

SKETCHES
OF THE
PAST AND PRESENT STATE
OF
MORAY.



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THE ILLUSTRATIONS DRAWN AND ETCHED BY
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ELGIN: GEORGE WILSON.

TO HIS GRACE

THE DUKE OF RICHMOND, K.G.

THIS WORK,

ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE ANTIQUITIES OF THE COUNTY OF MORAY,

IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED.

P R E F A C E.

There ne'er was a man of Morayshire clay,
Who has not paused amid life's long way,
To breathe a sigh from some distant strand,
To the days of his youth and his father-land.

* * * * *
There are thoughts which far in the bosom dwell,
Which a sound or a word shall arouse like a spell;
And the Spey, the Lossie, and the Lady Hill,
With a thousand thoughts our memories fill.

W. HAY.

THE object of this work has been to collect and preserve in a somewhat permanent form, all that remains of the antiquities of the County of Moray. For this purpose, sketches of every interesting relic have been made by Mr D. Alexander, and such descriptions have been added as was deemed necessary to illustrate the drawings; and had not brevity been aimed at, this part of the work might have been considerably extended, so as to embrace many collateral subjects of interest. The fidelity and spirit of the accompanying sketches will, however, make up for any deficiency of description. The greater number of these views have never before been published in any form; and it is proper to add, that the whole details of etching, as well as the drawings, have been executed by Mr Alexander.

In addition to the information to be found in the Rev. Mr Shaw's excellent History of the Province, the recently published Chartularies of Moray, and the Burgh Records of Elgin have supplied many curious facts, and to these, as well as to the contributions of several zealous friends, is owing much of what may be found interesting in the following pages.

WILLIAM RHIND.

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THE COUNTY OF MORAY.

THE ancient Province of Moray extended from the mouth of the river Spey on the east, to the river Beaully on the west. A line stretching from Loch Lochy on the south-west, through Lochaber, and following nearly the course of the river Spey along the base of Cairngorm, and Benrinnnes, formed its southern boundary, while the Moray Firth terminated it on the north, and separated it from the Peninsula of Ross. Moray thus included the whole district of country stretching along the sea coast; and hence probably the Gaelic derivation of the name *Murar* or *Morar*, the sea-side, from *Mor*, the sea, and *Taobh* or *Tav*, the side.*

The present boundaries of the county are much more circumscribed,—Nairnshire occupying the western, and part of Inverness-shire the south and south-western portions of the ancient province. Its greatest length is about forty miles; and its breadth

* Shaw.

varies from eight to fifteen, and twenty-three miles. The northern range of the Grampian Mountains terminating in Benrinnes, which has an elevation of twenty-three hundred feet, forms the southern boundary and most elevated part of the county; from whence there is a gradual descent to the sea level by a series of parallel hills intersecting the county from west to east, with valleys between. The hills to the south consist of primary rocks, and are of considerable height; while those towards the north are composed of sandstones and newer formations, and gradually decrease in elevation as they approach the sea. Hence the streams and rivers which water the county take their rise to the south and south-west, and flow north and north-eastward to the sea. These are the Spey, with its tributaries, forming the south-eastern boundary; the Findhorn on the west; and the Lossie in the centre.

The plain of Moray consists generally of a light arenaceous soil, interspersed with valleys and tracts of rich alluvium and loam. In the lower district there is a deep clay.

From the position of the county along the shores of an estuary, from its slight elevation above the sea level, and from the dry and porous nature of the sub-soil, the climate is genial, and superior to that of the neighbouring shires. The elevated hills to the south carry off much of the atmospheric moisture which would otherwise fall; and the level of the firth, extending to the northward, still farther prevents an excess of rain; while the porous surface

readily absorbs, and as readily gives off by evaporation, that moisture which, stagnating in less favoured localities, renders the surrounding air chill and ungenial. The average annual fall of rain at Elgin, for the last three years, is 25.355 inches. The average temperature for the same period is 48°. 33. Both these results do not differ much from those of the localities on the eastern coast of Scotland generally, at or near the sea level; but, as compared to the mountainous districts, the difference, had we sufficient data, must be very considerable.

Buchanan extols Moray as superior to any other part of Scotland, for the mildness of its climate, the richness of its pastures, and the abundance of its fruits; and Bishop Leslie, with all the enthusiastic partiality of a son of the soil, reiterates these praises.* Sir Robert Gordon of Straloch, describing it in 1640, says, "that in salubrity of climate, Moray is not inferior to any, and in richness and fertility of soil, it much exceeds our other northern provinces. The air is so temperate, that when all around is bound up in the rigour of winter, there are neither lasting snows, nor such frosts as damage fruits or trees; proving the truth of that boast of the natives, that they have forty days more of fine weather in every year than the neighbouring districts. There is no

* "Regio est una præ cæteris omnibus apud nos ob amoenitatem celebrata. Est enim plana, minime palustris, quæ crebro saltu, odoriferis herbis, pratis, tritico, omni frumenti genere, pomiferis hortis ac littore finitimo plurimum delectat. Illic aura saluberrima, rariores multo nebulæ atque pluvix quam usquam alibi, atque adeo magna propterea nobilium virorum seges."

product of this kingdom which does not thrive there perfectly; or, if any fail, it is to be attributed to the sloth of the inhabitants, not to the fault of the soil or climate. Corn, the earth pours forth in wonderful and never-failing abundance. Fruits of all sorts, herbs, flowers, pulse, are in the greatest plenty, and all early. While harvest has scarcely begun in surrounding districts, there all is ripe and cut down, and carried into open barn-yards, as is the custom of the country; and, in comparison with other districts, winter is hardly felt. The earth is almost always open, the sea navigable, and the roads never stopped. So much of the soil is occupied by crops of corn, however, that pasture is scarce, for this whole district is devoted to corn and tillage. But pasture is found at no great distance, and is abundant in the upland country, and a few miles inland, and thither the oxen are sent to graze in summer, when the labour of the season is over. No where is there better meat, nor cheaper corn, not from scarcity of money, but from the abundance of the soil.”*

There are few lakes or marshes of any extent in the shire. Lochindorb, in the upper part of the county, is the most considerable. Loch-na-bo, in the neighbourhood of Elgin, is celebrated for its picturesque beauty. Loch Spynie was of considerable extent, but it is now almost entirely drained. It is highly probable that, in ancient times, a large portion of the low country of Duffus and

* Apud Blaeu. Registrum Moraviense.

Drainy was under water. There are evident proofs in the remains of marine shells, that the sea extended farther southwards, perhaps to join the eastern part of Loch Spynie, near Pitgavinie, and that it approached much nearer Kinedar than it does at present.* The hollow land extending

* “ In 1368, on the 7th day of June, while Lord Alexander, Bishop of Moray, was passing from his Castle of Kyneder, towards the Priory of Urchard, (Urquhart,) by his water of Lossy, through the ford, which is called *Krannokysford*, he found a small ship (*navicula*) viz. *farcost* lying in his said water, near the sea. To which coming, he asked of a person who was called — —, who was the only one found in the vessel, whose vessel that was, and by whose licence it entered that water; who answered, that the vessel, that is *farcost*, belonged to John de Lany, and that he had come there by order of the Burgesses of Elgyn. To whom the Bishop replied, ‘that neither the burgesses, nor any other person whatever, had the power to grant this authority or licence, since the water, at the time being, flowed in its proper channel within his diocese of Moray, and his it was, and no one’s else;’ and on this account, he demanded of him to give a pledge in name of the arrestment of the said vessel. The man put into the hands of the said Bishop a small axe, which, in name of his master, he begged to give him as a concession, which the said Bishop received, to be restored again when it should be asked of him.”

It is farther added, that the Bishop, returning the same day by the same way, found in the said vessel certain burgesses of Elgin, viz. Philip Byset and Henry Porter, dragging out of the vessel certain barrels of beer, and certain sacks of tallow and flour, together with a horse and sledge, &c.; and so on the Bishop goes to arrest the vessel with its anchor,” &c. &c.—*Regist. Morav.*

We leave to the curious to trace the Bishop’s route from the above extract; but one thing seems apparent, that the Lossie, at its junction with the sea, formed a wider estuary southwards than it does at present, else a vessel so loaded could not have sailed up so far. The remains of recent periwinkles, (*turbo littoralis*,) and of oyster shells found in the clay at Pitgavinie, will thus be satisfactorily accounted for. It will shew, too, that the jolly ecclesiastics of those days must have feasted on oysters, while their Presbyterian successors are deprived of that luxury. An ingenious paper read before the Morayshire Scientific Association, by Patrick Duff, Esq. attributes the large accumulations of gravel and sand in this district to the action of the littoral tidal current carrying the matter brought down by the Spey and Lossie to the westward.

from the Castle of Old Duffus to Roseisle, was also most likely partially or entirely covered with water. In former times, a stream flowed past Unthank, which drove a mill; and in a chart of the county laid down by Sir Robert Gordon of Starloch, dated 1640, a loch of some extent is marked extending south of the village of Roseisle, from which a stream appears to issue to join the sea, near Burghead.

That such an inviting district of Scotland should have been among the first to have been taken possession of, is not at all to be wondered at. Yet so imperfect is tradition, that we are left almost entirely in the dark regarding the particular race who first peopled it. Of those migrating swarms who came from the neighbouring continents to occupy our islands, two distinct races have been recognized,—the Celts and the Picts. While the Gaels or Celts took possession of the more central and mountainous parts of our island, it has been supposed that the Picts settled along our shores, and that thus the northern and eastern districts of Scotland skirting the sea were peopled by tribes of Scandinavian origin. It is easily to be supposed that, during those early migratory and unsettled periods, many changes and admixtures may have taken place. We learn from the Norse authorities, or rather legends, that Moray, as well as a considerable part of the North of Scotland, was frequently under Norwegian rule, and at one time for nearly two centuries in succession. Thorstein the Red, Sigurd, and Thorfin, held an independent sway, or with a slight acknow-

ledgment of the sovereignty of the Scottish monarchs, from the beginning of the tenth to the middle of the eleventh century. An ancient charter still extant, describing the boundaries of the lands of Burgie, is curious, from an incidental allusion to the Picts. Beginning at the great oak marked with a cross, the boundary ran by a place or object, named *Rune Pictorum*, which, in the charter, is translated, "the Carne of the Pethis, or the Pecht's fieldis." This is, perhaps, the only allusion to the Pictish people to be found in any Scottish charter; and if it shall be found, in tracing the boundary, that the expression has reference to the sculptured pillar situated at the east end of the town of Forres, an authority so ancient as the time of Alexander II. for ascribing that extraordinary monument to the ancient Pictish inhabitants, must be regarded as an important hint for the elucidation of this subject.*

After the decline of the Pictish power, we find the country convulsed by the rebellions of its native chiefs against the sovereign. Of these *Maormors*, or Earls as they now first began to be styled, we know little more than the names. They seem to have been connected with the reigning family, and aspired themselves to the throne. These insurrections became so frequent, that at length, effectually to quell them, Malcolm IV. transported all those concerned in these rebellions, including the greater part of the population, to the southern provinces of

* Regist. Moray.

the kingdom, and introduced other families to supply their places. It is from this circumstance that the rarity of the name of Murray in the province has been accounted for, while it is by no means uncommon in the counties south of the Grampians. After this, the county appears to have been the frequent residence of King Malcolm, and his successor William the Lion, for several charters granted by them are dated from Elgin, Inverness, and other places in Moray.

