

## THE LADS OF CAMPBELL.

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## APPENDIX

## THE LADS OF WAMPHRAY.



THE following song celebrates the skirmish, in 1593, between the Johnstones and Crichtons, which led to the revival of the ancient quarrel betwixt Johnstone and Maxwell, and finally to the battle of Dryfesands, in which the latter lost his life.

'Twixt Girthhead and the Langwood end,  
Lived the Galliard, and the Galliard's men ;  
But and the lads of Laverhay,  
That drove the Crichton's gear away.

It is the lads of Leithenha',  
The greatest rogues among them a' :  
But and the lads of Stefenbiggin,  
They broke the house in at the rigging.

The lads of Fingland, and Helbeckhill,  
They were never for good, but aye for ill ;  
'Twixt the Staywood bush and Langside hill,  
They steal'd the brokit cow and the branded bull.

It is the lads of the Girthhead,  
The deil's in them for pride and greed ;  
For the Galliard and the gay Galliard's men,  
They ne'er saw a horse but they made it their ain.

The Galliard to Nithsdale is gane,  
 To steal Sim Crichton's winsome dun,  
 The Galliard is unto the stable gane,  
 But instead of the dun, the blind he has ta'en.

"Now Simmy, Simmy of the side,  
 Come out and see a Johnstone ride!  
 Here's the bonniest horse in a' Nithside,  
 And a gentle Johnstone aboon his hide."

Simmy Crichton's mounted then,  
 And Crichtons has raised mony a ane:  
 The Galliard trow'd his horse had been wight,  
 But the Crichtons beat him out o' sight.

As soon as the Galliard the Crichton saw,  
 Behind the saugh-bush he did draw:  
 And there the Crichtons the Galliard hae ta'en,  
 And nane wi' him but Willie alane.

"O Simmy, Simmy, now let me gang,  
 And I'll never mair do a Crichton wrang!  
 O Simmy, Simmy, now let me be,  
 And a peck o' gowd I'll give to thee!"

"O Simmy, Simmy, now let me gang,  
 And my wife shall heap it with her hand."—  
 But the Crichtons wadna let the Galliard be,  
 But they hang'd him hie upon a tree.

O think then Willie he was right wae,  
 When he saw his uncle guided sae;  
 "But if ever I live Wamphray to see,  
 My uncle's death avenged shall be!"

Back to Wamphray he is gane,  
 And riders has raised mony a ane;



Saying—"My lads, if ye'll be true,  
Ye shall a' be clad in the noble blue."—

Back to Nithsdale they have gane,  
And awa' the Crichtons nowt<sup>1</sup> hae ta'en;  
But when they cam to the Wellpathhead,<sup>2</sup>  
The Crichtons bade them 'light and lead.

And when they cam to Biddesburn,<sup>3</sup>  
The Crichtons bade them stand and turn;  
And when they cam to the Biddesstrand,  
The Crichtons they were hard at hand.

But when they cam to the Biddeslaw,<sup>4</sup>  
The Johnstones bade them stand and draw;  
"We've done nae ill, we'll thole nae wrang,  
But back to Wamphray we will gang."

And out spoke Willie of the Kirkhill,  
"Of fighting, lads, ye'se hae your fill."—  
And from his horse Willie he lap,  
And a burnish'd brand in his hand he gat.

Out through the Crichtons Willie he ran,  
And dang them down baith horse and man;  
O but the Johnstones were wondrous rude,  
When the Biddesburn ran three days blood!

<sup>1</sup> Nowt—Cattle.

<sup>2</sup> The Wellpath is a pass by which the Johnstones were retreating to their fastnesses in Annandale.

<sup>3</sup> The Biddesburn, where the skirmish took place betwixt the Johnstones and their pursuers, is a rivulet which takes its course among the mountains on the confines of Nithsdale and Annandale, at the summit level of the Caledonian railway.

<sup>4</sup> Law—a conical hill.

"Now sirs, we have done a noble deed ;  
We have revenged the Galliard's bleid,  
For every finger of the Galliard's han',  
I vow this day I've killed a man."—

As they cam in at Evanhead,  
At Ricklawholm<sup>5</sup> they spread abroad ;  
"Drive on my lads, it will be late ;  
We'll hae a pint at Wamphraygate.

"For where'er I gang, or e'er I ride,  
The lads of Wamphray are on my side ;  
And of a' the lads that I do ken,  
A Wamphray lad's the king of men."

