Glen or Durstane's Slack. In 1884, the late Mr. Andrew Findlater, LL.D., a native of the

village of Aberdour, some time Headmaster of Robert Gordon's Hospital, Aberdeen, and the first editor of "Chambers's Encyclopædia," erected an ornamental block of Corrennie granite with a basin for the water of the well, and on this block is inscribed—

ST. DROSTAN'S WELL, 1884.

ERECTED BY

A. FINDLATER, LL.D.,

A NATIVE OF

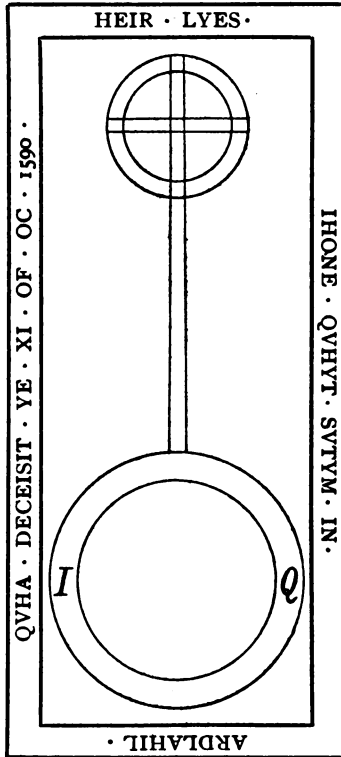
ABERDOUR.

Dr. Findlater bequeathed £30 to the Kirk Session of Aberdour to maintain the well in good order. There is another noted spring in the immediate neighbourhood—Mess John's Well—the history of which is thus recorded in the description of the parish given by Rev. George Gardiner in the New Statistical Account—"There are mineral springs in almost every corner of the parish, but one more remarkable, and more frequented than the rest, called Mess John's Well, issues from a rock about 200 yards west of the burn of Aberdour. A small basin in the shape of a cup, for the reception of the water, which trickles down the rock, is said to have been cut by a John White, laird of Ardlawhill, at the time that Presbytery and Prelacy contended for the mastery. Neither of the parties, during the heat of the contest, had regular worship at the parish church, but John attended every Sunday, prayed, sung, and read a chapter from the precentor's desk, then prayed again, and concluded the service by singing another psalm. This he continued to do till Presbyterianism was fairly established, and hence he was designated Mess John by the people, and his well, Mess John's Well." The

struggle between Episcopacy and Presbyterianism was as protracted in Aberdour as elsewhere. After the death of George Clerk, who was Episcopal minister from 1614 to 1644, it is doubtful if the incumbency was filled till 1651, when William Ramsay "was entered Person of Aberdour." A Presbyterian, he was ejected after the Restoration—in 1665; and was succeeded by Alexander Reynold, who, in turn, was displaced at the Revolution in 1688. No Presbyterian minister seems to have been appointed till 1697; and it was during this interval that "Mess John" officiated.

The west gable of the church, in which is a circular-headed window, is still standing; and great part of the north wall and a small part of the south wall remain. A south aisle is also entire, but the roof is fast falling into decay. In the east wall there had been a narrow window, but whether it had been circular, pointed, or otherwise at the top it is difficult to say. The font, which is octagonal and in a tolerably good state of preservation, lies at the west end of the church, outside. The dimensions of the building, externally, had been about 70 feet by 21. The present parish church, erected in 1818, is about a mile distant, on the top of the hill near the village. A tablet on the south wall (outside) bears the inscription—"This church was erected by John Dingwall, Esq., of Brucklay, Patron and Principal Heritor of the parish, and Charles Forbes, Esq., Proprietor of Auchmedden, M.DCCC.XVIII." The church was renovated and considerably improved in 1885. The manse was built in 1822, after a long litigation, which resulted in the House of Lords deciding that the law did not limit the sum to be allowed for building a manse,

offices, and garden walls to £1000 Scots. Under the pulpit at the old church a tombstone was discovered, of which this is an illustration—



There are two tombstones in the churchyard still older—one bearing the dates 1440 and 1453, in memory of the earliest Bairds of Auchmedden; the other, of date 1559, is also in memory of members of the Baird family.

The village of Aberdour (sometimes called New Aberdour) consists of a main street, named High Street, and two side streets—Low Street and School (or Elfin) Street. The principal buildings are the parish church, parish hall, and school. A fountain commemorative of Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee was "opened" on Jubilee Day, 22nd June, 1897. Aberdour House, situated in the south-eastern quarter of the parish—the old mansion-house of the estate of Aberdour—is a square, three storied-building, in the style of the last century. It was built by Mr. Samuel Forbes of Skellater, and it bears his initials, S. F., those of his wife, M. C. (Margaret Chalmers), and the date 1746. It is now the property of Mr. Dingwall-Fordyce of Brucklay, and has for many years been occupied by Mr. Charles Alexander Barclay, factor for the Brucklay estates. The estate of Aberdour was sold in 1630 by Alexander, tenth Lord Saltoun, to Alexander Forbes of Pitsligo. It had been obtained in 1624 by Lord Saltoun's half-brother, John Fraser, from their cousin, Andrew Fraser of Quarrelbuss, to whom their father had sold it in 1608, and John, dying without issue, it seems to have passed to his elder half-brother. (Lord Saltoun's "Fraser of Philorth.") From the Forbeses of Pitsligo the estate passed into the hands of Mr. Samuel Forbes, and afterwards became the property of Mr. Gordon (of the family of Gordons of Nethermuir), who was Commissioner for the Earl of Aberdeen. He had a son, William Gordon, whose eldest daughter, Mary, married, in 1813, Mr. John Dingwall of Brucklay. Mr. Dingwall bought the lands of Aberdour from Mr. William Gordon, for £60,000.

Aberdour, with Brucklay, passed to his son, John Duff Dingwall, and on the death of the latter in 1840, was inherited by the Dingwall-Fordyces. (See p. 178.) The village of Aberdour was laid off in 1796 by the then proprietor, Mr. Gordon.

Auchmedden, on the west side of the Dour, is the only other considerable estate in the parish. The district here assumes a bleak and somewhat wild aspect. It lies high, a steep road leading to an elevation of 200 or 300 feet above the level of the sea; and the ground is unequal and varied with wide patches of heather. After traversing this lofty ridge for nearly a mile, a descent is made towards the Den of Auchmedden, rich in botanical treasures. "In the west side of the parish," says the Old Statistical Account, "are three deep hollows, with a rivulet in each, called the Den of Aberdour, the Den of Auchmedden, and the Den of Troup. Each of these Dens, as they advance from the sea coast, branch[es] out on each side into many other lesser ones, till they end at last in mosses and moors about two or three miles from the sea. . . . In the south part of the parish is the Den of Glasby [Glasslaw], in which runs also a burn, the head of the north branch of the River Ugie." At Pitjossie, in Auchmedden, about a mile west of the old church, there are two stupendous natural arches through which the sea flows at high water. One of them is 90 feet long, 22 feet broad, and about 12 feet high, and the roof of the arch appears as if it were neatly jointed. The other stands parallel to it, about 50 feet distant; it is 100 feet long, 24 feet broad, and about 14 feet high, and is joined to the mainland by a narrow neck

of earth. The two arches are united by another natural arch, 45 feet wide and 20 feet high, through which the sea also flows at high water. Not far distant, in the Den of Dardar, is a cascade of three successive falls. "The rocks which bound the shore are," according to Hugh Miller, "highly interesting, of stupendous height and various formation. The sandstone is accounted of the oldest secondary formation, and is destitute of all traces of organic remains."

Numerous cairns were at one time scattered over this district of Buchan, but they have now nearly all disappeared, having been removed in the course of farm extensions and agricultural improvements. One of the largest was the Likkerstone Cairn, on the farm of Glasslaw; it was about 34 feet in diameter and from 8 to 10 feet high. On the hill of Earlseat, westward from Aberdour, small cairns of different sizes existed in large numbers in bygone days. On this hill, too, there were, till about 1855, eleven or twelve low circular mounds of a peculiar description; they varied from 24 to 36 feet in diameter—one, on the level top of the hill, was 40 feet in diameter—they were from 1 to 2½ feet high, and the entrance to the space enclosed by the mound was on the south-east side. These mounds, it is conjectured, were the remains of an ancient British settlement, the circular foundations of such settlements all having the opening or door to the east. Seven circles similar to those on Earlseat were located on the southern slope of a hill above the farm steading of Upper Glasslaw, but the entrances or openings were on the south side. On the opposite declivity of this hill similar mounds were to be found.

One of these rose to about three feet above the surface. It was near the Hare Moss, a little to the north of which are two trenches, 41 yards in length and 6 feet deep, and 20 feet apart. They are on the farm of Glenhouses, on the estate of Auchmedden. About two miles westward from this place, on the top of a hill on the same estate, there is another entrenchment, 240 yards in length and 20 yards in breadth. It is now filled with water and goes under the name of the Loch of Minwig. Three other cairns in the parish known as Brodie's Cairns (there were probably four originally) have a traditionary history in connection with an alleged trial by ordeal, by which a farmer named Brodie was discovered to have murdered his mother. The story is told in the New Statistical Account; but the incident is a common one in local tradition, precisely the same story, for instance, being told about Mitchell's Cairn in the parish of Auchterless.

At the north-west corner of the parish is the Red Head of Pennan, rising to a height of 562 feet, from which an extensive view is to be had, eastward, of the long line of indented coast, stretching to Kinnaird Head, and thence, in the extreme distance to Rattray Head. Looking westward, the prospect is equally extensive. The beautiful bay of Pennan lies almost beneath, the only indication of the snug little village being the wreaths of smoke rising from the chimneys. Troup Head and Gamrie Mhor fill the picture on the opposite side of the bay. Beyond these rises a headland near the Boyne; farther off, and a little to the left, is the Bin Hill of Cullen; and lastly, in the extreme distance, may be seen the fading outlines of

the Ross-shire and Sutherlandshire hills. The path by Pennan farm down to the village of Pennan is carried along the side of the hill, with a ravine on the left and little terraced gardens overhanging the road on the right. On the opposite side of this ravine or glen stood the ancient Castle or Place of the Bairds of Auchmedden, not a vestige of which, beyond a few scattered stones of the foundations, is now to be seen. The field, at the lower end of which stood the Castle, is still called "The Green," and lies between Mains of Auchmedden and the ruin. Part of the Castle remained, and was used as a granary, within the memory of some of the older inhabitants of the parish, and a portion of the garden wall, on the near side of the ravine, is still in existence. The Castle was about a quarter of a mile from the sea, to which it lay open on the north-west, being, however, sheltered from it on the north-east by Pennan Head.

A little below the site of the Castle, the ravine is met, nearly at right angles, by another—Glenquithle*—

*The writer of the "View of the Diocese" says that Glenquithle was once called Glenduachy, and adds—"This little farm gave formerly the title of lord to the eldest son of Cummin, Earl of Buchan." Both statements, however, are erroneous. The thanage of Glendowachie was several miles distant from the lands of Glencuthill, and though these lands were ultimately merged in the thanage, they were never called Glenduachy. Moreover, it is more than doubtful if Glendowachie was ever in possession of the Comyns, and it is certain that Comyn's eldest son was never called Lord Glendowachie, as courtesy titles had not then come into use. At a much later time an heir of the Earldom of Buchan was slain in battle at Pinkie, and of him it is said that he was commonly known simply as "the Master of Buchan." Glencuthill and its residential seat of Auchmedden were described in 1391 as lying

of a still wilder and more romantic character. Not far from the debouchment of Glenquithle into this ravine is Gibb's Rush—a waterfall of 30 feet unbroken descent. To the west lies the village of Pennan, stretching along the margin of the sea, and under the shadow of rugged cliffs, which rise abruptly above the houses to the height of 200 feet. At high tides and when the wind blows in certain directions, the houses are occasionally flooded. There is a small harbour here. Built originally about 1799, it fell gradually into ruins, several of the houses in the village being built of the stones. A new harbour with two piers was built in 1845, at a cost of £1400, by Sir Charles Forbes, who was then the proprietor of Auchmedden. It, too, fell into ruins. A movement for a new harbour was initiated about 1890, but was not attended with success. Westward of Glenquithle is the Chapel Den, which may be said to form part of the Tor of Troup, being the entrance, from the sea side, to the wild basin into which the numerous ravines of the Tor descend. A heap of stones once marked the ruins of an old chapel on a haugh opposite the Tor, but in 1855 it was swept away in conformity with the utilitarian ideas of the times—stones, chapel site, and the memories of the past all obliterated by the levelling operations of the plough!

Looking back from the village of Pennan to the

in the Sheriffdom of Aberdeen, and in 1423 as forming part of the barony of King Edward, whereas the barony of Glendowachie was situated in the Sheriffdom of Banff, embracing Cullen and the lands of Doun. [See "The Thanage of Glendowachie" by William Bannerman, M.D. (Banff, 1897), and Dr. Cramond's "Annals of Banff."]

Red Head, immediately east of it, an excellent view is to be had of the magnificent front of this bold headland. The rock is old red sandstone conglomerate, and at one time was quarried for millstones. The eyrie of the "Eagles of Pennan" was situated in the crags of the Red Head; and regarding these birds there is a tradition, mentioned by no less an authority than Lady Anne Drummond. It is thus related in the *New Statistical Account* (1840)—"At one period there was a pair of eagles that regularly nested and brought forth their young in the rocks of Pennan, but, according to the tradition of the country, when the late Earl of Aberdeen purchased the estate from the Bairds, the former proprietors, the eagles disappeared, in fulfilment of a prophecy by Thomas the Rhymer, that there should be an eagle in the Crags while there was a Baird in Auchmedden. But the most remarkable circumstance, and what certainly appears incredible, is, that when Lord Haddo, eldest son of the Earl of Aberdeen, married Miss Christian Baird of Newbyth, the eagles returned to the rocks, and remained until the estate passed into the hands of the Honourable William Gordon, when they again fled, and have never since been seen in the country. These facts, marvellous as they may appear, are attested by a cloud of living witnesses."

As Thomas the Rhymer is generally considered to have been remarkably correct in his oracular vaticinations, a further verification of this prophecy must not be omitted. Rev. George Gardiner, the minister of Aberdour, who furnished to the *New Statistical Account* the description of the parish just

quoted from, favoured the author of this work (5th November, 1856) with the following *viva voce* statement—"Soon after the late Robert Baird purchased the lands of Auchmedden (in 1854) one eagle returned to the rocks. But this the men of the Coastguard, either ignorant of the singular history connected with the return of these birds, or indifferent to the romance of the story, pursued from crag to crag with their guns, till they either killed or dislodged it." The old family of the Bairds of Auchmedden, it seems, were not free from the thralldom of this legend. Believing that the fortunes of the family were, in some inevitable way, connected with the presence of these eagles, they sedulously protected them, and had them regularly fed by causing a daily supply of food to be placed on a ledge of the rocks. Whether it was the name or the family of the Bairds that was honoured by the patronage of this kingly denizen of the crags, it is not easy to decide.

According to tradition, the Bairds came from the south of France, where there were several families of the name in the time of Louis IV. The first of the name that is heard of in the north is Andrew Baird of Lavoroklaw, on the north coast of Fife, opposite Broughty, to whom John, Earl of Buchan, in 1539, disposed the lands of Auchmedden, for a sum of money then paid, but under reversion. His son, George Baird of Auchmedden, married, in 1550, Elizabeth Keith, daughter of Alexander Keith of Troup, brother of the then Earl Marischal, and niece of Lady Anne Keith, daughter of William, Earl Marischal, and wife of James, Earl of Moray, Regent of Scotland. "This marriage acquired to George Baird the Regent's

friendship in a very particular manner, and it appears that he employed him much in his affairs, and placed a great deal of confidence in him. For by a deed, dated at Glasgow, May 10, 1568, the Regent, then Wardator of the Estate of Buchan, discharges the reversion of the estate of Auchmedden, and disposes the same, heritably and irredeemably, to George Baird, and the onerous cause is 'for many acts of utility and friendship done to me, and sums of money given out by him in my service.'" George Baird died in 1593, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Gilbert, who married his relative Lilius, the heiress of Ordinhivas, in Banffshire, and "had by her thirty-two sons and daughters, as is the unvaried tradition amongst their descendants, both in the North and South." James, the fourth son, became a lawyer of considerable reputation. He was much trusted by King Charles I., and by him was appointed sole Commissary of the Ecclesiastical Court of Scotland. He purchased the lands of Byth, in Aberdeenshire, and had King Charles's warrant for making him Lord Devern, but died before the patent was expedite.*

*The Commissary's eldest son, John, was an eminent lawyer. On the restoration of Charles II., he was made a knight and one of the Senators of the College of Justice, by the title of Lord Newbyth. He sold the estate of Byth, in Aberdeenshire, and purchased the estates of Foord and Whitekirk, in Haddington, and got them erected into a barony, by the name of Newbyth. In some historical accounts, however, the Commissary's son is mentioned as the person who purchased the estate of Byth. (See references in Footnote at the end of Chap. xix.) Sir David Baird, the hero of Seringapatam, was a lineal descendant of the Commissary. (See *Scottish Journal*, i., 242.)

The eldest son, George, became laird of Auchmedden; married, 1616, a daughter of Sir Alexander Fraser of Philorth, and refused for a time to subscribe the Solemn League and Covenant, and was among the anti-Covenanters at the Trot of Turriff, 1639. His eldest son, Sir James Baird, was M.P. for Banffshire, 1665 and 1669-72: he was one of the two barons named by the county of Aberdeen to meet English Commissioners at Dalkeith after the battle of Worcester. James Baird, a son of Sir James Baird, was also M.P. for Banffshire, in 1678. The last of this family of Bairds of Auchmedden in possession of the estate was William Baird, author of a Genealogy of the family. He joined the Jacobite rising in 1745, and was an officer of Prince Charles's bodyguard at the battle of Culloden. His property appears to have escaped confiscation, but it is said that, in consequence of the large sums of money he had borrowed to aid the Stuart cause, he was obliged to sell the estate in 1750. It was purchased by the Earl of Aberdeen, but subsequently was bought by the Forbeses of Newe, in Strathdon; and, in 1854, it was sold by Sir Charles Forbes of Newe to Mr. Robert Baird, one of the Bairds of Gartsherrie. On his death, two years later, it became the property of his brother, Mr. James Baird, the founder of the Baird Trust, who died in 1876. The property is still in the possession of the Baird family, and is at present under the management of trustees. (See p. 196.)*

* An old mansion in Banff, at the corner of High Street and the Straight Path, known as the town house of the Bairds of Auchmedden, is depicted in Macgibbon & Ross's "Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland." The authors say it

Taking advantage of low water, and leaving Pennan by the shore and proceeding westward, a path is struck that almost requires the safe conduct of a guide, as it winds along a wilderness of rough boulders of rock. The track here is no bad representation of Swift's imaginary infantine journey to "London townie," for now it ascends to some height, then suddenly it is buried among the huge boulders; again, the traveller has to spring from mass to mass, coming occasionally on the sharp angle of the parent rock, along the face of which, on a ledge of not more than fifteen inches wide—a sort of miniature representation of the celebrated "Mauvais Pas" of Mont Blanc—he has, for a little distance, to make his way as best he can. This bit of "sharp practice" accomplished, a small bay is skirted, and, passing under a magnificent natural archway in the rock, one finds one's-self in a level open area, gradually contracting into a ravine. On a bold bluff near the mouth of this gorge stands Pennan Lodge, and beneath is the Nether Mill of Pennan. Farther up is the Tor of Troup, already mentioned. The glen is threaded by an insignificant stream, which takes its rise several miles into the interior and forms the boundary between the parishes of Aberdour and Gamrie, and also between the shires of Aberdeen and Banff.*

may have belonged to the Bairds, but was evidently not built by them, as the quaint dormers contain the initials and arms of a branch of the Ogilvies, and the panel over the archway to the courtyard contains the same arms.

*For additional particulars respecting Dundarg and Aberdour, reference is made to Moir's "New History of Buchan" and "The Church of Aberdour," by William Cramond, LL.D. See also an article on "Aberdour

Churchyard" in *Banffshire Journal*, 2 May, 1893, and Macgibbon & Ross's "Ecclesiastical Architecture of Scotland," iii., 535. An account of St. Drostan was given by Rev. Professor Cooper, Glasgow, in a lecture delivered at Aberlour, Banffshire, and subsequently printed and distributed in the parish (see *Banffshire Journal*, 3 April, 1900)—St. Drostan, it appears, is the patron saint of Aberlour as well as of Aberdour. For an account of the life and career of Mr. Andrew Findlater, LL.D., see "The History of Robert Gordon's Hospital, Aberdeen," by Robert Anderson (Aberdeen, 1896). The sketch of the Bairds of Auchmedden given in this chapter is based mainly on the "Genealogical Collections Concerning the Sir-name of Baird, and the Families of Auchmedden, Newbyth, and Saughton Hall," by William Baird of Auchmedden (reprint from the original MS., London, 1870).

It is contended by some that the Aberdour in Buchan and not the Aberdour in Fife is the place referred to in the ballad of "Sir Patrick Spens"—

"Half ower, half ower to Aberdour,
 'Tis fifty fathoms deep,
And there lies gude Sir Patrick Spens,
 With the Scots lords at his feet."

CHAPTER XVIII.

TROUP AND GAMRIE.

THE Tor or Tore of Troup—so named, probably, from the Celtic word Torr = a knoll or hill—is one of the most picturesque spots in Buchan. It is a ravine, about two or three miles in length, through which the Tore Burn flows, with steep banks on each side; intersected here and there by glens and minor ravines, and it is rich to exuberance in plants and flowers—a veritable garden of delights to the botanist. Tangled brushwood and magnificent trees are the alternating features, the former with its underwood twisted into the most grotesque and unimaginable forms, while many of the trees—including beeches, sycamores, and larches—are noticeable for their size and gracefulness. Of the Tore, indeed, it has been well said, that it bears a striking resemblance to a Highland mountain-pass, the scenery altogether being exceedingly romantic and beautiful. The last proprietor of Troup had a cottage residence here—a charming retreat; but the present proprietor built, in 1898, a handsome new house near Troup Head, not far from the old mansion-house,

which had been erected more than a century ago, and which had fallen into decay. Troup House contains some fine family portraits, among which is one of Lord Gardenstone, the most distinguished member of the family, and another of Captain Campbell of Glenlyon, the perpetrator of the massacre of Glencoe.

Troup, according to the "View of the Diocese," belonged anciently to the Troups of that Ilk. For about two centuries and a half, however, the estate has been in the possession of the family of Garden, descendants of the Gardynes of that Ilk and of Banchory. A Major Alexander Garden, son of the last Gardyne of Banchory, purchased the lands of Troup in 1654. He accompanied the troops sent by Charles I. to Gustavus of Sweden, was present at the battle of Lutzen in 1632, and remained for several years at the Swedish Court, in high favour with Queen Christina. His son, Alexander Garden of Troup, married Bathia, daughter of Sir Alexander Forbes of Craigievar. The third Alexander Garden married a daughter of Sir Francis Grant of Cullen (afterwards Lord Cullen), and had three sons, all of whom successively owned the estate. The eldest, Alexander, was M.P. for Aberdeenshire from 1768 till his death: he died unmarried in 1785. The second son, Francis, became a judge of the Court of Session in 1764, taking the title of Lord Gardenstone, and succeeded Lord Pitfour as one of the Lords of Justiciary in 1776. He bought the estate of Johnston, in Kincardineshire, and, by granting favourable leases, largely extended the village of Laurencekirk. He is thus extolled in "a genealogical ballad" which was

composed by a Gamrie minstrel in 1839 on the occasion of the majority of Mr. Francis Garden-Campbell—

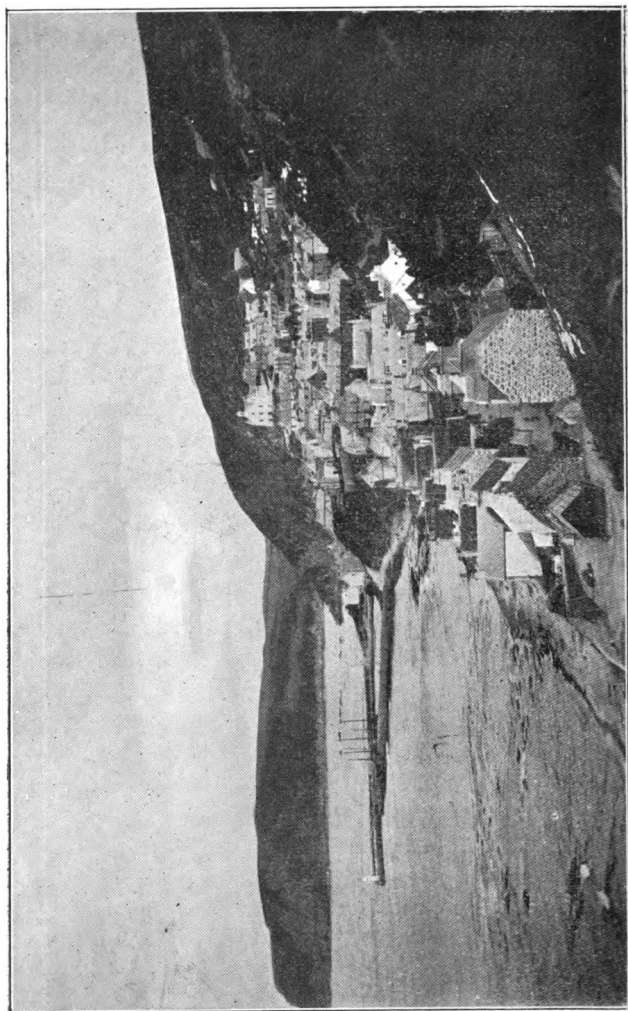
“ Next came the quaint Lord Gardenstone,
 A man not less renowned
 For liberality and law
 And literature profound
 Than wit and true philanthropy,
 As many records tell
 In his domains of Laurencekirk,
 And famed Saint Bernard’s Well.”

He succeeded to the estate of Troup on the death of his elder brother. He died in 1793, and was succeeded in the possession of Troup by his brother, Peter Garden, Johnston passing to a nephew, Francis Garden, and being ultimately sold, in 1805, to Mr. James Farquhar, M.P. for the Aberdeen Burghs. Peter Garden married (about 1763) Katherine Balneaves, who brought to him the property of Campbell of Glenlyon, in Perthshire; and in consequence of this connection, the Troup family assumed the name of Garden-Campbell and the Campbell arms. The last proprietor, Francis William Garden-Campbell, who succeeded in 1848, was a Colonel in the Banffshire Volunteer Artillery; he sold the lands of Glenlyon to Sir Donald Currie in 1885. He died in 1897, and was succeeded by his nephew, Mr. Francis Alexander Garden, the present proprietor. The burial-place of the Troup family is in the east end of the “quire” of the old church of Turriff—the Gardens at one time owned Delgaty—and is marked by several marble slabs with inscriptions. (See Chap. xix. and Jervise’s “Epitaphs.”)

Between Troup House and the sea, the ground

rises high, forming a kind of peninsula. Here is the Battery Green, in the vicinity of which is Hell's Lum, an opening on the slope of the hill, about 60 feet by 40, and about 40 or 50 feet deep. From this hole to the sea there is a subterranean passage nearly 100 yards in length, along which, on the occasion of a storm, the spray is forced with great fury, till it finds its escape by the "lum," in the shape of dense smoke. The fissure may easily be descended, and the view along the passage to the sea will well repay the labour. Besides Hell's Lum, there is, in the immediate neighbourhood, the Needle's E'e (or Eye), another subterranean passage, running quite through a peninsular eminence. It is about 150 yards long, and so narrow that one person at a time can with difficulty make his way through it. At the north end it opens into a cave of about 150 feet long, 30 broad, and 20 high. The roof of this cavern is supported by huge columns of rock, and the effect on emerging from the narrow passage is wonderfully grand. On a steep slope near by is a prettily-laid-out garden, neatly kept, and, although within a gun-shot of the sea, apparently very productive. The bay in front of the Needle's E'e is called Killycan (or Cullycan) Bay.

The coast line here, rocky and precipitous, is exceedingly fine, and has been described as one of the grandest and most picturesque of any in Scotland. "A rocky rampart," says an account in the "Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland," "in some places perpendicular, in all precipitous, presents everywhere such features of savage grandeur as thrill or overawe the mind. Parts of it are inaccessible to the foot of man, and



GARDENSTOWN.

others bend just enough from the perpendicular to admit a carpeting of greensward, and here and there are traversed by a winding footpath like a staircase, which few but native cragsmen are venturesome enough to scale. The summits of this rampart are only a few furlongs broad, and variously ascend or decline towards the south, then break down into sudden declivities, into ravines and dells, which run parallel to the shore; and they command sublime views of the ever-changeful ocean to the north, and of a great expanse of plains and woods, of tumulated surfaces and mountain tops to the south and west." Of the "rocky rampart" thus graphically portrayed, one of the most striking features is Troup Head, a bold and magnificent headland, rising to a height of 366 feet—the most northerly projection on the coast.

About a mile distant from Troup Head is the little fishing village of Crovie, picturesquely set amid bold cliffs. On the high ground above the village are the lands of Lethnot, described as "three oxgangs, lying by the sea, between the church of Gamery and Troup." These were given to the monks of St. Mary at Kinloss, in Moray, by Robert Corbet, probably in the reign of David I.

Farther along the coast is the village of Gardenstown or Gamrie, which, like Pennan, is built on the edge of the sea at the base of a steep hill. The road down to it from the hill above cannot, with its turnings and windings along the face of the brae, be far short of a mile, while the direct descent does not, probably, exceed a sixth of that distance. The situation of the village is singularly striking. The houses are perfect eyries, built on ledges and in the

recesses of the cliff, the lower and older part of the village being close upon the sea. What a scene presents itself from the windows of the houses! In front, a full view of the broad expanse of the Moray Firth; a little to the left, the Mhor Head, a stupendous cliff rising abruptly from the sea and casting its deep shadows across the sleeping waters of the rock-bound bay; and on the near shoulder of this bluff headland, and in the "glack" of the hill, half-way up its rugged sides, the old church of Gamrie, standing there, as it has stood for centuries, in desolate objectiveness! Such a sight as this is neither to be seen with indifference nor to be forgotten easily. Gardenstown was one of the first herring fishing stations on the Moray Firth. The village was founded by Mr. Alexander Garden of Troup in 1720, and herring fishing was begun as early as 1812. The bay is one of the deepest in the Firth, and is sheltered by two high headlands, while a splendid natural breakwater is provided in a rock called Craigendargity. A movement was started in 1898 for the improvement of the harbour, the present proprietor of Troup having agreed to hand it over to a public representative board.

Adjacent to Gardenstown is one of the ravines or dens that form a particular feature of the scenery in this district, being in such contrast to the rugged coast-line. "There are," says the writer of the account of Gamrie in the New Statistical Account, "four of these dens, or great openings in the rocks, which serve as outlets for the water of the interior, and which, branching off, or widening as they retire from the sea, become straths or valleys. The first to the

westward is called Oldhaven, between the lands of Cullen and Melrose ; the second and principal one, east of the old church, called the Den of Afforsk ; the third, at the fishing village of Crovie ; and the fourth at Cullycan, near Troup House. Nothing can be more lovely and romantic than the scenery of these passes or ravines in their approach to the sea. The one below the old church is the deepest of the whole, and the richest in natural scenery. The best view of the den is from a ledge or table of rock, about half-way down the point of the Rin of Afforsk, a steep acclivity in the form of a wedge which separates the ravine into two, and where the two burns meet at the bottom. The point of the Rin below, and all the western valley above it, as well as that on the east side, is loaded with a profusion of herbage, and affords the best field for botany in the parish." After crossing the mouth of the gorge, its western verge is skirted till a point is reached at which the ravine files off in two different directions, severally stretching away among the neighbouring uplands. At this point, the path takes a sudden bend to the right, leading through a mazy confusion of wild roses and flowering shrubs directly to the ruins of the old church of Gamrie, already mentioned as standing on a sort of plateau or shelf in the hill, and overlooking the bay and village of Gardenstown, far below.

In the lintel of a walled-up arch or window in the west gable of the ruins is the following modern inscription—"This church was built in 1004." According to the MS. Register of the Abbey of Arbroath, the church of Gameryn was granted to the monks of Arbroath by King William the Lion between

1189 and 1198, the grant being confirmed by Matthew, Bishop of Aberdeen, and renewed, at different periods, by Bishop John, by Bishop Adam, and by the Chapter of Aberdeen. It had for its tutelar saint, St. John the Evangelist. The length of the church is about 90 feet; the chancel, which possibly formed the whole of the original structure, is about 24 feet. The walls of this part of the church had been raised to the height of those of the nave—probably after the introduction of Presbyterianism—having been originally about four feet lower. The raising of the chancel gable may easily be traced, both internally and externally. The nave swells out about half a foot on each side, making the whole width a foot greater than the chancel. The entrance to the church is by a low doorway, with a very depressed arch, on the south side, about 20 feet from the west end. In the south side of the chancel there had originally been a priest's door. In the east wall, to the north of the altar, there is an aumbry; and in the north wall, the prothesis or credence. A doorway seems to have been made in the east end where the altar had stood, but it has been again filled in to half the thickness of the wall. In the north wall of the nave are three holes, into which were once built human skulls. Mr. Alexander Whyte, parochial schoolmaster of Gamrie, who drew up the account of the parish that appears in the New Statistical Account, quoting from an article contributed by him to the "Aberdeen Magazine" in 1832,* says—"Three of the sacrilegious

* This article, entitled "Landing of the Danes at Gamrie, 1004," is partially reproduced in the "Selections from the

chiefs" [who fell in the battle to be mentioned shortly] "were discovered amongst the slain, by whose orders the church had been polluted; and I have seen their skulls, grinning horrid and hollow, in the wall where they had been fixed, inside the church, directly east of the pulpit, and where they have remained in their prison-house 800 years! After the church became a neglected ruin, about twelve years ago, these relics of antiquity (skulls) were pilfered bit by bit, by some of the numerous visitors to the place (one was subsequently recovered and placed, for greater security, in the Museum of Lit. Inst., Banff, where it is still to be seen), and nothing of them now remains but the holes in the wall in which they were imbedded."

In Macfarlane's "MS. Geographical Collections," mention is made of a battle with the Danes at this place—"In Gamry was a battle of Danes upon a very high promontory, called The Bloody Pots to this day;" and in the Old Statistical Account it is said—"On the precipice or brow of the hill above the Kirk of Gamrie, at the east end of one of the most level and extensive plains in Buchan, are a number of vestiges of encampments, which at this day are called by the name of bloody pots or bloody pits." Abercromby, in his "Martial Achievements," (i., 208) throws still further light upon this subject:—

"After the battle of Aberlemno, where the Scots were victorious, of those that remained of the Danes . . . some few found means to get to the seaside and regain their ships, Aberdeen Magazine" published in 1878, where, however, its authorship is erroneously assigned to the late Sir William Geddes, Principal of Aberdeen University, who, it may be mentioned, was schoolmaster of Gamrie, 1846-8.

with design to sail about to the coast of Murray, where they were sure of being made welcome by their friends, as yet in possession of that country; but, a tempest arising, they were miserably tost to and fro for several days, and at length cast upon the coasts of Buchan, where they durst not venture to make a descent, and yet could not, by reason of the contrary winds, put forward as they designed. They chose to ly at anchor till the wind should alter. But they lay so long, that, their provisions being exhausted, and famine pressing hard upon them, about five hundred of the most daring resolved to land, and either to die bravely or to purchase the necessaries of life. They did both; for, in the first place, they found out and master'd large herds of cattle; but, as they drove them to the sea, the Thane of Buchan,* one Mernane, with a multitude of the country people, got betwixt them and their ships, and so cut off their retreat. Upon this they withdrew to a little but exceeding steep hill near Gemry, and from the top of it threw down stones upon the foremost that offer'd to dislodge them; and by this means defended themselves for a long time, like men in despair, with that resolution that allay'd the heat of the assailants. But Mernane reassur'd the drooping courage of his men, and they at length got up to the enemy, and, without mercy, put every one of them to the sword; and Danish bones are still to be seen here, as at Barry, in Angus."