That an importation of families at this time took place, there is little doubt. Among these, it is supposed that the once great names of Comyn, Bysset Ostiarii, and the powerful Earls of Fife and Strathern, were the principal. It is as likely, on the other hand, that many of the original families remained, among whom were the Inneses, Calders, &c. The powerful family of De Moravia, of whom Freskinus, Lord of Duffus, is the first mentioned, now also appears as holding extensive possessions, and exercising great influence in the country. On the whole, after all these changes, the district seems to have preserved the characteristics of its Scandinavian origin; and this is evident, even in the present day, from the traces of ancient architecture still extant, and from the pronunciation peculiar to the counties of Moray, Banff, and Aberdeen, which resembles, in a remarkable degree, that of the German and Danish, especially in converting the double *o* into *ee*, as *meen*, *sheen*, &c. For the lapse of many centuries, too, the people seem to have kept apart from their Celtic

neighbours. We find the district, whether from its superior richness, or from the more civilized and less warlike state of its inhabitants, frequently the prey of thievish marauders. Indeed, Moray land was proverbial as a region where every Highland kateran sought his prey. In the rental of the church lands in the year 1565, we find no admixture of Highland names,* but, on the contrary, such as are purely of Lowland origin, and common around Elgin at the present day. It was not till comparatively recent times, that the declining feuds of inveterate warfare and the prejudices of clanship, permitted of an admixture with the neighbouring Gordons, Grants, or M'Phersons.

* Names from the Rental of the Bishoprick of Moray, 1565, in the Baronies of Spynie, Kinedar, Birney, Rafford.

Adam	Dunbar	Lumisden	Rynd	<i>The following Names seem now uncommon or dis-used.</i>	
Allan	Duncan	Malies	Sandeson		
Alves	Forsyth	Man	Schipbird	Genot	Lesk
Andersoun	Forbes	Michell	Simsoune	Yeman	Puggat
Barroun	Fraser	Moreis	Smyth	Brabanere	(Bremner)
Brodye	Fyndlay	Moncreif	Stronoch	Glaishwrycht	Muldonycht
Brown	Geddes	Murdocht	Stevin	Gillemichell	Weland
Cant	Gardin	Mylne	Talyour	Mawcie.	
Cowey	Hay	Nicol	Trowpe		
Cowper	Hendry	Ogilvye	Umfray		
Crystie	Hossoke	Paul	Urquhard	In the baronies of Arclauch, the few names are Ross and Rose; in Keith, Ogilvie, Gordon, and Huntly; in Kilmyles, Fraser; in Strathspey, Grant.	
Cummyng	Huchone	Peterkyn	Wilson		
Dik	Innes	Rob	Winchester		
Duff	Junkin	Runsiman	Wisman		
Duffus	Kay	Russel	Wyat		

The ancient names of places remain much the same to the present time, notwithstanding the change of spelling and slight change in pronunciation. Tullibarden is a name which frequently occurs in the charters; the situation is described as lying south-east of the Lossie, and is no doubt the Barden of the present farm so called. These lands belonged to an offset from the ancient family of De Moravia, conjectured to be of Flemish origin, and either gave to, or derived the name from, the Tullibardens of Perthshire. The Morays of Abercairney are also a branch of the same family; from which stock also sprung the noble family of Sutherland, and, in all probability, the famed Douglas, which afterwards, transported to the South of Scotland, became so conspicuous in its warlike annals.

The Lowland situation of Moray, joined to the amenity of its soil and climate, must have pointed it out as a desirable locality for our first religious establishments. It was early visited by the Culdees, the first messengers who brought the pure spirit of Christianity from the primitive churches of the east. Subsequently, about the beginning of the eleventh century, numerous religious establishments from Italy planted the Romish religion in the province, and, from that period till the Reformation, the Church engrossed the chief sway, and held extensive possessions in the district. A Bishopric was established about the year 1100. The Abbey of Kinloss, and the Priories of Urquhart, Pluscarden, and Kingussie, besides several other religious houses and hospitals, quickly followed, and the province was regularly subdivided into parishes, and churches or chapels were erected in each.

But, if our records of the early history of the province be meagre and unsatisfactory, it may not be uninteresting to look back upon the state of the county a century ago, and, by drawing a picture, for which materials are not wanting, set it in contrast with the existing state of things. In this way the rapid progress of recent improvement will be brought more vividly under view.

At a remote period, the greater part of the plain of Moray was covered with ancient forests of native growth, and these were dense and luxuriant in proportion to the fertility of the valleys. We have proof of this in the large trunks of oaks and pines still

imbedded in our mosses, and in the channels of many of our streams,* and these undoubtedly had belonged to the "*Sylvæ Caledoniæ*," of ancient historians. When cultivation began, it was on the upper slopes of our hills, in the most accessible and securest positions, when as yet wolves and other wild animals possessed the valleys. Ridges indicating this early cultivation are still visible; but such unproductive spots were gradually forsaken as the lower grounds were burned and cleared of their thickets. At first, no doubt, pasturage was more practised than tillage, but latterly a comparatively larger quantity of grain was raised in proportion to the number or wants of the inhabitants, but a mere fraction in respect to what the art and enterprise of modern times can produce from the soil. Wheat is mentioned by the early historians as not uncommon in the county, but, we suspect, it became less plentiful at a subsequent period, oats and barley being the chief grains raised. The land was formerly portioned out into mailens, crofts, and small farms, and leases to any extent were by no means general. There were neither capital nor enterprise among the tenants to carry on the extensive farming concerns now so common. A number of those small tenants congregated together in villages, such as those of Urquhart, Duffus, the Keam, Alves, &c. The arable land around these places was portioned out into small strips or ridges, of which each one shared alternately.

* In the Black Burn or Lochty, near its junction with the Lossie, many large oak trunks may still be seen lodged in the mud of its channel.

Their respective flocks and cattle all pastured together on their commons, and when their crops were taken off the fields, the whole range of country was laid open to the community. This arrangement, which still prevails on some parts of the Continent, was, no doubt, first adopted on a principle of self-protection, as well as sociability, during a rude and turbulent state of society, but it was the worst possible for the purposes of an active and efficient agriculture. In those periods, green crops, artificial grasses, and all those provisions for winter sustenance, were almost entirely unknown. The animals destined for winter food were slaughtered in the end of the year, and used as salt provisions; while, in severe winters, it was with considerable difficulty that the remaining stock was kept alive. In spring, they were so lean and exhausted that they had frequently to be lifted up from the ground and led to the pastures. Hence, a general phrase for lean and poor animals was, that they were "at the lifting." The agricultural implements were of the most rude and primitive description. A simple plough-share, with a very inartificial adjustment of its parts, to which were yoked four, and often six, cattle, with one or two drivers, and a ploughman to guide the whole, crept like a snail through the field, and did little more than scratch up the weed-bound surface. The immatured and unmixed manure was scattered about very sparingly; the seed, without much regard to selection, was deposited, and a few scrapes of a light harrow finished the process. The

simple pannier, borne on the horse's back, began to give way, as roads improved, to the *slede*, or sledge, and the *kelloch*. The former was a rudely constructed frame of wood, dragged without wheels on the ground; the latter was a similar frame mounted on wheels, which were often composed of two semi-circles of solid board, joined in the middle, and fixed into an axle which revolved in two hoops of wood attached to the bottom of the frame. Upon this mounted framework was fixed a conical wicker basket, capable of holding about a third of a modern cart load. The accompanying harness, which was generally of home manufacture, consisted of hemp or horse hair ropes, thongs of half tanned hides, and twisted straw—the whole knotted together, and tied to wooden pins. The exertions of man and beast were much in accordance with the primitive nature of their adjustments. The labours of the field were pursued with much coolness and deliberation. A few hours of work in the summer morning, (for they allowed the spring almost to elapse before they commenced,) and a hearty breakfast, prepared them for a long sleep during the hottest part of the day, when their work was again resumed in the evening, if nothing more interesting came in the way. Yet with all this freedom from hard work, the daily comforts of the general population were not upon that sumptuous scale which would excite the envy of the present day. They had heavy contributions to pay out of their scanty incomings. The lords of the soil and the claims of the Church were both to

be satisfied. Notwithstanding the fertility of the province, famines from inclement seasons were by no means unfrequent. The year 1743, or the "dear year," is memorable in Moray, as well as over all Scotland. In the summer of that year, in consequence of the failure of the previous harvest, thousands of destitute beings wandered among the fields, in search of whatever could satiate the famishing demands of hunger, devouring sorrel, and other wild plants, and the leaves and stems of the yet unfilled pease and beans. Many perished from absolute want, and more from consequent disease and debility. A grievous scarcity occurred even so late as 1782, the memorable year of the "frosty har'st." The food of the peasantry was of the most simple nature. Wheaten bread, except among the gentry in towns, was a rarity seldom seen. Oat, rye, barley, and pease bread, were the chief staples of existence. Cultivated vegetables were also rare throughout the county. As yet the inestimable potatoe had not become a general article of culture. This root was introduced into Scotland about the year 1728, but only began to be generally cultivated in Morayshire about the middle of last century. It is a common tradition, that kail and cabbage were introduced into the north of Scotland by the soldiers of Cromwell, and Dr Johnson shrewdly remarks, that supposing this to be true, it is difficult to conceive what the people had to eat before this time. But, besides that the kail plant (*Brassica*) is indigenous to Scotland, we suspect that the Saxon emigrants

were long before that period acquainted with the culture and use of a vegetable so much prized in their native country. It is quite true, however, that even kail yards were a rarity among our peasantry so late as half a century ago. A farmer then, and even long afterwards, deemed it below his notice to cultivate a garden. A variety of weeds and herbs from the fields, among which were the savoury mugwort, and nettle, were usually collected to add a relish to their oatmeal soups. Unskinned peas boiled into a soup, were also a favourite dish in some parts of the county. Sowins, or oatmeal bran fermented to a slight degree of acidity, formed then, and still continues, a universal dish, and is, we believe, peculiar as a regular article of food to the northern parts of Scotland. Sour cakes of a similar composition as sowins, with aromatic seeds, were also an essential luxury at Christmas feasts.