<sup>5</sup> Ricklawholm is a place upon the Evan water, which falls into the Annan, below Moffat.

# CORRECTIONS.

*From Estate Records (obtained since Book was published)  
by permission.*

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Pages 65 and 158—

Annanholm farm, south of Wamphray water, on west side of public road, was laid off in small holdings, on petition to Earl John by tradesmen and labourers, in 1769.

Terms :—

1st. Houses must be of stone and clay mortar (not stone and turf), and the Holding surrounded by a thorn hedge ;  
2nd. The Earl gave stone and help to build the walls, wood for roofing and other purposes, and thorn plants for the hedges. All the rest was done at the expense of the tenant. 3rd. Entry at Whitsunday 1770, on lease of 17 years.

Rent :—

For House and Garden for first six years of lease, 6s 8d per annum ; for remaining eleven, 10s. For Field, £2 a year for six years ; for the eleven, £2 10s.

The 14 Small Holdings of the present day cover the ground laid off as such by Earls of Hopetoun towards the end of the 18th century.

Errata :—

Page 44—

For "late" read present Lord Rollo.

For "Admiral," "Mr."

Page 79—

Read tenants and "lairds."

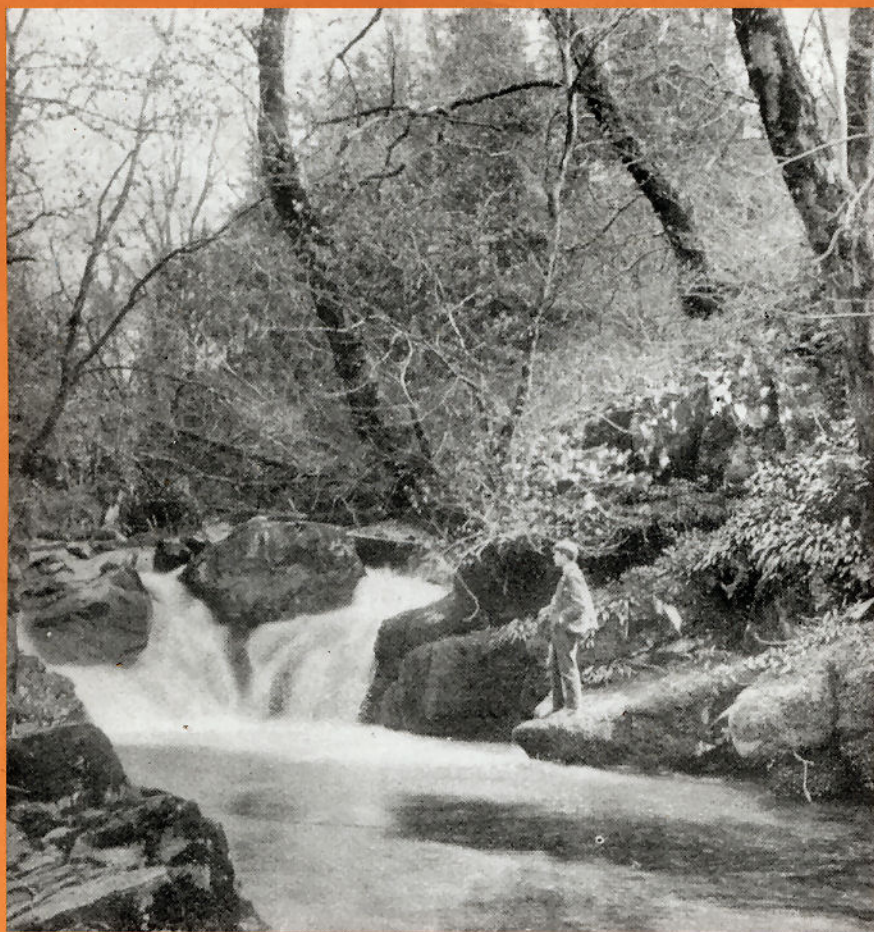
Page 189—

For 24, "26."

J. PATERSON.

FEBRUARY 18, 1907.





In 1906, life in Wamphray — situated between Lockerbie and Moffat in Southern Scotland — revolved round farm life, the church and the school. While Paterson attends closely to the personalities whose influence was felt, he writes too of the routines and habits of less famous folk, providing a backcloth reflecting many rural communities of the time.

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