In the east wall of the old church, to the south of the altar, and nearly on a level with the aumbry, is a small tablet with the following inscription—

" HIC JACET

HONORABILIS VIR
 PATRICIUS BARCLAY DOMINUS DE
 TOLLY QUI OBIIT
 DIE MENCS ANNO
 DOMINI M° QUI° ET JONETA
 OGLVY EJUS SPOUSA QUI (? QUÆ)
 OBIIT SEXTO DIE MENCS JAN
 UARII ANNO DOMINI M° QUI°
 QUADRAGS° SEPTIMO."

* This is incorrect—there never was a Thane of Buchan.

("Here lies an honourable man, Patrick Barclay, lord of Tolly, who died day of the month of in the year of our Lord one thousand five hundred and Janet Ogilvy, his spouse, who died on the sixth day of the month of January in the year of our Lord one thousand five hundred and forty-seven.") Above this tablet is a niche, in which there had probably been a cross, which would account for the inscription on the upper margin of the tablet—"Patricius Barclay S hoc me fieri fecit" ("Patrick Barclay, under this cross, caused me to be made"). Barclay de Tolly owned the lands and castle of Cullen-of-Buchan.* There was at one time a marble monument on the north wall of the church to the memory of the Gardens of Troup—a monument described as "perhaps unequalled for magnificence by any in the north"—but only the frame now remains. Major Garden, the first of the Gardens of Troup, his son Alexander, and their respective wives, were buried within the church.

The following poem by the late Principal Sir William Geddes (which appeared originally in the *Banffshire Journal*, 26 August, 1856), may here be appropriately reproduced—

THE OLD CHURCH OF GAMERIE.

"Hast seen the old lone churchyard,
The churchyard by the sea,
High on the edge of a wind-swept ledge,
And it looks o'er Gamerie?"

* See "Antiquities of the Shires of Aberdeen and Banff," iv., 580. Detailed reference to the Barclays de Tolly will be found in a subsequent chapter (Chapter xxi.).

“ I've seen the old lone churchyard,
 The churchyard by the sea,
 And O for a voice and a tongue to tell
 The thoughts that it raises in me !
 No sweeter scene among all the sights
 That dwell in my memory.

Half up the ribs of a bold giant hill
 That washes his feet in the sea,
 And looks like a king o'er the watery world,
 Lo! a patch of greenery.
 Westward and northward the crags rise high,
 To shield it from injury,
 And there, looking down on the beautiful bay,
 Is the churchyard of Gamerie ;
 Oh well do I love the sweet, sweet slope,
 Where it sleepeth solemnly.

How it thrills me to stand by the moss'd tombstones,
 And gaze on the billow below,
 As its silvery ripple rolls on the sand,
 Or breaks o'er the rocks with its murmuring snow ;
 And then to look up to the sea of air,
 Peopled with cloudlets floating fair—
 O who would not feel that a God is there !

So felt the men of the simple days,
 The grand old men of long ago,
 When they chose this place as a place of prayer,
 And bade their artless praises flow
 From the midst of God's glories here below,
 Up to the glory that excelleth,
 To where the dear Redeemer dwelleth.

But alas for the men of these selfish days !
 They are dead to the pride of the Past ;
 In the old churchyard is a sight of shame,
 That maketh me stand aghast.
 Alas that I should live to see
 Such a dire indignity.”

“ And what hast thou seen in the old churchyard,
 To move thy spirit so ?
 Sure something sad, by that clouded brow,
 Doth make thine anger glow.”

“ Sad, most sad—
 Yea, it maketh me mad,
 So sore a sight to see ;
 An old, old church, the pride of the place,
 The pride of the north countree ;
 So old—it fadeth from memory—
 And now it perisheth beggarly,
 Sinking, sinking, day by day,
 Inch by inch to hopeless decay.
 Left to the care of the rotting rain,
 The ruffian blast from the gusty main ;
 And the rude, rude hands of the plundering swain,
 Till crash—it sink to a heap of stones,
 Amid mourning Nature’s moans !
 O, a mischievous malison cleave to their bones !

Rouse thee, village of Gamerie, rouse thee,
 Fishermen, husbandmen, villagers, all ;
 Swear to protect every slate, every stone—
 Sweeter ye’ll sleep ’neath her sheltering wall.
 Let her sit like a queen by your rock-girdled bay,
 Prouder the place than a baron’s hall.

It was old and grey with years
 When Elgin and Roslin were young ;
 It had numbered full many an age
 When Father Dante sung ;—
 Ere Conrad of Hockstetten
 ‘ Built his noble heart in stone ;’
 Ere Bernard the Crusader
 Made the Moslem’s Empire groan—
 Or the Norman Duke, with his battle-brand,
 Strode in blood on the Sussex strand,
 Your moss-mantled church in peacefulness rose,
 A light to our northern land.

Through your fairy dells and dingles,
 Where the breezes love to play,
 Tradition's echo tingles,
 Telling of a fearful fray,
 Telling of a dreadful day;
 A nation with a nation mingles,
 Hand to hand in fierce array.

Over brine, over faem,
 Thorough flood, thorough flame,
 The ravenous hordes of the Norsemen came
 To ravage our Fatherland ;
 Over rock, over rill,
 Over dale, over hill,
 On the wings of the wind flew our sires to fill
 Every perch on the bold headland :
 Like a thunderstorm they fell on their foes,
 Hewing around them with death-dealing blows ;
 The war, I ween, had a speedy close,
 And the ' Bloody Pits ' to this day can tell
 How the ravens were glutted with gore,
 And the church was garnished with trophies fell,
 ' Jesu, Maria, shield us well.'
 Three grim skulls of three Norse kings
 Grinning a grin of despair,
 Each looking out from his stony cell—
 They stared with a stony stare.
 Did their spirits hear how the old church fell,
 They'd grin a ghistlier smile in hell !
 O ! it would please them passing well.

Rouse thee, village of Gamerie, rouse thee,
 Husbandmen, fishermen, villagers, all ;
 Let her sit like a queen by your beautiful bay,
 Prouder the place than Holyrood-hall ;
 Swear to protect every slate, every stone ;
 Sweet be your sleep 'neath her sheltering wall."

The new parish church of Gamrie is about a mile distant from the old church, and more inland. It was built in 1830.

In close proximity to the old church of Gamrie is the headland of Gamrie, or Gamrie Mhor or Mhor Head, as it is sometimes called.* The plain which formed the battlefield where the Scots defeated the Danes is at an elevation of about 300 feet above the level of the sea; and here, distinctly visible, are the vestiges of the encampments and the "bloody pits"—the sad and silent records of this sanguinary conflict. By taking another path, called the Kirk road, the highest point of Mhor Head is gained, the view from it amply repaying the labour of the ascent.

About a mile from the old church is the mansion-house of Greenskares, and about two miles south of Greenskares, on the farm of Pitgair, near the mill of Minnonie, is an old ruin called Wallace Tower. It consists of two fragments—a south-east and a north-east corner, the former from 16 to 18 feet high, and the latter from 10 to 12 feet high; at the south-east corner is part of an arch, running about three feet into the wall. Nothing whatever is known of the

*The editor of the present edition is indebted to Rev. James Forrest, Lonmay, for the following—"Attention should be called to the word Mhor, applied to the headland at Gamrie, a peculiarity lying in the aspirated form instead of the simple form Mor or More. There must be a reason for this 'h,' and, to my mind, it is there because it should be. The word is not Mor=great, because Troup Head is far greater; but Mothar (pronounced Moher)=remains of a fort (cathair or rath). This name is a very appropriate one since the Bloody Pits are just there."

history of this building. The name assigned to it—Wallace Tower—is suspected to be purely conjectural ; and, although Dr. Milne, King-Edward, inclines to the belief that these “auld walls”—as they were once simply termed in the neighbourhood—mark the site of the chief messuage of the barony of Glendowachie or Glenduachy, he is constrained to admit that no evidence exists to substantiate that view.

A mile beyond Greenskares, following the old Banff road, and on its right-hand side, is the old mansion-house of Melrose, standing on the northern brink of a deep narrow ravine, through which flows an insignificant brook called the Burn of Melrose. The house was built, as appears from a date on the front, in 1751, by Ogilvie of Melrose. It is a plain building, in the style of the last century. The strip of land—not half a mile in breadth—on which the house is built, lying between the Burn of Melrose and the sea, swells into a hill towards the east ; and this hill forms the western boundary of the long level plain, extending to Gamrie, which was the site of the bloody conflict with the Danes already mentioned. On the western brow, above Melrose, is the Law—an artificial mound, of which no satisfactory account is obtainable. A road runs westward from the house along the northern bank of the ravine, to the Mill of Melrose, built in a narrow part of the glen, the rocks and braes on the opposite side rising abruptly to a height of 80 or 90 feet. About twenty yards above the mill, a bridge spans the chasm, which is here only 22 feet wide. The mill-lade is cut out of the solid rock, and is carried along the face of the precipice. Below the mill, and as far as the sea, which is about a

quarter of a mile distant, the ravine is still narrower and more rugged ; and, altogether, the spot is one of considerable picturesqueness.

Rather more than half a mile southward from the Mill of Melrose is the site of the Castle of Cullen-of-Buchan, the ancient residence of a branch of one of the oldest families in Scotland—Barclay de Tolly. A descendant of the family, William Barclay, M.D., in an introduction to the Works of Tacitus, edited by him, makes mention of this old castle, in which he was born—“*Nam Collonia (sic Castrum vocatur in quo primum terram tetigi), sita est in littore quod ‘tam vasto atque aperto mari pulsatur.’ Quo loco, ut obiter dicam, non pauca sunt vestigia veterum bellorum, cum Anglis præsertim. Est in eodem littore, in territorio gentis Barclayanæ, portus quidam, qui nostra lingua, Auld-haven appellatur.*” The castle stood on the eastern brink of a narrow valley, about two miles from Macduff. The farm-house of Mains of Cullen is all that remains habitable of the place, and has the appearance of having formed an appendage to the castle. The walls are thick, and built with clay. The only remaining memorials of the castle itself are a stone on the south-east corner of the present dwelling-house, on which are engraved the letters VB x EH (presumably the initials of Walter Barclay and Elizabeth Hay), and underneath the arms of the Barclays, with the date 1574 ; and another stone on the north-east corner, on which apparently the same letters occur, with the same coat of arms, but without the date. Till the year 1807, about 40 feet of the walls of the castle, extending eastward from the present dwelling-house, was in

existence. This part of the building contained an arched gateway and "the Pit." Thence running northward, for 40 or 50 feet, were the remains of a portion of the castle, the walls of which were described, by a party who assisted in taking them down, as of great strength and thickness. The apartments were groined.

A couple of furlongs eastward of the castle are two elliptical natural swellings on the western declivity of the hill, called bi-achs or beaks. Upon these were constructed artificial mounds of earth and stones, and on these mounds being removed, about 1831, fourteen sun-baked clay urns were found, most of them containing calcined bones. At one time, the remains of six raised mounds or laws were to be seen in this neighbourhood. Most of them have been trenched since 1840, and in every one of them human bones were found, in most cases calcined. Some were in urns, well carved; others in stone cists; but the greater number were in holes dug in the clay and covered with flat stones.

From Castle-of-Buchan, the Peterhead and Banff road leads to the town of Macduff, built on the northern slope of the hill of Doune. Macduff itself was once called Doune or Downe, and was originally part of the thanage of Glendowachie or Glenduachie—it was so designated in Acts of Parliament in the reign of David II. A charter by James III. to James, Earl of Buchan, of the lands of the barony of Glendowachie is recorded in the Register of the Great Seal in 1478; and in 1528 James V. granted to John, Earl of Buchan, the "terras et baroniam de Glendowquhy, alias Downe." The lands of Glen-

dowachie were disposed by David, Earl of Buchan, to Lord Braco (afterwards first Earl of Fife) about 1733, and Doune was erected into a burgh of barony by royal charter in 1783, when it received the name of Macduff, in honour of James, second Earl of Fife, whose title before succeeding to the earldom was Viscount Macduff.* The harbour was constructed by this Lord Fife, and was sold by the present Duke of Fife to the Town Council, on behalf of the community in 1898, for £10,000. The parish church is a large building, occupying a commanding site on an eminence above the town; it was erected in 1805. Alexander, third Earl of Fife, who built the church, introduced an organ; but instrumental music not then being sanctioned in the Church of Scotland, the church courts interposed and its use was forbidden. The Earl was obliged to yield the point, but insisted on the organ being retained in the church. It was, however, eventually given over to the Roman Catholic congregation. A new Town Hall, designed by Messrs. Pirie & Clyne, architects, Aberdeen, was opened in 1885. On the summit of the Hill of Doune is a small tower, erected by the last Earl of Fife. A mile from Macduff is the Bridge of Banff across the river Deveron; and here the north-west boundary of Buchan

* "On 26th August, 1781, is the first reference to a change of the name of the town, when Lord Fife writes thus to Mr. Rose: 'If I changed the name of Down I would alter it altogether and call it Macduff, as if we were to say Down Duff, wits would explain it as knocking Down my family. You may do in it as you incline, but, I think, if any change is made it should be Macduff, for, when I held that title, I worked more in the Harbour with my own hands than ever you did in all your life.'" ("The Making of a Banffshire Burgh" by W. Cramond.)

is reached. From the bridge there is a fine view of the bay, the river, Duff House (the principal seat of the Duke of Fife), and the town of Banff.*

*Accounts of Lord Gardenstone, with extracts from his Journal will be found in *Scottish Notes and Queries*, vols. v., vi., vii., and x.; see also Anderson's "Scottish Nation" and the "Dictionary of National Biography." Mention of the Gardens of Troup is made in "Navar and Lethnot" by F. Cruickshank (Brechin, 1899). Glendowachie is very fully described in Dr. Bannerman's "The Thanage of Glendowachie," and in Dr. Cramond's "Annals of Banff." The geological features of the coast-line are detailed by Hugh Miller in his "Rambles of a Geologist." Reference may also be made to "Notes on Gamrie," in *Banffshire Journal*, 22 September, 1868; "Excursion to Gamrie," 20 June, 1885, and "Coast Excursion between Macduff and Den of Melrose," 6 July, 1887 (both in "Papers of Banffshire Field Club"); "The Making of a Banffshire Burgh: Being an account of the Early History of Macduff," by W. Cramond (Banff, 1893); "From Macduff to Gamrie Mhor—A Walk Along the Coast" (a paper read to the Banffshire Field Club by William Forbes), in *Banffshire Journal*, 4 and 11 June, 1895; "In the 'East Neuk' of Banffshire—The Lairds and the Houses of Troup," in *Banffshire Journal*, 18 May, 1897; and "The New House of Troup," in *Banffshire Journal*, 16 August, 1898. The old church of Gamrie is illustrated in Macgibbon & Ross's "Ecclesiastical Architecture," iii., 567.

Gamrie is indisputably the scene of the woeful ballad "Willie's Drowned in Gamery"—

"Then they rode on, and further on,
Till they came on to Gamery;
The wind was loud, the stream was proud,
And wi' the stream gaed Willie.

"Then they rode on, and further on,
Till they came to the kirk o' Gamery;
And every one on high horse sat,
But Willie's horse rade toomly."

The unfortunate hero of this ballad was a factor to the laird of Kinmundy. (See Peter Buchan's "Ancient Ballads and Songs of the North of Scotland.")

CHAPTER XIX.

KING-EDWARD AND TURRIFF.

THE river Deveron, as has been mentioned, forms the north-west boundary of Buchan, and this boundary-line will now be followed, mainly along the road on the right bank of the river, leading from Banff and Macduff to Aberdeen. A detour may be made, however—shortly after leaving Banff—through the woods of Montcoffer. Montcoffer House, belonging to the Duke of Fife, is beautifully situated in these woods, but the main object of attraction here is the Bridge of Alvah, a little below the house—a single arch rising high above a deep pool in the Deveron, the river running through a narrow gorge, with steep wooded heights on each side. This is the culminating point of one of the most lovely stretches of the Deveron, which, after flowing through the ravine, pursues a picturesque course between the woods of Montcoffer and the policies of Duff House. The bridge is 40 or 50 feet above the stream, but in the great flood of 1829 the water reached nearly to the top of the arch, rushing through with indescribable fury.*

*The scenery at Bridge of Alvah has inspired many poetical effusions, specimens of which will be found in James Imlach's "History of Banff" (Banff, 1868).

Farther up the Deveron, and about five miles from Banff, is Eden House, a handsome modern edifice, commanding an extensive view of the river ; and within half a mile of the House are the ruins of the Castle of Eden, standing in the corner of an enclosure—the old garden—in the vicinity of a farm-steading. The ruins comprise an oblong building, 40 feet by 26, rising to the height of three storeys, and a gabled tower, 20 feet square and three storeys high. The estate of Eden was acquired by William Meldrum of Fyvie from John Stewart, Earl of Buchan and Baron of King-Edward, between 1415 and 1424 (“ Antiquities of the Shires of Aberdeen and Banff,” iii., 536), and it remained in the Meldrum family till 1630, about which time it was bought by Patrick Leslie. This Patrick Leslie, who is described by Spalding as “ a wehement Covenanter,” was four times Provost of Aberdeen in the troublous period between 1634 and 1647, and was knighted in 1651 when Charles II. visited the city. He probably built the Castle, to which a storey was added by his son and successor, George Leslie, a stone bearing his initials and those of his wife—G. L. M. G.—and the dates 1676 and 1677 being inserted in one of the walls. Before 1712, the Leslies appear to have given place to the Grants, a branch of the family of Ballintomb, now represented by the Grants of Monymusk. The estate of Eden was finally inherited, about 1820, by descent from the Duffs of Corsindae, by Captain James Grant, Political Resident at Sattara, and author of “ The History of The Mahrattas.” He assumed the surname of Duff, and married the only child of Sir Whitelaw Ainslie. (See p. 358.)

Their eldest son, born in Eden House in 1829, is Sir Mountstuart Elphinstone Grant Duff, who was M.P. for the Elgin Burghs from 1857 to 1881, Under-Secretary of State for India, 1868-74, and for the Colonies, 1880-1, and Governor of Madras, 1881-6; he was also Lord Rector of Aberdeen University, 1866-72. Sir Mountstuart inherited Eden on the death of his father in 1857, but sold it in 1875 to the late Earl of Fife. The present Duke of Fife sold the estate, in 1891, to the late Mr. Thomas Adam, banker, Aberdeen, from whose representatives it was purchased, in 1895, by the present owner, Mr. Edward B. Thomson.*

From the Castle of Eden, there are two roads to Turriff—one road to the left, which joins the Banff and Aberdeen main road; and another, called the Waterside road, which follows the course of the Deveron. This latter road passes the Mill of Eden—prettily situated in a glen, near the confluence of the burn of King-Edward and the Deveron—Dunlugas, the Boat of Ashogle, Haughs of Ashogle, and Knockiemill, this last being at a short distance below

*There are numerous references to Eden and the neighbourhood in Sir Mountstuart Grant Duff's series of "Notes from a Diary," published at various dates between 1897 and 1900. Sir Mountstuart is said to have made great use of a pool in the Deveron as a lure to draw men of note, fond of fishing, to visit him at Eden; at any rate, many eminent men are mentioned in the Diary as visitors. The acquisition of Eden by Adam inspired *Punch* with a joke to the effect that the transaction signified *Paradise Regained*. It is probably to the old Castle that a local distich is applicable—

"Cauld blaws the wind
A'boot the hoose o' Eden."

the bridge over the Deveron near Turriff. The scenery along this road is very beautiful in its combination of river and woodlands, and fine views are obtained of Forglen House (belonging to Sir George William Abercromby, Bart., of Birkenbog), on the west side of the river—the most charming spot on the Deveron. Dunlugas is perhaps the most interesting of the places passed. It was once the property of a branch of the Ogilvie family that was raised to the peerage under the title of Lord Banff. It then passed into the hands of a family of Grants, a cadet branch of the Grants of Ballindalloch. One of the members of this family, Major-General John Grant, served with great distinction in the Prussian army during the Seven Years' War, having followed Marshal Keith from Russia—where he had acted as the Marshal's aide-de-camp—to Prussia. He is once or twice referred to in Carlele's "History of Frederick," and stories of his riding feats and other adventures are interwoven in Mr. Charles Lowe's historical romance, "A Fallen Star." In the end of the eighteenth century Dunlugas came into the possession of William Leslie, a merchant of Christiansund; and he was succeeded, in 1811, by his nephew, Hans George Grøn, a Norwegian, who was naturalised and assumed the name of Leslie. On the death of Hans George Leslie's son, the estate was bought (in 1877) by the late Sir Robert Abercromby of Forglen for £60,000. For seven years (1892-8), Dunlugas House was tenanted by Mr. H. W. Steel, a retired Indian official, husband of Mrs. Flora Annie Steel, the novelist.

By the road striking off to the left from the Castle

of Eden, the Church and Castle of King-Edward are reached. It has been mistakenly assumed that the parish of King-Edward is so called owing to the fact that Edward I. passed through it on his march from Fyvie to Banff in 1296, but the name is really a corruption of the old designation, of which there are various forms—Kynedor, Kenidor, Keineder, Kynedwart, etc. The etymology of the name is, as usual, matter of controversy; one writer derives it from “Ceann,” a head, and “dur,” water = Kin-na-dur, the height or promontory on the water, which correctly describes the location of the castle. The ruins of the old church of King-Edward stand in a very picturesque situation on the north bank of the burn of King-Edward. The church may possibly date from Lord Forbes’s ownership of the castle in 1509, there being a stone in the west gable with the name and arms of Forbes on it. An addition was made to the east end, and on the uppermost stones at one corner were inscribed the letters R. K. (for Robert Keith, Commendator of the Abbey of Deer, to which the church belonged), and the date (now partly obliterated) 157 . An aisle on the south side—the Craigston aisle—was added by John Urquhart of Craighntray (by whom Craigston Castle was built), who also erected a gateway for his private use, which now forms the only entrance to the churchyard. It bears the date 1621 and the initials of John Urquhart and Elizabeth Seton, his third wife. Probably the church was also repaired about this time, which was during the incumbency of Dr. William Guild, who was minister of the parish from 1608 to 1613; and Dr. Guild’s initials, M. W. G. [Magister (Artium)]

William Guild], are inscribed on a stone above the west door. Dr. Guild subsequently became one of the ministers of Aberdeen, and was Principal of King's College, 1640-51. He was the first Patron of the Incorporated Trades of Aberdeen, and was one of their leading benefactors; he purchased the Trinity Monastery and Chapel for the purpose of founding a hospital and providing a meeting-house for the incorporation, and he bequeathed property to establish bursaries at Marischal College for "craftsmen's sounes." On the north wall, in the inner side, and near the east end of the building, is a monument inscribed in Latin, bearing the date 1590, erected by John Urquhart "to the honour of God, and in memory of his mother, Beatrice, Lady of Cromartie." Monuments to the memory of John Urquhart himself (known as the Tutor of Cromarty) and other members of the family are in the Craigston aisle. The earliest notice of the Church of King-Edward is in the end of the twelfth century, when "Henry parson of Kynedor (Kenidor) is a witness to charters by Matthew, bishop of Aberdeen, between the years 1178 and 1199; and of John, bishop of Aberdeen, between the years 1199 and 1207." ("Antiquities of Aberdeen and Banff," ii., 360.) John Comyn, Earl of Buchan, some time between 1290 and 1308, gave the church to the Abbey of Deer (see p. 150), and, according to Robertson's "Index to Charters," this grant was confirmed by King Robert the Bruce. The present parish church stands at no great distance from the old one. It was built in 1848, and contains fine lancet windows.

A little southward are the ruins of the Castle of

King-Edward—the scanty remains of the once proud residence of the family of the Comyns, Earls of Buchan; the forlorn remnant of a greatness that could measure itself even with royalty. The castle stood on a bold precipitous rock, on the northern margin of the burn of King-Edward; it was protected by this burn on the west, and on the north by a deep fosse, while the bold and broken character of the ground on the east and west was well calculated to give security to this castle-fortress. The ruins are thus described by the late Mr. James Spence—“Of the castle itself very little now remains beyond a few masses of masonry showing the main lines of the walls, and the position and area of the principal chambers on the ground-floor. The gateway of the castle, still marked by some of the largest fragments of masonry, faces the north-west, and immediately in front of this gateway the neck of the peninsula is cut across by a deep dry ditch. On the other side the fortress was inaccessible. Outside the ditch, and directly in front of the gate, there is a level field of considerable extent, known as ‘The Lichtin’ Green’ [where horsemen dismounted]. Within the gateway lay a rectangular courtyard, 103 feet by 56 feet, and around this court there are still well-defined traces of rooms, differing in size and in strength of masonry, according, apparently, to position and use. Of such chambers there had been three on each side of the courtyard, while at the east end, opposite to the gate, one of larger dimensions seems to have occupied the space between the two sides. Nothing now remains among the ruins themselves except the ground plan to enable us to form an opinion as to the style of architecture—no-

trace of arch, pillar, or moulding; but a few distinctive pieces of mason work have been saved from the general wreck, and placed by Mr. Runcieman of the farm of Castletown in situations where they can be seen to advantage, and will be safe for many years to come." The castle is first mentioned in the foundation charter of Turriff Hospital, 1273, and may have been built by Alexander Comyn, the second Earl of Buchan, or even by William Comyn, the first Earl. It was probably not occupied as a residence after the fall of the Comyns, but it was still maintained as the head of the barony of King-Edward, at least as late as 1495, when the care of it was given to Robert Stewart, who got three-fourths of the lands of Castletown for upholding it.

The Castle of King-Edward, as has been said, is believed to have been at one time the chief residence of the Comyns, Earls of Buchan. As was indicated in the opening chapter, the district of Buchan was first owned by Celtic Mormaers, Bede the Pict being Mormaer when Columba founded the Monastery of Deer. Eleven Mormaers are known to us by name—mainly by mention in the "Book of Deer"—the eighth being Gartnait, the ninth Colban, and the tenth Roger, "whose name," says Dr. John Milne, "is perhaps perpetuated in the Roger ford across the Deveron, near King-Edward." The last Mormaer (or Celtic Earl of Buchan) was Fergus, son of Roger, whose only child, Marjory, became Countess of Buchan in her own right. She married, in 1210, William Comyn, who thereby became Earl of Buchan. Walter, a son of William Comyn, by a former marriage, became Lord of Badenoch, and acquired, by marriage, the

earldom of Menteith. The Comyn family was, in fact, the most powerful in Scotland; according to Buchanan, "the power of this family has never been equalled in Scotland, either before or since." After two centuries of brilliant existence, however, the Comyns were vanquished by Robert the Bruce and their power was destroyed, the wreck of the family being as complete as that of their castles.

William Comyn, the first Earl of Buchan, has already been referred to—he was the founder of the Abbey of Deer. His son, Alexander Comyn, the second Earl of Buchan, succeeded to the title in 1233. Like his father, he held the office of Justiciar of Scotland, and in 1270 he became High Constable. He was among the "Magnates Scotiæ" who bound themselves to maintain the succession to the Scottish crown of Margaret, the "Maid of Norway;" and, on the death of Alexander III. in 1286, he was appointed one of the six Regents or Guardians of Scotland during the minority and absence of the infant queen. John, his son, who became third Earl of Buchan in 1289, figured prominently in the complex events and intrigues that ensued on the death of the "Maid of Norway." He espoused the cause of John Baliol, one of the claimants of the Scottish throne, who became the "vassal King" of Edward I.; and he participated in the subsequent resistance of Baliol and his nobles to Edward, commanding, as High Constable, the Scottish army that invaded Cumberland in 1296 and ineffectually besieged Carlisle. The attempt to overthrow the English domination failed, and the Earl of Buchan made his submission to Edward at Montrose, along with Baliol. He was sent into England a prisoner.

but was soon permitted to return to Scotland. He employed his great influence against Wallace and assisted in putting down the insurrection in Moray; but after the battle of Falkirk, he again became hostile to England. He was a leading supporter of his cousin, "Red Comyn" of Badenoch, another claimant of the throne, who was a formidable rival of Robert the Bruce; and he was one of the Scottish ambassadors sent to France in 1303 in the interest of Comyn. When, three years later, Comyn was slain by Bruce, who thereupon seized the throne, the Earl of Buchan took up arms to avenge his cousin's murder and champion the cause of Edward. His opposition to Bruce, however, did not succeed. He suffered a crushing defeat at Barra on 22nd May, 1308, which was followed by the "Harrying of Buchan" (see pp. 167-9). He died in England in 1313.

His wife was Isabel Macduff, sister of the Earl of Fife, who, was also one of Edward's adherents. She herself was as warmly attached to the cause of Bruce as her husband and brother were opposed to it, and her attachment was demonstrated in a well-known episode. The honour of placing the Scottish crown upon the head of the sovereign at the ceremony of coronation belonged of hereditary right to her brother; but when Bruce was to be crowned at Scone, Lord Fife, by his opposition to Bruce, had forfeited—or, at least, abandoned—this distinguishing privilege of his family. Determined that none but a Macduff should discharge this duty Lady Isabel hurried to Scone; she arrived too late for the actual ceremony, but an opportunity was afforded her privately, two days later, of raising the crown to the

brow of the king.* Soon afterwards, she fell into the hands of Edward, and was kept a prisoner in a "cage" (a room of stout lattice-work) at Berwick Castle for seven years—an illustration of a frightful feature of the times, and, in particular, of the character of Edward. The incident has inspired the following verses—

THE CAGED LADY OF BUCHAN.

Lady! what cruel doom is thine,
 Like tameless monster, caged, to pine
 Through the sweet prime of age!
 Could aught but lust of power, and pride,
 Have shaped this death—through years to bide—
 To glut a tyrant's rage?

O shame to knighthood!—shame to thee,
 Foul stain on England's chivalry,
 Thou rude and ruthless king!
 Thou fledd'st before the northern foe,
 And yet didst stoop, with coward blow,
 To strike so fair a thing!

Lady! I saw thee in thy pride,
 When setting woman's fear aside—
 O deed of rare renown!—
 With man's resolve, but woman's grace,
 Thou daredst on regal brow to place
 Old Scotia's sacred crown.

Thy recreant brother, Fife's proud heir,
 Had he possessed thy soul to dare
 Not England's king to fear,
 How great had he been in the deed
 Which gave the Bruce his rightful meed!
 Then—hadst thou not been here!

*See "King Robert the Bruce" by A. F. Murison (Famous Scots Series, 1899). Mr. Murison, who is Professor of Roman Law in University College, London, is a distinguished son of Buchan—he is a native of the parish of New Deer.

Not kindred—no, nor wedded love—
 Could thy high soul to treason move :
 Husband and brother he
 Who most could feel his country's woes,
 And best give back the foeman's blows,
 And set old Scotia free.

Stranger ! I would these bars might rot,
 And Buchan's Countess be forgot,
 Might *this* remember'd be !
 That in the princely halls of Scone,
 The Bruce, in mounting Scotland's throne,
 Proclam'd his country free !

Whilst thus redress'd my country's wrongs,
 Shall I forget proud Edward's pangs
 In weeping o'er mine own ?
 For well I wot this deed of shame
 Shall married be to Edward's name,
 Where'er that name is known.

For me, then, weep not ; weep for those,
 Who, leagued with Scotland's ancient foes,
 Dishonour'd traitors prove,
 And leave it to a woman's hand
 To fill the story of their land
 With deeds of faith and love.

Then hie thee, stranger ! tell my foes
 That Isabel, 'mid all her throes,
 Is high of heart, and leal ;
 Mothers henceforth shall proudly tell
 How caged and prison'd Isabel
 Did serve her country's weal !

Alexander, brother of John Comyn, is occasionally spoken of as fourth Earl of Buchan, but he never possessed the earldom. His elder daughter, Alice, married Henry Beaumont, who, in right of his wife—the heiress of her uncle—claimed the earldom of

Buchan, and, as has been mentioned (p. 304), took possession of the Castle of Dundarg, where he was defeated and captured by the Scots. Alexander Comyn's younger daughter, Margaret, married John Ross, son of the Earl of Ross, and he got with her, to again quote Dr. Milne, "in tocher from Robert the Bruce, half of the Earl of Buchan's hail lands in Scotland. These lands were erected into the great barony of King-Edward, which extended from Muireisk on the river Deveron to Rattray Head on the North Sea, and comprehended the greater part of Buchan. King-Edward Castle was the head of the barony." A large part of the other half of the Earl of Buchan's lands was given by Bruce to his faithful adherent, Sir Gilbert de Haya (who thus became Hay of Erroll), on whom he also conferred the office of High Constable, granting it heritably by charter. William, son of John Ross and Margaret Comyn, became Earl of Ross on the death of his uncle. He left two daughters, the elder of whom, Euphemia, married Sir Walter Leslie, and the younger, Johanna, married Sir Alexander Fraser. An exchange of lands was effected between the two sisters, the part of Buchan on the seaboard, along with Delgaty and other portions, passing to the Frasers of Philorth. (See account of the Frasers of Philorth in Chap. xv.) The remainder of the barony continued part of the earldom of Ross, and so was included in the claim to the earldom made by Donald, Lord of the Isles, who invaded Aberdeenshire, and was defeated at Harlaw in 1411. Passing then to the Stewarts, Earls of Buchan, the barony of King-Edward ultimately fell into the hands of the Crown in the beginning of the

sixteenth century. The lands were broken up and acquired by many different owners, and after 1500 the title of "barony of King-Edward" became merely a geographical term. "Since it was adjudged to the King as heir of the Earl of Buchan by the Lords of the Council," writes Dr. Milne, "it may be held to have remained in the Crown, and so Her Majesty the Queen is Baroness of King-Edward." In 1509, James IV. gave John, Lord Forbes, proprietor of the adjacent lands of Blackton, the Castlehill and the ruins of the old castle, and these now form part of the estate of Craigston.

From the old Castle of King-Edward the road to Turriff proceeds by way of Plaidy, two miles east of which is Craigston Castle. This edifice consists of a central tower with projecting wings, the two wings being connected by a lofty arch, surmounted by a highly ornate and sculptured balcony. "The inside of the castle," says Sir Andrew Leith Hay in his "Castellated Architecture of Aberdeenshire," "is remarkable for a spacious hall, now converted into a handsome drawing-room, containing numerous specimens of curiously-carved oak panelling of the same age as the building, and the remains of its original decoration. These present the effigies of a very miscellaneous assemblage of heroes, kings, evangelists, and cardinal virtues." There is a collection of valuable portraits, including two by George Jamesone (General Sir David Lesley and Bishop William Forbes), and six by Francesco Trevisani, an eminent portrait painter of Rome. According to an inscription on its walls, the castle was "foundit the fourtene of March, one thousand sex-houner four yeiris, and endit the 8 of

December 1607." Its founder was John Urquhart of Craigintray (or Craigintrie)—the proper name of the estate—who was a younger son of Urquhart of Cromarty. The Urquharts were a family of great antiquity, hereditary sheriffs of Cromarty. John Urquhart was "tutor" or guardian—first, to his grand-nephew, the head of the clan, and afterwards to his great-grand-nephew, the celebrated Sir Thomas Urquhart, genealogist and author; and, as "Tutor of Cromartie," he was a person of note in his day, being numbered among the chiefs or heads of families who were required to find security for the good conduct of their respective clans by an Act of Parliament in 1587. He died at Craigston Castle in 1631, in the 84th year of his age, and was buried in his own aisle in the church of King-Edward. An epitaph on him was written by Arthur Johnston: the last two lines are—

"Posteritas, cui liquit agros et praedia, disce
Illius exemplo vivere, disce mori."*

John Urquhart's great-grand-nephew, Sir Thomas Urquhart, was one of the most extraordinary men of his age, and was the author of several curious works.†

* "Ye posterity of his, inheritors of his lands and fame, learn by his example how to live: learn also how to die." [See "Musa Latina Aberdonensis" (ii., 91), edited by Sir William Geddes (New Spalding Club, 1895), which contains a photogravure of a portrait of the Tutor of Cromarty, by Jamesone, now in the possession of Colonel Morison of Mountblairny.]

† Among these works were—"Παροχρονολαγον: or, A. Peculiar Promptuary of Time; Wherein (not one instant being omitted since the beginning of motion) is displayed A most

Craigston, previous to the time of the Tutor of Cromarty, belonged to the old family of Craig of Craigston, from whom, it is believed, Sir Thomas Craig, the great Scottish feudalist, was descended. It is still in the possession of the descendants of John Urquhart, the present proprietor being Mr. Francis Edward Pollard-Urquhart, son of Mr. William Pollard of Castle Pollard, County Westmeath, and M.P. for that county, who, in 1846, married the heiress of Craigston, and subsequently assumed the additional name of Urquhart. Mrs. Duff of Hatton, however, may claim to be the only true Urquhart surviving, she being the only person lineally descended from John Urquhart by direct male succession.