Bees must have been cultivated to some extent in the county, especially in the neighbourhood of towns, for we find "ane stane of wax" as the entry fee of a burgess of Elgin in 1540, and "ane pund of wax to St Giles' wake" as a fine imposed on a common culprit. Meal-mills were not so general, or so cheap, or convenient, as on all occasions to allow the ancient *quern* to be altogether dispensed with. Pot barley was prepared by first softening it in water, and then beating off the husks in a hollow stone, using for this purpose a wooden mallet. This was generally the operation of a Saturday night, as the delicacy was one peculiar to

a Sunday dinner. As rents and Church contributions were paid in kind, we suspect few of the live stock or their productions were consumed at home. Milk, even, was a rarity, except for a few months in summer. Home-made beer among the more wealthy, supplied its place. Fish were an occasional luxury. But shoals of herrings were as yet permitted to swarm around the coasts without being turned to any account. Dried fish were eaten with home-grown mustard, bruised by the revolution of a cannon bullet in a wooden box. After the county was denuded of its woods, peat became the chief article of fuel, the importation of coals being of rare occurrence. From the low countries of Duffus and Drainie an annual expedition was made to the hills, consisting of all the youth of the district, with their horses and conveyances, in order to bring home heather for winter fuel ; and few families considered their domestic arrangements complete without a snug stock of this article laid up for the season. In return for this visit, the natives of the hills made an annual pilgrimage to the seaside, at the period of Lammas-tide, when the waters of the ocean were supposed to possess a peculiar medicinal efficacy. Almost all the clothing of the country people was the product of their own flocks and fields. Wool was spun and manufactured at home, and dyed mostly with the roots and herbs of the district. And flax was raised in their fields, and converted into linen. The dress of the people was very simple and unvaried. A light blue or gray cloth, or " hodden grey," was the

universal material. Short knee-breeches and long stockings, in cold weather surmounted by boot-hose, a long or short coat, according to circumstances, and a broad flat blue bonnet, with a red tassel, formed the equipment. The long dress coats were of an ample size, and unvaried cut, with huge round brass buttons curiously ornamented. Such a coat lasted sometimes for two or three generations; and a well hained one of this description may even yet be seen occasionally at kirk or market, forming a singular contrast to the modern fashions. The females also dressed plainly in home manufacture, and wore the high muslin *mutch*, or the flat *toy*, the originals of both of which are still common among the Norman and Flemish peasantry. The modern sub-divisions of labour were then much less practised than at present. The first pair of bellows introduced into the Keam of Duffus was looked on as a rarity, and often, on lend, made the round of the whole village. A long wooden tube, with a bore through the centre, by which the fire was blown upon from the mouth, had long previously been applied by the more ingenious part of the population as a substitute. On the whole, if there was not the unceasing activity, and intelligence, and bustle of the present day, there was a simplicity, and an undisturbed uniformity of existence, the actual amount of enjoyment between which two conditions we leave philosophers to determine.*

* The comparative estimates of luxury, and the impossibility of foretelling the results of progressive civilization on the actual resources of a country, cannot be better illustrated than from the following diatribe of the sensible Shaw, in 1760, "But the luxury and vanity of our times know no bounds.

In their seasons of festivity, the stated periods of which were at Christmas, the New Year, Halloween, and at their weddings, baptisms, and, however incongruous, even at funerals, they held formal feasts, and gave themselves up to the pleasures of eating and drinking. In winter, matches of foot-ball were favourite amusements.

Sir Robert Gordon writes as if, in his time, they were rather addicted to the pleasures of the bottle: this, perhaps, they may have inherited along with their Scandinavian descent. But it was the fault of former times, not, we hope, of the present. "In the low lands," says this author, "along the coast, the natives suffer inconvenience from the want of turf or fuel, which is the only hardship experienced by that happy region; and that is only felt in a few places. It must be owned that they generally counteract the cold by hard drinking; but those who exert themselves industriously in the labours of agriculture little feel or care for it." And again he remarks,—“The drink of these provinces is beer, either with hops, or more commonly without hops, after the old manner. There is plenty of foreign wine, and cheap enough, in all the towns. I remember when I was a boy, on my way home from Paris, finding wine at Rouen much dearer than it sold, a few months afterwards, on the Moray coast. Both had been brought from

Even they that live on alms are infected by it, and it must be restrained, or the country will be impoverished. In few countries do the peasants live more poorly, and though many of the gentry grind the faces of the poor, they do not enrich themselves. They multiply exactions on the people, who dare not complain, and they exhaust their own fortunes by the expense of imitating the manners and luxury of their more wealthy neighbours.”

Bordeaux, but the difference was caused by the lowness of our duty.* But besides wine, they have their native liquor, called *aqua vitæ*; and when that is to be had, which is seldom wanting, they reject even the most generous wines. This liquor is distilled from beer mixed with aromatic plants. It is made almost every where, and in such abundance, that there is plenty for all. They swallow it in great draughts, to the astonishment of strangers, for it is excessively strong. Even the better classes are intemperate, and the women are not free from this disgrace. Travelling in the depth of winter, in the severest cold, fortified with a jug of this liquor, and a few small cheeses—for they care little about meat and bread—they perform immense journeys on foot without inconvenience.”

In later times, illicit distillation became a great nuisance in the county, and a source of demoralization to thousands of the lower orders. A change in the excise laws, however, put an entire stop to this traffic; and the consequence has been, that the attention of these smugglers was diverted from their unlawful and precarious traffic, to the honest culture of the soil, and thus many hitherto neglected wastes are now smiling in all the richness of fertile cultivation. The glen of Rothies, the sloping hills of Kellas, and the upper vale of Pluscarden, are pleasing examples of this circumstance.

* Smuggling was practised to a considerable extent along the Moray coast, and the best port or claret used to sell, fifty years ago, for 8d. and 9d. a bottle.

We have no means of ascertaining the population of the county previous to the census of recent dates. Like the rest of Scotland, it probably remained long nearly stationary, or sometimes retrograded. In recent times, it has progressively and greatly increased, notwithstanding the declamations against new improvements, and the extravagance and enervating luxury of the times.

By the census of 1755, the population of the county was 28,687

Do. do. 1791, 27,285

Do. do. 1801, 26,705

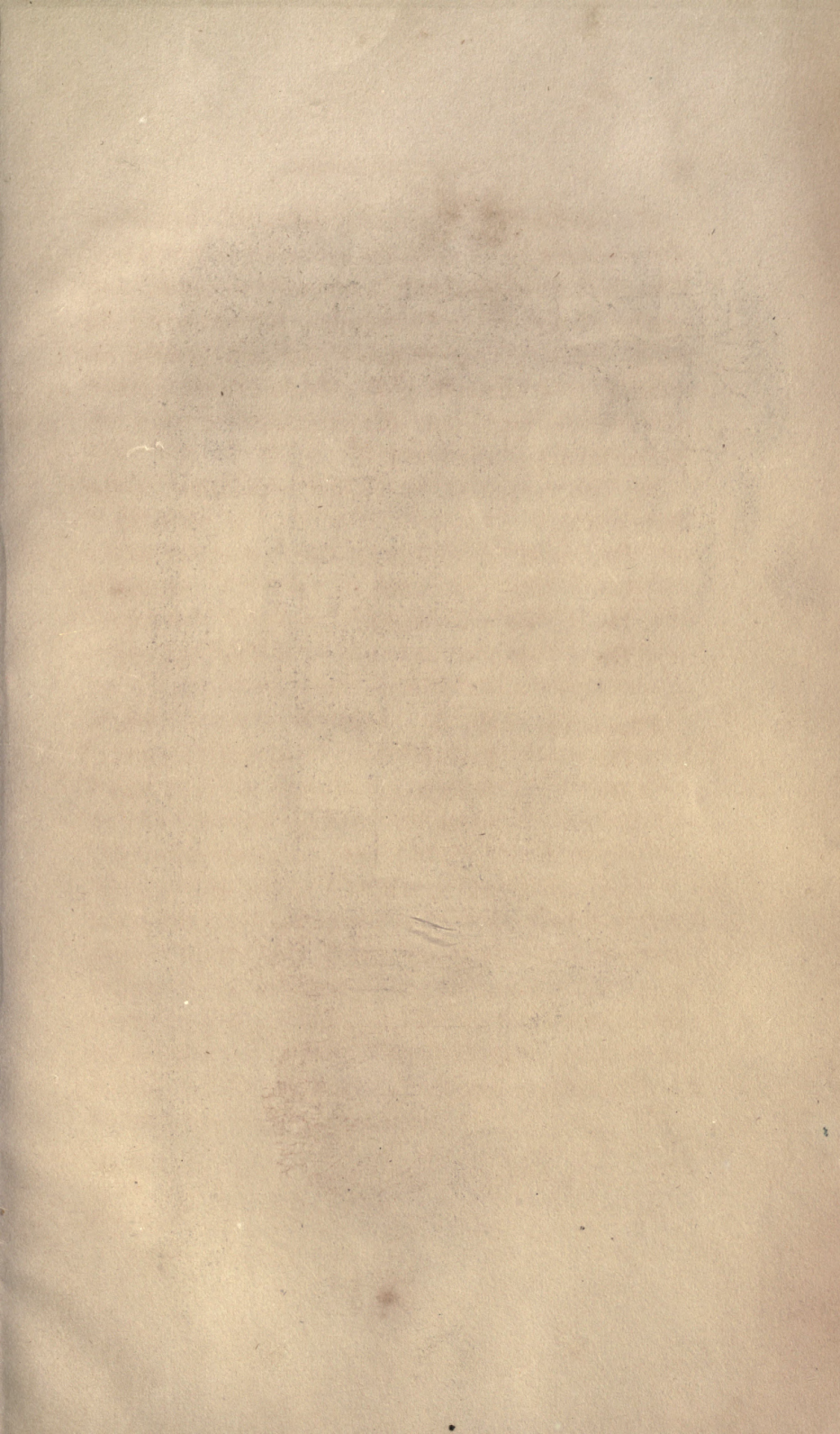
Do. do. 1821, 31,162

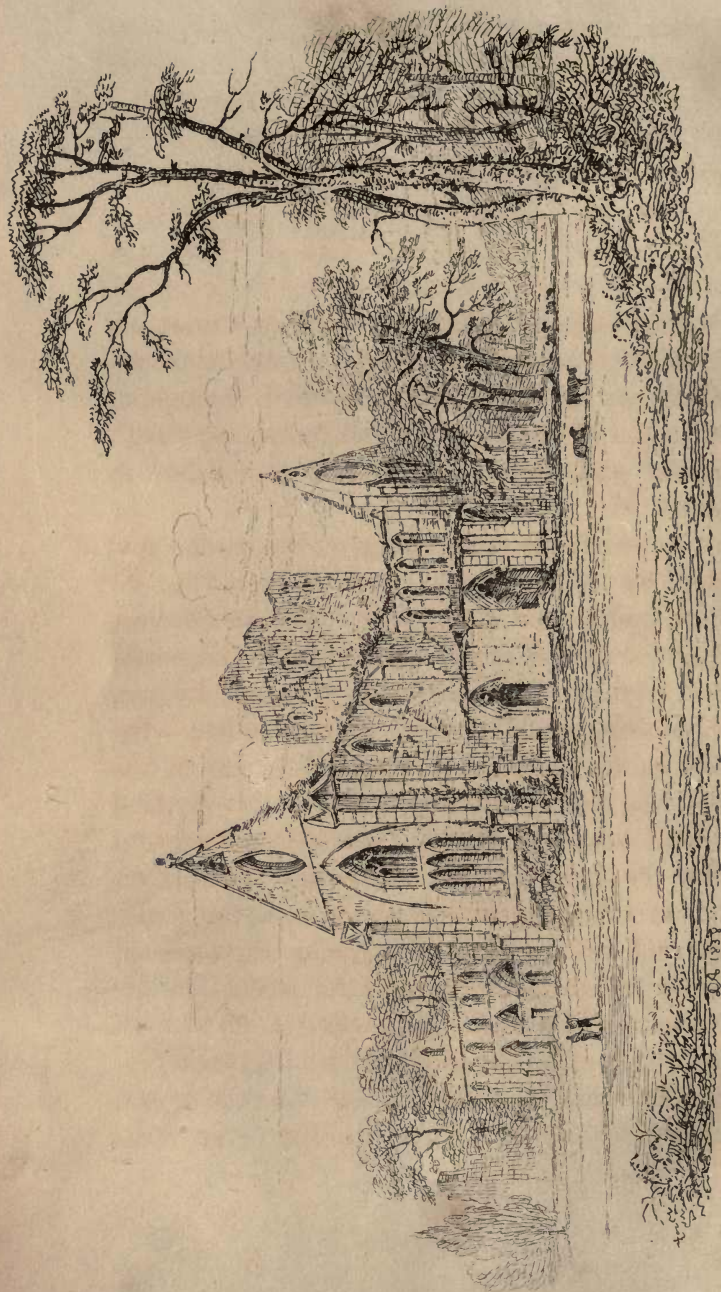
Do. do. 1831, 34,231

Population of Elgin, 6,130

Do. Forres, 3,895

Do. Fochabers, 1,040





Cluscardin. Priory

DA 1838

PRIORY OF PLUSCARDEN.

DURING the eleventh and twelfth centuries, an extraordinary number of religious establishments, emanating from Rome, were planted throughout Britain; and in this period, a full complement both of regular and secular clergy was established in Moray.

In the year 1230, the Priory of Pluscarden was founded by Alexander II. and dedicated to St Andrew, under the designation of *Vallis Sti Andreæ*. The ruins of the Priory are situated five miles southwest of Elgin, in a secluded valley formed by two hills running nearly parallel to each other,—the Heldon on the north, and the Kellas hills on the south. The soil is extremely fertile, and is watered by a small stream, the Lochty, which flows eastward through the centre to join the Lossie. The perfect solitude of this glen, its sunny aspect to the south, and its sheltered position from the north, render it peculiarly suited to the purpose for which, by the discriminating taste of the first settlers, it was appropriated. After the model of all similar establishments of the time, the church, constituting the central or principal edifice, is built in the form of a cross.

The altar stood before the window of the choir, fronting the east; and there are aisles on each side, with a chapter-house of an octagonal form, supported by a central arch. In its general outline, the Priory resembles very much the Abbey of Melrose, only it is of much smaller dimensions, and less profusely or gorgeously ornamented. Indeed, there is a chaste plainness, joined to a perfect simplicity and symmetry of architecture, which produces a no less pleasing effect, though of a different kind from that celebrated ruin. The walls, though unroofed, are almost entire, and in good preservation. The centre of the church rose in the form of a square tower; the transept extended on the east side; to the south were dwellings of the brotherhood, and behind were the cloisters or covered piazzas. On the arch leading from the body of the church to the choir, are still seen the remains of paintings with which the walls were ornamented, consisting of delineations of the moon and stars, and part of a figure, supposed to be one of the apostles. From some appearances in the walls, it is evident that the original plan of the building was intended to be on a larger scale; for we find that several windows have been made of a large size, and afterwards greatly contracted, and a wide arch or gateway on the west side is entirely built up. Still, the harmonious proportions of the whole are not disturbed. The beautiful and compact sandstone of the neighbourhood has formed the materials of the building, and has, from its composition, well resisted the long continued action of the elements.

A hoary covering of lichens and mosses now imparts to the whole a soft and mellowed beauty ; and it is doubtful whether it does not now present a more light and picturesque object of contemplation than when in its entire and pristine grandeur. It is now more assimilated in character with the enduring objects of nature around, to which are added the associations which fancy never fails to throw around the relics of long forgotten ages.

The refectory or dining-room, the kitchen, dormitories, and other apartments of the monks, are in buildings to the south of the church. A small room, called the Prior's study, is also pointed out ; and the whole is surrounded by a garden and high wall. A mill, in which the remains of a wooden axle-tree were to be seen so late as twenty years ago, and the other offices connected with such an establishment, were placed on the banks of the small burn which flows past the precincts.

The monks were Cistercians, an order which, under the patronage of St Bernard, took their origin about the beginning of the eleventh century, and increased with such rapidity that they soon spread over Europe, and, before the final dissolution of the monasteries, had nearly a hundred establishments in Britain. When first instituted, their rules were exceedingly strict. With the exception of the prior and procurator, they were confined rigidly within the walls of the monastery ; and in their diet, they were restricted from flesh, fish, eggs, milk, and cheese. They were enjoined continual silence, except when at prayer ; and for this purpose they rose at mid-

night, and spent the day in labour and reading. Their dress was a white robe with a black hood, and black skull-cap for the head, and a wooden girdle around their bodies. The following inscription was generally placed over the Cistercian monasteries:—

Bonum est nos hic esse . quia homo bibit purius . cadit rarius . surgit velocius . incedit cautius . quiescit securius . moritur felicius . purgatur citius . praemiatur copiosius.

IT IS GOOD FOR US TO BE HERE, FOR MAN LIVES PURER—FALLS SELDOMER—RISES MORE QUICKLY—WALKS MORE CAUTIOUSLY—RESTS SECURER—DIES HAPPIER—IS SOONER PURIFIED, AND IS REWARDED MORE PLENTIFULLY.

At first, the Priors were under the control of the abbot, and the prior was no independent dignitary; but afterwards, these Priors established other inferior houses, or granges, and with the rule of these they also began to exercise their own independent jurisdiction. It would appear, however, that they were subject to the control of the bishop of the diocese, for, in 1345, we find the bishop asserting his right of visiting and correcting abuses in the Priory, “as had been the rule from time immemorial,” and as was the custom in the houses of the same order on the Continent.* In 1398, Prior Thomas, from age and infirmities, resigned his office, and the bishop issues a mandate to Thomas Fullon, the senior monk, for the election of a successor. After the usual form of scrutiny, Alexander, one of the brotherhood, is found duly elected, is called before the altar, and *Te Deum* is sung. These proceedings are reported to the bishop, who, after allowing a

* Regist. Morav.

certain time to elapse for any objection to be given in, declares the election confirmed.

It is singular enough, that, however influential those religionists must have been in their own day, they fill no space in the records of tradition or the page of history. Of the fame of the rude warriors and the turbulent exploits of the time we have some information, but of those monks we know nothing more than the names.* Perhaps their influence was of that nature which a barbarous age could ill appreciate, and scorned to record; yet charity compels us to suppose that the enthusiasm of those early missionaries, who left their civilized homes for the ungenial climes of barbarians, had something more sacred and elevating in its nature than the mere prospect of personal aggrandizement and selfish gratification. However much they became corrupted afterwards, we are scarcely entitled to charge the founders of such institutions with the faults of their successors.

As such institutions, too, were the means by which the records of Christianity were transmitted to the present times, through centuries of darkness and desolation, we must look upon them as the appointed, and consequently the best means fitted for such a purpose, in a country which is thus aptly described in the words of the ancient chronicler:—
“ In those days was no law in Scotland; but the great man oppressed the poor man, and the whole

* In 1345 we find as signatures to the bishop's charter, John Wyse, or Wyseman, Prior; Adam Mareschall, Subprior; William of Inverness, and Adam Young, Monks. In 1464, William, Prior, also occurs as a signature to a charter.—*Regist. Morav.*

kingdom was one den of thieves. Slaughters, robberies, fire raisings, and other crimes, went unpunished, and justice was sent into banishment beyond the kingdom's bounds."

Besides the valley of Pluscarden, part of the lands of Durris and Grange-hill belonged to the Priory, at the latter of which was erected a Grangia, or cell of monks. Old Mills, also, in the neighbourhood of Elgin, belonged to the Priory, and the Palmer Cross Bridge, on the Lossie, no doubt first obtained its name from being the place where pilgrims, or palmers, passed from one religious establishment to the other. The revenues of the Priory, as given up in the year 1563, were, according to Shaw, as follows:—

Money, (Scots)	L.525, 10s. 1½d.
Wheat,	1 chal. 1 bol. 2 firlots.
Malt, meal, and beer,	51 — 4 — 3 — 1 peck.
Oats,	5 — 15 —
Dry multures,	9 — 11 —
Salmon,	30 lasts.

Grassum, cain, customs, poultry, &c. omitted.

Deducted, anno 1563, to ilk ane of five monks, in kething and habite, silver, L.16; and to ilk ane in victual, 1 chal. 5 bolls per annum.

The following is a collated list from the Registrum Moraviense:—

Lordship of Pluscarden, L.262, 16s. 2d. money.

Baronies of Farnen and Urquhart, 31 chal. 10 bol. victual.

Fishings, besides 30 lastis intromitted with by the Sheriff of Moray, allegand him to haif the samin in feu-ferme.

Kirk of Pluscarden, L.100 and 7 chal. 11 bolls, victual.

Kirkis of Urquharde and Bellie, 28 — 10 — 1 firлот, 1 peck.

And in money, with the vicarages of the samin, but out of use of payment during this instant controversie and trouble.

Kirk of Durris and Dalcous, L.122, 0s. 8d.

Mills of Forres, 46, 13s. 4d.

4 chal. 6 bolls, victual.