The next place of interest on the road to Turriff is Delgaty Castle. It stands on the west bank of a valley, the eastern side of which is covered with wood, and consists of a massive square tower, about 66 feet high, with battlements and turrets. The Hay arms, with the family motto "SERVA IVGVM," flanked by the initials V.H. and the date 1579, are upon a slab near the bartizan. Parts of the walls are at least seven feet thick, and some of the rooms are groined, having the bosses embellished with the arms of the Hays.

exact Directory for all particular Chronologies in what Family soever; And that by deducing the true Pedigree and Lineal descent of the most ancient and honourable name of the Urquharts, in the house of Cromartie, since the Creation of the world, until this present year of God, 1652"; "The Trissotretas: Or, A most Exquisite Table for Resolving all manner of Triangles" (1645); "Εκκυβαλανρον: Or, The Discovery of A Most Exquisite Jewel" (1652); and "Logopandecteis; or an Introduction to the Universal Language" (1653).

particularly an apartment on the first floor, supposed to have been originally an oratory and now used as a library.*

The lands of Delgaty, as has been mentioned, passed into the family of the Frasers of Philorth shortly after the beaking-up of the earldom of Buchan, and continued in the possession of the Frasers till 1479, when they became the property of William Hay of Ardendracht, a cadet of the Erroll family. A Sir William Hay of Delgaty was associated with the last and fatal enterprise of the Marquis of Montrose, and was beheaded at the Cross of Edinburgh in 1650. Delgaty subsequently came into the possession of the Earls of Erroll. In the "Description of Buchan" attributed to Lady Anne Drummond (Countess of Erroll), supposed to be written about 1680, it is said that "Turriff belongs to the Earle of Errol. Near to this town is Delgaty, where Errol sometimes lives"; and the writer of the "View of the Diocese" (1732)

*Perhaps the most notable thing about Delgaty Castle is that in several of the bedrooms, where there had been no ceiling, the sides of the joists are decorated with verses painted in old English characters. These verses are of a religious or hortatory nature, and, on the authority of Professor Skeat, are of a kind that was very current in the sixteenth century—"the reverse of original, and probably mere reminiscences, adaptations, or imitations of older poems of the same class." The following are specimens—

" God resisteth the proud in eurie place,
Bot to the humill he gives his grace.
Trust not therefore to ritches, bewtie, or strynth,
All these be vain and sall consume at lynth."

" Do gude unto strangers euir be mine advice,
For in so doying thy honestie sall argie (? arise).
For Quhy it is far better thyng
To have freindis than be a king."

mentions it as "a castle belonging to the Earl of Erroll, one of whose seats it was, and purchased of late by Mr. Alexander Falconer (brother to the present David Falconer, late of Newton, now Lord Haulkerton), who married the heiress of that great house." Mr. Falconer assumed the name of Hay: the heiress was Lady Mary Hay, who became Countess of Erroll in her own right (see pp. 23, 60). The estate was purchased from James, fourteenth Earl of Erroll, in 1763, by Mr. Peter Garden of Troup, for £20,000, and was sold by his son, Francis, in 1798, to James, second Earl of Fife. The castle was occupied for many years by General the Hon. Sir Alexander Duff (father of the fifth Earl of Fife), who made an addition at the west end of the castle, which covered up the original entrance. Delgaty is now the property of Mr. Ainslie Douglas Ainslie, the second son of Captain James Grant Duff of Eden, by his wife, the only child of Sir Whitelaw Ainslie, a distinguished medical man, and a brother of Robert Ainslie, the friend and travelling companion of Burns.* Mrs. Grant Duff succeeded to the considerable fortune acquired by her uncle, Mr. Douglas Ainslie, who died in 1850; and it was arranged that her property should pass, on her death, to her second son. Delgaty was purchased, in her interest, by Mr. Douglas Ainslie's trustees, in 1862; and on her death, in 1866, it passed to Mr. Ainslie Grant Duff, who then assumed the name of his grand-uncle, Douglas Ainslie. Mr. Ainslie of Delgaty was for some time in the diplomatic service, and for several years he was Attaché at the British

*See Chambers's "Life and Works of Robert Burns" (Wallace's Revised Edition), ii., 102.

Embassy at St. Petersburg. He was a candidate for the Parliamentary representation of East Aberdeenshire, in the Liberal interest, in 1875, but withdrew before the poll. He was also a candidate for the Elgin Burghs, on the resignation of his brother, Sir Mountstuart Elphinstone Grant Duff, in 1881, but was defeated on a test ballot among the Liberal nominees, Mr. Alexander Asher, advocate, Edinburgh, the present member, being selected.

Turriff is pleasantly situated on a broad table-land on the north side of the Water of Turriff (called Parcock in old charters), near its junction with the Deveron. The town, which has increased considerably of recent years, has a central square, with streets branching off in different directions. The houses are mostly built of red sandstone, quarried in the neighbourhood. The Market Cross, at the junction of High Street and Castle Street, was erected in 1865, near the site of a former Cross, which consisted of part of an upright pillar raised on a pedestal of circular steps. This old Cross was of considerable antiquity; mention is made of an inquest being held in 1577 "apud Crucem de Turriff." Turriff is about mid-way between Aberdeen and Elgin, and there is an old popular couplet—

" Choose ye, choise ye, at the Cross o' Turra,
Either gang to Aberdeen or Elgin o' Moray."*

Despite the name Castle Street, there does not appear to have been at any time a castle about Turriff, though in several old charters mention is made of a feu

*See "Johnny Gibb of Gushetneuk" by William Alexander. A slightly different version of the couplet is given in Jervise's "Epitaphs."

bounded on the north and west by the Castlehill and Castlegreens. The present street called Castle Street was so named because of an old house in it which was designated Castle Rainy—a house belonging at one time to a family of the name of Rainie; the appellation “Castle” must have been a nickname. The house was cleared away in 1845—it was then in a ruinous condition—and the site having been acquired by a Town Hall Company, a building was erected containing schoolrooms on the ground floor and the Town Hall above. In 1898 the premises were considerably altered and improved, a new public hall being provided, and the old hall converted into reading and recreation rooms. At the end of High Street near the Cross is a building called “The Lodging,” believed to have been “the lodging” or residence of the Earls of Erroll. There are several banks in the town, one of the most conspicuous being the North of Scotland Bank, at the junction of Main Street and Balmellie Street. It is in the Scottish baronial style of architecture, with a square clock-tower 63 feet high; it was built in 1875. A new Post Office was built in 1899, on a site in High Street occupied for many years by Mr. John Hutcheon as a pork-curing establishment. The Parish Church, built in 1794, stands on rising ground to the north; it was enlarged in 1830, and altered and improved in 1897. The Free Church, on the opposite side of the town, built shortly after the Disruption in 1843, was replaced by a new building in 1899. The Episcopal Church (St. Congan’s), built in 1863 on a commanding situation on the west side of the town, is a pleasing specimen of Early English Church

architecture. It has a small tower and spire at the south-west corner, with a fine bell; and it contains a marble tablet to the memory of Bishop Jolly, incumbent, 1777-88 (see Chap. xv.—Fraserburgh), removed from the former church (Holy Trinity), and a stained-glass window dedicated to the memory of Bishop Skinner.

Turriff is a place of great antiquity. It is mentioned in the "Book of Deer" under the name of Turbrud, a grant of land to the Monastery of Deer by Gartnait, Mormaer of Buchan, being witnessed by Domongart ferleighin of Turbrud (the "ferleighin" or "man of learning" being a prominent officer in monasteries). Turbrud (Gaelic) signifies high, swelling mound; and the term is exactly applicable to the spot on which the old church and churchyard stand—a mound between the hollow of Putachy on the north and the Water of Turriff on the south. There are, however, many forms of the name Turriff—Turruered, Turruereth, Turreth, Tor-rath, Torra, Turra (this last being still the local pronunciation). Further allusion is made to Turbrud (Turriff) in the "Book of Deer" as the seat (1132) of a Celtic monastery—a monastery supposed to have been dedicated to St. Congan, a follower of St. Columba. The Church of Turriff is mentioned as early as the beginning of the thirteenth century. In 1214, Marjory, Countess of Buchan, gave it (that is, its revenues) to the monks of St. Thomas of Arbroath, the grant being confirmed by William the Lion and Adam, Bishop of Aberdeen. Her son, Alexander Comyn, Earl of Buchan, founded a Hospital at Turriff, for a master, six chaplains, and thirteen poor husbandmen of Buchan; and in 1273

he gave to it his lands of Knockikuly (Knockhill). This hospital was endowed by King Robert the Bruce (after the downfall of the Comyns), by a charter granted at Kinkell in 1328, with the lands of Petts (Petty), in Fyvie, "in puram et perpetuam eleemosynam pro animâ Nigelli de Bruys, fratris nostri"—the Sir Nigel Bruce, third brother of the king, who was taken prisoner by the English at Kildrummy and "hanged and drawn" by order of Edward I. Little is known of the history of this hospital, but it apparently ceased to have an existence separate from the church in 1412. Still less is known of its site. The conjecture is possible that the hospital may have occupied the site denominated Castlehill and Castlegreens (previously referred to) and that its ruins may have got the name of the castle. On this theory, it would have been very near the corner between Castlehill and Deveron Street, north of the old church; but, after all, this is mere conjecture. In 1412, the church of Turriff was erected into a prebend of St. Machar's Cathedral, Aberdeen, its revenues being then assigned to the prebendary. The charters of Turriff show that the feus were held of the incumbents as immediate lawful superiors up till the Revolution, when Episcopacy was abolished and lands held of churchmen were appointed to be held of the King.

The old church of Turriff, occupying a site at the west end of Castle Street, was a long, narrow building, about 120 feet in length and only 18 feet wide. The quire (choir) was erected by Alexander Lyon, chanter of Moray, son of the fourth Lord Glamis, who died in 1541; he was buried in the quire, where an

aumbry, now mostly hidden from view, exhibits his initials, A.L., and family arms.* According to the Old Statistical Account, the east end of the church "was formerly divided from the rest of the building by a row of ballisters," by which, no doubt, a chancel-screen was meant. The only part of the structure that now remains, says the New Statistical Account, is "the eastern part of the building called the quire and the belfry, which is rather a handsome piece of architecture, and contains a fine-toned bell, bearing the date 1557." On the north wall of the church is a tablet in memory of one of the Barclays of Towie, dated 1636. While a portion of the south wall of the quire was being taken down in 1861—to furnish materials for repairing the churchyard wall!—a fresco painting of a mitred abbot was discovered on a splay of a window that had been built up. The painting—the colours of which were wonderfully fresh—represented an Episcopal figure, fully habited, his pastoral staff in his left hand and his right hand elevated in the act of benediction; on each side of the head were stars painted red, and the words "**S. Ainian**" in black. A similar fresco was on the opposite splay, but was destroyed in the demolition of the wall. Probably there was a series of frescoes all round the quire, and they were possibly painted by Andrew Bairhum, who, in 1538, was employed by the Abbot of Kinloss to adorn certain portions of that monastery.† Other

*An illustration of this aumbry or "Sacrament House," by Robert W. Gibbon, forms the frontispiece to the "Transactions of the Aberdeen Ecclesiological Society, M.DCCC.XCV."

†For a fuller description of the fresco, see *Banffshire Journal*, 24 December, 1861. An illustration of it, by the

antiquarian relics in and about the church are thus described by Mr. Jervise in the second volume of his "Epitaphs"—"A piece of curious carving (probably the upper lintel of a door or window) is built into the east wall of the old kirk. It is divided into three compartments, and exhibits a group of ten heads, the upper three are crowned, three without any distinctive peculiarities are upon each side, and the head and shoulders of a monk (?) below. The first group may possibly represent King Robert and the Countess and Earl of Buchan, who were the chief benefactors of the foundation; the six heads the chaplains, and the remaining one the master of the hospital."*

"Two fragments of sculptured stones are also here. One of these (engraved in the "Book of Deer") is built into the north wall of the kirkyard. It is of red sandstone—possibly the end of the arm of a cross—and presents some interlaced ornament. The other piece—part of a boulder of a yellowish colour—is built into the east wall of the manse offices, and presents some incised markings, probably a portion of the so-called sceptral ornament." . . . "The belfry, which is of the double sort common to many old churches in Aberdeenshire, bears the date of 1635, the Hay arms, the initials E.W.E. (William, Earl of Erroll), and also those of the minister,

late Mr. Andrew Gibb, Aberdeen, appears in the "Book of Deer" and in Jervise's "Epitaphs" (vol. ii.). The remains of the plaster, says Mr. Jervise, which were at one time in the possession of Rev. Mr. Christie of St. Congan's, are now lost.

*This stone with the heads carved on it had evidently been built into the wall after its erection. Possibly the stone had been in the Hospital, and had been put here on its demolition. The Church of Turriff was the church of the Hospital.

M.T.M. (Thomas Mitchell).” The belfry, say Messrs. Macgibbon & Ross in their “Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland” (v., 184-5), “is interesting as an example of the application to an ecclesiastical edifice of the Scottish style, as used in the Domestic Architecture of the beginning of the seventeenth century. There is a strong dash of Renaissance taste in the design; but the cornice with its small corbels and the string-course with its moulded supports might be details from any old Scottish castle. The bell bears the date 1557. The gateway to the churchyard is a simple but pleasing specimen of the early Scottish Renaissance, similar in style to the belfry.”* The church and churchyard contain a large number of interesting family tombstones. A cemetery was laid out on the east side of the town in 1877.

The Earls of Erroll had a proprietorial interest in Turriff for over three centuries, having the patronage of the church, and ultimately becoming (some time after 1699) superiors of the town; reference has already been made to “The Lodging” of the family near the Cross. An Earl of Erroll was a consenting party to the grant by Andrew Hay, rector of Turriff, of seven roods of land to the chaplain and master of the grammar school in 1546; and at a later period, Mr. Andrew Skene, prebendary, made over the customs of the markets to the Earl of Erroll, on condition of his paying £100 Scots as salary to the schoolmaster. The town was erected into a burgh of barony in 1512, two annual fairs being established, one to be held on

*Illustrations of the belfry and churchyard gateway are given in the work quoted from; an illustration of the belfry is also given on the title-page to vol. iii.

the feast of St. Congan, the patron saint of the parish—St. Congan's fair is still a local institution, and the name of the saint is also perpetuated in St. Congan's Den, a small dell to the east of the cemetery. The connection of the Erroll family with Turriff came to an end in 1762, the magnificence displayed by the fifteenth earl in conducting the affianced bride of George III., Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg, to England involving an expenditure that compelled him to dispose of his Turriff properties, which then passed into the hands of the Earls of Fife. In 1889, the superiority of the feus of the town and the lands of Turriff were sold by the Duke of Fife to Messrs. Francis George, solicitor, Banff, and Alexander George, solicitor, Macduff (brothers). In 1899, Mr. John Hutcheon of Gask, purchased from the Messrs. George the Market Hill, with a small field adjoining (extending in all to 11 acres), and presented it to the town as a Recreation Park; it is now known as the Hutcheon Park. A Hospital for Turriff and the adjacent district was erected in the town in 1896.*

During the wars of the Covenant, Turriff was twice, in the course of one year, the scene of a hostile meeting between the opposing parties. The Marquis of Montrose, who was then one of the chief Covenanting lords, had been authorised by "the Table" to hold a meeting at Turriff with the northern Covenanters, comprising chiefly the Forbeses, Frasers,

*See articles on "Improvements in Turriff," in *Banffshire Journal*, 20 September, 1898, and *Daily Free Press*, 5 January, 1899; "New Free Church at Turriff," in *Banffshire Journal*, 11 July, 1899; and "Progress in 1899," in *Banffshire Journal*, 26 December, 1899.

Keiths, and Crichtons; and the Marquis of Huntly, who was at the head of the royal party in the north, mustered his followers for the purpose of dispersing the Covenanters. Montrose, however, was first in the field, and occupied Turriff on 14th February, 1639, being met there by men of the Earl Marischal and by the young Earl of Erroll and his men—"about the number," says Spalding, "of 800 weill horsit weill armed gentilmen, and on foot togidder, with buffil cotis, corsletis, jakis, suordis, pistollis, carrabins, hagbutis, and vther wapins. Thus they took in the toun of Turref, and buskit vary advantagiouslie thair muskattis round about the dykes of the kirk yaird." No sooner were they thus established than the van of Huntly's army arrived. Huntly's army—"estimat" (by Spalding) "to be about 2000 brave weill horsit gentilmen and brave foot men, albeit wanting armes, except suord and shot"—had mustered at Broadford of Tollie, three miles south-east of Turriff, and marched on the town by keeping the east side of the Water of Turriff, passing Hatton Castle (then Balquholly). On reaching the town, and finding it occupied by Montrose, Huntly kept well to the north and finally took up a position on the north-west. According to Gordon's "History of Scots Affairs," Ogilvy, Earl of Findlater, was among those who had kept rendezvous with Huntly; and this nobleman, "being a man of a peaceable temper, and one who was knowne to have no stomacke for warre, tooke occasione to mediate peace betwixt Huntly and Montrose." After some parleying, "some tyme befor sunnesett, Huntly breake upp his rendezvoue, and sent the most pairt of his own men backe to Strabogy

. . . keeping the straight way under the village of Turreff, and rydinge hard under the dyckes of the churcheyarde, westward, within two picke lenth to Montrose company, without salutatione or worde speaking on either syde." Presumably from this description, Huntly's men passed close to the churchyard gate and went along a road there—a narrow road which, going straight down a steep slope now called Demullion Brae, crossed the Water of Turriff, passed north to Kinnermit, and then joined the road to Forgue; this road at that time forming the entrance to Turriff from the west. Montrose's army retired next day. This bloodless affair was afterwards known as the First Raid of Turriff.

Not many weeks elapsed before there was another meeting between the Royalists and Covenanters, at Turriff. A body of Covenanters, to the number of about 2000, having assembled at Turriff, the Gordons of Strathbogie resolved to attack them. A night march was arranged, the command being entrusted to Sir George Ogilvy of Banff and Sir John Gordon of Haddo, and the van being commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel William Johnstone, son of Robert Johnstone of Crimond, Provost of Aberdeen, "the only man of note in all ther company, who had been bredd upp at the warre, and wanted neither gallantrye nor resolutione." (Gordon's "History of Scots Affairs.")*

*Spalding mentions among the "good commanderis" Arthur Forbes of Blackton, of whom and of whose family an interesting account is given in the chapter "A Jacobite Laird and His Forbears" in "Two Scottish Soldiers," by James Ferguson [younger of Kinmundy, and now Sheriff of Argyle]. (Aberdeen: D. Wyllie & Son, 1888.)

The Gordons took the Covenanters completely by surprise, entering Turriff early in the morning of 14th May. Most of the Covenanters fled "without coming to strockes, or firing pistols," all the efforts of Sir William Keith of Ludquharn and Sir William Hay of Delgaty to rally them being unavailing. The loss on either side in killed and wounded was very trifling, and the skirmish was called, in derision, "the Trott o' Turra." The Trot of Turriff, however, in the opinion of John Hill Burton, has "some claim to commemoration, since in this distant village the first blood was spilt in the great civil war. It was remembered, too, in the North, though the many turns in the mighty conflict drove it out of memory elsewhere, that it was on the side of the Cavaliers that the sword was first drawn."

Where the Water of Turriff enters the Deveron, that river—(continuing the description of its course upward from the sea)—turns at nearly a right angle, its direction becoming westward, instead of southerly as hitherto. About a mile from Turriff, pleasantly situated on the south bank of the river, is the house of Muiresk. It was formerly possessed by a family of the name of Brodie, but after passing through various hands, became the property of the late Mr. Robert Spottiswood Farquhar Spottiswood, advocate, Aberdeen, and is now owned by his son, Mr. Henry Alexander Farquhar Spottiswood, who married the eldest daughter of the late Sir George Abercromby of Birkenbog and Forglen. A mile farther on is Ardmiddle House (formerly called Scobbach), which, a number of years ago, became the property of another Aberdeen lawyer, the late

Mr. John Duguid Milne, by his marriage with the daughter of Mr. Alexander Rae, surgeon in the Royal Navy, heiress of Mr. John Adam of Scobbach ; it now belongs to his son, Mr. John Adam Milne. The house is in the Elizabethan style, and commands a fine view of the river. Farther west is Laithers House, the property of Mr. Alexander Stuart of Inchbreck (Kincardineshire) and Laithers, who married Hon. Clementina Arbuthnott, daughter of the ninth Viscount Arbuthnott. The boundary of Buchan in this direction terminates where the Herne Burn falls into the Deveron near Drachlaw (see p. 7).*

*Many details respecting the history of Turriff and King-Edward are to be found in the two Statistical Accounts; Jervise's "Epitaphs" (vol. ii.); a paper on "The Early History of Turriff," by Rev. Dr. John Milne, King-Edward, read at the Banffshire Field Club, 30 January, 1890; and an article on "The Barons of King-Edward" (also by Dr. Milne) in *Daily Free Press*, 9 October 1897. The Raid and the Trot of Turriff are described in Spalding's "Troubles and Memorable Transactions in Scotland, 1624-45" and Gordon of Rothiemay's "History of Scots Affairs from 1638 to 1641" (both published by the Spalding Club), and are referred to, in more or less detail, in John Hill Burton's "History of Scotland," Napier's "Memoirs of Montrose," and "The Records of Aboyne," by the Marquis of Huntly (New Spalding Club, 1894). See also "Sketches of the Military History and Military Heroes of Buchan," in *Aberdeen Weekly Free Press*, 14 September, 1872. The Castles of Eden and King-Edward are described in "Ruined Castles in Vicinity of Banff," by James Spence (1873); Craigston Castle in Billings's "Baronial Antiquities," "Castles of Aberdeenshire," and Macgibbon & Ross's "Castellated and Domestic Architecture;" and Delgaty Castle in the last-named work. Deveronside is described in "The Valley of the Deveron," a series of articles by John Mackintosh, LL.D., contributed to the *Banffshire Journal*.

For the history of the Comyns, reference may be made to Anderson's "Scottish Nation," Dr. Mackintosh's "Historic Earls and Earldoms of Scotland," and the "Dictionary of National Biography." An account of "The Castle of Eden" and its various owners, by Dr. Milne, is included in a description of the Aberdeen Philosophical Society's "Excursion to Deveronside" in *Daily Free Press*, 26 June, 1899; additional details respecting Sir Patrick Leslie of Eden will be found in Colonel Forbes-Leslie's "Family of Leslie," Spalding's "Troubles," Kennedy's "Annals of Aberdeen," and A. M. Munro's "Memorials of the Provosts." Particulars regarding Dunlugas House and Major-General John Grant appeared in the *Sketch*, 16 February and 2 March, 1898. Dr. Temple's "Thanage of Fermartyn" may be consulted for details respecting the family of Urquharts of Craigston. An interesting article on Sir Thomas Urquhart, by Charles Whibley, was published in the *New Review*, July, 1897; a notice of the famous genealogist has since appeared in the "Dictionary of National Biography," and his life has recently been written by Rev. John Willcock, B.D., Lerwick—"Sir Thomas Urquhart of Cromartie" (Oliphant, Anderson, & Ferrier, 1899). See also Dr. Cramond's "Annals of Banff" (New Spalding Club), and a letter on "The Urquharts of Cromarty and the Burgh of Banff" by Dr. Cramond in *Daily Free Press*, 25 April, 1899.

The two Jamesone portraits in Craigston Castle (General Sir David Lesley and Bishop William Forbes) are described in "George Jamesone, the Scottish Vandyck," by John Bulloch (Edinburgh, 1885), where, by the way, descriptions are also given of Jamesone portraits at Slains Castle, Philorth House, and Crimonmogate House. Portraits of George, fifth Earl Marischal; Rev. Andrew Cant, and Dr. William Guild—all by Jamesone—are in Marischal College.

CHAPTER XX.

HATTON CASTLE—MONQUHITTER.

TWO miles and a half south-east of Turriff is Hatton Castle. The name Hatton is a comparatively modern one, superseding the ancient feudal designation of Balquholly, which means "wood town," from "baile," town, and "coille," wood. The Castle of Balquholly was at one time the seat of the Mowats of Balquholly—a family of great antiquity, of Norman origin, the Norman form of the name being Monhault, invariably Latinised into Monte Alto. The family seems to have come to Scotland at a very early period, and to have had estates in Caithness and Shetland, as well as in Aberdeenshire; whether the separate estates were held by one family or by different branches of the same family is not quite clear. In 1401, John Mowat, "son and heir of William Mowat, sometime Dominus de Fowlis Mowat," granted a tack of his lands to George Leslie, first of Rothes; and in 1429 Janet Mowat, daughter of the "Baron of Balquholly," married Alexander Leslie, first Laird of Leslie (Colonel Forbes-Leslie's "History of the Leslies"). A continuous line of Mowats of Balquholly can be traced from about the beginning of the

sixteenth century down till 1729, when John Mowat sold the estate for £4000 to Mr. Alexander Duff of Hatton, son of Mr. Patrick Duff of Craigston.*

Balquholly Castle got the name of Hatton Lodge in or about 1745, when Alexander Duff, son of the laird of Hatton just mentioned, married his cousin, the Hon. Anne Duff (afterwards Lady Anne Duff), daughter of Lord Braco (subsequently created Earl of Fife), and the land of Balquholly was settled on the newly-wedded pair. This Alexander Duff (the second) restored the old castle and partly built a new house; and his nephew, Mr. Garden Duff, who eventually succeeded to Hatton, completed the work in 1814 by building Hatton Castle, making it the family residence instead of the old manor-house in Auchterless. Part of the old Castle of Balquholly was incorporated in the new castle, which is thus described in the New Statistical Account—"It is a very substantial and commodious edifice, of a quadrangular form, with corner turrets" [towers, rather]; "and, while its outward appearance is handsome and attractive, the internal accommodation is no less convenient and elegant. It may be remarked that if the etymology of the ancient name, Balquholly, be correct—namely, the House in the Wood—Hatton Castle has a just title to its former appellation, being embosomed in wood of rich variety, and sheltered in great measure from every wind that blows." The ground floor of Hatton Castle on the south side is all that remains of the castle of the Mowats. The present proprietor of Hatton is

* Sir Oliver Mowat, the Canadian statesman, now Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, claims to be a descendant of the Mowats of Balquholly.

Mr. Garden Alexander Duff, a gentleman who takes a prominent part in the administration of county affairs. It may be mentioned that in 1639, Balquholly Castle was occupied—presumably as tenant only—by Sir Thomas Urquhart, referred to by Spalding as “the young laird of Cromartie,” and that the place was raided by the Covenanters, who carried off all the arms that could be found. (See the account of Towie-Barclay in the following chapter.) Sir Thomas Urquhart himself records that “having obtained, though with a great deal of pain, a fifteen hundredth subscriptions to a bond conceived and drawn up in opposition to the vulgar Covenant,” he selected from amongst them so many as he thought “fittest for holding hand to the dissolving of their committees and unlawfull meetings.”

Westward of Hatton is the estate of Gask, formerly belonging to the Forbeses, subsequently to the Fordyces, afterwards to the Earls of Fife, and now to Mr. John Hutcheon. The Old Statistical Account says—“The estate of Gask was an independent barony for several centuries. It appears upon record that, in 1375, it belonged to the Turings of Foveran, who flourished in Aberdeenshire in the days of King Robert Bruce. Afterwards it came into the family of Burnett of Leys. Thomas Burnett of Gask was killed at Flodden, and King James V. renewed the gift of the lands to his son, William.”

Near the farm of Darra, on the road leading southward from Turriff to Auchterless, a road strikes off—in an easterly direction—to Cuminestown, following, in the main, the course of the Water of Turriff, here called the Idoch Water. After

passing the farms of Mill of Colp and Balquhindachy on this road, the site of the old family mansion of Idoch or Udoch is reached. Mention is made of Idoch, under various names, from 1468 downwards. It belonged at one time to a family of the name of Coupland; and in 1696, according to the "Poll Book of Aberdeenshire," it was owned by a Simpson. It soon after passed into the hands of the Erroll family, and was subsequently part of the Fife estates; the Duke of Fife, however, has sold most of his landed property in this part of the country.

The village of Cuminestown extends along the northern side of the Waggle Hill for nearly a mile, the houses being built of an inferior kind of dark red sandstone, obtained from quarries in the neighbourhood. It was established by Mr. Joseph Cumine of Auchry in 1763. Monquhitter—(probably signifying the lower morass or moss, from "moine," moss or bog, and "iochdar," or "iochtar," pronounced "eeter," nether)—the parish of which Cuminestown is the principal village, was disjoined from that of Turriff in 1649; and the first Presbyterian minister after the Revolution settlement, Mr. William Johnstone, was ordained in 1727. The Parish Church was erected in 1764. A church prior to this one was erected by William Cumine of Auchry and Pittulie, who was for some time a magistrate of Elgin, and left (1693) a bequest for four decayed burgesses of that town. There is a monument to him in the present church, bearing the following inscription—

" *Memoria uiri optimi Gulielmi Coming ab Auchry & Pituly. Elgini quondam consulis qui ptochodochium quatuor inopum mercatorum ibidem mortificavit ac postea templum hoc impensis*

his condidit ac 29 Octob., A.D. 1707. Ætat an. 74. pie obiit : monumentum hoc posuit uxor eius dilectissima Christiana Guthry.

“ Observa integrum et aspice rectum finem illius uiri esse pacem. Ps. 37 & 37.

“ Vive memor Lethi. Fugit hora.”

Of which the following is a translation—

“ In memory of an excellent man, William Coming of Auchry and Pituly, at one time Provost of Elgin, who mortified a sum of money for four poor merchants of that town, afterwards erected this church at his own expense, and died piously on 29th October, A.D. 1707, aged 74 years. This monument was erected by his most dear wife, Christiana Guthry.

“ Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright : for the end of that man is peace. Psalms, xxxvii., 37.

“ Live mindful of Death. The hour flies.”

The Free Church is on the south side of the village, in a hollow close by the outskirts of the Waggle Hill. The Episcopal Church—built in 1844, and dedicated to St. Luke—is near the centre of the village.

Auchry House stands on a lawn at the base of a gently-sloping hill on the opposite side of the valley from Cuminstown (the Idoch Water is here called the Burn of Monquhitter). It is built of red sandstone, and from its size and situation forms a prominent object in the landscape. It is well backed with wood, and is thus sheltered from the north wind. Auchry, till about the time of the Revolution, belonged to a family named Con. From this family was descended George Con, a famous scholar and ecclesiastic in the early part of the seventeenth century, perhaps better known under his Latinised name of Conaeus. He was Papal Legate at the court of Henrietta, Queen of

Charles I., and for his zeal in the Papal cause was to have been rewarded with a Cardinal's hat, but died on his way to Rome, in the forty-second year of his age. (See "View of the Diocese.") The family of Con was expatriated at the Revolution; and from a letter addressed to John, Earl of Erroll, and written by the grandson of "Old Patrick Conne of Achray," dated from Paris in 1690—a letter preserved in the charter chest at Slains Castle—it would appear that this old family was then in very reduced circumstances. The "Castle" of Auchry stood on the farm of that name, and several carved stones are built into the farm-house and steading, one of them bearing a coat of arms and the motto "Constant and Kynd"—an obvious play on the name Con.*

The estate subsequently passed into the hands of the Cumines (see p. 288), who for several generations were the principal proprietors in the parish of Monquhitter. "About the middle of the eighteenth century" (says the New Statistical Account) "the late Joseph Cumine of Auchry was distinguished, not only in this district, but throughout the whole of the north of Scotland, for the stimulus he gave to agricultural improvements. When he assumed the management of his estate in 1739, it was principally covered with heath, and yielded only £150 sterling of rent. He laid out extensive plantations around his house, subdivided his farm into ornamental enclosures, introduced a superior breed of cattle, founded the

* An account of a great quarrel between Mowat of Balquholly on the one side, and Con of Auchry and Coupland of Idoch, on the other side, in 1607, is given in "The Register of the Great Seal."

village of Cuminestown in the immediate vicinity of the church, and, in connection with some neighbouring gentlemen, established in this village a linen manufacture, which has been kept up ever since. By the judicious management of his property, he left it to his heirs yielding an annual value of more than £600 per annum. The rental of it was upwards of £2500 per annum in 1830, when it was divided into lots and disposed of by his son, the late Archibald Cumine.* The principal part of the property was then purchased by Mr. James Lumsden, who married Mary, daughter of Mr. William Mortimer, Aberdeen—she was one of the seven nephews and nieces of John Farquhar of Fonthill Abbey, the millionaire, who became heirs to his property. Mr. Lumsden also carried out extensive improvements on the estate of Auchry, which is now owned by one of his descendants, Mr. Richard William Lumsden.

About a mile from Cuminestown, and on the opposite side of the valley a little eastward of Auchry, is the village of Garmond. Two miles farther on is the village of New Byth, in the civil parish of King-Edward. It is built on the ridge of a hill, and was founded in 1764. A Chapel of Ease was established here in 1792, the old church was supplanted by the present building in 1852, and in 1868 a *quoad sacra* parish was erected, formed out of parts of the parishes of King-Edward, New Deer, and Aberdour. There is also a Free Church in the village, built in 1894 (replacing a former structure); while there is a

*A "Description of Auchry's Farm" (1780) is given by Francis Douglas in his "Description of the East Coast of Scotland."

Congregational Church at Millseat, near the small hamlet of Crudie. The estate of Byth, on which the village of New Byth is located, belonged in the end of the sixteenth century to a family of the name of Forbes, who also acquired the lands of Auchnagorth from the Bairds of Auchmedden. By the middle of the seventeenth century, Byth had become the property of the Bairds, having been purchased by James Baird, or by his son, John Baird, Lord Newbyth. (See account of the Bairds, p. 317.) A Sir John Baird of Byth was M.P. for Aberdeenshire in 1665 and 1667; he was also a Lord of Session and a Lord of Justiciary. He disposed of the estate of Byth to his cousin, Sir James Baird of Auchmedden, in 1667; and in 1681 James Baird, younger of Auchmedden, disposed it to James Leslie. John Leslie of Byth sold the property to James Urquhart in 1711, and it passed into the family of the Urquharts of Meldrum in the early years of the nineteenth century, becoming ultimately the property of Major Beauchamp Colclough Urquhart of Meldrum and Byth, an officer in the Cameron Highlanders, who fell at the battle of the Atbara, in the Sudan, on 8th April, 1898, and by him (he died unmarried) it was bequeathed to his sister, the wife of Mr. Garden Alexander Duff of Hatton. Byth House, which is situated to the north of the village of New Byth, was built by a Deacon Forbes of Byth in 1593. There is a motto over the door, "Velcum Friendis," with the arms of the founder quartered with those of Udney, his wife having been Christian Udney, daughter of Udney of that ilk. The woods round Byth House are virtually an oasis in the desert, so treeless and bare is the surrounding region.

Auchnagorth lies eastward of Byth House ; and here, on the farm of Upper Auchnagorth, are the remains of a Druidical circle, known as the Standing Stones of Auchnagorth. To the north are the Hills of Fishrie, on which are a large number of crofts, originally given off by James, fourth Earl of Fife, in 1830, to poor people evicted from other estates at the time when small crofts began to be merged in large farms. From the Hills of Fishrie—as from most of the eminences in this part of Buchan—an extensive view is obtained, embracing several of the more prominent hills in Aberdeenshire and Banffshire.

From Cuminestown there is a road to Maud, which divides on the hill of Corsegight, one branch going by Shevado, a little to the south of Brucklay Castle, and the other by Whitebog. There is also a more southerly road from Cuminestown, which crosses the burn of Allathan, a tributary of the Ythan, and traverses the district of Corbshill till the slight eminence of Brucehill (see p. 186) is reached. A mile from New Deer on this road, a road strikes off to the right, and, going westward, passes through the Slacks of Cairnbanno, a winding glen lying between the southern base of Brucehill and the Burn of Asleed (or Auchsleed).* About the end of the eighteenth

*Allathan and Corbshill, formerly belonging to Mr. Andrew Murray, advocate, Aberdeen, are now the property of Mr. James C. Bennett, advocate, Aberdeen. Hillhead and Boghead of Asleed belonged at one time to the Browns of Asleed. The last "Laird Brown" was apparently a man of rare character, according, at all events, to stories about him recorded in the *Aberdeen Journal*, 30 January, 1850. He sold the estate to a Captain John Coutts, whose grandson, Dr. Coutts, of Fraserburgh, sold it to Mr. John Duncan. It now

century, these Slacks (or hollows) were notorious—as were many other parts of Aberdeenshire—for the smuggling operations carried on within their bog-moss entrenchments. Westward is Abbotshaugh, which belonged at one time to the Abbots of Deer; and, crossing a narrow strip of the parish of Monquhitter, running about three miles to the south and never more than a mile in width, the bridge of Swanford is reached and the *quoad sacra* parish of Millbrex entered.