The Scottish money must be reckoned at only one-twelfth of the value of our sterling coin of the same name.

It is evident from this enumeration of good things that the monks must have, at least in their later and degenerate days, laid aside the abstemious regimen and purely vegetable diet prescribed by their pious founder, St Bernard.

The Priory and the adjoining lands now belong to the Earl of Fife. About the year 1816, a partial restoration of part of the ruins was undertaken by the proprietor, and the wall enclosing the precincts was rebuilt. The ancient refectory is converted into a place of worship, and one or two of the other apartments are restored. The sides of the valley, too, which were formerly bare and unproductive, are now clothed with thriving plantations, and the whole aspect of the glen is very much improved. A few miles above the Priory, the estate of Colonel Hay of Westerton is also greatly embellished; so that the monks and priors, could they now look upon their former domain, would have little cause to regret at least recent reformations.

Of Urquhart Priory not a vestige now remains. It stood in a hollow north-east of the Church of Urquhart. It was founded and liberally endowed by David I. in 1125. The monks were of the Benedictine order from Dunfermline.

KINLOSS ABBEY.

THIS Abbey also owes its origin to the pious King David. It was founded in 1150, and confirmed in 1174 by a papal bull. The monks were Cistercians. It was amply endowed, for, besides the lands in its neighbourhood, it held farms in Inverness, Nairn, Forbes, Elgin, Banff, Aberdeen, and Berwick. The revenues, in 1561, amounted to L.1152.*

Bear and meal,	48 chal. 14 bolls, 1 firloft, 3 pecks.
Aittis (Oats),	12 —
Geiss, . . .	41
Caponis, . .	60
Poultrie, . .	124
Wedderis, . .	34

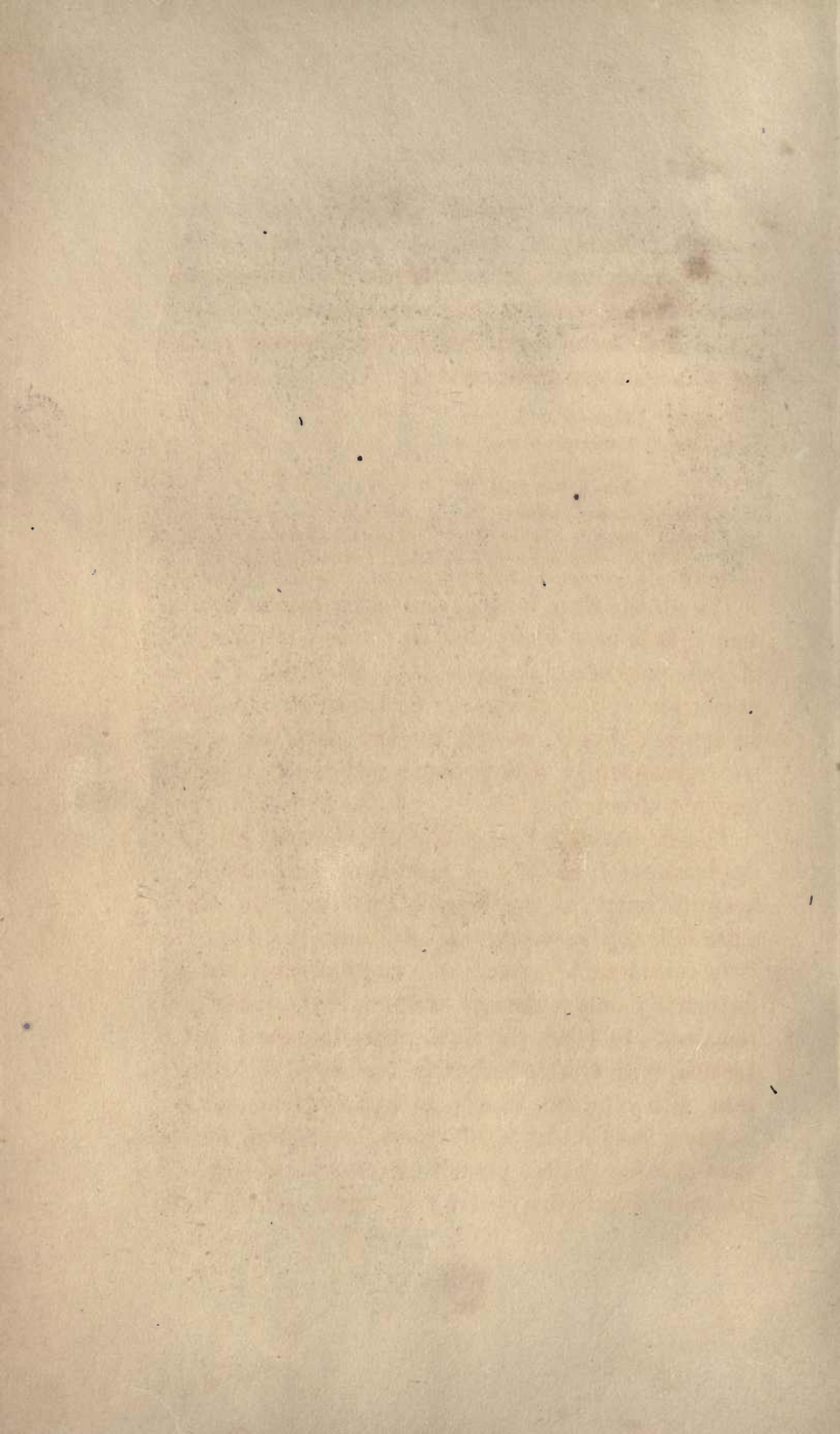
From which was deducted, to fourteen monks for habite, 50 sh. silver, per ann. to each; for fish and flesh, 10d. per day to each; for fire, butter, candle, spicery, and lentrion meat, L.12 per annum. For bread and drink, per annum, to each, 19 bolls, 1 firloft, 2 pecks, and L.40 to Mr John Ferrarius for his pension which he had under the seal of the Abbey for life.

Both here and at Pluscarden, a number of excellent fruit trees grew within the precincts. The monks

* Shaw, collated with the Registrum Moraviense.



Enloss Alley



appear to have been excellent gardeners, and to their example, probably, as well as to the influence of the warm sunny climate, does Moray owe that pre-eminence for fruit which it long maintained.

We find, from signatures in the Chartulary, the first abbot's name mentioned is,

1190	Reinero, Abbot.	
1229	Herbertus, Abbot.	
—	Symon, Prior.	
—	Robert, Sub-Prior.	
1245	Robert, Abbot.	
1464	John de Elleme, Abbot.	The other abbots whose names appear, were Adam, Andrew, Radulphus.

The abbots were mitred, and had a seat in Parliament. It is most likely that on the first introduction of religious establishments into Scotland, a great proportion of the monks, or ecclesiastics, would be foreigners; this is, indeed, evident from the names, but subsequently native names supersede those of foreign extract.

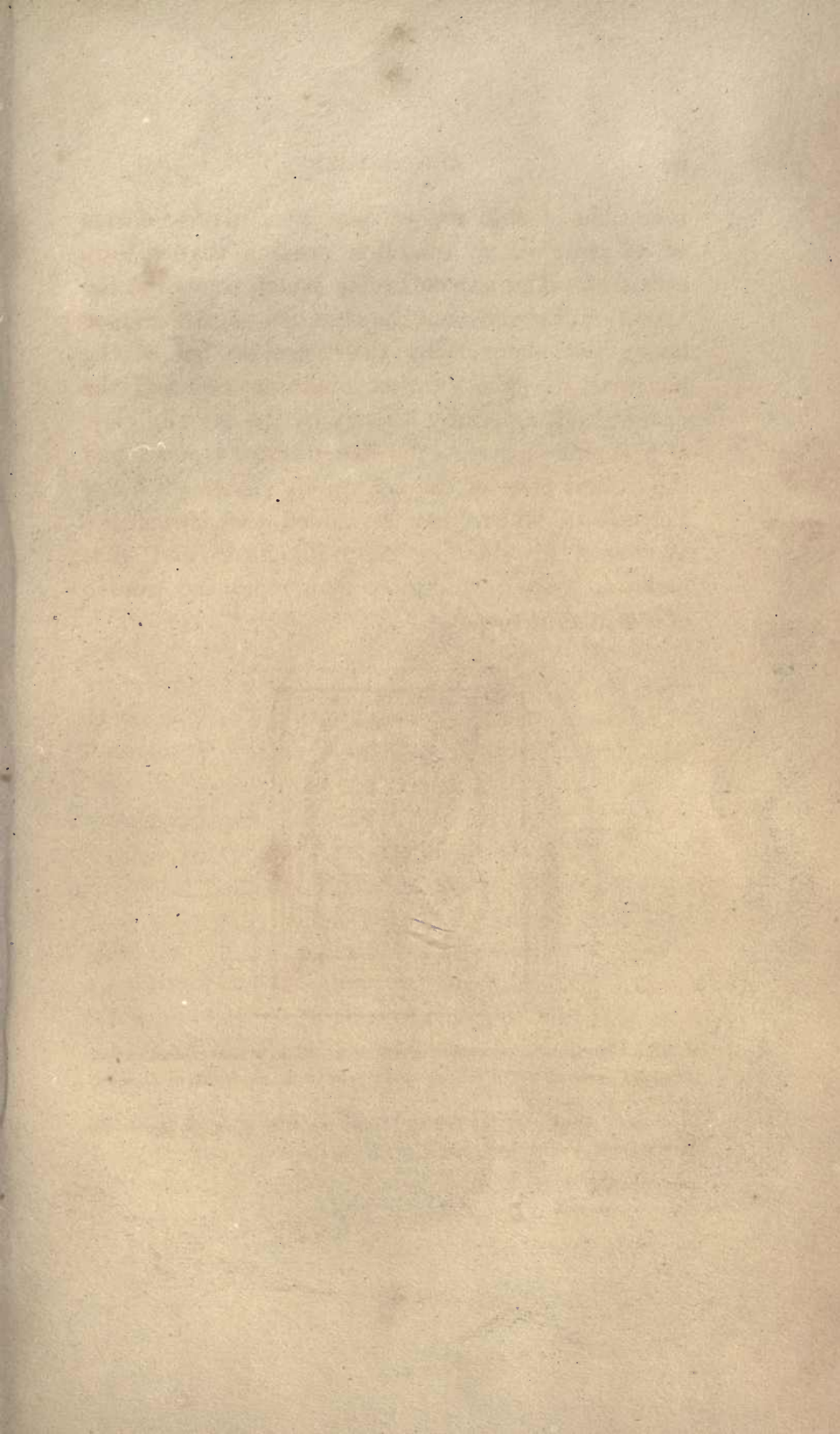
The Abbey stood on a slightly elevated plain on the borders of the bay of Findhorn, commanding a beautiful view of the Moray Frith and the Ross-shire hills to the westward. It must have been of very considerable extent and magnificence, but unfortunately only a meagre skeleton of the walls now remains. In 1650, the then proprietor, the Laird of Lethen, with Gothic barbarity, converted this stately ruin into a stone quarry to supply materials for building the Citadel of Inverness; and thus, for the sake of a few paltry pounds, deprived posterity of a pleasure which his sordid soul seems to have been

insensible of enjoying. There is no representation of its more entire condition existing that we are aware of. The accompanying sketch points out the extent of the walls and the situation of the chapter house, but every thing else must be left to the imagination. The view of Findhorn bay and the distant hills, especially if lit up by the evening glow of a summer sunset—the rich country around, and the distant peep of the beautifully situated town of Forres—to which may be added the associations awakened by standing on “dignified” and once hallowed ground, will more than repay the trouble of a visit to this spot.



This represents a curiously carved door of an oaken cabinet, which belonged to the Abbey of Kinloss, and is now in the possession of D. Alexander, Esq.

A small painting of the Nativity, from the same place, is also in the possession of Patrick Duff, Esq.





Arched Portch at Duffels

ANCIENT PORCH AT DUFFUS.

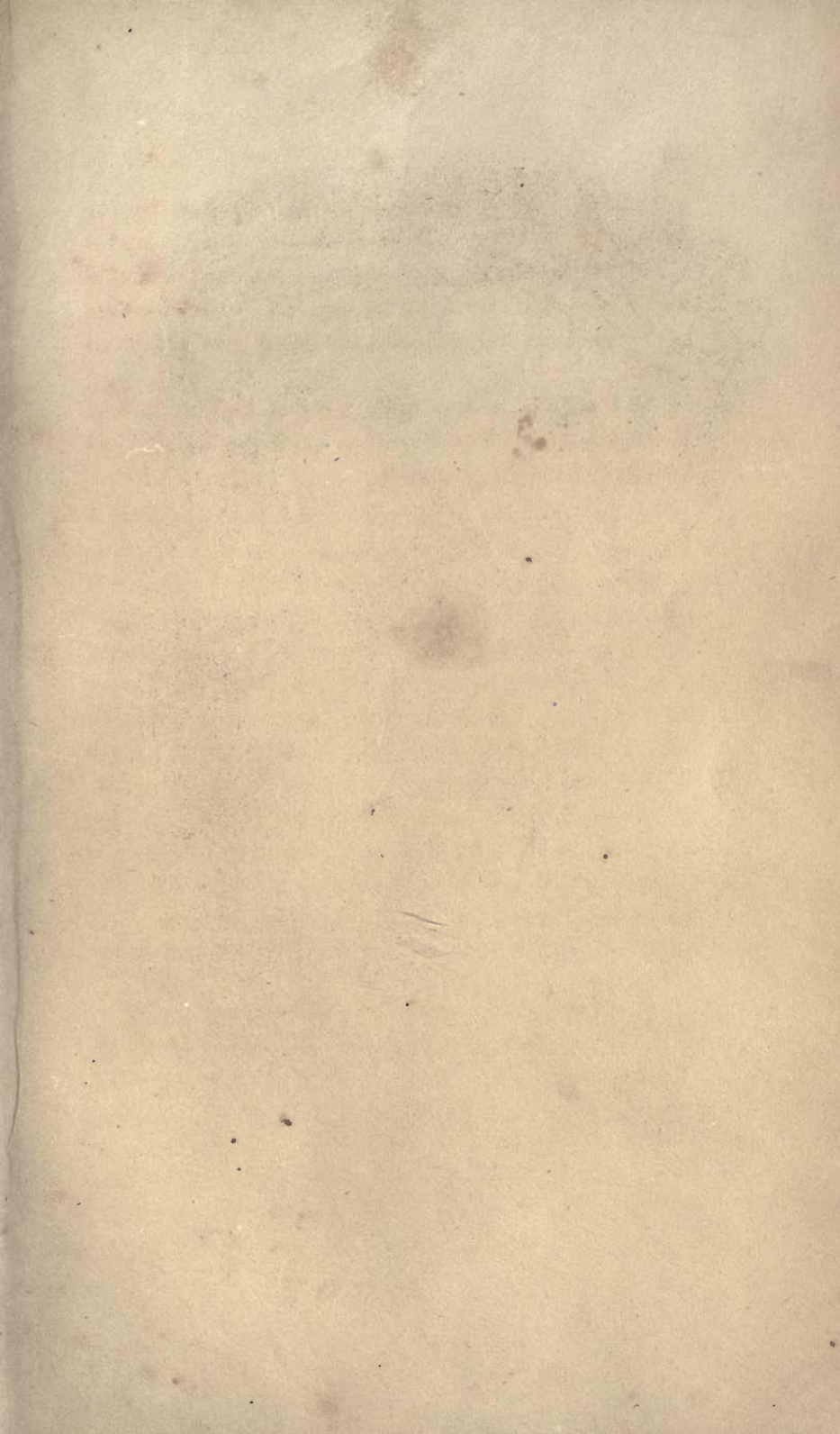
THIS beautiful fragment is probably the oldest relic of ecclesiastical architecture in the province. The arch approaches to the Saxon, an older style of the Gothic than the acute pointed arch. It may either have formed one of the aisles of the church of St Peter, which we know existed here in the 11th and 12th centuries, or it may be part of the Chapel of St Lawrence, founded by Freskinus De Moravia, one of the Lords of Duffus, and who was buried here as well as several of his ancestors. He died about the year 1269. The following annotation, on the margin of the original chartulary, states this circumstance :—

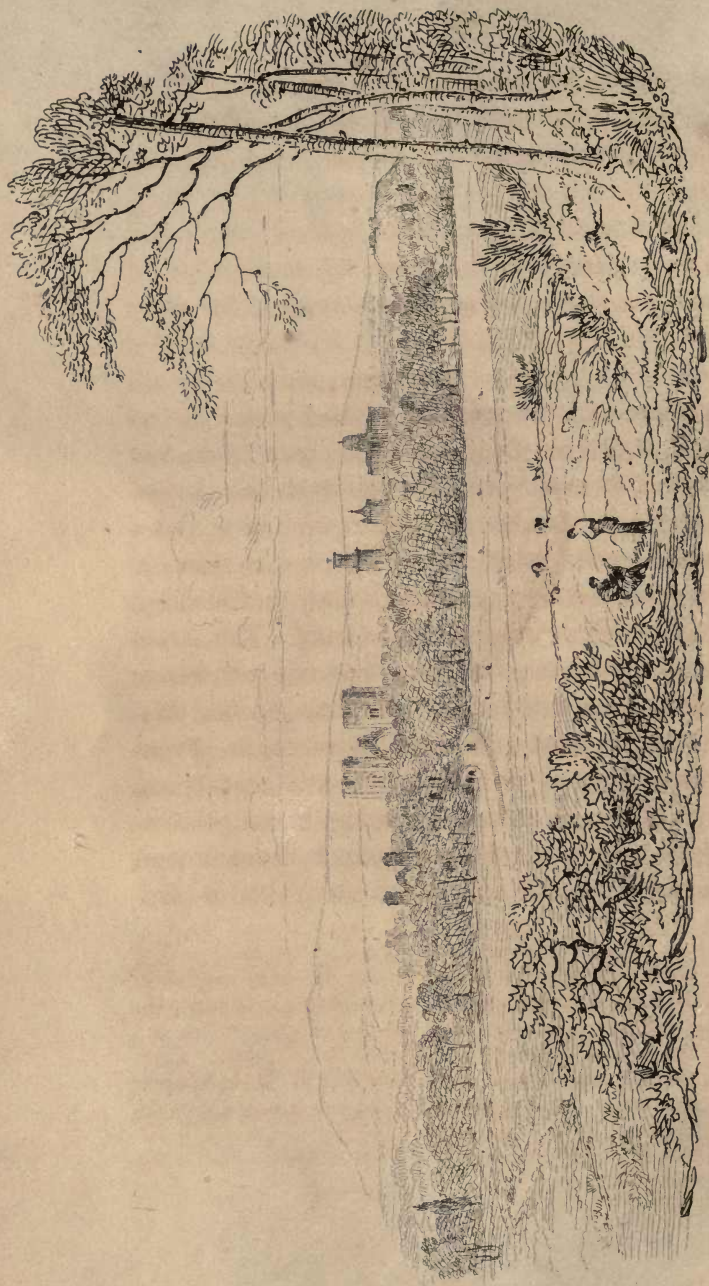
Este Freskinus sepultus est in Capella Sancti Laurentii de Duffous quam ipse fundabit et dotabit de terris suis de Dalwy, in Straspey et Duffous . Orate pro anima ejus.

This arch forms the entrance to the present church of Duffus, and is still in good preservation. A cross also, apparently of considerable antiquity, stands in front of the church. In 1209, Andrew, youngest son of William de Moravia, was parson of Duffus, and is probably the same who refused the bishoprick of Ross in 1213. The famous Bishop Andrew of Moray, who built the Cathedral, was also

parson of Duffus, previous to his election to the bishoprick in 1222. There are many ancient grave-stones in the church with inscriptions, and it is said an ancient slab, with an inscription to the memory of Freskinus, is built into the wall and plastered over.

At Unthank, a few miles west of Duffus, and at Roseisle, were chapels and cells of monks, but no vestiges of buildings remain.





Elgin from the East

ELGIN.