About half a mile beyond this point, the road divides on the eastern slope of Deers Hill. Taking the right-hand, or northern, branch of the road, and ascending to the ridge of the hill, an excellent view is got of the mountains along the courses of the Dee and the Don, and in the upper parts of Banffshire. About a mile past the crest of the hill is the farm of Keithan, westward of which are the farms of Brownhill and Lendrum; and on all these farms there were at one time mounds and cairns supposed to be connected with a conflict, vaguely designated the Battle of Lendrum. Nothing whatever is known of such a battle, however, beyond an untrustworthy statement in Forsyth's "Beauties of Scotland." A barren heath on the farm of Brownhill was thickly studded with mounds and small cairns; but on the heath being brought into cultivation these were removed, pieces of corroded iron being found. On a field to the east of the farm-steading of Keithan there was a very large heap known as Donald's Cairn, but it was obliterated in 1850.

belongs to Mr. Dingwall-Fordyce of Brucklay. The late Mr. John Brown, of Howe o' Buchan, was understood to be a descendant of the Browns of Aslead.

The road across Deers Hill joins, near Keithan, a road from Cuminstown to Fyvie. This latter road, going southward, passes Macterry and North Tifty, and, proceeding eastward of the policies of Fyvie Castle, reaches the village; while a branch road, passing Mill of Tifty, joins the Aberdeen and Banff public road near the north entrance to the Castle grounds.*

*References to the Mowats of Balquholly will be found in *Scottish Notes and Queries*, xi., 192, and xii., 16; and a detailed account of the family is given in two papers by J. M. Bulloch on "A Forgotten Family—The Mowats of Balquholly," *Ibid.*, xii., 91, 103. For further particulars respecting Balquholly and Hatton, see Dr. Temple's "Thanage of Fermartyn," which may also be referred to for an account of the proprietors of Meldrum and Byth. Minute details of the succession to the estate of Byth, extracted from "Inventory of the Writs and Evidents of the Lands and Barony of Byth," in the possession of the late Mr. Keith Forbes, solicitor, Peterhead, the lineal descendant of the Forbeses of Byth, are given in Appendix FF ("The Lairds of Byth") to the third edition of the present work. New Byth is dealt with in "Sketch of a Quiet Buchan Parish" by Rev. Thomas M'William, minister of New Byth (Banff, 1899); and the parish church in "History of New Byth Church" in *Banffshire Journal*, 12 July, 1898. An account of the Cumines of Auchry is given in "Family Records of the Bruces and the Cumyns" by the late Mrs. Cumming-Bruce of Roseisle and Kinnaird, largely quoted from in an article on the death of Mrs. Jane Cumine, widow of Mr. John Cumine, yr. of Auchry (he died in 1830), in the *Banffshire Journal*, 20 January, 1891.

A very complete description of the parish of Monquhitter is to be found in the Old Statistical Account. It contains in particular an interesting narrative of the effects of the "Seven dear years" (1692-9), when the population of the parish was diminished to one-half of its former number—some accounts say to one-fourth—and when several extensive farms were entirely

desolated and converted into a sheep-walk. Details are also given of a season of scarcity "occasioned by deep and untimely snow" in 1740, and of another in 1782, following on a cold and stormy summer and on a destructive frost on 5th October, "when oats and barley were generally green."

On the farm of Cairnhill, in the north-west of the parish, was at one time the Mohr Cairn (Great Cairn), surrounded by a ring of stones, nearly three feet in height and 90 yards in circumference. This cairn was removed by the tenant of the farm in 1894 for the purpose of bringing the site under cultivation, and a grave was discovered containing two urns in fragments and two small cists. In one of the cists a large number of articles was found, including an intaglio representing a satyr or devotee of Bacchus. (See "The Mohr Cairn, Monquhitter"—a paper read by Dr. Milne, King-Edward, at a meeting of the Banffshire Field Club, reproduced in the *Banffshire Journal*, 16 and 23 November, 1897.)

Interesting reminiscences of persons belonging to Monquhitter or connected with the parish are contained in "The Thomson Family," compiled by Henry Morton Thomson, M.A., and Andrew Shewan Thomson. (See review in *Daily Free Press*, 26 April, 1897.) Reference may also be made to "Memories of Monquhitter" by Alexander Paterson, F.J.I., in *Banffshire Journal*, 20 February and 15 May, 1900.

A tablet in memory of Major Urquhart was placed in New Byth parish church by Mrs. Duff of Hatton in 1900. It is composed of a framework of richly-veined Derbyshire alabaster, surmounted by a moulded cornice of the same material, the background being of green-coloured opus sectile of various hues, enclosed by a bordering of vert antique marble. The inscription, after giving the date of the Major's death, says—"He fell while leading his Company over the Dervish intrenchments, his last words being 'Go on, lads, never mind me.'"

CHAPTER XXI.

THE UPPER YTHAN—FYVIE AND GIGHT.

FYVIE is in close proximity to the river Ythan, which forms the south and south-west boundary of Buchan. The Ythan—the Ituna of the Romans—takes its rise in the upper part of the parish of Forgue, from three springs called the Wells of Ythan. Half a mile below the union of these springs, the Ythan receives its first tributary, a clear, bright stream, from the glen of Aldavie—Alt-davie = allt-t'samhaidh, the burn of the sorrel (in Scotch, the soorick burn)—at the western base of the Kirkhill of Logie, near the summit of which are the remains of three Druidical circles. From this point the Ythan flows in a northerly direction, till it reaches the Mill of Knockleith, where it begins to serve as a boundary of Buchan. It then runs in a north-easterly direction to Towie-Barclay, and thence south-easterly to Newburgh, where it flows into the sea, after a course of about thirty miles.

In former times, the Ythan was famous for its pearl-oyster or mussel, and in the list of unpublished Acts of Parliament of Charles I. there is one “for repeating the patent for the pearl-fishery in the Ythan, granted to Robert Buchan.” There is a tradition, indeed, that the large pearl in the crown of Scotland was procured in the Ythan, the story being that it was found at the junction of the water of Kelly and the Ythan, and was presented to James VI. in 1620 by Sir Thomas Menzies of Cults: Skene, in his “Succinct View of Aberdeen,” speaks of it as being, “for beauty

and bigness, the best that was at any time found in Scotland." Dr. Skene Keith, in his "Agriculture of Aberdeenshire," states that, about 1750, "one Mr. Tower, a merchant in Aberdeen, got at one time an hundred pounds for a quantity of pearls, which were taken out of the mussels that were found in the Ythan." The Ythan, in fact, on account of the pearls taken in it, has been called "the rich rig of Scotland." Pearls are still occasionally found in the river, though there is no longer a regular fishery for them. The river abounds in trout; and near the mouth, finnocks and salmon are still taken, though less plentifully than formerly. At one time, not very remote, it was no uncommon thing for 80 or 90 fine fish to be caught at Ellon in a day; now, scarcely so many are taken during a whole season.

About a mile from its source, the Ythan enters the parish of Auchterless. The parish had for its titular saint St. Donan, who, according to the "Historia Ecclesiastica Gentis Scotorum," "fled in A.D. DCXL: his feast is on April the 17th, and that of his relicts on April the 18th. Dempster says, his staff, being kept here, cured fever and jaundice, but was broken by the Reformers." His fair was, till about the middle of the nineteenth century, held in the Kirktown of Auchterless, a small hamlet in the centre of the parish, where the parish church is situated. The former church was built in 1780, and an aisle was added in 1835. The present church was built in 1879, and a handsome spire was added a few years ago by the Blackford family in memory of the late Mr. John P. Watson, of Blackford, Mrs. Watson, and their younger daughter, Miss Catherine A. Watson. "In the

immediate vicinity of the church," says the New Statistical Account, "there is a small artificial eminence, of an oval shape, surrounded by a ditch, which is now in many places very much filled up. It still retains the name of the Moat-head, and was formerly a seat of the baronial court. The gallow-hill, where the criminals were executed and buried, is in its neighbourhood, and confirms the general opinion of the original purpose to which the Moat-head was applied." The remains of numerous Druidical circles were formerly scattered over the parish, but they have nearly all disappeared; their disappearance is hardly to be wondered at when a former minister could write in the Old Statistical Account—"Superstition still spares them, though stones are so scarce." On the Gallow-hill, traces of about 30 circular foundations were found, and many arrow-heads and stone whorls; whilst broken urns containing calcined bones were discovered within these foundations, as well as in a number of small mounds at the foot of the hill. These remains were said by Dr. John Stuart to belong to an ancient British village. The plough has now obliterated all traces of it. Traces of a supposed Roman camp are discernible at Glenmailen (or Glenmellan), about a mile and a half south of the Wells of Ythan.

There was at one time a barony of Auchterless, which is found mentioned in the rental of the Crown lands of Aberdeenshire in 1249-86, in the time of Alexander III. This barony was owned by a family named Dempster, which dated from the latter part of the fourteenth century, and at some time the barony included "the lordship of Lathers" and the lands of Fortrie, Ordnydill, Muresk, Kinermitt, Ordley, and

Knockleith. The Dempsters parted with their lands in the seventeenth century, part of the barony of Auchterless being acquired by the Meldrum family; and soon after 1700 the lands of Auchterless were purchased by Patrick Duff of Craigston, passing on to his descendants, the Duffs of Hatton (p. 373). The Meldrums owned other land in the vicinity, and Badenscoth was acquired from them in 1603 by George Gordon of Terpersie. His son, Patrick Gordon, built the house of Badenscoth, the arms of the Gordons being placed above the entrance door, with the initials P.G. and the date 1644. Badenscoth was owned by the Gordons for several generations, but the estate was united with that of Rothienorman some time after 1788. On the death, in that year, of James Gordon, the then proprietor, Badenscoth devolved on his two sisters. One of them was married to James Leslie of Rothienorman, and he acquired Badenscoth, buying the half that belonged to his wife's sister, Mrs. Forbes of Blackford. Badenscoth is now the property of Mrs. Crawford-Forbes-Leslie of Rothienorman, eldest daughter and heiress of the late Colonel Jonathan Forbes-Leslie of Rothienorman.

The parish of Auchterless is distinguished as the birth-place of several eminent and learned men, among whom may be mentioned—Malcolmus Ardes, a man of noble birth and a Carmelite friar, who flourished about 1324, and wrote, in rather inelegant Latin, a small volume entitled "De Bello ad Fawkirk," and another, "De Scotia Liberata." Patricius Bissetus, also of a good family, whose descendants held places of distinction in their native parish, and also in Fife.

He taught the arts and the canon law at Bologna, in Italy. He flourished about 1400, and was the author of "De Irregularitate," inscribed to his intimate friend, Bonifacius Gozadinus, and of "Lectiones FERIALES." Jacobus Laingœus, a descendant of the Dempsters. He was a doctor of Divinity, a member of the Sorbonne, and a great enemy of the doctrines of the Reformation. He wrote a number of works more or less bearing on that subject, the one best known being entitled "De Vita, Doctrina, obitu Lutheri, Calvini, aliorumque hæreticorum." He died at Paris in 1694, at the age of 93. By none, however, is Auchterless more honoured than by "the learned, amiable, and pious Henry Scougal (born 1650, died 1678), author of 'The Life of God in the Soul of Man.'" Scougal was appointed minister of Auchterless in 1672, but was transferred to the Professorship of Divinity in King's College, Aberdeen, the year after.* The parish has also had its centenarian—a Peter Garden, a farmer near Towie-Barclay, who died on 12 January, 1775, at the extraordinary age of 131, it is said, having retained his faculties to the last. He was married to his second wife when 120 years old, she being 80! and it is said that "he danced with great glee on that occasion." He lived under ten rulers—Charles I., Oliver Cromwell, Richard Cromwell, Charles II., James II., William and Mary, Anne, George I., George II., and George III. He was page

*See "Life and Writings of Henry Scougal," by Rev. James Cooper, D.D., prefaced to an edition of Scougal's "The Life of God in the Soul of Man," (Aberdeen, 1892), and "Henry Scougal and the Oxford Methodists," by Rev. D. Butler, Abernethy (W. Blackwood & Sons, 1899).

to Ogilvie of Banff before that gentleman was raised to the peerage, and was one of the garrison in the Castle of Towie-Barclay when Montrose defended it against Argyll. He recollected having been sent to a wood when a boy to cut boughs for spears in the time of the civil wars. In his latter days he used to describe Montrose as "a little black man, who wore a ruff as the ladies do nowadays." (See *New Statistical Account*; also *Scottish Notes and Queries*, ii., 88). There was once a Chapel of Seggat, near the farm of that name, and beside it a famous well dedicated to St. Mary, to which pilgrims resorted. The superstition attaching to the well survived so long that in 1649 the Assembly ordered the Presbytery of Turriff to visit the Kirk of Auchterless "and demolish the said chappel [of Sigget], altar, and well."

About three miles below the Kirktown of Auchterless (following the course of the Ythan) is the old Castle of Towie-Barclay, for many centuries the property and residence of a very ancient Scottish family, but now an adjunct to the dwelling-house of the farm of Mains of Towie. Over what was once the chief entrance is an inscription, now considerably defaced, generally read as follows—

SIR	ALEXANDER	BARCLAY	OF	
	TOLLY	FOVNDATOR	DECEISIT	
P	ANNO	DOMINI	1136	B
	IN TYM OF	VALTH AL	MEN	
	SEEMIS FRINDLY ANE FRIND IS NOT			
	KNAVIN BVT IN ADVERSITIE			1593.

On a scroll placed perpendicularly over the door was another inscription, of which only a few words now remain; the inscription is said to have been—

SIR VALTER BARCLAY OF TOLLY MILES FOVNDIT 1210.

Various renderings of both inscriptions, however, are current, and the dates of the years, in particular, are called in question. (See Jervise's "Epitaphs," ii., 233.) Despite the date 1136, it is believed that the Castle was not built before 1593, while there are the dates 1604 and 1695 on the more modern parts of the building. Enough remains of the original edifice to indicate the imposing scale on which it was designed and the importance of its powerful owners. The lofty hall, with its groined and vaulted ceiling, circular arches, and severe ornaments, sufficiently attests its former magnificence, and is valuable as a specimen of the ancient feudal architecture of Scotland. The hall, which is 30 feet long by 20 feet broad, is vaulted in two compartments, a groined and ribbed vault springing from corbels carved with foliage; there is a small gallery in the thickness of the wall over the door to the hall, which was probably an oratory or chapel. This venerable pile was tolerably entire till about 1792, when, to suit the ideas or convenience of the then tenant, the roof, turrets, and embrasures were removed and the height reduced two stories. The incongruous slated roof then substituted was removed several years ago and the present bartisan erected. The hall is now used for religious purposes. It is said that, owing to an incident in the early history of the Barclays, the corbels, mouldings, and other ornaments in the buildings they erected partook of an ecclesiastical character. The tradition is that, being desirous of obtaining possession of certain church lands, the Barclay of the day fell upon an expedient at once dreadful and dishonourable. The coveted lands belonged to a neighbouring nunnery, and into the nunnery by

surreptitious means, a younger Barclay, disguised, contrived to obtain admission. The consequence of this nefarious scheme was the utter disgrace of the institution. The result answered the design of the Barclays: the house was dissolved and the property became theirs.*

The Barclays of Towie-Barclay came of a very ancient Scottish family. Several of them were buried in the old churchyard of Turriff, and one tombstone, bearing the date 1636, has an inscription beginning—"Here lies Barclay, the glory of the Towie family, to which five centuries have given old renown"—an inscription that shows the family belief in the statement, more or less traditional, that the "founder" died in 1136. The family is said to be descended from a John Berkeley, a member of the

*The "houss of Towy" was besieged by the Royalists in the Covenanting times. The incident is thus chronicled by Spalding—"Thair wes togidder the laird of Banf, the laird of Geicht, the young laird of Cromartie, with sum vtheris, who, with lieuetennant crouner Johnstoun, vpon the 10th of Majj [1639] intendit to cum to the place of Tolly Barclay, and thair to tak out sic armes, mvscatis, gvnis, and carrabins as the lairdis of Delgatie and Tollie-Barclay had plunderit from the said young laird of Cromartie, out of the place of Baquholly, bot it happit the Lord Fraser and maister of Forbes to sie thar cuming. They manit the houss of Towy, cloissit the yettis, and schot diuerss schotis fra the houss heid, whair ane seruand of the laird off Geichtis wes schot, callit Daid Prat. The barronis, seeing they culd not merid thame selfis, left the houss, thinking it no vassalage to stay whill thay war slane; syne, but more ado, rode thair way. Bot heir it is to be markit, that this was the first blood that wes drawin heir sen the beginning of this covenant." ("Memorialls of the Troubles in Scotland" by John Spalding, published by the Spalding Club.)

English family of that name, who was among the Saxon nobles whom Malcolm Canmore, on his marriage with Margaret, the sister of Edgar Atheling, induced to settle within his dominions, *circa* 1070. This John Berkeley obtained a grant of the lands of Towie, in the parish of Auchterless: hence the name of Barclay de Towie (or Tolly), or Towie-Barclay, by which the family became known. The eldest son of John Berkeley married the heiress of Gartly, and by this alliance he became possessed of considerable estates; two sons were born of the marriage, one of whom succeeded to the barony of Gartly, and the other (the younger) to that of Towie. There is, however, no documentary evidence relating to the family till the time of William the Lion (1165-1214). In 1165, Walter de Berkeley was appointed Chamberlain of Scotland, and it is conjectured that he was the father of Sir Walter Barclay, who "foundit" in 1210. The name of a Patricius de Barclay appears in the Ragman Roll of 1296. The first charters of the estate of Towie were carried off by Edward I. of England. In the roll of missing charters, in the reign of Robert Bruce, is "Carta to Valter Berkley de Kerks, burgess of Perth" over the lands of Tollie. Robert granted a like charter, dated August 1, 1322, in the sixteenth year of his reign. "About the year 1385," says the "Castles of Aberdeenshire," "Andrew Berkeley, laird of Garutellie [Gartly] gave 'the lands of Melrose [in the parish of Gamrie], with the mill, to Janet de Berkeley, widow of Sir John, of Monymous, Knight,' in quittance of certain lands of her father, John Berkeley. This estate of Melrose, with Cullen in Buchan, remained in the family for upwards of

three hundred years; they also possessed Drumwhindle, and other lands about Ellon, as also at one time Fintry and Craighfintry [Craigston] in the parish of King-Edward." The family residence of the Barclays seems to have been transferred to Cullen, in Gamrie; hence the monument to Patrick Barclay, "lord of Tolly," and Janet Ogilvy, his spouse, (1547), in the old church of Gamrie (p. 330). A Walter Barclay of Towie appears in 1579: he was slaughtered by Meldrum of Montcoffer and others at Edinburgh in June, 1589. His son Patrick was the Barclay, the inscription on whose tombstone is partly quoted above. "Calculus cut him off in his prime," continues the inscription, "after thrice three lustra [45 years], nor were the resources of the healing art of any avail. The earth covers his bones; his spirit, which was of a celestial origin, is the tenant of a mansion beyond the skies." These untimely deaths of the male members of the family, and the repeated changes of line through the failure of male heirs, and the succession of females, probably gave rise to the couplet—ascribed, however, as is customary, to Thomas the Rhymer—

"Tolly Barclay of the glen,
Happy to the maids, but never to the men."

"The weird," says Sir Andrew Leith Hay in his "Castellated Architecture of Aberdeenshire," "was said to follow the family in the death of the heir-male, who seldom survived his father; and so strong a hold had this in the belief of the people that it was by them assigned as the reason for the sale of the estate in 1753 [? 1752]. It was purchased by the Earl of Findlater for his second son, who died a few

years after, and when little more than of age. His death was looked upon as another verification of the prediction of the Rhymer ; and Lord Findlater, one of the ablest men of his day, was so far from being above the current superstition that ever after, on his journeys to and from the South, when arriving upon the estate at either boundary, he closed the blinds of his carriage until he had passed the fated territory." Towie-Barclay was sold by the Earl of Findlater in 1792 for £20,000, two-thirds of the estate (including the old castle) being purchased by the Governors of Robert Gordon's Hospital (now College), Aberdeen, and one-third by the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. In 1797, the Governors of Gordon's Hospital offered to purchase the Infirmary's third of the lands, but the managers of the latter institution refused to sell.

Several scions of the family of Barclay of Towie acquired distinction in various fields. Reference has already been made (p. 337) to William Barclay, M.D. (1570-1630); he was the author of two famous books—"Nepenthes, or the Vertues of Tabacco," and "Callirhoe, commonly called the Well of Spa, or the Nymph of Aberdene." William Barclay, LL.D. (1546 or 1547-1608), was a Professor of Civil Law in the Universities of Pont-a-Mousson and Angers, and a writer on jurisprudence and government; he was the author, among other works, of "De Regno et Regali Potestate," and was referred to by Locke as "the great assertor of the power and sacredness of kings." His son, John Barclay (1582-1621) was the author of several satirical works, which attracted great notice, and of the "Argenis," a once famous book—a political allegory containing clever allusions to the

state of Europe in his time. (Several authorities; however, maintain that these two Barclays were not of the Towie family, but were descended from the Barclays of Collairnie, in Fifeshire.)* A son of John Barclay settled in Livonia, and when it was incorporated with Russia, he became a Russian subject. His great-grandson took service at a very early age in the Russian army, in which he rapidly rose to high rank. In 1806 he was a General of division, and was with the troops sent against Napoleon. He was present at the battle of Wagram, and was severely wounded at Eylau. His services were held in such consideration by the Emperor Alexander that he appointed him Minister-at-War, created him a Prince of the empire, and gave him the baton of a Field-Marshal. In the memorable campaign of 1812 he was at the head of the Russian army, and was also the confidential adviser of the Tsar. He is said to have had the merit of devising the plan of resistance to be adopted on that occasion—namely, to remove the people, and desolate the country through which the French army was to pass. In pursuance of this plan, Barclay de Tolly, after an engagement at Smolensko, continued his retreat before the enemy. But his fame

* The learned Grotius thus refers to John Barclay—

“A Scot by blood, and French by birth, this man
At Rome speaks Latin as no Roman can.”

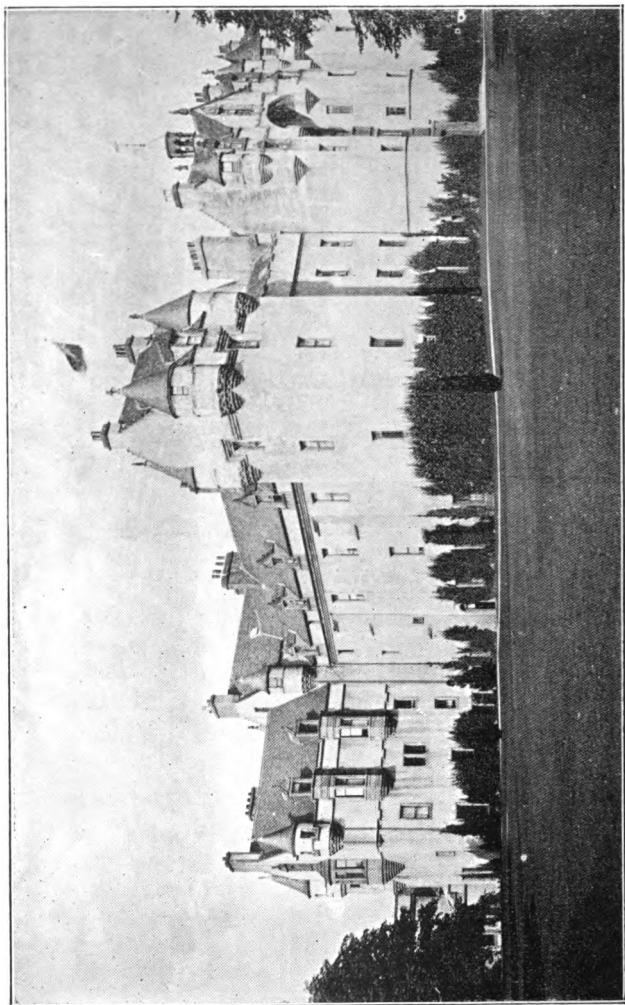
Barclay was born at Pont-a-Mousson, and died at Rome. (See Hill Burton's "The Scot Abroad.") Of the "Argenis" Coleridge said—"It absolutely distresses me when I reflect that this work, admired as it has been by great men of all ages, and lately by the poet Cowper, should be only not unknown to the general reader." Cowper praised it as "the best romance that ever was written."

and brilliant career had excited the jealousy and dislike of the old Russian noblesse, and this retrograde movement served to increase their animosity. He was removed from the command. Kutusoff, perhaps fearing a similar result, fought and lost the battle of Borodino. Barclay was still retained Minister-at-War, and was in the suite of the Emperor when he visited London in 1814. He died in 1818. Thus, like the Marischal family, the Barclays of Towie were destined to extend a long and brilliant career in a foreign country, carrying with them the name and fame of a long line of brave and distinguished ancestors.*

The Ythan makes a bend at Towie-Barclay, and flows slowly in a southerly direction through a level valley, entering the policies of Fyvie Castle about four miles from the old castle of Towie-Barclay. Fyvie Castle stands on the eastern bank of the river—a stately pile that attracts attention by its architectural features. Sir Andrew Leith Hay, in his “Castellated Architecture of Aberdeenshire,” extolled it as “alike remarkable for its commanding situation, its antiquity, its connection with interesting events in Scottish history, and as a noble specimen of baronial architecture.” Billings, in his “Baronial Antiquities of Scotland,” praised the three “princely towers” in the

*The Dowager Viscountess Hampden, who died 9 March, 1899, is said to have been descended from the family of the Barclays of Tolly or Towie. She was a daughter of Colonel Robert Ellice, of the 24th Regiment, and a niece of the Right. Hon. Edward Ellice, M.P.—the family of the Barclays having been merged in that of the Ellices by marriage. She married, in 1838, Mr. Henry Brand, Speaker of the House of Commons, 1872-84, who was created Viscount Hampden. (See *Daily Free Press*, 11 March, 1899.)





FYVIE CASTLE.

front of the building, with "their luxuriant coronet of coned turrets, sharp gables, tall roofs and chimneys, canopied dormer windows, and rude statuary," which, he declared, "present a sky outline at once graceful, rich, and massive, and in these qualities exceeding even the far-famed Glamis." The great stair, he added, "is an architectural triumph such as few Scottish mansions can exhibit." Messrs. Macgibbon & Ross are equally eulogistic, describing the two projecting drum-towers in the centre of the south front, with the main entrance to the castle between them, as "forming a magnificent centre to what is perhaps the most imposing front of any ancient domestic edifice in Scotland." Adopting in the main the description of the castle given by these writers in their "Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland" (ii., 348), it may be mentioned that the castle consists of a mass of building enclosing two sides of a quadrangle, with extensions outward at one corner, the principal front (147 feet long) being towards the south, the building extending from that front along the west. The chief exterior features of the castle are five towers, named after the several owners by whom they were erected. Three of these are in the south front—the Preston Tower and the Meldrum Tower at the east and west corners respectively, and the Seton Tower in the centre. The Preston Tower is the earliest portion of the castle, having been enlarged and heightened by Sir Henry Preston about the year 1390; it was in this tower—or in the pre-existent building—that Edward I. slept in 1296. The Meldrum Tower, which dates from 1460, is noted for "an inaccessible chamber without

door or window"—in reality, a portion of 18 cubic feet below the Charter Room, supposed to be solid masonry. The Seton Tower was built after 1596; the part of the castle in which the grand staircase is located bears on the outside the date "1599 zeiris." The Seton Tower is formed by the two drum-towers in the centre of the building already referred to, which, "at the height of about 42 feet from the ground, are united by a bold arch, 11 feet wide, into one grand central mass or pavilion. Just beneath the springing of the arch the drums are corbelled out to the square, and on either side they terminate in turrets, with a fine gable in the centre, and dormers between the gable and turrets." The wall between the two towers is ornamented with the Seton and other coats of arms, and in the centre of the arch, right above the main entrance to the castle in the olden times, is the "Murder Hole," from which deadly missiles could have been projected on those beneath. A grated iron gate is still retained in its old position in the entrance; it consists of seven perpendicular and twelve horizontal bars swung on three hinges, there being three recesses in the wall for three massive bolts.

The Gordon Tower, at the north end of the west wing, was built by General the Hon. William Gordon in 1777. A Forbes-Leith Tower was erected by the present proprietor in 1890, from a design—in perfect harmony with the rest of the building—by Messrs. D. & J. Bryce, architects, Edinburgh. This tower was built as in continuation westward of the Gordon Tower, its principal elevations facing the west and south; and its chief external features are three oriel windows projecting boldly on corbels—one in

the west gable and two in the south wall. The west oriel is surmounted by an ornamental window with circular pediment, and is flanked by corbelled turrets; each of the two south oriels bears the initials "A.J.F.L. · V. 1890 R.I. · M.L.F.L.," while the following inscription (in huge letters) is divided between the two—

GANG EAST AND WEST
BUT HAME'S BEST.

This addition to the Castle contains the drawing-room and a music or ball-room, the walls of the latter being hung with tapestry. Mr. Forbes-Leith has since made a number of other improvements which—carried out with exquisite taste and thorough appropriateness, by Mr. A. Marshall Mackenzie, A.R.S.A., architect, Aberdeen—have added considerably to the picturesqueness of the old Castle. The entrance porch (on the east side of the west wing) was extended several feet; the former baldness of the north side of the south wing was removed by the introduction of an oriel window in the library and dormer windows and turrets on the ridge; and the clock (formerly surmounting the Seton tower) was transferred to this side and placed in an ornamental canopy, having on its two sides the following initials and dates—

R. R. S.	V. R. I.
1390.	1890.

denoting the 500 years' existence of the Castle from the days of Robert III., King of Scotland, to those of Queen Victoria, while an inscription on the pediment gives a brief history of the Castle and its various owners. The interior of the Castle was also greatly

improved, beautifully old carved woodwork being introduced with fine effect and electric lighting installed throughout the whole house. This latest improvement—such a characteristic feature of the close of the nineteenth century—renders still more difficult of acceptance the traditional story that Fyvie Castle is haunted—that a “Green Lady” wanders up and down the great winding staircase, only appearing, however, on the eve of some calamity to the family. The Castle stands in extensive policies, which are not only intersected by the Ythan but are further ornamented by an artificial lake.

Fyvie Castle, as has been indicated, dates from the fourteenth century, but there formerly existed a castle or keep, when the domain was a royal chase, though to what extent the ancient walls were removed or built upon and enlarged cannot now be determined. A charter by Alexander II., in 1221, is dated at Fyvyn, and mention is made in 1249 of Alexander III. receiving an account of eels, etc., from “the stanks and waters” of Fyvie. The castle was visited by Edward I. of England in 1296, when he made a progress through the north of Scotland, and a few years afterwards it became one of the residences of King Robert the Bruce, the lands around it being then a hunting-forest. It was at one time the principal seat of the Thanage of Fermartyn—a thanage extending from that of Conveth (co-extensive with the parish of Inverkeithny) to the eastern seaboard between the Ythan and the Don ; but the lands of Fyvie were subsequently formed into a separate barony. About 1380, Robert II. conferred the castle and estates of Fyvie on his eldest son, the Steward of

Scotland, who soon resigned them to his cousin, Sir James Lindsay, ninth in descent of the family of Crawford, who was designated "Dominus de Crawford et Buchan." He was married to Margaret Keith, daughter of the Earl Marischal. He resigned Fyvie into the hands of Robert III., who, in 1390, granted the estate to Sir Henry Preston for the redemption of Sir Ralph Percy, brother of Hotspur, taken prisoner by him at the battle of Otterburne. Sir Henry Preston died about 1433, leaving two daughters, co-heiresses, which led to the division of the thanage of Fermartyn. One daughter married Sir John Forbes, and brought to her husband the estate of Tolquhon, which then extended northward as far as the Ythan. Fyvie, the other portion of Fermartyn, went, by the marriage of the other daughter, to Alexander Meldrum, of the family of Meldrum of Meldrum; and it remained in the possession of the Meldrums for 160 years. In 1596, the Meldrum of that day sold Fyvie to Alexander Seton, fourth son of George, seventh Lord Seton, and younger brother of Robert, eighth Lord Seton and first Earl of Winton; and in 1597 he obtained letters under the Great Seal erecting the barony of Fyvie into a free lordship.

Alexander Seton was one of the ablest and most distinguished lawyers and statesmen of his time. He was appointed an Extraordinary Lord of Session in 1586, with the title of Lord Pluscarden—a title derived from the Priory of Pluscarden, in Morayshire, which, with the accompanying lands, had been conveyed to him by Queen Mary, his godmother, as "ane godbairne gift." Two years later, he was appointed an ordinary Lord of Session under the

title of Lord Urquhart (from the lands of Urquhart, in Morayshire, which also belonged to him); and in 1593 he became Lord President of the Court. He was created a peer of Scotland, with the title of Lord Fyvie, in 1597; he became Chancellor of Scotland in 1604; and in the following year he was created Earl of Dunfermline. He played a conspicuous part in the politics of the time. He rendered considerable services to James VI. of Scotland when that sovereign became King of England; he was a Commissioner for the union afterwards projected between England and Scotland; and he was King's Commissioner at the Parliament of Edinburgh, 1612, which confirmed the proceedings of the Glasgow Assembly of 1610 and rescinded the Act of 1592 establishing Presbytery. He continued Chancellor till his death at Pinkie House, near Musselburgh, in 1622. Lord Dunfermline erected the Seton Tower of Fyvie Castle, and the architectural features and heraldic ornaments on the castle are largely due to his fine artistic taste. He harmonised the old towers with the one he himself built, adding the turrets and the ornamental upper stages; and he also improved the grand staircase, inserting the coats of arms and heraldic devices by which it is graced. He was succeeded by his son Charles, second Earl of Dunfermline and Lord Fyvie—it was by this latter title that the successive peers were best known in the north. At first, a very zealous Covenanter—Fyvie Castle was occupied by Royalist troops under the Marquis of Montrose in 1644—this Lord Fyvie, after the death of Charles I., adhered to the cause of the King's son; and at the Restoration he was made a Privy Councillor by Charles II. In

1669 he was appointed an Extraordinary Lord of Session, and the same year a Lord of the Articles ; and in 1671 he was appointed Lord Privy Seal. He died in 1672, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Alexander, who, however, died two years later, being succeeded by his brother, James, the fourth and last Lord Fyvie. He joined Viscount Dundee in 1689, and fought at Killiecrankie. He is celebrated in the "*Praelium Gilliecrankianum*" as

" Nobilis apparuit Fermilodunensis,
Cujus in rebelles stringebatur ensis ;
Nobilis et sanguine, nobilior virtute,
Regi devotissimus intus et in cute."

{ "Noble appeared Dunfermline, whose sword was drawn upon the rebels ; noble in birth, more noble in courage, in soul and body fully devoted to his king.")
He was outlawed in 1690, and died at St. Germain in 1694. He was married to Lady Jean Gordon, daughter of the Marquis of Huntly, but had no issue. The castle and estates were forfeited to the Crown* ; and, after passing through several hands, they were purchased in 1726 by William, second Earl of Aberdeen. The earl was thrice married, his third wife being Lady Anne Gordon, daughter of the second Duke of Gordon. By the marriage contract, he became bound to settle an estate of a certain value on Lady Anne's eldest son ; and, in compliance therewith, he left Fyvie to his eldest son by that marriage—General the Hon. William Gordon. General Gordon was succeeded, in 1816, by his only son, William Gordon, who was succeeded, in 1847, by his

*See reference to the dislodging of the Royalists from the castle on p. 183.

cousin, Charles Gordon, the eldest son of Alexander Gordon (a Court of Session judge, with the title Lord Rockville), who was the third son of the second Earl of Aberdeen. Charles Gordon was succeeded, in 1851, by his eldest son, William Cosmo Gordon, a Captain of the Artillery of the East India Company's service, and afterwards Lieutenant-Colonel of the Aberdeen Artillery Volunteer Corps. He and his wife built and endowed a Cottage Hospital in Fyvie, and also built and endowed a Chapel of Ease at the Cross of Jackston, in the south-western district of the parish. He died, without issue, in 1879, and was succeeded by his brother, Alexander Henry Gordon, who died suddenly in 1884. The castle and estate of Fyvie then passed to his cousin, Sir Maurice Duff-Gordon, Bart., of Halkin, Ayrshire. Sir Maurice was the only son of Sir Alexander Cornwall Duff-Gordon; his mother, Lady Duff-Gordon, was a daughter of John Austin, the celebrated writer on jurisprudence, and was well-known in the literary world for her "Letters from Egypt" and her translations of foreign literature. Sir Alexander was the son of William Gordon, second son of Lord Rockville. Sir Maurice Duff-Gordon falling into pecuniary difficulties, a disentail of the estate of Fyvie was effected; and, in 1889, the castle and lands were sold to their present owner, Mr. Alexander John Forbes-Leith, son of Rear-Admiral John James Leith, by Margaret Forbes, daughter and heiress of Alexander Forbes of Blackford.