HISTORY and tradition are alike silent as to the origin of the town of Elgin, nor can even the derivation of its name be guessed at with any degree of plausibility.* It was a place of some note, however, in the tenth century; and afterwards, when it was chosen as the seat of the cathedral and bishop's see, it became of still more importance. The town is supposed by Shaw, on what grounds we know not, to have been situated, at a remote period, considerably to the west of where it now stands. From a rude engraving of it in the fifteenth century, it certainly appears to occupy much the same position as at present, only the Lossie seems to have flowed much nearer the north part of the town than it now

* Some have fancied it called after Helgy, a real or supposed general of the Picts. Shaw conjectures that it may be from the Saxon word *Hely*, holy, and *Dun*, a hill, or *Helgun*, by changing the *d* into *g*. In the repositories of the town, there is an old iron seal with the inscription, "Helgun." The hill on the north of Pluscarden is still called Heldun; and adjoining the town is the well known mount called Lady Hill, which may formerly have borne this name. In later times, St Giles was intrusted with the patronage of the burgh, and the arms consist of the patron saint in a pastoral habit, with book and crook; the motto, "*Sic itur ad astra*, — Such is the way to heaven."

does. At this period, the houses seem to have been generally small and low, and constructed for the most part of wood. Before this time, however, the residence of the numerous clergy connected with the cathedral, and the wealth and importance which the whole ecclesiastical establishment must have carried along with it, no doubt gave somewhat of a metropolitan attraction to the place, and drew around it the neighbouring gentry, who, along with the dignified clergy, resided in houses which, for the age, must have appeared sumptuous and luxurious. Accordingly, the burgh, at a no very remote period, presented a venerable and still aspect, not unbefitting the solemnity of its former state, where the drowsy monotony of ease and affluence had not yet given way to the stirring bustle and anxious toil of the world of trade and enterprise around. The burgh consisted of one long street of moderate width, but swelling out in the middle, to contain the church and town-house, which occupied the centre. The houses on each side were of a venerable antiquity, with high roofs covered with grey slabs, and piazzas or *fore stairs* in front, consisting of a series of arches supported by pillars, and containing a paved court within. Diverging from the main street were alleys or *closes*, occupied on each side by houses of an inferior grade. The business population of the town consisted of the usual trades or crafts for the supply of home consumpt, and of the burgesses, who were generally shop-keepers, for the retail of the neces-

saries and luxuries of life to the surrounding country.* There were no manufactories or trade in the general acceptation of the term; neither was the system of

* The following extracts from the Burgh Statutes, anno 1669, are curious, as shewing the price of labour at that period. The value of the Scottish money being one-twelfth only of the sterling money of the present time.

Item, the meason of the best sort is to have ane mark daylie for meat and fie, or half an mark with meat; ane meason of the second sort is to have eight shillings for meat and fie, or four shillings and meat daylie.

Item, an barrowman is to have sax shillings and aught pennies for meat and fie, or the half with meat daylie.

Ane thewkour of houss with bent straw or brakens, ten shillings for fie and meat, or the half with meat daylie.

Item, a talzeor of the best, 8s. for meat and fie daylie, or the half and meat. Do. the second sort, 2s. 8d.; and for making one stand of servant's clothes, 10s.; and talzeor to take but ane servant to ane man's hous except they be requirit.

Item, ane wobstar shall have for his wob as follows, viz. for small linen at 20s. the ell, 2s. and one peck to the score. For broad linen at 14s. the ell, 16 pence, and an peck to the score. For $\frac{3}{4}$ broad linen, best, 8 pennis, and 1 peck to the score. For 500 yarn, 8 pennis the ell, and 1 peck to the score. For round narrow cloth, 6 pennis the ell, and do. Gray cloth, 8 pennis. Tweedling, 8 pennis. Tiking, 2s. the ell. Tartan quheel plaids, 20s. and ane peck of the best meall. Best stuffs, 16 pennis the ell. For all sorts of plaids and roch plaids, 6 pennis.

Item, the pund of sufficient candill, 4s. the pund.

The load of dung, 4 pennis. Draff, 4 pennis the peck.

Item, that all the inhabitants within this burgh clenge the calsay before their yeatts, and remove all dung-hills every last day of the week, under the pain of fyve pennis money.

Workmen to have ane groat and ane chappin of ale for wages per day.

Item, no swyne to be kept in Elgin, except in houss.

It is statute and ordained that the best man-servant have twentie-two elns of grais, 3 pairs of shoes, and 6 pund of fie. Second servants, 6 quarters of grais, 2 pr. shoes, 4 pund fie.

Third that sall ca' the pleuch, or work ane horss, ane elne of gray, ane pair of shoes, 4 punds money.

The best woman-servant that can bake, brew, mill, killn, 40s. of fie, 3 eln of country cloath, or 40s. and 2 pair single-soled showne.—*Forres Gazette*.

In this list, the number of trades seems very few. We have no mention of shoemakers, though shoes are alluded to. In another place, we find they

shop-keeping brought to the degree of perfection to which it is now carried. There was scarcely any sub-division of business into the "hard and the soft line," and little art practised to please the eye or catch the attention of the passing customer. A mass of miscellaneous articles were huddled together in a small dark shop or cellar, of various qualities, for various purposes, and from every region of the globe. Country purchasers did not always pay hard cash, because the circulating medium was not then so much in fashion; but a species of barter added still more to the heterogeneous compounds of the warehouse. There was not that incessant current of purchasers to keep the merchant "booing" behind his counter as in the present day, nor had the true art of "shopping," or teasing over the whole contents of the haberdasher's shelves, yet entered into the fashionable amusements of the fair sex. A shopman then, quite unceremoniously, and trusting to the perfect honesty of the place, thought nothing of leaving his "half-door upon the bar," while he went for an hour or so to breakfast or dinner, or perhaps took a stroll with a neighbour for a summer's after-

had to send to Coupar, and give 40s. to James Robertson there, "for making of ye town's sweche." We also find Adam Gordon from Turiff coming to mount the church bell, which had been there cast anew, and Thomas Duff is sent to Findhorn "for ye tre to be an stock to the bell,"—a proof of the scarcity of proper wood in the neighbourhood.

As the wants of the community were multiplied, however, trades increased also. In later times, a brass-founder established himself in Elgin, who was called, *par excellence*, "The Founder." He was a celebrated sporting character, and was as choice in his terriers and bull dogs as Dandy Dinmont.

noon into the fields, or took his angle or "scantacks" to the river side. On great fairs or "market days," however, which took place two or three times a-year, an influx of people from every part of the country round for ten or twenty miles, made up to the shop-keeper many a solitary, saleless day during the year. At these fairs, the wages of the term were spent, and all the accumulated wants of the country people for many months were provided for by their accumulated savings. These fairs were also days of festivity—were anticipated periods for the meeting of friends, and sometimes of foes; and love and war not unfrequently divided the revelries.

The street was paved with an ancient causeway, which tradition reports to have been the work of Cromwell's soldiers, but it was most likely many centuries older. It rose high in the middle, and "the crown of the causeway" was distinguished by a row of huge stones, while those of lesser dimensions occupied the sloping sides. The drains ran along the street, and the "common gutter" crossed it at right angles. After heavy rains, this gutter not unfrequently swelled into an unpassable torrent. There was no side pavement until the munificence of Lord Fife, in 1821, introduced this improvement. The county roads, before the commencement of the present century, were not much to boast of. There was a tolerable post road leading from the south to Inverness, and running on the south side of Quarrywood, by Old Mills Bridge. The first mail coach started in the north was in 1812, and the blast of

its horn as it entered the town of Elgin with a couple of horses, and a guard with the royal livery, excited no small interest among the inhabitants, and was hailed as the harbinger of a new era. Previous to this, the mails had been carried, slung behind a post-boy in two leather bags, which galled the flanks of a miserable skeleton of a hack. So little punctuality was required or expected, that a common amusement of the boys was to go out some miles and meet the post to get a ride; and frequently before mounting, a game of marbles was indulged in, while the animal took breathing and a pick of grass in the wood. An aged letter-carrier used to relate, that in his earlier days, he has seen the south mail arrive in Elgin frequently with only two letters—one was to a merchant or banker, we forget which, the other was to a lawyer.

The burgesses appear early to have been impressed with the importance of education, and from the subjoined document of 1566,* it will be seen that they

* “ *Contract betwixt the Magistrates and Town Council of Elgin and the Master of the Grammar School, 1566.* ”

“ At Elgin, ye tent day of September, ye zeir off God, m.v.c. sixty-six zeirs. It is appointit, contractit, finalie endit, and agreit, betwix ye parties following, viz. ye provost, balzies, and consall, in name off themselves, and for ye rest of ye communitie of ye burt of Elgin, on ye tane part, and Maister Patrick Balfour, sone to umqll Patrick Balfour of Oldmyll, somtyme student in Santtandrows, on ye uthter pt. in maner, forme, and effectt, as efter foloies. That is to say, ye said Master Patrick Balfour is become saythfullie obliet lyk as he be ye tenor heirop, saythfullie obleisses him to teche, instruct, and learn ye bairns, burgesses’ sonnes, and uthers inhabitants sonnes wtin yis burt off Elgin. and uthers gentillmenis bairns off ye countrie yat pleisses to

entered into an agreement with "Maister Patrick Balfour, son to the umquhill Patrick Balfour of Oldmylls, and some tyme student in Santtandrows," to teach within the grammar school, grammar, oratory, poetry, civil manners, rhetoric, and as "need sall requir," Greek, Hebrew, philosophy, and logic! for the sum of ten pounds yearly and his "meit honestly" in the houses of the subscribers alternately during the year. The "grammar schule" was an

send them to yis burt wtin ye grammer scuill yrof, sufficientlie in grammer, oratorie, and poetrie, civil manneris, rhetoric, and as neid sall requir, and yai cummand to perfectioun, sall reid and teiche Greik and Ebrew, philosophie, and logik, and yat for ye space off thrie zeirs nixt followand ye feist off Mertinmess, ye zeir of God forsaid, and to continue and induir in teching reiding, instructing, and upbringing off ye saidis bairns in ye artis above wrettin, so far as yay, or ony of them, are abill to ressaive, and sall entier in ye said scuill daylie, at sex hors, and remain techand ye saidis bairns qll nyne hors, and fra ten hors till twelf hors, and fra ane afrnowne till sex hors at ewin, and gair ye bairns, ilk Sonday, and uther festual tymes appointed be ye Kirk, to be present at ye sermone and afrnowne's prayris, being instructit in ye Catechess for making ansr. to ye minister yt. prechis of ye said Catechess; and ye said Master Patrick sall uss nor accept na burden of ministerie, nor ony uther occupation upon him induring ye said space, bot only to await upon ye said grammer scuill, teching and instructing ye saids bairns, and his awin studies yranent; for ye qlk ye saids provost, balzies, and consall, obliesses them, and their successors, to content and pay to ye said Mastr Patrick Balfour ye sowm of ten pundis, usuall money of Scotland, for his fie, together with his meit honestly as effeirs in yir personis howssis following, viz. — Master Alex. Douglass, Johne Annand, Wm. Gatherar, Wm. Hay, Alex. Winchester, minister, Thomas Umfra, and Alex. Gothary, ane day in the week in ilk ane off ye saids person's housses, and swa wekleie for the space of ane zeir, in witness of ye qlks, both ye saids parties hes subscryvit yis present contract with yair hands, day, zeir, and place forsaid, before these witnesses, — Sir William Douglas, scribe of consistorie, and Jhon Cupar, indwellar wtin ye College off ye Cathedrall Kirk of Murray, and George Dowglass, student in Elgin, wt. uthers divers.

JOHN ANNAND, Pvost of Elgin, wt. my hand ssr.