Fyvie Castle—the ancient stronghold, not the present building—was besieged in 1395 by Robert de Keith, a nephew of Lady Lindsay, wife of Sir James de Lindsay, already mentioned. "It was"—to quote

from the "Castles of Aberdeenshire"—"stoutly and successfully defended by Lady Lindsay, whose courage was equalled only by her fertility of resource; for she is said to have melted all the lead and pewter vessels in the castle, and to have poured the boiling liquid on the heads of the assailants. The hole—now called the murder hole—is shown through which this final discharge was made; and the truth of the history is embalmed by Wyntoun in his 'Cronykil of Scotland.'" Three centuries later—during the Covenanting struggles in 1644—Fyvie was the scene of a conflict between the Royalists and the Covenanters. The castle had been occupied by the Marquis of Montrose with a Royalist force, when Montrose pushed into Aberdeenshire after the battle of the Bridge of Dee. Argyll, at the head of a large Covenanting army, made his way northward, and Montrose was forced to give him battle, the encounter taking place on an eminence in the neighbourhood of the Castle, Montrose not deeming the Castle strong enough to resist attack. The Royalist troops were so ill supplied with ammunition that they were obliged to strip the roof of the Castle of lead and to melt down into bullets "every pewter dish, vessel, and flagon." The engagement—consisting mainly of a series of skirmishes—lasted three days (28-30 October), but Montrose held his position, and Argyll was obliged to retreat. The eminence is a little to the north-east of the Castle, on the right of the gate at the back of the gardener's house. The entrenchments were still to be seen when the New Statistical Account was written, and may even now be traced, the ground going by the name of Montrose's Camp. One of

Argyll's encampments, on the lands of Ardlogie, is still called the Camp Fold. In 1746, the Duke of Cumberland, with his army, passed through Fyvie, along the old road leading past Chapel of Seggat, on the way to Culloden. Lady Anne Gordon, the wife of the second Earl of Aberdeen, was sister of Lord Lewis Gordon, celebrated in the history and ballads of the Jacobites, and, like him, was warmly attached to the cause of the Stuarts, and fearless in the avowal of her attachment. She placed herself on the roadside, accompanied by her eldest son, to see the passage of Cumberland's army. The Duke addressed her and asked her name; "I am the sister of the Lord Lewis Gordon," was her reply. The Duke, giving an orange to her son, said—"I shall live to see that boy a good Hanoverian yet." The boy—General Gordon—was long Groom of the Bed Chamber to George III.

Fyvie Castle is too remarkable a place to have escaped the vaticinations of Thomas the Rhymer, who is credited with the following prophecy—

" Fyvynis riggs and towers,
 Hapless shall your mesdames be,
 When ye shall hae within your methes,*
 Frae harryit kirk's land, stanes three—
 Ane in Preston's tower ;
 Ane in my lady's bower ;
 And ane below the water-yett,
 And it ye shall never get."

Tradition affirms that two of these "harryit-kirk stanes" have been found in their designated places,

*Meta, a boundary, from which the Scotch word Methe is probably taken.

but the one beneath the "water-yett" remains true to the Rhymer's prophecy. But, *more Sibyllino*, the prophet says nothing of the peculiar nature of the "haplessness" of his "mesdames." A stone is preserved in the Castle and shown as one of the three weird stones. It is called "the weeping stone." It is asserted that this stone, at times, gives out such a quantity of damp as to half fill with water the bowl in which it is kept; while, at other times, it absorbs all the water. It is not known how or when this mysterious stone came to occupy the place it now does.

About half a mile north-east of the Castle, and visible from its turrets, is Mill of Tifty (or Tiftie), the home of the damsel who figures as the heroine of the old but ever-popular ballad, "Mill of Tifty's Annie." The spot might vindicate the romance, even if it had not been founded on fact. It is a highly picturesque ravine, full of wild, natural beauty—waterfalls, rocks, tangled bushes, and wild flowers. The mill is a ruin in the bottom of the glen, but poor Annie's home was the farmhouse, which stands on higher ground, and which, like many other farms in Aberdeenshire, takes its name from the vicinity of the mill (the precise building was removed several years ago). The Bridge of Skeugh, where Annie last met her lover, Andrew Lammie, was in the hollow between Tifty and the Castle, at a point about 100 yards above that where the present bridge spans the brook. A circular clump of trees, said to surround the spot where "the trysting-tree" stood, marks the place. The ballad is founded on real circumstances, the heroine, Agnes Smith, being the daughter of the miller of Tifty, and the hero, Andrew Lammie, the

Trumpeter of Lord Fyvie (the last Lord). The two fell in love, but the girl's parents objected to their daughter marrying a trumpeter and persecuted and ill-used her, and at last she died of a broken heart. The sad story is finely told in the ballad, in which the heroine's name is metamorphosed into Annie. A few verses may be quoted—

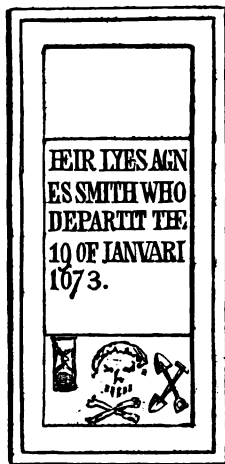
“ At Mill o' Tiftie lived a man,
 In the neighbourhood o' Fyvie ;
 He had a lovely daughter dear,
 Her name was bonnie Annie.
 Her bloom was like the springing flower,
 That hails the rosy morning,
 With innocence an' graceful mien,
 Her beauteous form adorning.
 Lord Fyvie had a trumpeter,
 His name was Andrew Lammie ;
 He had the art to gain the heart
 O' Tiftie's bonnie Annie.

* * * *

He on the head o' the Castle stood—
 The high house tap o' Fyvie—
 He blew his trumpet shrill an' loud,
 'Twas heard at Mill o' Tiftie.
 Her father, the toon at e'en gaed roun'
 To lock the doors fu' canny,
 An' whan he heard the trumpet soun',
 Said ' Yer coo is lowin', Annie.'
 ' My father dear, I pray forbear,
 Reproach nae mair your Annie,
 I'd rather hear that ae coo low
 Than hae a' the kye in Fyvie.'”*

* See “Mill o' Tifty's Annie : or Andrew Lammie, the Trumpeter of Fyvie ; and The Ghaist o' Dennilair : A Legend of Fyvie” (Aberdeen : Lewis Smith & Son).

On one of the turrets of Fyvie Castle (at the back of the Preston Tower) there is a stone figure of the trumpeter in the act of blowing his horn towards Tifty. The grave of "Mill o' Tifty's Annie" is in the churchyard of Fyvie. The original tombstone having become decayed, Mr. William Gordon of Fyvie (a few years prior to 1840) caused a new one to be placed on the grave, a fac-simile of the original stone; it is reproduced in the accompanying illustration. In 1869 a cross was erected at the head of the grave, with this inscription—"Agnes Smith, Tiftie's Annie, died 19 January, 1673. Erected by public subscription, 1869."



About a mile south of the Castle is the village of Fyvie. It consists of two portions, the more modern part being situated at Lewes of Fyvie, where there is a public hall. The Ythan is here crossed by a handsome bridge, erected in 1898, replacing one on the same site that had stood for over 238 years. There was at one time a "burgh of Fyvie." Very little that is authentic is known about it, but in a brieve of King Robert the Bruce for fixing marches, in 1325, the rights of the burgesses of "our burgh of Fyvie" in the peat-moss of Ardlogie are directed to be ascertained; and from 1390 downward mention of the "Villa seu burgum de Fyvie," with its customs,

tolls, and burgh-mails, is regularly found in the charters of the Fyvie property. The burgh ultimately became a "burgh of barony," of which the proprietors of Fyvie were the superiors; and there exists a charter granted to Alexander, third Earl of Dunfermline, in 1672-3, erecting the lordship of Fyvie into "ane free burgh of barony," to be called the "burgh of barony of Fyvie."* The parish church, situated near the older and upper part of the village, is a large and commodious structure, built in 1808. It was renovated and decorated a few years ago, a stained-glass window being placed on each side of the pulpit—one window representing St. Paul preaching at Athens, and the other illustrating the incident of the Brazen Serpent. The fittings of the church include a richly-carved communion-table, a handsome pulpit, and a tasteful font, all of dark unpolished oak—the gifts respectively of Miss Chalmers of Monkshill, the late Mrs. Gordon of Fyvie, and Rev. Dr. Milne (the minister of the parish) and Mrs. Milne. The organ—one of the largest and most handsome in the county—was presented in 1889, in memory of the late Colonel Cosmo Gordon of Fyvie and his wife, by Mrs. Gordon's brother, Mr. James Abercromby, and his sisters. There are a number of interesting mural tablets in the church, which also possesses some very old and perfectly unique communion plate. The old church, which occupied the same site, was dedicated to St. Peter, the tutelar saint of the parish.

* Reference on this subject—and, indeed, on the whole history of Fyvie—may be made to the admirable account of the parish furnished by Rev. John Manson to the New Statistical Account.

In connection with and very near the church, there is a fine Hall, presented to the church by Mr. A. H. Gordon of Fyvie in 1884—Mr. Gordon provided the means for the erection of the hall, but died before it was built, and its erection and conveyance to the church were carried out by his widow. Peter's Well, a spring in the immediate vicinity, still bears the appellation of the saint and apostle. In the Chartulary of Arbroath it is recorded that William the Lion "gave to the Abbay there the Church of Fyvin, with the chapels, lands, tithes, oblations, pasturage, and other pertinents," between 1187 and 1200. (There are some 30 variations of the spelling of the parish name, "Fyvyn" being the one in most common use in old charters and documents). A portion of the parish has been formed into a *quoad sacra* parish—Millbrex; and in October 1898, Rev. P. Beaton, pastor of the Scots Church in Paris from 1882 to 1897, a native of the district, presented a communion table to the church of Millbrex in memory of his father and mother.

On a meadow between the parish church of Fyvie and the bridge of Lewes stood the Priory of Fyvie, dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin. The history of this institution is matter of great dubiety. It is said to have been founded, along with a church, by Fergus, Earl of Buchan, in 1179, his donation of it to the Abbey of Arbroath being afterwards confirmed by his daughter, the wife of Sir William Comyn. By another account the foundation is ascribed to King William the Lion; and Reginald le Chien or Cheyne, one of the Cheynes of Inverugie and Ravenscraig, is also said to have been its founder. A way out of the

difficulty is obtained by the ingenious suggestion of Rev. John Manson, in the account of the parish contributed to the New Statistical Account, that the Priory was originally founded by the Earl of Buchan, that the foundation was confirmed by King William, and that a re-endowment was made a century later by Reginald le Cheyne. According to the Chartulary of Arbroath, Reginald le Cheyne, in 1285, gave to the Priory his lands of Ardlogy and Leuchendy (Lethendy) in Fyvie—part of the lands of Lethendy is still called Monkshill)—and in 1323 Albertinus was appointed to the care and keeping of the House of Fyvyn, and, two years later, a letter was addressed to him by Bernard, Abbot of Aberbrothock, for the maintenance of discipline. In 1470, an Alexander Mason was Prior, of whom it is recorded that he exerted himself greatly for the increase and repair of the buildings connected with the establishment, rebuilding the chapel, adding offices, and enclosing the garden with a wall. In the Old Statistical Account (1793) it is stated that “from the appearance of the foundations, which were extant some years ago,” the Priory would “seem to have been three sides of a court, the middle of which was the church, and the two sides the cells and offices of the monks.” By 1840, when the New Statistical Account was written, the “foundations” had all but disappeared; and now all that remains of the Priory is a shapeless mound, said to mark the site of the chapel, still distinguishable on the crest of a gentle eminence. In the summer of 1868 a cross was erected on the ruins of the Priory by Colonel and Mrs. Gordon of Fyvie. It stands on a base of hewn stones, placed on a rough circular cairn, and has been

rightly described as “a striking object, visible from all sides of the Howe of Fyvie.” It bears the following inscription—“This Cross is erected by W. Cosmo and Mary Grace Gordon of Fyvie, A.D. 1868, to mark the site of the Ancient Priory of Saint Mary, founded in the year 1179, and in memory of J. Hay Chalmers, who died 1867.” Mr. James Hay Chalmers, younger of Monkshill, was an advocate in Aberdeen, whose comparatively early death was deeply deplored.

About a mile and a half east of the parish church is the village of Woodhead of Fetterletter. It is a very small village—a cluster of houses merely—but it is one of considerable antiquity, for it is mentioned in an account of the parish in 1723, being there described as “an old village, where is a stone tolbooth, a stone cross, and where, in old times, stood severall yearly mercats.” The tolbooth, which had been converted into a dwelling-house, was pulled down about 1840. The cross had fallen into disrepair, but was rebuilt in 1846. Except for an interval of about forty years, this village has never been without an Episcopal church since the Presbyterian form of church government was adopted by the State. After the battle of Culloden the church was demolished, when the congregation removed to Macterry, about three miles distant, where they built a chapel; and here they continued to assemble till about the time of the repeal of the penal laws, when they returned to Woodhead, and rebuilt their church there. This church, like most of the churches built by Episcopalians about that time, was of a very humble description; and, after sundry repairs and enlargements, it was

pulled down in 1849, and on its site was erected the present handsome edifice—one of the best specimens of a village church perhaps in Scotland. Its architectural details are very correct, and, with its spire rising from out of a cluster of trees, it forms a striking and beautiful object in the landscape for many miles around. There are a sculptured stone over the porch, several crosses built into the east gable, and a sculptured sheaf of arrows in a niche of the vestry—all said to have been taken from the Priory of Fyvie. There is also a Free Church in the village.

In the neighbourhood of Woodhead are the Braes of Fetterletter—(Fetter-letter = the farm of the wet hillside)—and, farther along to the east, the Braes of Gight. For a few miles here—from Fetterletter to near the village of Methlick—the course of the Ythan is through exceedingly picturesque scenery; scenery that, of its kind, is perhaps unequalled in Aberdeenshire. The river flows in a narrow ravine, between the Braes of Gight on its left bank and the Braes of Formartine (sometimes called the Braes of Haddo, or the Braes of Blairfowl) on its right bank. Both banks are steep and are thickly clothed with trees, precipitous cliffs and rugged rocks giving point and character to the scene. Paths have been constructed through the labyrinth of trees; for a veritable labyrinth it is, the trees being so close and the banks so precipitous that at many points the river is lost to view. These paths have been devised with much artistic effect. One leads to a summer-house so situated as to afford charming views of the glen beneath and its sylvan beauties; whilst other paths meander through the glen and across the river, yielding ever-changing prospects---

now a leafy arcade, closed in by the trunks of tall trees, again a secluded spot surrounded by tangled brushwood, while here and there the path is bordered with flowers, many of them strangers to other parts of Buchan. Of these it may be said, in the words of the great poet whose name is indelibly associated (by maternal connection) with Gight—

“ Flowers, fresh in hue, and many in their class,
 Implore the pausing step, and with their dyes,
 Dance in the soft breeze in a fairy mass ;
 The sweetness of the violet’s deep-blue eyes,
 Kiss’d by the breath of heaven, seems colour’d by its skies.”

(“ Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage,” Canto iv., stanza cxvii.)

The ruins of the Castle of Gight stand on the brink of a rocky eminence overlooking the Braes, and commanding a fine view of the surrounding scenery. Only part of the walls, a hall on an upper floor, 37 feet long by 21 feet broad, a lobby with groined arching in the roof, and three vaulted rooms now remain; and there is still extant a stone—the remains possibly of the tympanum of a dormer window—inscribed with the letters MAR above a sword piercing a heart. The Castle is occasionally designated the Castle of Formartine; but, as it is in the district of Buchan, and is separated by the Ythan from the district of Formartine, this is quite an inappropriate appellation. The name “Gight,” moreover, is sanctioned by many interesting associations, from which it ought never to be divorced.

The estate of Gight belonged for many generations to the Maitlands. In 1467, on the death of Sir Patrick Maitland of Gight, his estate fell under precognition, “because of unwary securities given to

creditors," and George, the second Earl of Huntly, got the gift of it from King James II. Sir Patrick left two daughters but no son, and Huntly (who was the guardian of the girls) gave the elder daughter, Janet, in marriage to Thomas Baird of Ordinhinvas, and the younger to Annand of Auchterellon; but the estate he gave (in 1470) to Sir William Gordon, his third son, by his marriage with the Princess Annabella Stuart, younger sister of James II. This Sir William Gordon, the first Gordon of Gight, was killed at Flodden in 1513. He was succeeded by his eldest son, George, who, in turn, was succeeded by his eldest son, George, who was cut off in the prime of life in a duel fought with Alexander Forbes of Towie, on the shore of Dundee in 1578. George (II.) had no son, and Gight reverted to John Gordon, the second son of Sir William Gordon, the first laird. To him succeeded, as fifth laird of Gight, William Gordon, who was—to quote Mr. John Malcolm Bulloch—"as redoubtable a ruffian as the history of Aberdeenshire can produce . . . he terrorised a whole countryside for thirty years, being aided and abetted enthusiastically by his seven stalwart sons." He murdered his sister's step-father-in-law, Thomas Fraser of Strichen, in 1575*; in 1587, he murdered his brother-in-law, John Keith of Clackriach; and other atrocities are attributed to him. He died in 1605, and was succeeded by his eldest son, George, who was in constant collision with the local Reformers and Presbyterians for remaining a Roman Catholic and for harbouring Papists, being repeatedly excom-

* This affair took place on the bridge of Deer. See p. 195; also *Scottish Notes and Queries*, i., 62.

municated and fined. He took part in the Trot of Turriff in May, 1639; withstood Montrose's field artillery, which battered vainly on the house of Gight for two days and nights; and, in the following year, he was imprisoned by the Covenanters in the Tolbooth of Edinburgh, where he died. He was succeeded by his son, George (seventh laird), who married a sister of the first Earl of Airlie. They had a son, George (subsequently eighth laird), who married the daughter of Keith of Ludquharn. This son alleged that his father—who was a fugitive in Germany when the sixth laird died—had never been infest in the lands, and that, consequently, he had a right to the fee of the estates; and he attempted to take forcible possession of the Castle. His mother resisted, but, after the Castle had been besieged, an amicable arrangement was come to. The seventh laird raided Aberdeen and Banff during the Royalist and Covenanting troubles of 1644, and young Gight raided Montrose. The Covenanters, under Argyll, retaliated by besieging Kelly, Sir John Gordon and Haddo surrendering; and, on the day after (May 9), they attacked Gight. Young Gight escaped, but his father surrendered, and was taken prisoner (along with Gordon of Haddo) to Edinburgh; but he, too, escaped. The Covenanters occupied Gight Castle and plundered it, the furniture being removed or destroyed and the interior of the house, even to the wainscotting, torn to pieces. The ninth laird—the fourth George Gordon in succession—was a Commissioner of the Peace in the last years of the seventeenth century. He died in 1695, and was succeeded by his only daughter, Mary, who married Alexander Davidson of Newton. Her eldest

son, Alexander Davidson Gordon, married Margaret Duff of Craigston ; and Gight ultimately devolved on his grand-daughter, Catharine Gordon, who, in 1785, married Captain the Hon. John Byron, and became the mother of George Byron Gordon—Lord Byron, the poet. The estate was sold in 1787 to liquidate Captain Byron's debts, and was bought by George, third Earl of Aberdeen. The Castle of Gight was afterwards occupied by Lord Aberdeen's eldest son, Lord Haddo, who married the youngest daughter of Mr. Baird of Newbyth, a descendant of the Bairds of Auchmedden and Byth. Lord Haddo was killed by a fall from his horse on 2nd October, 1791. His eldest son became the fourth Earl of Aberdeen—the Earl who was Foreign Secretary and Prime Minister, and who was described by Lord Byron as “the learned thane, Athenian Aberdeen.”

The ubiquitous Thomas the Rhymer is credited with no fewer than three rhyming prophecies regarding Gight and the Gordons of Gight. The first is perhaps unrivalled in its quaint obliquity—

“ Twa men sat down on Ythan brae,
The ane did to the ither say,
‘ An’ what sic men may the Gordons o’ Gight hae been?’ ”

While this may be construed as a hint that a time would come when the Gordons of Gight would be a mere tradition, the second prophecy has a painfully direct application, pointing to the more immediate symptoms of their decay—

“ When the heron leaves the tree,
The laird o’ Gight shall landless be.”

As supplying the fulfilment of this prophecy, it is

said that, when the Hon. John Byron married the heiress of Gight, the denizens of a heronry, which for centuries had been located in the branches of a magnificent tree in the immediate vicinity of the Castle, incontinently left their ancient habitation and migrated in a body to Kelly ; a number of herons, it may be added, are still located in the neighbourhood of Haddo House. "The rigs soon followed" is a familiar saying ; and, aptly enough, it completes the prophecy, for the estate of Gight is now in the hands of the Earls of Aberdeen. The last prophecy is not the least remarkable, for its verification was fully realised within a comparatively recent period—

" At Gight three men by sudden deaths shall dee,
An' after that the land shall lie in lea."

In 1791, as already mentioned, Lord Haddo met a violent death on "the Green of Gight" by the fall of his horse, and, several years after, a servant on the estate met a similar death on the "Mains," or home farm. But two deaths were not sufficient to verify the seer's words. A number of years ago, the farmhouse was being pulled down, preparatory to the farm being turned into lea, when one of the men employed on the work casually remarked on the failure of the Rhymer's prediction. As if, however, to vindicate the veracity of the prophet's words, in less than an hour the speaker himself supplied the fated number—lying crushed to death beneath the crumbling ruins of a fallen wall !

But the marvellous—in relation to Gight—is not yet finished. Gight, like all other Scottish houses or distinction, has its traditions. A little distance below

the Castle is the Hagberry Pot—a pool in the Ythan, supposed, of course, to be of “unfathomable depth,” though in reality only 12 feet deep by actual measurements made by Mr. James Beaton, farmer, Ardieknowes, New Deer, who, on 21st July, 1900, solved the “mystery” as to the depth of the pot by a series of soundings. When the Covenanting army was preparing to take up its quarters in the Castle—(so runs the story)—it was deemed prudent by the inmates to sink “the iron yett,” with the family plate upon it, to the bottom of this pool. The unwelcome visitors fairly off the premises, a diver was sent down to recover the hidden treasure; but, either truthfully or deceitfully, he declared, on coming up, that the plate was safe, but, alas! safe in the keeping of “the enemy of man!” The diver was sent back on his errand, but, this not being agreeable to the party below, he was returned—drowned! There is, too, the by no means uncommon story that a subterranean passage runs from the Castle—nobody knows exactly where, but supposed to lead to the Castle of Fedderate, according to tradition in that quarter—and that a piper sent along the passage never returned; the sound of his pipes was heard as far as the burn of Stonehouse of Gight, but was there hushed for ever!

A number of bronze ornaments and a thin bifid blade of bronze were found by several workmen engaged in the construction of a private carriage road from Haddo House to the Braes of Gight in 1866, during the removal of some huge fragments of rock at the bottom of a precipice. The ornaments (now in the possession of the Earl of Aberdeen) consist of

three necklets, six armlets, and three small rings rudely attached together by short, narrow, flat bands, and are supposed to belong to the close of the bronze age; they are also believed to be unique in Scotland. They are described by Mr. George Muirhead, formerly factor to Lord Aberdeen, in the "Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, 1891," and in the "Transactions of the Buchan Field Club, 1892."

Leave cannot be taken of the grey, romantic walls of Gight in language more appropriate than that of the noble bard whose maternal ancestors owned them for three hundred years—

" And there they stand, as stands a lofty mind,
Worn, but unstooping to the baser crowd,
All tenantless save to the cranny wind,
Or holding dark communion with the cloud.
There was a day when they were young and proud;
Banners on high, and battles pass'd below;
But they who fought are in a bloody shroud,
And those which waved are shredless dust ere now,
And the bleak battlements shall bear no future blow."

("Childe Harold's Pilgrimage," Canto iii., stanzas xlvii.)*

*Brief descriptions of the parishes through which the Ythan flows, written by the parish ministers and others, were given in a little book, "The Vale of Ythan," published in connection with a bazaar to promote the erection of a bridge over the river at Logie-Buchan, held in Ellon in August, 1895. Detailed accounts of the history of Auchterless and Fyvie are to be found in Dr. Temple's "Thanage of Fermartyn," and an account of the Roman camp at Glenmailen is given in Smith's "New History of Aberdeenshire." The Castles of Towie-Barclay, Fyvie, and Gight are all fully described in the "Castles of Aberdeenshire" and Macgibbon & Ross's "Castellated and Domestic Architecture." Particulars regarding Towie-Barclay

and the Barclay family are given in Jervise's "Epitaphs," vol. ii., and in a paper read to the Banffshire Field Club by Dr. Milne, King-Edward, 20 August, 1887; see also *Scottish Notes and Queries*, xii., 47, 63. Reference may further be made, for details regarding the Barclays and the Setons of Fyvie (Earls of Dunfermline), to Anderson's "Scottish Nation" and the "Dictionary of National Biography," and, in particular (for the Setons), to "Memoir of Alexander Seton, Earl of Dunfermline," by George Seton (W. Blackwood & Sons, 1882). See also "Some Memories of an Old House, and of its Occupants," by the late Earl of Caithness, in *Scottish Notes and Queries*, i. (Second Series), 65.

Fyvie Castle has quite a literature of its own, beginning with "A Legend of Fyvie Castle," by Mrs. Gordon of Fyvie, with which is incorporated the report of a "Visit to Fyvie" of the Banffshire Field Club, reprinted from *Banffshire Journal*, 31 August, 1880. Mrs. Janet Ross (a daughter of Lady Duff-Gordon) wrote a pamphlet on "Fyvie Castle and its Lairds" (printed for private circulation only; Aberdeen, 1884), and contributed an article under the same title to *Macmillan's Magazine*, April, 1886; an article on "Fyvie and Glamis" appeared in the *Times*, 5 February, 1885, and one on "Fyvie Castle" in *Chambers's Journal*, 22 May, 1886. The history of the lands and Castle of Fyvie is also set forth in "The Royal Castle, Borough, and Park of Fyvie" by Rev. Alexander Bremner—a paper read to the Banffshire Field Club, 1899 (Banff, 1899). An account of recent improvements on the Castle appeared in the *Banffshire Journal*, 6 May, 1890; and an interesting article on "The Church of Fyvie" appeared in the same paper, 25 June, 1895. For detailed accounts of the battle of Fyvie, reference is made to Patrick Gordon's "Britane's Distemper," Spalding's "History of the Troubles," Napier's "Montrose and the Covenanters," and "Montrose," by Mowbray Morris ("English Men of Action" Series, 1892); see also "The Battle of Fyvie" in "Sketches of Military History and Military Heroes of Buchan" in *Aberdeen Weekly Free Press*, 28 December, 1872 (articles on the "Taking of the Houses of Gight and Kelly" appeared in this series of "Sketches," 21 September and 21 December). Reference may

further be made to an account of Fyvie in a series of papers on "Historic Holiday Haunts" in *Aberdeen Weekly Journal*, 27 July and 3 and 10 August, 1898.

Among sources of information regarding Gight and the Gordons of Gight, in addition to the "Castles of Aberdeenshire," "The Thanage of Fermartyn," and "The Scottish Nation," may be mentioned—"Genealogical Collections Concerning the Sir-Name of Baird;" "The Records of Aboyne," edited for the New Spalding Club, by the Marquis of Huntly; "The Gordons of Gight," by James Spence, in "Transactions of Buchan Field Club, 1891-2;" and "Narratives and Extracts from the Records of the Presbytery of Ellon," by Thomas Mair. The account of the Gordons given in the text, however, has been mainly derived from a series of articles on "The Tragic Adventures of Byron's Ancestors—The Gordons of Gight: A Study in Degeneration," by John Malcolm Bulloch, in the *Daily Free Press*, 11, 18, and 25 November, 1898. Reference may also be made to two other articles, by Mr. Bulloch, in the *Daily Free Press*—"A Tragedy of the Austrian Empire: How Two Aberdonians Startled Europe" (2 December, 1898), and "The Kidnapping of the Provost of Aberdeen: The Cavalier Raid of 1644" (25 March, 1899). See also "Byron's Maternal Ancestors—The Gordons of Gight," by Mr. Bulloch, in *Scottish Notes and Queries*, xii. and i. (Second Series). The numerous biographies and "Lives" of Lord Byron contain, of course, references to his mother, Catharine Gordon of Gight. Interesting biographical details regarding her and her husband were given in an article on "Lord Byron's Scottish Blood" which appeared in the *Scotsman*, 23 September, 1896—an article that led to some correspondence and corrections. See also "Byron in Banff," in Dr. Cramond's "Annals of Banff," vol. i. (New Spalding Club, 1891), and an article on the childhood and school-days of Byron, by R. G. Prothero, in *Nineteenth Century*, January, 1898.

The romantic and historic associations of the Ythan Valley inspired a poem, "A Red-Cross Romance," by Rev. Andrew Chalmers, Wakefield (published in 1893). Mr. Chalmers also contributed "An Ythan Idyll" to "The Vale of Ythan." A novel under the title of "The Hermit o' Gight; or, The Fatal

Casket," by Gavin Greig, *New Deer*, ran through the *Beckwith Observer*, 1898-9. The district is not without its scientific interest—see an article on "Glacial Drift of the Ythan Valley at Fyvie" in *Banffshire Journal*, 23 June, 1896, and letter thereanent, 7 July, 1896.

It ought perhaps to be added—as a purely "guide-book" direction—that the easiest way for the average tourist to reach the Castle and Braes of Gight is by walking or driving from the village of Methlick, or from Fyvie railway station, which is about five miles distant from Gight.

CHAPTER XXII.

THE LOWER YTHAN—METHLICK AND ELLON.

A MILE or so below the Castle of Gight, the Little Water—or, as it is sometimes called, the Black Water—of Gight joins the Ythan. The stream—which forms the boundary between the parishes of Fyvie and Methlick—issues from a narrow, thickly-wooded glen ; and half a mile up this glen, and on the left bank of the stream, is another ravine, called the Den of Ardo, through which flows a tiny rill, as pure and clear as crystal, which has its source in a spring sacred to St. Devenick, the tutelar saint of the parish. This well was supposed to possess great healing powers, and was much frequented in former times. But “Saint De’nick’s Well” is now both deserted and neglected.

In simple times, when simple folks
Had faith in simple spell,
How many sought thy healing spring,
O good St. De’nick’s Well !

St. De’nick’s waters still give back
The sparkling rays of noon ;
But who believes their mystic power,
Or craves the mystic boon ?

No more revered is Methlick’s saint,
Nor sought sweet Ardo’s vale ;
No trusting pilgrim comes to drink,
Nor whisper forth his tale.

For now the folks so wise are grown,
 They mock at holy rill ;
 And, scoffing at such simple creed,
 They—pay the doctor's bill.

But though they buy their nostrums dear,
 In whispers let me tell—
Perhaps as happy cures were wrought
 At good St. De'nick's Well.

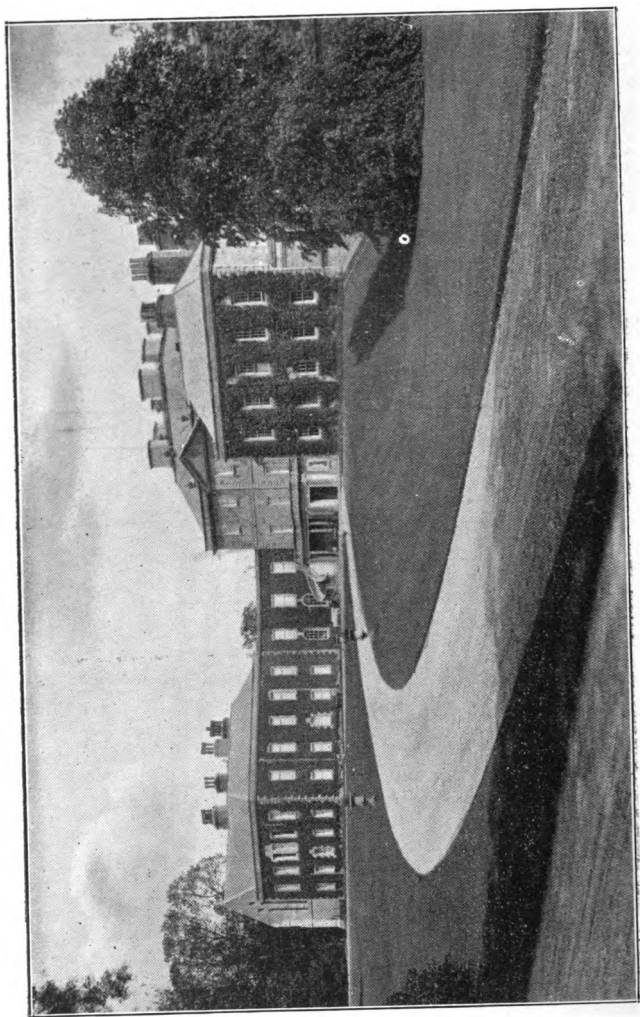
The Little Water traverses what was at one time literally a region of cairns. On the hill of Little Gight, on the right bank, there were three large cairns; and, on the left bank, there were cairns on the hills of Balquhindachy, Belnagoak, Cairnorrie, and Touxtown—the last, a very large one, was known as “The King of Denmark's Cairn.” A farm near this last-named spot still bears the name of Cairns—a name which, except in traditionary lore, itself fast wearing out, will probably be the last memorial of these interesting relics of past ages.* Barbed flint-arrows have been frequently found on the borders of the Little Water. They belong to an age more remote than that of the adjacent cairns. In many of these cairns calcined bones were found—a circumstance that assigns the cairns to a period posterior to the Roman invasion; but the lance and arrow-heads of flint, locally termed “elf-bolts,” ascend still higher. An arrow-head may appear an insignificant thing to look at, but to the archæologist it is, so to speak, a paragraph in the

*An account of a fine specimen of a stone coffin laid bare by persons digging for sand on the western slope of the hill of Skelmanae was given in the *Aberdeen Journal*, 14 July, 1858. The coffin was found “under the site of the ‘Rotten Cairn,’ the stones of which had been carted away by the present tenant.”

history of the district in which it is found, carrying that history back far beyond the written record ; and the surmise is easy that the neighbourhood of this little stream—now a comparatively obscure region—with its arrow-heads, its cairns, and its calcined bones, had once been the scene of fierce and mortal conflicts, the glen either forming the dividing march between hostile neighbours or being the battlefield on which was encountered an invading foe.

The parish of Methlick lies along both banks of the Ythan, from the Little Water of Gight to the bridge at Tanglanford. The name Methlick—locally pronounced “Meedlick”—is probably derived, says Jervise, from the word “Meelick,” which signifies a low marshy place upon a river side. The oldest spellings of the name are Methelak, Methlayky, Mythlik, Methlik ; and the name is said by some authorities to be a corruption of “Magh-a-lich” (Gaelic), the plain or field of the flag-stones. The village of Methlick is on the right bank of the river, and is beautifully situated, the Braes of Gight rising to the north-west and the woods and policies of Haddo House extending along the river bank on the south-east. The parish church is a handsome modern edifice, in the Gothic style, adjoining the village, and was built in 1866. Sir Arthur Gordon (now Lord Stanmore), in his life of the Premier Earl of Aberdeen (“Prime Ministers of Queen Victoria” series, 1893), tells a curious story to the effect that “his share of responsibility for the Russian War so weighed upon Lord Aberdeen’s heart and conscience” that he declined to rebuild the parish church, “though the structure was dilapidated, ugly, and inconvenient,”

and that, after his death, the text 1 Chronicles, *xxiii.*, 7-8, was found written by him on various scraps of paper—"Thou hast shed blood abundantly, and hast made great wars: thou shalt not build an house unto my name. . . ." The parish belongs wholly to the Earl of Aberdeen, and Haddo House, the family seat of the Aberdeens, is the only residential mansion in it—like the village of Methlick, it is on the right, or Formartine, side of the Ythan. It is a long and somewhat low building, consisting of a main block and two wings. It was built in 1732 by the second Earl of Aberdeen, from designs by Mr. John Baxter, architect, Edinburgh, and is in the Palladian style of architecture. It was considerably altered by the present Earl in 1880, his lordship also erecting a private chapel, designed by Mr. George Edmund Street. The house stands in an extensive park, in which are many fine old trees; there are numerous drives, miles in length, and three lakes (named the Upper, the Lower, and the Keithfield lakes), beautifully embosomed in the woods; and a deer-park completes a domain which for size and beauty is unequalled in Aberdeenshire. From the terrace in front of the house an avenue stretches for fully a mile, and in the garden are two trees of the *Wellingtonia* species, planted by the Queen and the Prince Consort in commemoration of a visit paid to the Premier Earl in 1857, and others planted by Mr. Gladstone and Sir Henry M. Stanley, when guests of the present Earl. In the house itself are many valuable works of art, notably "The Triple Mask," by Titian—three heads, supposed to be portraits of Pope Paul III., the Emperor Charles V., and Alfonzo, Duke of Ferrara;

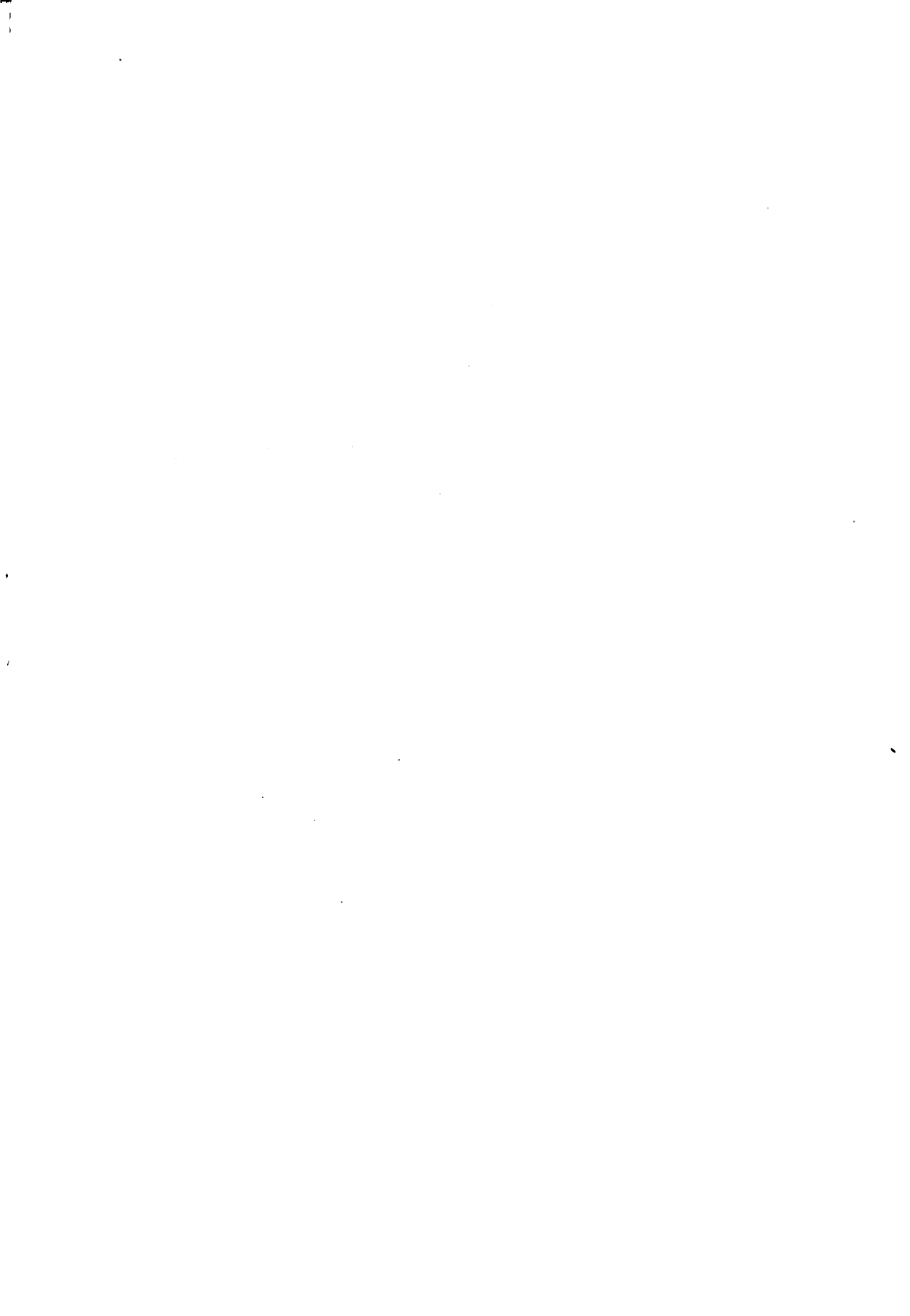


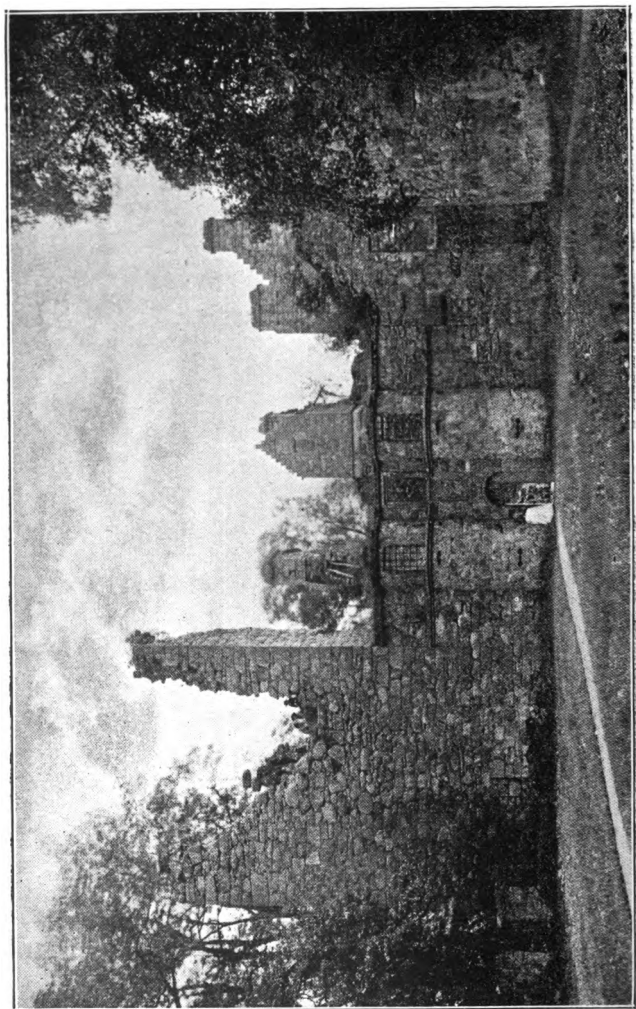
HADDO HOUSE.

specimens of Murillo, Guido Reni, and Domenichino ; portraits by Lawrence ; and Delaroche's portrait of Guizot, the French statesman and historian, as a young man, presented by Guizot himself to the Premier Earl.

According to Mr. Jervise, "there was a mansion-house at Haddo, on the south side of the Ythan, opposite to Gight ; but it, as well as the name, was transferred by one of the Gordons to the locality of the present family residence ;" and the name of the ancient Castle or House of Kelly has been similarly absorbed by Haddo House—and the site, too, for it is supposed that the house of Kelly stood to the east of Haddo House, between it and the Lower Lake. Kelly once belonged to the Comyns, Earls of Buchan, as, in 1287, Alexander Comyn assigned to the Abbey of Arbroath a certain part of his estate "lying within his park at Kelly." In 1433, and onwards to 1553, Robert, Lord Erskine, and his successors held the barony of Kelly, which afterwards became—along with the lands of Haddo and Methlick—the property of a branch of the great Gordon family—a branch descended from one of the brothers (or cousins-german) of Sir Adam Gordon of Huntly, who was slain at Homildon Hill in 1402. The most prominent member of the family of Gordons of Haddo was Sir John Gordon, classified as the sixth laird. He succeeded his grandfather James Gordon (who had married Jane, daughter of William, Lord Keith and Master of Marischal) in 1624. He was an ardent Royalist, and was second to the Marquis of Huntly in command of the forces raised in Aberdeenshire for Charles I. against the Covenanters in 1639. He took

part in the Trot of Turriff in that year, and was created a baronet in 1642. He defended the house of Kelly against a Covenanting assault in 1644, when Gight was also attacked, but (as indicated in the preceding chapter) he surrendered to Argyll. The Covenanters plundered and destroyed the house; and Sir John Gordon was sent to Edinburgh and imprisoned in St. Giles' Church, in a place thereafter called Haddo's Hole; he was executed on 19th July following. He had a son, Sir John, who became second baronet, and who, dying in 1667, was succeeded by his brother, Sir George Gordon, third baronet of Haddo, who was a judge, and eventually President of the Court of Session. He was appointed Chancellor of Scotland in 1681, and was created Lord Haddo, Methlic, Tarves, and Kellie, Viscount Formartine, and Earl of Aberdeen, in the peerage of Scotland. William, the second Earl of Aberdeen, largely increased the family property, purchasing Fyvie, Tolquhon, and other estates. George, the fourth Earl, was Foreign Secretary in the Duke of Wellington's Ministry, 1828-30, and in Sir Robert Peel's Ministry, 1841-6; and he was Prime Minister from 1852 till 1855, being at the head of a Coalition Government, dubbed "the Cabinet of all the Talents," which led the country into the Crimean War. The present Earl of Aberdeen—John Campbell Hamilton-Gordon, seventh Earl—is a grandson of the Premier Earl, and succeeded in 1870. He was Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly, 1881-5; Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, January-July, 1886; and Governor-General of Canada, 1893-8. He was appointed Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire in 1880. He married, in 1877,





TOLQUHON CASTLE.

Ishbel Maria, youngest daughter of Sir Dudley Couotts Marjoribanks of Guisachan (afterwards Lord Tweedmouth).*

The Ythan valley retains its picturesqueness for a considerable distance below Methlick. The road on the right bank of the river, from the village to Tanglanford, skirts the policies of Haddo House, rich meadows separating it from the river, while on the left bank are extensive plantations, the foliage at certain seasons of the year showing beautiful variations of colour. The river is crossed by a bridge at Tanglanford,† and the road to Ellon is carried along the left bank of the Ythan. A portion of the parish of Tarves, embracing the estate of Schivas, is on the left side of the river, though the greater part of the parish is on the right. The parish church is noticeable for the Tolquhon aisle or tomb (described and illustrated in Jervise's "Epitaphs"); the ruins of Tolquhon Castle—the seat of a family of Forbeses—are situated about two miles south of the village of Tarves. The old mansion-house of Schivas is now a farm-house. According to the New Statistical Account, it "was built, about 200 hundred years ago [1640], by a gentleman of the name of Gray, descended from a

* Since 1872, Lord Aberdeen has expended upwards of £125,000 on agricultural improvements, and has laid out about £75,000 on the general improvement of his estate. (See return by the Royal Commissioners on Agriculture, 1895; and "23 Years' Progress on Haddo House Estates" in *Daily Free Press*, 6 June, 1893.)

† "Tanglan" is a corruption of St. Englat, the tutelary saint of Tarves. He was a bishop in Scotland under Kenneth III., A.D. 966. (See "Aberdeen Breviary.")

younger branch of the noble family of Kinfauns. In its immediate vicinity are some remarkably fine beeches; and there is a large and beautiful plane, which, according to tradition, was planted by a daughter of the Gray family. It passes, by the people in the neighbourhood, by the name of Mary Gray. The Grays were of the Roman Catholic persuasion, and what is now [1842] the dining-room of the mansion had been their private chapel. It contains a recess where the altar had formerly stood, and where the cross still remains, with the motto 'I. H. S. Jesus Hominum Salvator.' This, however, has now disappeared. Schivas became the property of a family of Forbeses (a branch of the Forbeses of Craigievar), and it passed, about 1807, to Mr. Forbes Irvine of Drum, who sold it to the Earl of Aberdeen about 1845.*

The Ebrie, an affluent of the Ythan, is crossed on the road to Ellon. This stream has its source in the parish of New Deer, flowing past Nethermuir, Auchnagatt, and Arnage, the district being designated Ebrieside. The mansion-house of Arnage is situated about three miles from the point of confluence of the Ebrie with the Ythan. A portion of it is of considerable

* Doubt as to the dining-room of the House of Schivas having been a private chapel was expressed by Mr. James Spence in a "Report on Schivas" in "Transactions of Buchan Field Club," 1892-95. Equally doubtful seems Mr. Spence's guess as to the identity of Mary Gray—"May she not have been that very Mary Gray who sleeps along with Bessie Bell on the banks of Almond? If not, the two were contemporaries and relatives. Bessie Bell and Mary Gray perished in 1645." Mr. Spence's "Report" may be referred to for an account of "The Houff," or burial ground of the family of Schivas.

antiquity, but the main part is modern, a new building having been erected from designs by the late Mr. James Matthews, architect, Aberdeen; the additions harmonise well with the old building, however, corbelled round turrets, string courses, and dormer window-heads being conspicuous features. The estate at one time belonged to a family of Cheynes, but for well nigh two centuries it has been the property of a family named Ross that descends in the female line from the Rosses of Auchlossin, Lumphanan, Aberdeenshire, who, in their turn, deduced their descent from the Rosses or Roses of Kilravock, in Nairnshire. John Ross, who was Provost of Aberdeen, 1710-12, bought the estate in 1702; and in 1803 it passed to his great-grandson, John Ross Leith (son of Alexander Leith of Freefield and Glenkindie), who adopted the surname Ross. His eldest son, John Leith-Ross, died in 1898, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Colonel John Leith-Ross, of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, who served in the Afghan War and the Suakin and Sudan frontier (1890) campaigns, and is now (1900) in command of the Bury regimental district. The Leith-Rosses are descended from the William Leith of Ruthrieston, Provost of Aberdeen, 1351-5, who furnished the two bells, Laurence ("Lowrie") and Mary, to the old peal of St. Nicholas Church, as a propitiatory offering for the slaughter of a certain Bailie Catanach.

About two miles to the east of Arnage is the old mansion-house of Coldwells, formerly the property of the Gordons of Coldwells, descended from the Gordons of Haddo. According to a manuscript "Account of Scottish Bishops" in the library at

Slains Castle, written about 1730, a John Gordon, son of John Gordon of Coldwells by Marjory Cheyne, daughter to William Cheyne of Arnage, "having been formerly a sea-chaplain, was promoted to the See of Galloway in 1688, as 'tis said, by the Earl of Melfort (who being himself a Roman Catholic, 'tis thought meant no kindness to the Church of Scotland by it)." He is said to have followed James VII. into Ireland, and to have been made Chancellor of Dublin, and then to have gone to Rome and become a Roman Catholic priest, receiving ultimately the honorary title of Abbot. To the south of Coldwells is Tillydesk; and on a knoll here, near the school, several workmen who were making a road (in 1847) discovered eleven urns containing calcined bones. The eminence, thus used at a very early period as a place of sepulture, had been completely surrounded by marshy ground, Tillydesk signifying, it is said, "the wet or watery hillock." Formerly, there was an Episcopalian chapel here, with a parsonage; the chapel was in use up to the year 1816, and a portion of the back wall of it, covered with ivy, still remains. Farther south is Turnerhall, the property of Major John Turner. The estate has long been in the possession of the family. It was once called Rosehill, and belonged then to a family of the name of Rose; but it was purchased in 1693 and the name changed to Turnerhall, under rather peculiar circumstances. A John Turner—hailing from Birse, and descended from the Turners of Kinminity, in that parish—made a fortune as a merchant in Dantzic. He never married, but, nevertheless, he "was extremely desirous that one of his own name should have an estate which should be so

denominated as to preserve his memory," and "accordingly devised as much of his fortune as would purchase in Scotland an estate of the annual value of fifty chalders." His trustees purchased Rosehill, in Ellon, and subsequently Tippertie and Newark, in Logie-Buchan, and these properties were entailed on Robert Turner, a second cousin of the Dantzic merchant. Singular as was thus the origin of Turnerhall, a touch of romance was given to the episode by Robert Turner marrying the eldest daughter of the John Rose who sold Rosehill.

Following the course of the Ythan from the point where the Ebrie flows into it, the farms of West Kinharrachie and East Kinharrachie are passed, the Ythan being crossed at Ardlethen by a bridge (built in 1893), replacing a ford and ferry-boat. On the south side (or right bank) of the river is Esslemont House, the residence of Mr. Henry Wolrige-Gordon. "The barons of Esslemont," according to Mr. Mair, "were most conspicuous in Ellon in the 15th and 16th centuries." These barons were of a family named Cheyne, and the old house of Esslemont (now in ruins) is supposed to have been built about 1500 by a John Cheyne. The Cheynes, who were Roman Catholics, were dispossessed at the time of the Reformation, and the lands of Esslemont subsequently passed through various hands, one of the many proprietors being George Jamesone, the painter. About 1630, they came into the possession of the Earl of Erroll, and in 1728 they were purchased by Robert Gordon of Hallhead, Leochel-Cushnie, whose son and successor, George Gordon, took part in the

rising of 1745 and had to go into exile. George Gordon's great-grandson, Robert, had one surviving child, Anne, who succeeded to Esslemont in 1864; she had married, in 1856, Mr. Henry P. Wolrige, son of Colonel John Wolrige (of the old family of Wolryche of Dudmaston, Shropshire). Mrs. Wolrige and her husband, after succeeding to the estate, assumed the name of Gordon. Mr. Wolrige-Gordon made large additions to Esslemont House in 1866; the house itself dates from 1799. His eldest son, Major Robert Gordon Gordon-Gilmour, succeeded, in 1887, on the death of his grand-uncle, to Liberton and Craigmillar in Midlothian. Mr. Wolrige-Gordon is also proprietor of the estate of Watridgemuir in Logie-Buchan.*

Farther along the Ythan, and on its left bank—the river here being spanned by a bridge of three arches, built in 1793—is the town of Ellon. The town has grown considerably of late years, gradually extending towards the railway station—Ellon is the junction for the Cruden and Boddam Railway—and quite a village has sprung up at Auchterellon, to the west of the station, noticeable buildings here being the Station Hotel and the shoe factory and residence of Mr. William Smith. Two auction marts have also been recently erected near the railway station, and a public hall, to be called the Victoria Hall, is being built on a site in Station Road. There is also a hospital (the Gordon Hospital); and a new Cemetery, to the east of

* Adam Lindsay Gordon, the Australian poet, belonged to a branch of the family of Gordons of Esslemont, being a second-cousin of Mrs. Wolrige-Gordon. See *Scottish Notes and Queries*, xi., 139, and *Daily Free Press*, 19 March, 1898.

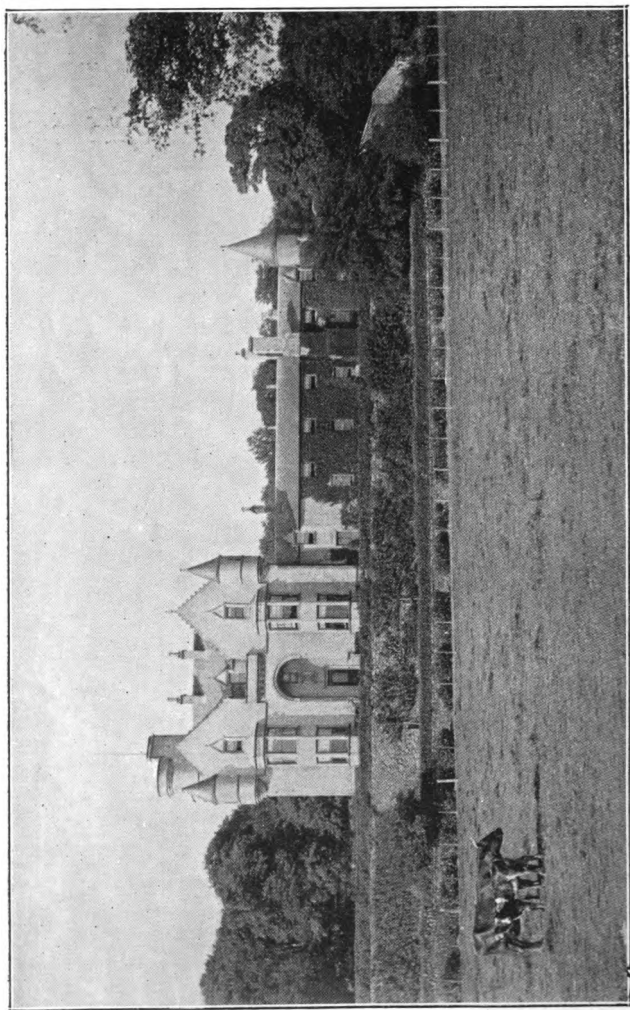
the town, was laid out by the Parish Council in 1899. The Parish Church, a very plain edifice, was built in 1777, underwent a thorough and substantial repair in 1828, and was renovated and decorated in 1876. Many improvements in the church have been made during the incumbency of the present minister, Rev. Thomas Young, B.D., these including the introduction of an organ and the building of an organ apse; a polished brass font, a polished brass lectern, and a silver cup were gifted by Mr. Young. The church possesses a set of interesting old communion cups, the oldest bearing the inscription—"This cup is dedicat to the service of God and communion tabell in the Church of Ellean by Johne Kennedie in Keairmock, and Janet Forbes his spouse, 1634." The most famous minister of the parish of modern times was Rev. James Robertson, D.D. (1832-43), who figured prominently in the controversies of the pre-Disruption period, became Professor of Divinity and Ecclesiastical History in Edinburgh University, and was the founder of the Endowment scheme of the Church of Scotland.* The Free Church (previously an Independent Chapel) was adapted to its new mission in 1845, and was renovated in 1896; a new U.P. Church was built in 1894. The architectural feature of Ellon, however, is the Episcopal Church—St. Mary's on the Rock—occupying a prominent position on the "Craig," on the right bank of the river. It was built in 1870-1

* A marble tablet to the memory of Dr. Robertson was erected in the Church in 1874. Dr. Robertson was a native of the parish of Pitsligo. See p. 299; also "Life of Professor Robertson" by Professor Charteris (*Blackwoods*, 1863), and "A Faithful Churchman," also by Professor Charteris (Guild Library, 1897).

from a design by the late Mr. George Edmund Street, the celebrated Gothic architect, and is a very handsome building in the Early English style, with a graceful little tower. The pulpit and screen are in memory of the late Colonel Bertie E. M. Gordon, of the 91st Argyllshire Highlanders (son of the late Mr. Alexander Gordon of Ellon); the reredos was erected in memory of Mr. Gordon by his daughter, the Hon. Mrs. R. C. Boyle; and the sacarium was erected in memory of Mrs. Alexander Gordon by her husband and children. There is a handsome red granite font, cut from a single block, that belonged to the old church, to which it was presented by Mr. Gordon of Ellon. Most of the windows are filled with stained glass according to a pre-arranged plan; one of the windows, representing the Light of the World, presented by Mr. Wolrige-Gordon of Esslemont, was in the old church. Among the memorial tablets in the church is one in memory of Commander Harry Leith-Ross, of H.M.S. "Serpent," which was lost off the Portuguese coast. The Rector of St. Mary's on the Rock from 1862 till his death in 1898 was Rev. Nicholas Kenneth M'Leod, author of "The Castles of Buchan" and "The Churches of Buchan." A granite drinking trough was placed in the Square in 1896, by the Hon. Mrs. Boyle, in memory of her father.

Ellon Castle, adjoining the town, is a mansion-house in the Scottish baronial style of architecture, and is surrounded by beautiful grounds and garden terraces; one garden is noted for its yew trees. The Castle was built in 1851, replacing a former structure which is described in the "View of the Diocese" as





ELLON CASTLE.

“a very great house, the great halls having two rows of windows, and being twenty-eight foot high.” In old times it was known as the “Fortalice of Ardgight.” A tower only of this building now remains. The Castle and estate of Ellon were, in the early part of the eighteenth century, the property of Mr. James Gordon, a merchant and bailie of Edinburgh, but in 1752 his widow disposed of the estate to George, third Earl of Aberdeen, who, in 1780, built large additions to the house, giving it the character and title of a castle, and making it his principal place of residence. On his death, in 1801, the Castle and estate of Ellon passed to his second son, the Hon. William Gordon, who was succeeded in 1846 by his half-brother, Alexander Gordon. Mr. Alexander Gordon was a captain in the 15th Hussars, and took part in Sir John Moore’s campaign in the Peninsula, and was subsequently for some time Secretary to the Board of Manufactures in Scotland. He was proprietor of Ellon for the long period of twenty-eight years, and was a very popular landlord: he was presented by his tenantry (in 1853) with his portrait, painted by Sir John Watson Gordon. His eldest son, George John Robert Gordon—at one time in the diplomatic service, in which he attained the rank of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary—was proprietor of Ellon from 1873 till 1885, when he propelled the estate to his son, Arthur John Lewis Gordon, C.M.G., the present proprietor. Mr. Arthur Gordon was in the Colonial service for a number of years; he was private secretary to Sir Arthur Hamilton Gordon (now Lord Stanmore), Governor of Fiji, 1875-80, and secretary to Lord

Aberdeen, Governor-General of Canada, 1893-6. He married the second daughter of the late Hon. Sir Alexander Hamilton Gordon, M.P. for East Aberdeenshire, 1875-85.*

Ellon is a place of great antiquity. It appears to have been, from the most remote period of which records remain, the seat of jurisdiction of the earldom of Buchan. It was the place where the Earls of Buchan were formally invested in the title, and it is said that "its possession continued to be anxiously claimed by the lords of Buchan, when, of all that great inheritance, little or nothing remained with them but the name and dignity of Earl." ("Antiquities of the Shires of Aberdeen and Banff," iii., 5.) It was also the place where the Earls held their Head Court. Here, all inferior holders of land—who, in a certain sense, were vassals of the Earl of Buchan, engaged by "ane band of manrent," to "heill his consaill, and gif hime the best consaill" they "cane gif only he askis"—assembled at the Earl's bidding, each attended by his own special retainers, all mounted, and armed to the teeth; and here all cases of importance throughout the earldom were tried and summarily decided. As far back as 1206, prior to the time of the great house of Comyn, Fergus, Earl of Buchan, in conveying

* Ellon Castle is associated with the memory of a dreadful murder, committed at Edinburgh on 28 April, 1718. The perpetrator, Robert Irvine, was tutor in the family of James Gordon of Ellon, the victims being his two pupils, children of about eight years of age. (See *Scottish Journal*, i., 128, and ii., 25). An extremely beautiful, and in some respects rare, sundial at Ellon Castle is described and illustrated in Macgibbon & Ross's "Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland," v., 445.

certain lands to the young laird of Fedderat—John, the son of Uthred—bound him over to give attendance, along with the other vassals of the earl, thrice a year at the Head Court of Ellon. This court was held in the open air, the place of assembly being the Moot Hill, called in later times the Earl's Hill or Erl's Hillock. The slight eminence or mound which was thus named has disappeared ; it was on the bank of the river, nearly opposite the New Inn, and its site is now enclosed by a railing.

A little farther down the river is the site of the old Castle or House of Waterton, the ancient seat of the Forbeses of Watertown. It stood in a prominent situation, on a rocky eminence overlooking the river. The estate of Waterton belonged originally to the Bannermans of Elsick, Abbotshall and Candlands,* being assigned to Alexander Bannerman by the Abbot of Kinloss in 1560. William Forbes of Tolquhon bought Waterton in 1614 or 1616, and made it over in 1630 to his fourth son, Thomas, who, it is supposed, built (or completed) the House of Waterton between 1640 and 1650. The estate continued in the possession of the Forbeses for upwards of a century, when it became (in 1770), by purchase, the property of the third Earl of Aberdeen, and, on the death of the Hon. William Gordon, it was inherited by Mr. Alexander Gordon of Ellon. A footpath leads to the fragment of the castle still remaining, on which Mr. John Hopton Forbes, of Merry Oaks, Southampton, the grandson of Thomas Forbes, the

* A corruption of Candle-lands, so called from the lands being liable to supply a tribute of wax candles to burn before the high altar of Ellon Church.

last laird of Waterton, placed a stone tablet, bearing the coat of arms of the Forbeses of Waterton and the inscription—"This stone marks the site of the ancient seat of the family of Forbes, Lairds of Watertown, A.D. 1630-1770."* The footpath is continued along the bank of the Ythan, and leads to a view of by far the finest reach in the river. The scenery here is beautiful. The broad expanse of the stream, with its rocky islets; the crags along both banks of the river—especially those on the left bank—bold and precipitous, often rising to the height of 100 feet and upwards; birch, mountain ash, and other trees clothing the steep, wherever sufficient soil for their support is to be found; the wild rose and the honeysuckle, interspersed with furze and the "lang yellow broom," the foxglove, and other wild flowers—all combine to give a character to this secluded spot which takes the visitor, introduced to it for the first time, quite by surprise. The footpath extends for upwards of a mile from "the meadows" to the remains of a small ruin, pointed out as the Abbot's Hall. This is in the vicinity of what is known as the Abbot's Haugh, and a little below the Abbot's Well. The dimensions of the foundations, externally, are, from east to west, about 30 feet; and from north to south, about 15 feet. Some vestiges of the Abbot's Garden, on the rock above the ruin in a north-easterly direction, are also pointed out to the visitor. These interesting objects lie directly between the farmhouse

* Waterton Castle, in its palmy days, was a favourite resort of Jamie Fleeman, the Laird of Udney's Fool, and here many of his singular sayings and doings occurred. (See "The Life and Death of Jamie Fleeman.")

of Mains of Waterton and the river. A controversy has long raged over the site of the Abbot's Hall, the late Rev. Mr. M'Leod, for one, maintaining that the ruins on the terrace at Ellon Castle (formerly Ardgith) are really those of the Abbot's Hall, which Abbot Thomas Chrystall erected in 1532.*

Another old family in Ellon was that of Kennedy of Kermucks. This family owned the hill of Ardgith—the ancient name of the hill on which Ellon Castle stands—and gradually acquired Knockothy and the lands of Clayhills surrounding it, and the lands of Carnamuk (changed into Kermucks), to which was attached the hereditary office of Constable of Aberdeen.† A notable feud occurred between the Kennedys and the Forbeses of Waterton in 1652, the cause of dispute being a ditch that the Kennedys wished to cut across the public road near the present east lodge of Ellon Castle in order to drain a marsh, the making of which had been objected to by neighbouring proprietors, and particularly by the Forbeses. A hostile encounter ultimately took place, Thomas Forbes of Waterton being fatally wounded; and the Kennedys were outlawed. They gave over the estate of Kermucks to the Moirs of Stoneywood,

* See "Abbotshall, Ellon," by Thomas Mair, Kermuck, in "Transactions of Buchan Field Club, 1891-92;" "Note on 'Ardgith Kennedorum', showing it to be 'Abbatishall of Ellone,'" and "Ardgith Castle—Abbotshall," by Rev. N. K. M'Leod, and "Note on the Ardgith (Mr. M'Leod's) View of Abbotshall," by T. Mair, in "Transactions of the Buchan Field Club, 1896-98" (iv., 98-110).

† See "The Book of Bon-Accord;" Appendix—"The Constable of Aberdeen."

who, in 1668, sold it to Sir John Forbes of Waterton ; it passed, in 1708, to Mr. James Gordon, and its subsequent destination has been already mentioned. The Kennedys, on leaving Aberdeenshire, acquired the island of Stroma, in the Pentland Firth.*

According to the account of the parish furnished to the New Statistical Account by Rev. Dr. James Robertson (who, however, acknowledged his indebtedness to Dr. Joseph Robertson, the antiquarian) "the kirk and kirk lands of Ellon belonged to the Cistercian Abbey of Kinloss in Moray. It is probable they were conferred on this Abbey at its foundation in the middle of the twelfth century. They certainly belonged to it in the thirteenth century, as we find that, at an early period of the century following, Robert I. confirmed to the Abbot of Kinloss the advocacion and donation of the Kirk of Ellon. The Kinloss monks probably acquired Ellon from one of the first Earls of Buchan. The Buchan family seem to have been partial to the Cistercian order, as they founded and endowed an Abbey of this order at Deer. In former times, Ellon, from its belonging to the Abbey of Kinloss, was frequently designated 'Kinloss Ellon.'" From a letter of Alexander Comyn, Earl of Buchan, of date 1265 (a copy of which is preserved in the charter-room of Slains Castle), it appears that he received a grant of certain lands of Ellon, for himself and his two sons, from Gamelino, .

* See "The Slaughter of Watertown" by Thomas Mair, and "Caithness Events: A Discussion of Captain Kennedy's Historical Narrative" by Thomas Sinclair (Wick: W. Rae, 1894), and review thereof in *Daily Free Press*, 10 September, 1894.

Bishop of St. Andrews, for which he and his heirs were to pay annually to the Bishop and his successors two silver marks, and also to render certain dues with which the lands were burdened, the lands to revert to the Bishop and Church of St. Andrews on the death of the Earl and his two sons. The lands of which the earl thus obtained a lease were church lands ("terræ ecclesiasticæ"), occupied by those named Scoloci or Scholochi. "Noueritis nos recepisse" (says the letter) "ad firmam a uenerabili uiro: Gamelino Episcopo Sancti Andree . terram suam de Elon in Buchan . quam Scoloci de Elon tenent." There is another document, of date 1387 (also in the charter-room at Slains), being a memorandum of an inquest made in the parish church of Ellon concerning the value of the church lands of Ellon called the Scolog lands—"que dicuntur le Scologlandis."*

The old or pre-Reformation church of Ellon was restored and greatly added to in 1532 by the Abbot of Kinloss, Thomas Chrystall. This church was described in 1720, as "an old building in the form of a cross." It had a choir, with two aisles or transepts, one for the Cheynes of Esslemont and

* See an article "On Scholastic Offices in the Scottish Church in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries," by Dr. Joseph Robertson in "Miscellany of the Spalding Club," vol. v., appendix to preface, pp. 56-7; and "On the Term Scoloc," by Dr. James Gammack in "Transactions of the Aberdeen Ecclesiological Society, MDCCCLXXXIX." Dr. Gammack disputes Dr. Robertson's assumption that the Scolocs were an order of clergy or formed an ecclesiastical grade of a scholastic kind, maintaining, on the other hand, that Scolocs were tenants of church lands, these lands being specially burdened with the provision of sundry ecclesiastical and educational requirements.

the other for the Bannermans (and then the Forbeses) of Waterton. The only remains of this church are a part of the chancel wall east of the present parish church, and a sculptured stone affixed to the south wall to mark the site of the Waterton aisle.* This stone records the building and rebuilding of the Waterton transept or chapel:—"Built by T. F. of W., son to W. F. of Tolqn., and J. R. dau. to Balmain in 1637. Rebuilt by T. F. of W., and M. M. [Margaret Montgomery], in 1755." The chancel wall is divided into three compartments, each surmounted by a coat of arms; the arms of the Annand family are prominent in all three. The central division is blank, but is surmounted by what appears to be the arms proper of the Annands, with the motto "Sperabo." On one side of the shield are the initials D^D A; on the other, "Obiit 1326." The compartment on the left has the Annand arms quartered with those of some other family, in which the star seems to predominate. The initials A. A. and M. F. are on

* "The old pre-Reformation church was pulled down in 1777. An old prophecy of Thomas the Rhymer foretold that on a Pasch Sunday the kirk would fall, and that the catastrophe would be preceded by the perambulation of the kirk by a white bull. On Pasch Sunday, 1776, a man in one of the galleries, looking out of a window behind him, saw a white calf in the churchyard, and, anticipating the immediate collapse of the building, he broke the window and let himself down by means of the bell rope, which produced such a panic that the kirk speedily 'skaled,' to the great danger of all who were in the building. So much impressed were those who had escaped with the idea that the kirk had actually fallen that one old woman was heard piteously beseeching the bystanders to dig her daughter 'oot o' the redd o' the kirk.'" (M'Leod's "Churches of Buchan.")

the sides, and a scroll bears the legend "Salus per [Christum]." Underneath is the inscription—

"Monumentum marmoreum Honorabilis Alexandri Annand baronis quondam de Ochterellon, qui obiit ix. Jul. 1601. Ejusque conjugis Margaretæ Fraser, filiæ quondam de Philorth, quæ obiit, Aug. A.D. 1602. 'Salus per Christum.'"

["The marble monument of Alexander Annand, the late honourable baron of Auchterellon, who died 9 July, 1601, and of his spouse, Margaret Fraser, daughter of the laird of Philorth, who died August, 1602. 'Salvation through Christ.']*"]

The right-hand compartment contains the Annand arms quartered with those, presumably, of the Cheynes, in which the Greek cross and a leaf are inserted, with the initials A. A. and M. C. on the two sides. The scroll has the legend "Mors Christi Vita Nostra." The inscription runs—

"Sub hoc quoque tumulo resurrectionem expectant corpora Alexandri Annand de Ochterellon, filii dicti Alexandri, qui obiit
et caræ suæ conjugis Margaretæ Cheyne,
filiæ dō de Esslemont, quæ obiit ."

["In this tomb await the resurrection the bodies of Alexander Annand of Auchterellon, son of the said Alexander, who died , and of his beloved wife, Margaret Cheyne, daughter of the laird of Esslemont, who died ."]*

Auchterellon was for long the property of the Annands, the family dating back to 1424. From them it passed to the family of Udny of Udny, and about 1730 it was purchased by Mr. James Gordon of Ellon, and was by him sold in 1752, along with the estate of Ellon, to Lord Aberdeen. The estate of

* An illustration of the Annand monument is given in Macgibbon & Ross's "Ecclesiastical Architecture of Scotland," iii., 87.

Auchterellon (extending to about 1200 acres) was bought in 1889 from Mr. Gordon of Ellon by Mr. John Rae, the first and present Provost of Ellon ; and it is since he became proprietor that feuing and building at Auchterellon have been developed.

The parish of Logie-Buchan is entered when the Burn of Auchmacoy is crossed, a little distance east of Mains of Waterton. The parish is divided into two nearly equal portions by the Ythan, the parish church being on the south (or Formartine) side of the river. There is a ferry at Boat of Logie, and this at one time formed the great thoroughfare from the north-east of Buchan to Aberdeen, the principal road being along the sea-shore of Belhelvie. A proposal is on foot—has been, in fact, for several years past—to erect a bridge here. Conspicuous in the landscape at the Burn of Auchmacoy are the house and grounds of Auchmacoy. The house, admirably situated, is in the Elizabethan style, and was built in 1832-4 by Mr. James Buchan. The ground to the westward slopes gently to the margin of a little stream, forming a beautiful lawn embellished by clumps of trees and shrubs ; and to the north rises a gentle eminence thickly covered with wood. On the south and east, the house overlooks a steep glen, tastefully laid out with walks. Beyond this is seen the picturesque sweep of the basin formed by the Ythan, with the sea in the distance. Auchmacoy has belonged for centuries to a family of the name of Buchan. It appears from Robertson's "Index of Scarce Charters" that the Buchans were proprietors of the estate as far back as 1318 ; and, according to the "View of the Diocese," the first of the family was "a son of Cummin, Earl

of Buchan (whence Auchmacoy still bears the coat of Cummin, Earl of Buchan, with a mollet for difference), who had got this small estate from his father, and did, notwithstanding the almost general rebellion of his whole clan against King Robert I., adhere so faithfully to that Prince that he was allowed to retain his estate (when the other Cummins were forfeited) upon the condition of his taking a new name; whereupon he chose that of Buchan." The estate was confirmed to the family in 1503, when James IV. granted a new charter to Andrew Buchan of Auchmacoy. The most eminent member of the family was Major-General Thomas Buchan, an adherent of James II., who, after the fall of Dundee at the battle of Killiecrankie, and the repulse of General Cannon at Dunkeld, obtained the chief command of King James's forces, in Scotland. On 1st May, 1690, he was surprised and totally defeated by Sir Thomas Livingstone at Cromdale, the catastrophe forming the subject of the humorous ballad, "The Haughs o' Cromdale." The present proprietrix is Miss Louisa Buchan, the surviving daughter of Mr. James Buchan. At Denhead of Auchmacoy, there is a fine mission hall, erected in memory of the late Mrs. Buchan.

About a mile and a half north of Auchmacoy formerly stood the mansion-house of Birness. Up to the beginning of the eighteenth century, as stated in the "View of the Diocese," it belonged to "Cummin of Birnis, son to Cummin of Crimond." It is now the property of the Gordons of Pitlurg and Parkhill. (See p. 32), and a farm-house (Mains of Birness) occupies the site of the ancient mansion. The family of Gordons of Pitlurg has had many members of

eminence, among whom may be mentioned Robert Gordon of Straloch, a geographical and antiquarian writer; James Gordon, the "parson of Rothiemay," author of the "History of Scots Affairs;" and Robert Gordon, the founder of Robert Gordon's Hospital (now College), Aberdeen. The Burn of Auchmacoy rises near the Hill of Dudwick (572 feet high)—the highest hill in the district. Either in a glack or on a plateau on the western slope of this hill stood the Manor House of Dudwick, which is thus referred to in the "View of the Diocese"—"Dudwick, in the last age, was the seat of General King, created Earl of Ythan, by King Charles I., who died childless. It lately belonged to Fullerton of Dudwick; who left it to his nephew, John Udny (son to Auchterellon) on condition of his changing his name to Fullerton; which he accordingly has done." The estate still remains in the same family, Mr. John Henry Udny of Udny being the present proprietor.

East of the hill of Dudwick is Auchleuchries (in the parish of Cruden)—an estate associated with another family of Gordons. The Gordons of Auchleuchries, indeed, traced their pedigree back to the beginning of the line of "Jock and Tam Gordons"—the junior branch of the great family of Gordons represented, in the main line, by the Dukes of Gordon and the Earls and Marquises of Huntly. The most distinguished member of the Auchleuchries family was Patrick Gordon (1635-99), well described as "a perfect type of the military adventurer of the seventeenth century," "clearly a genuine Dugald Dalgetty." He went abroad in 1651, and for ten years was by turns in the service of the Swedes, the Poles, and the

Germans. He entered the Russian service in 1661, and in 1679 was appointed to the chief command at Kiev as Lieutenant-General. He became a friend and adviser of Peter the Great, taking his side against the Princess Sophia, and he was long a trusted counsellor of the Tsar. In 1694 he was appointed Rear-Admiral of the Fleet; and he was rewarded with many estates and dignities. He died in 1699, the Emperor of All the Russias watching and weeping over his death-bed and closing his eyes. "It may be questioned," says John Hill Burton, "if any other one man did so much for the early consolidation of the Russian empire as Patrick Gordon." Though a second son, Gordon became proprietor of Auchleuchries by the death of his elder brother. The old mansion-house, occupied for so many generations by the Gordons, has given place to a spruce farm-house (Mains of Auchleuchries) built in 1864. The last remnant of the property was bought for £13,000 by Mr. James Grant Duff of Eden (See p. 342),* and now belongs to Hermann Obrist, of Munich, and Dr. Aloys Obrist, of Villa Alisa, Weimar, the two sons of Mr. Grant Duff's only daughter, Miss Alice Jane Grant Duff, afterwards Mme. Obrist. The neighbouring property of Easter-town of Auchleuchries was bought by Mr. George Milne, Brucehill, New Deer, in 1899, for £7130.

* "October 5, 1852.—Went over to see Auchleuchries, an estate near Ellon, in Aberdeenshire, which my father had just purchased. The hideous old house was still standing, which, when I came to manage the property, I in vain attempted to preserve, as having been the birth-place of the famous General of Peter the Great." ("Notes from a Diary, 1851-1872," by the Right Hon. Sir Mountstuart E. Grant Duff, 1897.)

From Auchleuchries, the Burn of Forvie—rising at Ardgant, on the north side of the Brown Hill, and augmented by springs among the hills of Auchleuchries—flows down to the Ythan. On the farms of Bellscamphie and Brogan, on the east side of this burn, there were formerly pieces of ground separated by either a dyke or a ditch from the rest of the farm. These were known as “The Goodman’s Land” or “The Guidman’s Fauld” or “Craft,” and were given to “The Guidman”—that is, to the Evil One—on condition that, while left uncultivated, he should do no harm to “man, or beast, or crop” on the rest of the farm. It required all the powers of the church courts to root out this superstition.*

Below the burn of Forvie, the Ythan expands considerably, forming a spacious basin 600 yards wide at high water, while at some places, including creeks and inlets, the width of the river-bed extends to nearly a mile. When the tide runs out, however, a large portion of the river-bed is left bare, particularly a part known as the Sleek of Tarty and the creek into which the burn of Tarty discharges. Tarty is on the right bank of the Ythan, and here the river is crossed by the bridge where the itinerary followed in this volume began (See p. 18), the parish of Foveran and the district of Formartine being entered when the bridge is crossed. The estate of Foveran is linked with the names of Turing and Forbes. A Sir John Turing was created baronet of Foveran by Charles I. in 1639, and there is still a baronet of the name and

* See “Sir James Y. Simpson” (“Famous Scots Series”), pp. 21-2; and “The Goodman’s Croft” in *Daily Free Press*, 1 June, 1897.

title. But the estate was sold in the seventeenth century to an Alexander Forbes, of the Tolquhon family; and a descendant, Sir Samuel Forbes, the author of a well-known "Description of Aberdeenshire," was granted a baronetcy in 1700. The estate, which was subsequently in the possession of a family named Robertson, now belongs to Major-General Roderick Mackenzie. No vestige remains of the Castle of Foveran or of Turing's Tower, the more ancient part of it. There was a prediction concerning this Tower (said to be by Thomas the Rhymer)—

" When Turing's Towr falls to the land,
Gladsmoor then is near at hand ;
When Turing's Towr falls to the sea,
Gladsmoor the next year shall be."

The ruins of the Castle of Knockhall are observable from the bridge across the Ythan. Knockhall was at one time a residence of the family of Udny of Udny, and was built in 1565. During the Covenanting times it was taken by the Earl of Erroll and Earl Marischal, on the part of the Covenant (1639). In 1734, it was accidentally burned, and it has since been in a ruinous state. During the fire, the charter chest was saved by Jamie Fleeman, "the laird of Udny's fool" (See pp. 211, 214).

A mile or so from the bridge is the little village of Newburgh, partly built alongside a creek of the Ythan. The river is navigable for small vessels up to Newburgh, and a large traffic in corn, coal, lime, and bone-dust is carried on; and the village is a pleasant resort for anglers and golfers. On the adjacent Inches there is a very ancient burial-ground, in which are the ruins of a chapel called the Chapel of the Holy Rood

(See footnote, p. 150). In 1882, when a new school was built, the old school was—mainly through the instrumentality of Rev. J. S. Loutit, minister of the parish of Foveran—transformed into a place of worship connected with the Church of Scotland (the parish church being at a little distance from the village), and to it was given the name of Holy Rood Chapel. Ten years later, a tower was erected on the chapel, for the accommodation of a public clock presented by Mr. James Gordon Stewart, East India merchant, of Calcutta (a native of Newburgh). In 1897, Mrs. Udney of Udney presented the village with a handsome fountain in commemoration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. It was in Newburgh that the Chevalier stayed (23rd December, 1715), on his way south from Peterhead (See p. 83). The Ythan enters the sea near Newburgh, its course as it nears the sea being hemmed into narrow bounds by large sand hills, those on the left or northern side forming part of the Sands of Forvie. On taking leave of the stream, the following verses by the late James Giles, R.S.A., may be appropriately reproduced :—*

THE YTHAN.

O that I were where Ythan flows,
 Where Ythan flows, where Ythan flows,
 O that I were where Ythan flows,
 Away to the deep blue sea.

Wi' rod and reel, and fishing creel,
 The balmy spring aince mair to feel,
 Whaur Ythan's tides sae swiftly steal
 Away to the deep blue sea.

*From the third of a series of articles on Mr. Giles in *Aberdeen Free Press*, 23 December, 1870.

Whaur golden furze and yellow broom,
 The wild thyme and the heather-bloom,
 Load a' the air wi' rich perfume,
 By the Ythan near the sea.

Wi' ebbing tides, and cloudy skies,
 To take a cast wi' "Lyell's" flies,
 And lead to land the glittering prize
 From the Ythan near the sea.

By sandy hill and benty knowe,
 O'er mussel scaups the waters row,
 And choicest sport is there I trow,
 By the Ythan near the sea.

To hear the lark at sunrise sing,
 To mark the tern on fitting wing,
 And silv'ry trout from Ythan spring,
 Whaur it joins the deep blue sea.

To see the shell duck with her brood,
 Misfortune feigning for their good,
 Flutter and dive beneath the flood
 Of the Ythan near the sea.

The sand lark and the shy curlew—
 Crockets and gulls of varied hue,
 There seek their food 'mang mussels blue,
 By the Ythan near the sea.

On muddy flats baith ear' and late,
 The turning tide the plovers wait,
 In flocks their hunger to abate,
 By the Ythan near the sea,

Dunlins and snipes are wheeling there,
 Turnstones and shanks, with others rare,
 Intently search for tidal fare,
 By the Ythan near the sea.

And, O how sweet, when sunbeams broil,
 By Touley Well to rest from toil,
 And eat our lunch and count our spoil,
 By the Ythan near the sea.

But ah ! alas ! sin' auld langsyne,
 How many friends o' yours and mine,
 Have ceased to throw a fishing line
 In the Ythan near the sea.

O, only whaur the Ythan flows,
 The parting day in glory glows,*
 And there I'd wish my e'en to close,
 By the Ythan near the sea.

ADDITIONAL VERSES.

There bonnie lassies, ear' and late,
 Gather in creels the mussel bait,
 For whittings, haddocks, ling, and skate,
 By the Ythan near the sea.

Then to the deep the fishers steer,
 And set their lines wi' hearty cheer,
 Then rest a while, and smoke, and jeer,
 Away on the deep blue sea.

Then haul their lines and make for shore,
 Sometimes of fish a plenteous store,
 With grateful hearts they ask no more,
 And land from the deep blue sea.

The boats arrive, and on the strand
 The fish are thrown by many a hand,
 Division follows 'mong the band,
 By the Ythan near the sea.

The well-filled creels are borne along
 By maids and mothers with a song,
 And speldings swack are made e'er long,
 At the Neebro' near the sea.

From Newburgh a road leads past Foveran House to the high road from Aberdeen to Peterhead and Fraserburgh, which enters Buchan at the bridge of Ellon. After leaving Ellon, this road runs nearly due

* The sunsets at the mouth of this river are exceedingly brilliant. The sand hills in no slight degree contribute to this effect.

east, skirting the south wall of the Castle park, and then turns northward till at Birness, four miles from Ellon, it divides, one branch running in an easterly direction through Cruden to Peterhead, and the other running almost due north by Mintlaw to Fraserburgh. The Fraserburgh road cuts through Buchan almost in a direct line northward, touching places not reached in the itinerary that has been followed hitherto. Auchleuchries is passed shortly after leaving Birness, and, farther on, Auquharney House, standing on a considerable eminence on the right. The house was built about 1840. The estate belonged for many years to the late Mr. William Yeats, advocate, Aberdeen, and was by him bequeathed to his nephew, Mr. William Yeats M'Donald, banker, Aberdeen. About a mile from Auquharney, the road crosses the Bog of Ardallie—or, rather, the site of a former bog or morass, now drained and cultivated. A Chapel of Ease was erected at Ardallie in 1857; and since then a *quoad sacra* parish has been formed. A road on the left stretches along "the braeside of" Skelmuir" to Stuartfield and Old Deer—the latter five miles distant. Another road goes off on the right, and passes by Newton of Kinmundy, Lenabo, and Ludquharn, and thence by Stockbridge and Cocklaw to Peterhead. From the Bog of Ardallie, the high road runs along the western slope of the hill of Kinknockie, bringing into view that broad fertile portion of Buchan which has Old Deer for its centre with Brae of Coynach and other fine farms in the foreground. The wooded knolls about Pitfour and Aden, with the denser masses of wood in the vicinity of

the mansions, give variety and interest to the scene. On approaching Shannas, the woods of Kinmundy appear on the heights to the right ; a little farther on is the Church of Clola, rebuilt in 1864 and much enlarged (See p. 135). At Millbreck, about a mile beyond Clola, is an extensive woollen manufactory, belonging to Messrs. Smith & Sons, Kirktown, Peterhead ; and from this the road passes through the highly cultivated lands of Coynach, Knock, and Yokieshill, till Baluss Bridge, crossing the South Ugie, is reached. Mintlaw is a mile farther on. From Mintlaw the road gradually ascends into a bleak and uninteresting district, the straggling village of New Leeds being passed on the left ; this village was founded by a son of Lord Strichen and was named New Leeds in the hope that, as lint (flax) was then so much cultivated in the district, it might become a rival to Leeds, in Yorkshire ! Soon after, the highest point on the road between Mintlaw and Fraserburgh is reached, and the broad and fertile region lying between Mormond and the sea comes into view. From this point the landscape becomes more picturesque, with the woods of Cortes and Philorth in front, the background being closed by the towers and spires of Fraserburgh and the shining waters of the Moray Firth.*

* For fuller particulars respecting many of the places and persons mentioned in this chapter, reference is made to Dr. Temple's "Thanage of Fermartyn ;" "Methlick, Haddo House, Gight, and the Valley of the Ythan" [Edited by Alexander Keith, 1899] ; "The Vale of Ythan" cited in last chapter ; and "Fermartine" in the *Scottish Review*, October, 1899. Methlick and Tarves are treated of in Jervise's

“Epitaphs,” vol. ii. Reference may also be made to “The Hous of Maddoche callit Kelly” by Rev. Mr. Bremner, Fyvie, in the “Transactions of the Buchan Field Club, 1891-2,” and the “Transactions of the Banffshire Field Club, 13 August, 1892;” and to Mr. J. M. Bulloch’s articles cited in last chapter. The Gordons of Methlic are biographised in “The Scottish Nation,” and Sir John Gordon of Haddo in the “Dictionary of National Biography.” “Gordon, or the Rose of Methlic” is the title of a poem by William Allan, M.P. (Hills & Co., Sunderland, 1894); and Mr. Allan is also the author of a poem on “Tolquhon.” Tolquhon Castle, Arnage, and Esslemont are all illustrated and described in Macgibbon & Ross’s “Castellated and Domestic Architecture.” For the owners of Esslemont, see “The Thanage of Fermartyn” (in which also there is an interesting account of the family of Milne of Mains of Esslemont). The pedigree of the Arnage family is given in “Genealogical Account of the Descendants of James Young,” edited by W. Johnston (Aberdeen, 1894).

Ellon and its antiquities are described in M’Leod’s “Castles of Buchan” and “Churches of Buchan;” “Records of the Parish of Ellon” by Thomas Mair, Kermuck, Ellon (Aberdeen, 1876); “Narratives and Extracts from the Records of the Presbytery of Ellon” (1597-1800) and “The Slaughter of Watertown” by Mr. Mair, in six parts (Peterhead and Aberdeen, 1894-8); “The Church and Ministers of Ellon,” “The Churchyard of Ellon,” and “St. Mary’s on the Rock, Ellon,” in “The Thanage of Fermartyn;” “Historical Notes on Ellon and Neighbourhood,” by James Moir in “Transactions of the Buchan Field Club, 1896-98” (iv., 236); “The Moot or ‘Erle’s’ Hill of Ellon,” by Rev. N. K. M’Leod (*Ibid*, iv., 111); and “Notes on the Churches of S. Mary the Virgin, Ellon,” with illustrations, by Mr. M’Leod, in “Transactions of the Aberdeen Ecclesiological Society, M.DCCC.LXXXIX.” See also “Seven Gardens and a Palace” by E. V. B. [Hon. Mrs. Boyle] (London, 1900), in which the garden at Ellon Castle is described and an account of the Gordon family given; “On the Ythan at Ellon” in *Banffshire Journal*, 15 July, 1890; and “A New Buchan Village” (Auchterellon) in *Daily Free Press*, 30 March, 1892.

General Thomas Buchan of Auchmacoy and Patrick Gordon

of Auchleuchries are biographised in the "Scottish Nation" and the "Dictionary of National Biography;" see also, regarding the former, "Some Memories of an Old House and of its Occupants," by the late Earl of Caithness in *Scottish Notes and Queries*, i. (Second Series), 88. Gordon's career is also recounted in his own diary—"Passages from the Diary of General Patrick Gordon of Auchleuchries, 1655 to 1699," edited by Joseph Robertson (Spalding Club, 1859), and in "The Diary of General Patrick Gordon during his Military Service with the Swedes and Poles from the year 1655 to 1661, and his Residence in Russia from the year 1661 to 1699. Published completely for the first time by Prince M. A. Obolenski and M. C. Posselt, Ph. D., Moscow, 1849-1853," 3 vols. See review of this latter work in *Edinburgh Review*, July 1856; see also "Peter the Great" by Oscar Browning (London, 1898); "Sketches of the Military History and Military Heroes of Buchan" in *Aberdeen Weekly Free Press*, 28 September-7 December, 1872; "Notable Aberdeenshire Families" in *Aberdeen Weekly Journal*, 7 and 14 September, 1898; "A Buchan Soldier of Fortune" in *Peterhead Sentinel*, 23 December, 1899-13 January, 1900; "The Gordons in Poland" by J. M. Bulloch in *Scottish Notes and Queries*, xii., 23; and John Hill Burton's "The Scot Abroad." For the Gordons of Pitlurg, reference is made to "John Gordon of Pitlurg and Parkhill, by his Widow" (London: James Nisbet & Co., 1885); for the Turings and Forbeses of Foveran to the "Thanage of Fermartyn" and *Scottish Notes and Queries*, ix.; and for Knockhall to the "Castles of Aberdeenshire" and the "Castellated and Domestic Architecture."

Hill Burton, in his account of Gordon of Auchleuchries, has this amusing passage—"There is something savouring of granite and east wind in the harsh nomenclature of Gordon's surroundings. The paternal estate—dreary and sterile enough, no doubt—bore the name of Auchleuchries, of old a dependency of the barony of Ardendraught. Then we have among his ancestry Ogilvy of Blarac, and the Gordons of Pitlurg, of Straloch, and of Coclarachy, and their feudal foe, Strachan of Auchnagat, and Patrick's neighbour, Buchan of Auchmacoy, with whom, after he has become a great man, he has a merry

rouse and a reminiscence of auld langsyne at my Lord Chancellor's table. To such topographical characteristics might be added Bothmagoak, Ardendracht, Auchmedane, Auchmyliny, Kynknoky, Auchquhorteis, Creichie, Petuchry, and others equally adapted for pronunciation by Cockney lips."

It may be incidentally mentioned, in connection with the reference to the barony of Ardendraught, that the Stephen family, which has contributed so many men of eminence to literature and the public service, including the late Sir Fitzjames Stephen and Mr. Leslie Stephen, is descended from James Stephen of Ardendraught, Cruden (See *Scottish Notes and Queries*, xi., 168).

CHAPTER XXIII.

NATURAL FEATURES OF BUCHAN.*

THE natural features of Buchan have already been indicated in a general way (pp. 11-14), and, in addition, it will suffice to quote the following from a "Succinct Account of the General Geological Character of the District," drawn up for the third edition of this work by Mr. Thomas F. Jamieson, F.G.S., LL.D., Mains of Waterton, Ellon—"When we survey the district of Buchan from the brow of Bennachie, or some other outpost of the Grampians, it looks like a great undulating plain, spreading out from the mountains to the sea—a monotonous earth-covered expanse of granite and gneiss, bare, bleak, and brown, with hardly a tree on its surface; a region well enough adapted for agriculture, but not very promising to the geologist. Nevertheless, it will be found on closer examination to present many features of interest."

CLIMATE.—Dr. James Anderson, in his "General View of the Agriculture of the County of Aberdeen,"

*The contents of this and the following chapter (embracing portions of Chaps. I. and II. in former editions) are left substantially as written by Dr. Pratt—written, that is, for the first edition, published in 1858—some material in the Appendix to the third edition (1870) being incorporated, however, and the section on "Climate" being amended and added to by a Note from Mr. John Joiner, New Deer.

drawn up for the Board of Agriculture in 1793, gives the following account of the climate of the county, which may be considered as especially applicable to Buchan—"From the high latitude of this district, and the general opinion that is entertained of the inhospitable nature of these northern regions, most persons are inclined to believe that a much greater degree of cold here takes place than is ever experienced. Being washed by the sea on two sides, the county of Aberdeen experiences a mildness of temperature in winter even greater than most parts of the island. Snow, in the lower parts of the county, seldom lies long; and it may be considered as a pretty general rule that when snow is one foot deep at Aberdeen, it is nearly two feet deep at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. . . . I have reason to believe that the frost is seldom so intense in the lower parts of Aberdeenshire as at London. But if the winter's cold be less severe than in many of the southern districts of the island, the summer heats are here, perhaps, still less intense. In short, there is a smaller variation between the heat and cold at different seasons; and, of course, there are many crops that may be brought to maturity in the south of Britain which are seldom found to ripen here. Grapes there are none without artificial heat, and French beans can scarcely be brought to ripen their seeds, in the best-sheltered garden, unless in a very favourable season. The great disadvantage attending the climate of Aberdeenshire, and of Scotland in general, when compared with that of the southern part of the island, is the lateness of the spring, owing to the prevalence of eastern winds, and the too frequent fogs and rains at that season, which often render the

seed-time both late and ungenial. . . . As a proof that the climate is not uncommonly backward, I may observe," continues Dr. Anderson, "that one season (1779) I had a dish of pease gathered from the open field, cultivated by the plough, on the King's birthday, the 4th of June. Green pease are commonly ripe in the garden not long after that period."

On this passage Dr. Keith remarks, and the remark is fully corroborated by Mr. Joiner's figures given farther on—"The climate of the lower part of Aberdeenshire is certainly moderate in this respect, that it is not nearly so warm in summer nor so cold in winter as that of the county of Middlesex. From the great length of Aberdeenshire, extending from the north-east extremity on the sea coast, in an oblique direction, beyond the middle of the island, it is obvious that there must be a wide difference between the climate of Peterhead, where the coast of Buchan projects so far into the German Ocean, and that of the mountainous districts in the south-west point of Mar, nearly 100 miles from Cairnbulg-head, and both at a high elevation from the level of the sea, and at nearly an equal distance from the east and west coasts." Dr. Keith goes on to say, that "the above is a pretty correct account of the state of the climate on the coast both of Formartine and Buchan. There the climate is peculiarly moderate in the winter months, and the snow seldom lies long; nor are the ploughs much impeded by the frost, being seldom idle above two or three weeks, even in a severe winter. . . . On the other hand, on the south sides of hills, and in sheltered places in the higher districts, the heat is frequently much greater in

summer than upon the sea coast. And betwixt the greatest heat in summer, and the greatest cold in winter, there is a difference of 7 or 8 degrees more in the inland than in the maritime districts."

The late Rev. Dr. Laing, of Peterhead, kept an account of the range of the thermometer for many years. From the tables made by him, it appears that the average heat of two years, commencing on 1st May, 1808, and ending April 30, 1810, the thermometer being registered at 8 o'clock, a.m., was—

During the 3 spring months,	38° 18'
„ 3 summer months,	51° 33'
„ 3 autumn months,	50° 45'
„ 3 winter months,	36° 31'

the average of the two years being 44° 17'.

More precise investigations into the meteorology of the district have since been conducted by Mr. John Joiner, bank agent, New Deer; and the following statistics show the results of his observations, which, conducted as they were at Artamford Cottage, may be taken as indicative of the climatic peculiarities, not merely of the parish of New Deer, but, if not of Buchan as a whole, certainly of Central Buchan. The monthly mean barometric pressure, deducted from regular daily observations during the years from 1873 to 1895 inclusive, averaged 29.379 inches; the monthly mean thermometric readings averaged 45.2 degrees. The range of temperature (writes Mr. Joiner)—which, in the main, is of more importance in determining the climatic peculiarities of any locality than is the mere ascertaining of the mean temperature—is shown by the following:—Monthly mean of the minimum readings

of a standard thermometer 4 ft. from the ground in shade (1873-95, inclusive), 39·1; do. do. maximum readings do. do, 49·9; difference between the means thus formed, or “mean range of temperature,” 10·9 The rainfall, as deducted from a series of observations from 1881 to 1895 inclusive, averaged 33·07 inches per annum, and, on an average, 227 days in each year were rainy days—days, that is, on which one-hundredth of an inch or more rain fell. The absolute range of fall during these years varied from 28·05 inches in 1891 to 40·11 inches in 1882, a range of 12·06 inches; whilst the number of rainy days varied from 181 in 1891 to 272 in 1889. Taking the resultant of the directions of the wind for each day, and counting only the cardinal points of the compass and their four intermediates, the wind, on an average, blew 42 times, per annum, from the north; 41 times from the south; 3 times from the east; 26 times from the west; 112 times from the south-west; 73 times from the north-west; 14 times from the north-east; 47 times from the south-east; the remaining 7 days being either calm or the wind variable.

During the 4457 hours the sun is each year above the horizon of the station at Artamford, the latter is estimated to have received the sun's direct rays for 65·6 hours in each January; 67·3 in each February; 98·8 in each March; 88·9 in each April; 186·7 in each May; 248·3 in each June; 417·5 in each July; 197·2 in each August; 122·1 in each September; 76·3 in each October; 90·3 in each November, and 68·1 in each December—in all 1627·1 hours of sunshine each year, the remaining 2830·9 being cloudy.

The winters, as a rule, are open and mild withal ; the springs, cold and somewhat late ; the summers, cloudy and moist ; and the autumns, " fair," the mean annual temperature being 45'2 degrees, and the mean annual barometric pressure, cleared of instrumental errors and reduced to the freezing point but not to sea level, 29'379 inches. It is interesting to note, as an offset against the remark one often hears in these parts that the climate of Buchan is getting worse, that there is practically only one degree of difference between the average yearly temperature as ascertained by Rev. Dr. Laing, Peterhead, in the first decade of the nineteenth century, and the average yearly temperature as ascertained by Mr. Joiner in the last decade of the century, the difference, too, showing amelioration.

PRODUCE.—Buchan, says the " View of the Diocese," " so abounds with oats at this day [about ann. 1730], though not of the richest kind (being of that sort which is called small corn, except on the coast, where they enrich the soil with wreck [sea-weed]) that it is sometimes called proverbially " The Granary of Scotland," and, at other times, " The Land of Cakes."

The Buchan of that day conveys a very tolerable idea of what it is at the present, being still famed for its cattle and oats. Of cattle, the pure Buchan breed, though smaller than those of the more southern counties, is of a peculiarly fine kind, and considered by many of the native farmers as preferable to the larger breeds, and more suited to the soil and climate ; but the Short-horned, Ayrshire, and Hereford breeds are extensively raised on the larger farms. Oats are still produced in large quantities ; the small corn has

almost disappeared. Earlier and better kinds began to be cultivated subsequently to the late and disastrous season of 1782. Twenty years ago—[counting, that is, from 1858 = 1838]—patches of small corn might be seen in the moorland parts of the district, but it is doubtful whether a single pure specimen of it could now be found.

But no account of the productions of the district would be complete were we to omit to quote from a "Description of the Countries of Buchan," written by Mr. Alexander Hepburn in 1721.* "It's to be observed," says he, "that every parish on the Buthquhan coast hath one fisher toun at least, and many of them have two. The seas abound with fishes, such as killing ; leing ; codfish, small and great ; turbet ; scate ; mackrell ; haddocks ; whittings ; flocks ; seadogs, and seacatts ; herrings ; seaths ; podlers ; gaudnes ; lobsters ; partens ; and several others. Likewise, all the rivers in Buthquhan abound with fresh water fishes, such as eels, trouts, flocks, and pearleshells. The two rivers, Ithan and Rattray, have great plenty of cockles and mussels. I must not forget to tell you, that there are here, along the sea coast, a great many seacalves. There is no such fishing round the island, as we have in our Buthquhan coast ; nor any such place for drying, salting, and curing fish for export, as the toun of Peterhead."

This, we must admit, is sufficiently flattering ; but Mr. Hepburn has yet something more to say—
"The greatest part of the coast of Buthquhan is rock,

* See Macfarlane's "Geographical Collections," vol. i., preserved among the MSS., Advocates' Library, quoted in the "View of the Diocese."

and abounds with sea fowles of several kinds. Where the rocks are not, the coast is sandie. The sea being tossed with an east and north wind, yeilds a great quantity of salt water weeds, which the country call 'ware;' it fattens the ground and makes it yeild plentifully. The soil near the coast, for the most part, is deep clay, and very fertile: it produces abundantly barley, oates, wheat, rye, and pease; but the inhabitants labour mostly for bear and oates. The gardens in it likewise abound with roots, small fruit, and herbs; and, in some of them, there are apples, pyres, prunes." "To the westward," continues he, "the ground is not fertile, except in some places; yet the countreys afford bread, with barly for malt liquor, sufficient for the inhabitants; with severall thousand bolls of grain to be exported yearly for the benefite of others. There is likewise in it plenty of black cattel, of which many are carried to other places. There is in it great store of sheep; but the people consume most of the wool, so that there is little exported. There is a great deal of black earth thorow the countrey, which the people call moss; and this, being digged up, and dryed in the summer time, burns like wood or coal, and serves the inhabitants plentifully for feuile. I must not forget that there are with us abundance of swine; of which, some are carried off to Aberdeen; some, are salted and exported; and others are used by the inhabitants. We have likewise cocks, hens, turkies, geese, ducks, and wild fowle; so that, if we consider the vast fishing in our seas, the great quantity of grain, beef, moutain, pork, pullet, venison, roots, and herbs, with conveniency of feuile, Buthquhan may be justly reckoned the best place in Scotland for a man to live in."

Now, although we should hardly be disposed to endorse this statement without some reservation, we may yet safely say that few districts in Scotland are better calculated than Buchan to conduce to the health, comfort, and contentment of their inhabitants.

GEOLOGICAL FEATURES.—The following sketch of the geological features of the coast of Buchan is from the pen of Dr. William Macgillivray, Professor of Natural History, Marischal College, Aberdeen, and must be understood as giving a consecutive view from Peterhead to Collieston—

“ The whole sea-coast, with the exception of a single bay, exhibits a magnificent natural section of the rocks, forming lofty, and often highly picturesque, precipices. The northern part of the district consists of the well-known sienite, or, as it is locally termed, red granite, bearing so close a resemblance to the Egyptian sienite that large obelisks were cut of the former and placed in the British Museum along with ornaments of the latter. Of this sienite, highly crystalline felspar of a deep flesh-tint is the chief constituent, mixed with a smaller quantity of a very transparent and lustrous quartz. A little hornblende, etc., may sometimes be traced, and, though very rarely, a trace of mica. As an ornamental stone, it is now coming into considerable favour, especially since Mr. Macdonald's (Aberdeen) improvements on the cutting and polishing have been applied to massive ornaments. For ornamental purposes, the sienite of Sterling Hill is generally used, but another sienite is occasionally met with, in which, along with the flesh-coloured felspar, there occur also crystals of albite, giving greater variety and beauty. Various trap-dykes occur, breaking through the granite—a thing rather uncommon in the granites of many districts.

“ A remarkably fine dyke of granular greenstone, 35 to 40 feet thick, vertical, and running nearly at right angles to the coast, occurs on the north side of a gully at the old castle of Boddam, in the vicinity of the island on which the Buchan Ness lighthouse stands. This island is interesting on account of the hornstone, hornstone-porphry, and protogene it contains.

Proceeding southward along the coast, we find trap and porphyry dykes in many of the ravines among the cliffs. Indeed, the altered condition of the rock, induced by the dykes, seems materially to have contributed to the formation of the gullies. These dykes vary from a few feet to many yards in thickness, and are generally parallel in direction to the one already noticed. The exact locality of three of the principal ones may be indicated. The first occurs in a chasm on the coast, opposite to the quarry on Sterling Hill, and may be traced into the quarry. Another very fine specimen may be seen in the east side of a gully immediately south of the Bullers of Buchan, and the thickest, having a north-western direction, at the base of the rocks near the water of Cruden.

“Passing the sandy bay of Cruden, the granite is again met with, and continues for some distance, till it is suddenly bounded by gneiss. The gneiss, at the line of junction, exhibits very varying dips and strikes, as is usual in such situations. The gneiss prevails in the cliffs southward considerably beyond Collieston—indeed, until it is again disturbed by the granite of Aberdeen.

“In the landward part of the district few good sections occur: but those south of the burn or water of Cruden show the gneiss, and those in the northern parts the granite, exactly as in the coast section.

“The rock along the coast, from Buchan Ness to the mouth of the Ugie, may be seen at low-water mark, and consists of granite, primitive trap, sienite, gneiss, compact felspar, felspar-porphry, and quartz, variously associated with each other. The bed or cleavage of these rocks, as they lie in the quarry, is generally from east to west; and in granite, the laminae of which it is composed are to be seen in the same direction. The beds of pebbles along the shore and the boulders are very extensive, and embrace fragments of rocks and minerals which are seldom to be found on the land in the neighbourhood. Agates and jasper are to be found; flints are also abundant, which, on being broken, are not unfrequently found to contain impressions of sea plants, shells, etc. The Meet-hill is covered with a deep mass of diluvial clay. At the brickwork, near the beach, where the clay has been cut to the depth of from 30 to 40 feet, it exhibits

various strata, which appear to have been deposited at different times. Some of the deposits are not above an inch in depth, while others are several feet. The skeleton of a bird was, about 1836, dug out of the clay here, at the depth of 25 feet from the surface. The remains of wood found in mosses are oak, alder, and birch."

Mr. Thomas F. Jamieson, in his "Succinct Account of the General Geological Character of the District," already alluded to, says—

"Although the rocks are seldom exposed in the interior of the district, many parts of the coast display a fine range of cliffs. This is more especially the case along the northern shore, from Aberdour to Macduff, where there is a remarkably fine section of the rocks, of great interest. From Gamrie to Banff, the strata consist of clay-slate with alternating seams of grit, arranged in highly-inclined beds; and at Melrose the quality is, in some places, good enough for roofing purposes. These rocks extend through the parishes of King-Edward, Turriff, and Auchterless, to the Foudland Hills, ranging in a S. and S.W. direction. The cliffs to the eastward of Gamrie Head are composed of old red sandstone and conglomerate, which occupy most of the coast to Aberdour, there being, however, an isolated mass of slate and grit at Troup Head. The sandstone beds seen along the coast here form the northern extremity of a mass of rocks of the same nature, which extends southward to Delgaty and Fyvie. Remains of fossil fishes have been found in a few thin seams of shale which occur in the conglomerate at Findon and Cushnie. A fine section of the rocks is also displayed along the coast from Peterhead to near the mouth of the river Ythan. Here we have granite all the way from Peterhead to the south side of Cruden Bay, beyond which there are gneiss and mica schist.

"Another feature of interest in the geology of Buchan is the great quantity of chalk-flints to be met with in certain places. The chief mass of them occurs along the summit of a range of low moory hills running inland from Buchan Ness to Dudwick. They are very plentiful in the Den of Boddam, and, indeed, all along for seven or eight miles westward, and they

likewise occur more sparingly in some other spots farther from the coast. There are a good many, for example, in the great bed of quartz shingle which covers the top of a ridge called the Windy Hills, near Fyvie. Another patch of them occurs at a similar elevation near Delgaty Castle. These flints have been much used by the ancient inhabitants of the country for the manufacture of arrow heads and other weapons, and the places where they wrought at them may be observed in the Den of Boddam and along the estuary of the Ythan and elsewhere.

“In connection with these chalk-flints, it is interesting to note the occurrence of some debris of the upper green-sand on the farm of Moreseat, Cruden.” [See pp. 41, 49.] “This is a friable sandstone belonging to the age of the chalk, and abounding in fossils.

“During the construction of the Banff and Turriff Railway, a drifted mass of fossiliferous clay, belonging to the Oolitic or Jurassic period, was exposed in a cutting near Plaidy. This clay was of a very fine tenacious quality, and of a bluish colour, and abounded in ammonites, belemnites, and various other characteristic fossils. No strata of Oolitic age occur in the neighbourhood, but stones containing the same description of fossils are occasionally to be met with in the glacial drift of Buchan.

“Another interesting circumstance is the occurrence in the parishes of Slains and Cruden of some broken fossil shells derived from the Red crag, one of the later tertiary beds not known to occur in any part of Scotland. These fossil shells are found in beds of sand and gravel along the coast from Collieston to the old Castle of Slains, and also in the adjoining district of the parish, along the north side of the Loch of Slains, and in some parts of Cruden. These beds of sand and gravel are further remarkable for containing numerous fragments of limestone, unlike any rock in this part of Scotland, and probably derived from strata of Permian age. The Slains farmers were formerly in the practice of collecting these lumps of limestone and burning them for lime to their fields. Traces of fossils sometimes occur in them.

“The surface of the district of Buchan, like the greater part of Scotland, is overspread with boulder-clay and gravel of the glacial period. The finer clays, or those fit for making

bricks and tiles, are confined for the most part to the low districts near the coast. Remains of arctic shells are sometimes to be found in these, but are very far from common. They are generally broken and in bad preservation. The greatest height at which they have been observed is about 300 feet above the present sea level. The large boulder-stones scattered over the surface are generally derived from rocks lying to the westward, and it is now generally believed that their transport has been effected by ice at a time when the climate was far colder than it is now. Along the Ugie and the Ythan, beds of gravel occur similar to those found in the other river valleys of Scotland, but of an extent proportionate to the comparatively small size of these streams. These gravel beds seem to have been formed towards the close of the glacial period.

“ The most extensive peat mosses are those lying to the east and west of the hill of Mormond, the depth in a few places being more than twenty feet. It is rare, however, to find peat of this depth in Buchan, from six to ten feet being a more common limit. There is a good deal of peat along the top of the low ridge that extends from Buchan Ness to Dudwick, and also on the top of Mormond. Remains of trees occur in the mosses of the low ground, and hazel nuts may sometimes be observed; horns of the red deer likewise are occasionally got, but rarely, and one or two instances have occurred of the skull and horn cores of the *bos primigenius*, a large extinct species of ox, being found in the peat. A fine specimen, got at Teuchan in Cruden, is now at Slains Castle.

“ In the estuary of the Ythan, and at some other points along the coast, there is evidence of a slight elevation of the land having taken place since the close of the glacial period; the amount of upheaval has not exceeded eight or ten feet at most. Banks of old estuary-mud containing shells of the same species as those now living in the estuary may be observed here and there on both sides of the river above Newburgh. One, however, of shell-fish, the *scrobiculario piperata*, which is very common in these raised mud-beds, seems to have died out in this locality.

“ The coast of Forvie and Foveran is remarkable for one of the largest accumulations of blown sand to be seen in

Scotland—an accumulation which must have been the gradual result of existing causes operating continually since the establishment of the present coast line. The drift has been chiefly to N. or N.W., caused by the influence of the southerly winds.”

Since the former editions of this book were published the district has been examined and mapped by the Government Geological Survey, and further details of its structure will be found in the published sheets and accompanying memoirs referring to this part of Aberdeenshire.

The coast line of Buchan is distinguished for the variety of its flora, including some rare species, and is rich in the beauty and abundance of its mosses, lichens, and multitude of algæ. The district is as productive of mollusca as any of equal extent in any part of Scotland.*

*The statements in the preceding chapter are at the present date (1900) perhaps more susceptible of amplification than of alteration. The raising of oats and the rearing of cattle are still the main agricultural occupations, though the cultivation of “the pure Buchan breed”—otherwise known as “the Buchan hummie”—has given way to the rearing of crosses for the London and other markets. There are now a great many auction marts throughout the district, and, as an indication of the cattle trade of Buchan, it may be mentioned that the transactions at the three auction marts at Maud represent an annual value of a million sterling. Large consignments of cattle are sent from the district to the great Christmas market in London, and, indeed, a large trade, in both live and dead meat, is conducted with the metropolis all the year round. Where special breeding is indulged in, the Aberdeen-Angus breed is the one generally selected, though the rearing of shorthorns is also practised. The Hereford breed is not now raised to any extent, but Ayrshires are still numerous on dairy farms.

Of the fishing industry of Buchan—which has assumed large dimensions since this work was first published—an

indication has been given in the chapters dealing with Peterhead and Fraserburgh ; this industry is, in some respects, now undergoing an important change—see an article on “Depopulation of Fishing Villages—Migration from Slains District” in *Daily Free Press*, 20 March, 1900. The granite industry—a large and important one, too—has been incidentally mentioned. As to the agriculture, fishing, and commerce generally of Buchan, reference may be made to the last two chapters of “A History of Aberdeen and Banff” by William Watt (Blackwood’s “County Histories of Scotland,” M.DCCC.), and to “Aberdeen and the North-East of Scotland” (Aberdeen, 1877).

Both these books may also be consulted as to the climate, geology, and flora and fauna of the district—Mr. Watt’s especially for its extensive bibliography of works of reference. See also “The Geology and Scenery of the North of Scotland,” by Professor James Nicol (1863); “A History of the Molluscous Animals of the Counties of Aberdeen, Kincardine, and Banff,” by Professor William Macgillivray (1843); “A Natural History of the Fishes found on the Coast of Buchan,” by James Arbuthnot, Jun. (1815); and a number of articles in the “Transactions of the Buchan Field Club,” including “The Stone Age in Buchan,” by William Boyd; “The Geology of Buchan,” by Dr. John Milne, King-Edward; “Drift Rocks in Buchan,” by John Milne, Atherb; “Crystalline Rocks in Buchan,” by Dr. Trail, Fraserburgh; “Granite and Metamorphic Rocks,” by James Hendry, Coldwells; “On the Occurrence of Chalk Flints and Greensand in the North-East District of Aberdeenshire,” by William Ferguson of Kinmundy; “Flora of Buchan,” by Robert Walker of Richmond; “The Flowering Plants and Ferns of Buchan,” by Professor Trail, Aberdeen; and “The Avi-Fauna of Buchan” and “Migration of Birds, with special reference to Peterhead,” by Rev. W. Serle. The best account of the mollusca will be found in a memoir by the late Robert Dawson, Parochial Schoolmaster of Cruden, which was communicated to the Aberdeen Natural History Society, and printed for it by John Wilson, Castle Street, Aberdeen, in 1870. It contains a full list of the marine species and also of the land and fresh water shells.

The Buchan Field Club, at the instigation of Mr. John Gray, B.Sc., London, resolved (in 1895) to prosecute an anthropological research in Buchan, with the view of ascertaining the racial characteristics of the inhabitants of the district. Observations were conducted at the Buchan Gathering at Mintlaw that year, and a report on these observations by Mr. Gray and Mr. James F. Tocher, F.I.C., Peterhead, was published, along with a paper on "Ethnographical Survey of Buchan" by Mr. Gray, in the Club's Transactions for 1892-95. Mr. Gray also read a paper on the subject in the Anthropological Section of the British Association at the Ipswich meeting, 1895. (See *Daily Free Press*, 17 September, 1895.) Observations were subsequently conducted by school teachers, and a paper on this survey, by Mr. Tocher (31 December, 1897), appeared in the Club's "Transactions," vol. iv.

CHAPTER XXIV.

FORMER MANNERS AND CUSTOMS.

IT would leave our subject incomplete were we not to advert to some of the usages which formerly prevailed in this part of the world. Previous to the nineteenth century, the manners of the indigenous Scots of the middle class, who may be said to be the true representatives of a people, exhibit a very different picture from those of the age in which we live. Then, schools were rare, and the education of the masses was restricted to the merest elements of learning. But the simple and primitive manners of the people compensated, in some measure, for this general deficiency. In those days the interests of the family, from the master to the man, were a good deal confined to the household circle. The master was a kind of patriarch; the servant was attached to him by sentiments of filial affection and long habit. Thus, bound by ties of mutual interest, the homestead was their little world. Master, mistress, and domestics occupied the same room, and ate at the same board. And it is no undue stretch of imagination to suppose that under such circumstances a sense of responsibility would suggest many a homily to the young, and many a kindly lesson to all, both from the "gudewife" and from the master of the house. To this mode of living, we owe the traditionary lore of the district—

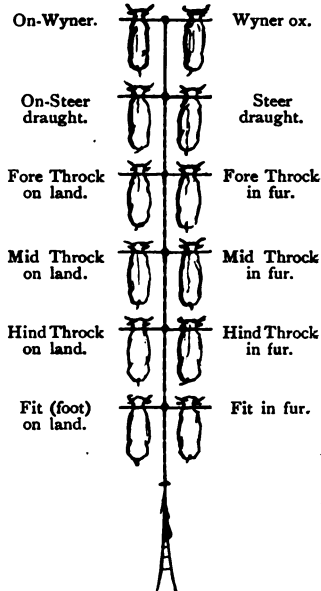
the adage, the proverb, the prophecy, and the ancient ballad—all which found a ready audience, and, doubtless, was suggestive of many a solemn warning and many a pithy moral, and, under any circumstances, must have generated a feeling of mutual affection, which their more ambitious successors look for in vain under a colder and more utilitarian system of domestic government.

FARMING IMPLEMENTS AND METHODS.—The change in the methods and implements of farming is perhaps even more striking. A hundred years ago, horses were much less used. Every farmer of any note had twelve, or at least ten oxen for every plough, with the ploughman and goadsman—the latter generally a stripling, one of whose qualifications was a capability of whistling well and cheerily, a process by which it was supposed the oxen did their work more briskly and conjointly.

In a ten-oxen plough the mid throcks were wanting. The soam chain by which the plough was drawn was hooked to a staple fixed in the beam on the right-hand side, at about 15 or 18 inches from the point, and went all the way from the plough to the fore yoke. Each yoke had a staple and ring, to which the soam was hooked. The soam was raised or lowered by means of links or staffs, o—o—o, connecting it with the yoke of the foot-oxen, as more or less “yird” was required—that is, as the plough was meant to make a more or less deep furrow. It was in the steer-draught that young oxen were trained, and they were gradually brought back nearer the plough as they became older and more experienced. The “Fit-o'-land” was not considered

a thoroughly trained ox until he lowered his neck when the ploughman called "Jouk!" at such time as, for an instant, he wished the plough to go a little deeper. A sagacious wyner was frequently kept till he was ten or twelve years old—sometimes even longer. The yokes rested on the necks of the oxen, one yoke for each pair; and the bows, bent round so as to embrace the necks of the oxen, were attached to the ends of the yokes, and were of ash or birch. A pad of soft dried rushes, woven together, protected the neck and shoulders from friction. The ridges formed by such a team, assumed something of the form of an S, in order to facilitate the turning of the oxen at the ends of the furrows.

Streeking the Plough was the commencement of the ploughing of the land in the autumn—an event marked in many parts of the district by a species of semi-religious custom, and this as recently as the beginning of the nineteenth century. About an hour after the plough was at work, the "gudewife," or the principal female servant, proceeded to the field with bread, cheese, and a jar of home-brewed ale. The



salutation to the ploughman was in the well-known form, "Guid speed the wark!" to which he replied, "May Guid speed it!" He then seated himself on the beam of the plough, and, after sundry forms of good wishes for the health and prosperity of the family during the year for which they had just begun the labour, he partook of the refreshment.

There were few carts in Buchan up to the end of the eighteenth century. "Currachs"—a sort of creels of wicker-work, hung from a crook-saddle, one on each side of the horse—were in use all over the district for carrying the crops from the field and manure from the farmyard; and when sacks of corn or meal had to be carried to or from the mills, or for longer distances, they were transported on horseback, one sack on each horse, two, three, and often more horses in a line, the halter-string of the one tied to the tail of the other. The state of the roads was such that carts could scarcely have been taken over them.

There were no threshing-machines in the district, regular threshers being employed, who, getting up long before daylight, plied the flail, and thus daily provided straw for the cattle during the season of winter. Nor was there a barn fan in Buchan. Hand-riddles were used; the wind being allowed to blow right through the barn, which had always two doors—the one opposite the other. At the mills even there were no fans. On a small eminence near the mill, called the shelling-hill, the grain, after passing once through the mill, was winnowed, and thus the husks, or shells, were removed from it.

Those who are acquainted only with the highly

improved implements and modes of operation of the present day can scarcely form a conception of the rude, inconvenient, and inefficient system of the eighteenth century. The wonder to us is how our forefathers contrived to accomplish the labours of the farm in any way. The writer (Dr. Pratt) has himself heard a man say that he had frequently made a plough between the ordinary hours of breakfast and dinner, and that the charge for his work was—one shilling! With the exception of the coulter and share, there was scarcely a bit of iron about the plough—not even a nail—wooden pegs being used instead. The only ropes in use were made of dried rushes, out of which the pith had been stripped for the purpose of being used as wicks for “oily-lamps;” or of the hair of the horses’ manes and tails. It would appear, however, that in the general use of the hair-tether, there was something more than the mere scarcity of hempen rope. It was the popular belief that the hair-tether was a charm against witchcraft, so that long after hemp and chain tethers had become common, it was no unusual thing to see a few feet of hair-rope next the animal.

LAND TENURE—COTTARS AND LABOURERS.—The terms on which the landed proprietors granted leases, down to the end of the eighteenth century, were, generally speaking, different from those now common. The tenants were then mostly life-renters, paying a grassum at the time of entry, and engaging to pay a certain sum, under the same name, at the commencement of every succeeding period of nineteen years. The annual money-rent was trifling; but the bondages, as they were termed, and customs—that is, hens, eggs, and capons, farm-meal and bere, mill-muldures, and

leet-peats—were exacted in lieu of money, the tenants being at the laird's call for a specified number of days whenever he might require their services, clearly indicating that the old feudal notions were still lingering in the country.

The same system was, to a considerable extent, carried out among the chief farmers, as a glance at the Poll Book of 1696 clearly shows. The "Gudeman" had, according to the extent of his farm, more or fewer sub-tenants, called Cottars, who had each a pendicle of land attached to his cottage—some as much as would maintain two cows, a horse, and a sheep; others less; in some cases only a kale-yard. For this they paid partly in money-rent, but chiefly in the labour they were bound to give to the "Gudeman" in seed-time and harvest, at hay-making and peat-cutting, at "kiln and mill," and, in short, on every occasion when their services were required. The Cot-town was, generally speaking, near "the Ha'," or farm house, so that the Cottars were always within call; and once established they were rarely removed, the farmer looking upon them as his special dependents, and they regarding him as a sort of father or chief, to whose interests and service they were bound. The children generally succeeded the parents in the service, and thus every large farm had its own peculiar and attached colony.

When hired servants, in addition to the cottars, were required, it was customary to allow them certain perquisites as part payment for their services. For instance, a grassman was allowed, in lieu of part fee in money, to keep a stirk (a year-old ox or quey) along with the gudeman's herd. Another less common

arrangement was, that the grassman, in addition to a house and kale-yard, had a cow fed, not with the farmer's cows, but with his herd of young cattle. The grassman was thus in a position similar to the boll-man or "bow"-man of forty years ago, who, as part wages, received from the farmer a house, so many bolls of meal, and a certain quantity of milk daily.

A singular custom lingered in the district till about 1830. Amongst crofters, and even the smaller farmers, it was thought no degradation, when about to enter on a lease of croft or farm, to go round, in the spring season, among their neighbours and acquaintances to "thig"—that is, to ask, as a gratuity, a quantity of corn from each, to enable them to sow their land; and not unfrequently this amounted to a considerable sum. One or two privileged individuals in every parish, such as the bellman or sexton, also levied an annual contribution in this way.

HOME INDUSTRIES—DOMESTIC ECONOMY.—At, and some time after, the period referred to—the later years of the eighteenth century—there was no such establishment as a clothier's shop in Buchan. The people spun the wool of their own sheep into yarn; sent it to the weaver, and then to the dyer, or, as he was termed, "the litster," to be either dyed or "wauked"—that is to say, "fulled." Frequently the colour was "grow grey"—namely, a simple mixture of black and white wool before the process of spinning. The itinerant tailor also formed an element in the household economy of our simple forefathers. He, with his batch of men, made all the clothes of the family under the domestic roof, and was of not a little

importance, as, from his migratory habits, he was the chronicler of all the news, gossip, and—for the world is always the same—the scandal of the neighbourhood.

The following interesting allusion to home industries occurs in a reference to the village of Ellon in David Loch's "Essay on the Trade, etc., of Scotland" (Edinburgh, 1778)*—"Much is done here in the knitting of stockings; no less than £100 per week being paid by the Aberdeen merchants for this article alone. A good deal is also spun, and four looms are employed for the country use." This apparently insignificant article of commerce was of great local importance. It was an employment that men, women, and children could all engage in, and required neither talent, capital, nor even light; for it was a work for the "ingle neuk," and only required the blaze of a peat fire, or the sorry rays of a rush-wick lamp, efficiently to carry it on. Books were not then an article necessary to social existence, but what there were, contrast favourably with the trivial newspaper reading of the present day. With all the presumed ignorance of that period, it is a question whether, in our own times, the same number of individuals in this class of life could be found with an equal relish for "The Gentle Shepherd," Barbour's "Wallace" and "Bruce," or even the history of their own country.

FESTIVALS AND CUSTOMS.—On the 2nd of May—the eve of the Rood-day—it was customary to make small crosses of twigs of the rowan-tree, and to place

*Loch made a tour of the trading towns and villages of Scotland at the instance of the Board of Manufactures.

them over every aperture leading into the house, as a protection against evil spirits and malevolent influences—

“ Rowan-tree and red thread
 Keep the witches frae their speed.
 Rowan-tree and wood-bin'
 Haud the witches on-come in.”

Although the religious observance of the Christian festivals had for some time been generally discontinued, yet their traditional influence was more or less felt down to the earlier portion of the nineteenth century: up to this period it had been customary to cease from all kinds of manual labour during the three days of Christmas (O.S.). Straw—termed the “Yule Straw”—was provided for the cattle beforehand, fuel brought into the houses from the peat-stacks, cakes baked, beer brewed, and the mart—fatted ox or sheep—killed, in order that all might be at liberty to “hold Yule,” and to pay and receive visits of mutual congratulation. The same conventional respect was paid to Good Friday. There was a general prejudice against its being made a day of ordinary labour; and the blacksmith, especially, was a bold man who ventured to lift a hammer, and his wife a bolder woman who dared to wear her apron on that day, since—according to tradition—it was a smith’s wife that was employed to carry in her apron the nails which her husband had made for the sacrifice on Mount Calvary.*

Again, at funerals it was a practice for a lighted candle to be placed near the dead on the

* The equinoctial storm which very frequently occurs some time before Easter, is known among the fishermen along the coast as “The Passion Storm.”

morning of the day of interment, which on no account must be blown out, but left to expire of itself. Another custom was to stop the clock at the moment a death occurs, and not to put it in motion again till the corpse was removed from the house. The wake, or the watching of the dead through the hours of the night, is still occasionally observed. All these customs were significant of truths becomingly cherished in the Christian mind: the first suggesting the blessing of a calm, quiet, and natural death; the second indicating the closing of time to the departed spirit; and the last implying a reverence towards the lifeless form, as acknowledging in it the seed of that body which is to spring up again to life and immortality.

Fastern's Eve, or Shrove-Tuesday, the eve of the great Lenten Fast, is very generally observed as a time of social festivity, and is another remnant of religious observance—the Carnival of former times. "Beef brose," "sautie* bannocks," and the mystic "ring," which is to decide the fate of the youthful aspirants to the matrimonial estate, are among its chief attractions. Hallow Fires are still kindled on the Eve of All Saints, but the custom is dying out. About fifty years ago, these fires presented a singular and animated spectacle, from sixty to eighty being frequently seen from one point. Mr. L. Shaw, who about 1745 wrote for private use—"Dissertations, Historical and Critical, of the Scots, Picts, Druids, and Culdees," has, after speaking of the Druids, the following remarks—"As to the cairn-fires on the eve of the 1st of November, though I have not seen them practised,

* From the French sauter; from the mode of turning the bannock in baking.

yet I am well informed that in Buchan, and other places, they have their Hallow-Eve fires annually kept up to this day."

In some parts of the district it is still customary for a tenant, removing from one house to another, to carry "kindling" along with him—that is, "live coals," with which to light the fire in his new tenement. This custom, it is believed, has come down to us from Druidical times, when our ancestors were bound, by their religious creed, to extinguish their fires on the eve of the 1st of November, and to receive coals from the Hallow Fires, which were lighted that night on every Druidical eminence throughout the kingdom. They were, by this means, to light up anew the fires in their houses for the ensuing year, and it is said, that "if a man had not cleared with the Druids for his last year's dues, he was neither to have a spark of the holy fire from the cairns, nor durst any of his neighbours let him take the benefit of theirs, under the pain of excommunication."

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

There was a custom among the peasantry of Buchan as late as the beginning of the nineteenth century, and which is not yet extinct, that every animal about the place had an additional feed on Christmas morning. The practice had its origin possibly in

the religious sentiment that, as the festival brought tidings of great joy to all people, so even the irrational creation ought to be made happy on the anniversary of this blessed event; something in the spirit of the ancient *Benedicite*, which calls upon all nature, animate and inanimate, to praise and bless God.*

A hundred years ago, when there was scarcely a clock and not many watches in the district, the long winter evenings were measured by a sand-glass, or by the rising and setting of the moon, or the "southing of the seven stars"—Moore's or Partridge's *Almanack* being the guide as to the exact time when these events took place. The candles in general use were of the simplest description: a rush—from the pith of which, the rind, with the exception of one thin stripe, had been peeled off—dipped in melted tallow; or a slender split of bog-fir—that is, a fir-tree which had been dug up from moss-bogs in the upland districts of the county, and which the Highlanders brought down and sold to the Lowlanders, either in the "Timmer Market" of Aberdeen, or in St. Lawrence Fair of Old Rayne—was all that could have been found for candles in many a cottage and farmhouse; whilst an iron lamp, or "crusie," in which the oil of the dog-fish was used, with one of the above-named rushes for a wick, was almost universal among the rural population.

* We read that on Christmas morning every gable, gateway, or barn-door in Sweden is decorated with a sheaf of corn fixed on the top of a tall pole, from which it is intended the birds shall have their Christmas feast, and that even the poorest of the peasants will contrive to have a handful to set apart for that purpose.

As late as the end of the eighteenth century, the roads in the rural districts in Scotland were of the worst description. Turnpike roads there were none, and all intercourse between town and country was carried on with difficulty. Most of the business transactions necessary to household convenience was conducted by Packmen—a race of traffickers now almost extinct. Clothing, hardware, and such ornaments of the person as in those more primitive times were sought for, were furnished by these peripatetic merchants, the tinkering of pots and pans being chiefly in the hands of the gipsies.

Previous to the '45, the sword was a common appendage among men of all grades; and many a representative of the Harry Gows of earlier days did credit to their craft—being at once the public armourers, and the masters and teachers of the broad-sword.

Our notes on Buchan are now exhausted. It has not fallen within the scope of our design to speak scientifically of the phenomena of the district, but only to chronicle the most remarkable of its features. The botanist must go to the Dens of Auchmedden or the Braes of Gight, and examine their treasures of plants and flowers for himself; the archæologist and antiquary must himself visit the remaining cairns, castles, and ecclesiastical ruins to which we have directed him, in order to judge of their character and value; the naturalist must go to the fords of the Ythan, the rocks of Cruden and Pennan, the Links of St. Fergus, and the sandy shores along the eastern coast, if he would ascertain the treasures of those

localities in birds and shells and tribes of algæ; and the geologist must in person visit the district, if he would know particularly of its fossils, its trap-dykes, or its indications of those tremendous agents by which he may imagine its original gnarled and rugged features to have been ground down to its present comparatively flat and monotonous surface, or if he would speculate on the huge boulders which lie scattered here and there on its surface, or are poised on the brinks of its precipices, transported, it may have been, from the mountains in the distance on drifting icebergs, when Buchan was a submarine territory. Although of an imperfect and discursive character, our notes will, we trust, be found nevertheless to possess a sort of reflected interest from the objects they embrace; for Buchan, though stamped with somewhat of the sterile features of a northern region, has yet much to attract the eye and win the attention. It may be said to present a sort of epitome of the progressive growth of nations, from the rude infancy of pre-historic existence down through barbaric and feudal times, to the present period of civilisation and advancement.

The footsteps of ages are perhaps as visibly impressed on this district as on any other district of Scotland; its remote position, its semi-insular character, and the former sterility of its soil, in consequence of which its ancient relics have been left comparatively unmolested, have all contributed to this result. From these landmarks we are enabled, in some degree, to measure off the otherwise imperceptible gradations of civilisation through Buddhist or Scandinavian idolatry, Pictish barbarism, and feudal domination, till Christianity was reached,

flowing at first through the mists of superstition. The gradations which mark the earlier stages of the national condition are traceable in the few scattered vestiges of the remote past which are still extant ; and that these are neither more frequent nor more marked is especially to be regretted, since we know them to have formerly abounded, and that it was only during the early years of the nineteenth century that, through ignorance on the one hand and an indolent supineness on the other, they were, in a great measure, recklessly destroyed.

In tracing the indications of change from the obscure past, when our forefathers, it may be, worshipped the sun, or drew auguries from the entrails of animals, down to the present day, the links of the chain, though rusted, and, perhaps, occasionally but slightly united, are still to a certain extent complete. We have the sepulchral mounds, the Druidical circles, and the sculptured stones, accompanied with the flint arrow-heads, the battle-axes, and spear-heads, probably nearly coincident with the above eras. And descending from those remote antiquities to the period of feudal domination, religious institutions, and modern refinements, the progressive landmarks of our country's history are scarcely less perceptible ; for we have the castle fortress, the ecclesiastical edifice, and the family mansion, legibly indicating another series of changes. We can hardly fancy a mind absolutely indifferent, not merely to what has been, but relatively to what is now actually going on around us. To the thoughtful inquirer, or even to the idly inquisitive, there is surely subject for beneficial reflection in contrasting the peacefulness, the intelligence, the

security, and the abundance of the present, with the rudeness, the ignorance, the inquietude, and the sterility of former times. Unless the body is to be considered simply as an acting machine in the great war of trade and commerce, to which the mind is to become a mere subordinate, such reflections as these can scarcely fail to have an ennobling and enlarging influence.

Again, in tracing the destinies of Buchan through the subsequent storms and dangers of feudal times, with its bold and warlike rulers, its embattled fortresses, its ecclesiastical structures—with some conscious pride it may be, at the memory of the rigorous past, in which our district bore so prominent a part, and with some sorrow at the extinction of such races as those of the Comyns, the Cheynes, the Barclays, the Crawfords, and the Keiths, who, like the castles which now barely chronicle these great names, are gone to decay—we may yet thankfully acknowledge that the comparative insignificance of the present is more than compensated by the peace, the prosperity, and the intelligence which surround us. The new life infused into the national system by its release from the paralyzing influence of political and religious discord has found an ample entrance into Buchan. Its soil and air were once thought unpropitious to its agricultural development, and its distance from metropolitan influence unfavourable to any distinction in architecture. But the enterprising genius of the age has in a great degree overruled these disadvantages. Increasing facilities for exportation, with industry and scientific cultivation, have materially changed the aspect of the country, and brought its produce upon a respectable

footing with the agricultural returns of more favoured localities, at the same time that its habitations, from the ordinary farmhouse to the aristocratic mansion, place Buchan on a fair equality with any district of Scotland. Again, the rapid growth of its two principal towns, their enlarged harbours, and their annually increasing tonnage of shipping are all indications of progress more real and rapid than at any period since the Reformation or the Revolution.

Having thus pointed out some of the indications of the national and social changes which have left their impress on this locality, we must now conclude ; and if, in bringing the many interesting objects we have touched upon under review, we shall in any degree have excited the curiosity, or stimulated the patriotic conservatism of our countrymen, we shall be amply repaid for the time and labour necessarily expended in a protracted inquiry into the past condition, the progressive advancement, and the future prospects of Buchan.*

*For more detailed accounts of the manners and customs formerly prevalent in Buchan reference may be made to "An Echo of the Olden Time from the North of Scotland," by Rev. Dr. Walter Gregor (1874); "Notes and Sketches illustrative of Northern Rural Life in the Eighteenth Century," by Dr. William Alexander (1877); "Myths and Superstitions of the Buchan District," by John Milne, Atherb (1891); and a series of articles, entitled "Memories of Monquhitter," by Alexander Paterson, F.J.I., contributed to the *Banffshire Journal* during 1900, particularly "Herding Memories" (15 May), "Homes and Home Life," (19 June), "Yule-Tide and Its Associations" (10 July), and "Sundry Observances, Customs, &c." (18 September). For the folk-lore of the district, reference is made to Dr. Gregor's "Folk-Lore of the North-East of Scotland;" "The Horse in Scottish Folk-

Lore," a paper by Dr. Gregor read to the Banffshire Field Club (see *Banffshire Journal*, 22 April, 1890); "Kilns, Mills, Millers, Meal and Bread," by Dr. Gregor, in the "Transactions of Buchan Field Club," 1892-95; and "On Folk-Lore Days and Seasons," by James Spence, "Transactions," iv. and v.

References to the "aucht-owsen" (eight-oxen) plough, also common in the north of Scotland at one time, appeared in the *Banffshire Journal*, 10 April and 1 May, 1900. A particular tune, it was mentioned, was a favourite with the ploughman and the "gaadster" (goadsman), who whistled merrily as they went along, the words being as follows—

" Baulky land maks girsy corn,
 An' girsy corn maks a hole i' the kist,
 An' a hole i' the kist maks hungry wives,
 An' hungry wives maks hungry lads,
 An' hungry lads maks flobbery wark,
 An' flobbery wark it winna do—
 Noo, wyn, Hawkie, dinna boo!"

In explanation of the terms used in these lines, it was stated that baulky land was such as the plough failed to turn over; hence, "a hole i' the kist." "Wyn" was addressed to oxen when the driver wished them to come towards him, the opposite being "hep off" or "haup." "Come aither" and "weesh" were the words used respectively in later times. "Dinna boo" means "Gae fair oot the gate."

A modern survey of Buchan would not be complete without some allusion to the distinctions attained by its sons, particularly in the fields of scholarship and literature. Mention, however, has been made throughout the work—in the text or in footnotes—of several Buchan men of note, particularly authors; and, as regards scholars, it will suffice here to cite for reference an article on "Buchan Students Past and Present" in the *Peterhead Sentinel*, 14 April, 1896. Among the distinguished students therein enumerated are Professor Charles Niven, Aberdeen; Principal Cook, Government College, Bangalore; Professor A. F. Murison, London; and Mr. Peter Giles, Cambridge. Mr. Giles, who is a native of Strichen, is now University Reader in Comparative Philology at Cambridge, and a Fellow and Classical Lecturer of Emmanuel College. Professor Niven, who occupies the Chair of Natural Philosophy at Aberdeen University, was a

Senior Wrangler, and is a Fellow of the Royal Society. He is a member of a very remarkable Peterhead family, his elder brother, Mr. William D. Niven, LL.D., C.B., Director of Studies at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, having also gained a Wranglership and being also an F.R.S.; and two other brothers being distinguished members of the medical profession. The most brilliant scholar that Buchan ever produced, however, was probably Thomas Davidson, a native of Fetterangus, who acquired a high reputation in America by his philosophical and educational writings. He died at Montreal on 14th September, 1900, and the *Spectator* of the 6th October had a striking article upon him, in which he was alluded to as "one of the most gifted and remarkable men of the latter half of this century," "one of the dozen most learned men on this planet." In theology, Buchan is worthily represented by Dr. A. B. Davidson, Professor of Hebrew, New College, Edinburgh (a native of Ellon); in divinity by Rev. Dr. William Mair, Earlston (native of Savoeh), Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 1897; in law by Mr. James Ferguson, yr., of Kinmundy, Sheriff of Argyle; and in medicine by Sir James Reid (Ellon), Physician in Ordinary to the Queen, and Dr. Charles Creighton (Peterhead), author of "A History of Epidemics in Britain." Of Buchan men abroad, mention may be made of Mr. John Johnston, banker, Milwaukee (an Auchnagatt man), who is prominently connected with the University of Wisconsin; while the present Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States, Mr. David Bremner Henderson, hails from Old Deer.

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