Maister PATRICK BALFOUR, wt. my hand."

old building at the head of the Moss Wynd. In winter, a fire was kept up in the school by each pupil bringing a peat from home, which contribution was each morning thrown into the common stock. If any one omitted to bring his peat, he was banished from the fire for that day; and to negligent and forgetful youths the carts of the *fudders*, or peat-sellers, from the country, which passed the place twice a-week, afforded a never-failing resource, from whence their ingenuity contrived to extract an abundant supply. The long switch tails of the Highland horses, too, especially if they were of a grey colour, suffered considerable damage from the demand of horse hair, for fishing tackle, amongst those students of "philosophy, logic, and rhetoric." Our limits will not permit us to enter into the juvenile pursuits and amusements of the period. One practice, however, characteristic of rude times, and now happily quite unknown, may be alluded to. Previous to the "har'st play," a regular cockfight was exhibited in the school, by turning the school-room into a cockpit. For months before, the training and collecting of cocks from all parts of the country was the principal occupation of the boys. Two of their number were elected as chiefs, under whom the others were ranged either by ballot or selection. On the day of fight, whichever side was victorious, claimed for their chief the title of king. He was regularly crowned, a Latin song was chanted on the occasion, a procession and "treat" at his majesty's expense took place, and for a certain time afterwards

he could exercise the royal prerogative of pardoning criminals in the school.*

To this "grammar school," at a subsequent period, was added a "sang school," or rather the multifarious labours of "Maister Patrick Balfour" were confined to the learned languages, and another teacher appointed for English, church music, &c. Finally, about 1800, a new academy was erected, in an open situation, to the south of the town, and several masters appointed for the various branches of modern education. Under a succession of able teachers, this academy has become a celebrated resort of pupils from various parts of the country.

* Pryce Gordon, in his amusing Memoirs, gives an account of these cock-fights, which were common throughout all the parish schools of the northern districts; and also gives part of a Latin chant or ode recited on the occasion. We have been enabled, from a very rare volume, to subjoin a correct copy of the whole of this classical effusion.

Gallus gallinaceus
Est animal insigne,
Qui sæpe præstat homini
Officium benigne.
E lecto vocat desides,
Vix oriente sole,
Et facit, ut gallina sit
Fœcunda mater prole.

Tum miles pugnat acriter,
Calcaria indutus;
Nec cessat donec hostis sit
Prostratus,—ipse tutus.
Hinc discant fortitudinem
Juventus, cum labore,
Et quando bene rem geret
Si non juventæ flore?

TRANSLATION.

Among the various kinds of birds,
The cock 's a noble creature;
Who services to man performs
Of very useful nature.
He rouses sluggards from their beds
Before the sun be shining,
And makes hens fruitful, that the race
Is never found declining.

With beak, with talons, and with spurs,
The cock is bravely arméd;
Which makes him fitted so for fight,
He 's never wrong alarméd.
This should excite our hopeful youth
To industry and courage;
And when will they behave aright,
If not when in their flower-age?

ROBERTUS BLAU.

EDINBURGH, 1696.

ST GILES CHURCH.

THE Muckle Kirk of Elgin has now no longer a local habitation, except in the accompanying sketches, and in the memories of those of the passing generation. It occupied the site of the present church, and must have stood there for several centuries. The exact period when the original St Giles was built is not upon record. It is early mentioned as a parsonage church, and was under the bishop's pastoral charge when the cathedral was in its glory.

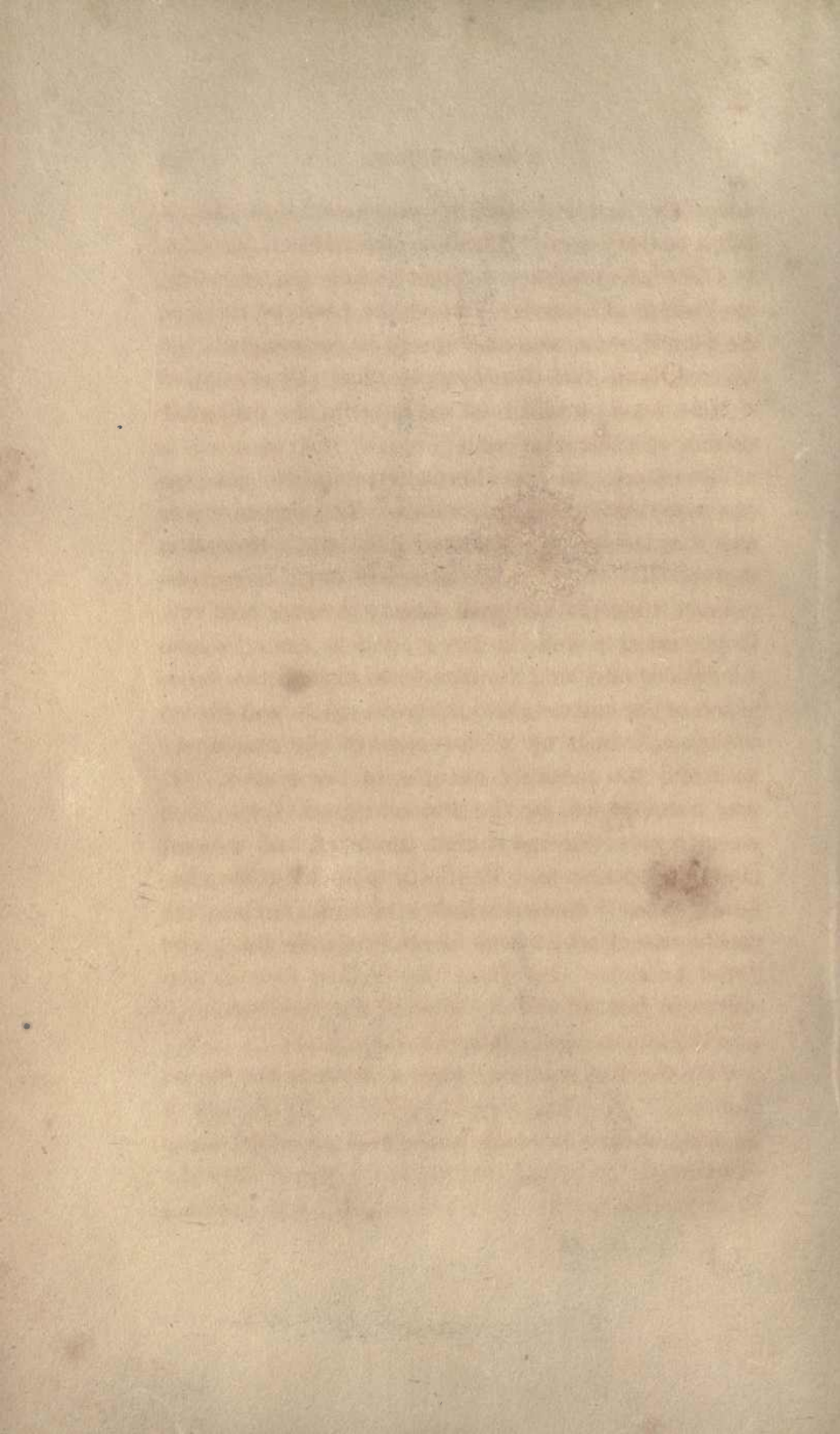
It stood upon two rows of massive pillars, with pointed Gothic arches between. The roof was vaulted, and covered with heavy hewn stone instead of slate. On Sunday, 22d June, 1679, after the congregation had left the church from the forenoon service, the roof fell in, and the whole fabric was destroyed, with the exception of the pillars and the central arched tower. The rebuilding was completed in 1684. In rebuilding the church, a considerable addition seems to have been made to the original body, by adding on each side two long aisles. The "Little Kirk," where service was performed on week-days, was joined to the eastern



St Giles East view



St Giles West view



side of the middle tower, but was pulled down about half a century ago. After the Reformation, in 1573, St Giles was used as an Episcopal church, in which the bishops officiated. During the troubled times of the Charleses, it was alternately in possession of the Episcopalians and Presbyterians, till the revolution of 1688 finally established the latter in the peaceable exercise of their religion.

The exterior of the church certainly did not possess many architectural beauties. The central tower was a square heavy mass, and its abrupt termination shewed that the original intention must have been to erect a steeple, but such dignity it never received. It possessed a bell, however, and a clock, whose dimensions and long familiar tones excited the veneration of the natives ; and in the dial plate was placed the moon, which by a movement of the machinery indicated the monthly changes of her phases. It was accompanied by the sun and stars also. The western aspect of the church, however, had a more graceful appearance. The lofty pointed gable contained a fine Venetian window of three arches, the middle one of which was fifteen feet in height. The grand entrance was from the Gothic door in the centre, in front of which extended the "plainstones," a paved square of considerable magnitude.

"At the Reformation," says a writer in the *Forres Gazette*, "the altars of the trades' incorporations in St Giles Kirk (for each trade had an altar) were overturned, and the house decently seated after the Presbyterian fashion, still keeping in view the idea

of each craft occupying a place by itself. Hence arose the trades' lofts, probably above the sites of their altars ; every vestige, however, of the old system was overturned and remodelled, and the bells did not escape the general reformation.* They had been, indeed, great transgressors—for centuries they had summoned the people to the idolatrous sacrifice of the mass, and were thereby polluted, and it was necessary that they should undergo a process of purification. Accordingly, two or more of them were sent to Turiff, in 1589, to be recast into *one* solid, sound, Presbyterian bell.

“This new bell was hung in the kirk steeple, where it continued till 1713, when it was rent by a woman striking it violently with a heavy key, for the purpose of arousing the inhabitants to quench a fire which had broken out in the town during the night. It was again recast, August 17, 1713, at the head of Bailie Forsyth's Close, by Albert Gely, founder in Aberdeen, the expenses being again defrayed by the town. It is said that numbers of the rich inhabitants of Elgin repaired to the founding place, and cast in guineas, crowns, half-crowns, and

* “It would appear that the ‘Prayer Bell,’ commonly called the minister's bell, has come scatheless through this trying time. The inscription around it, ‘Thomas de Dunbar, me Fecit, 1402,’ tells that it is an ancient,—the only relic (save and except the Ronald bell of Birnie) of the former dispensation. This venerable piece of metal was given to the town of Elgin, by the Earl of Murray, four hundred and thirty-five years ago. It has, with equal fidelity, lifted its sonorous voice in behalf of Papists, Presbyterians, and Episcopalians ; and has rejoiced at the success of Royalists and Round-heads, Whigs and Tories, as well as sounded forth the requiem of eighteen sovereigns during that period.”

the poorer people shillings and sixpences, during the time the metal was melting, which contributed, in no small degree, to enrich its sound as well as its substance. It was again elevated to its former place in the kirk steeple, and used on all solemn and joyful occasions, till it fell a victim to excessive loyalty — the boys having over-rung and rent it on the king's birth day, June 4, 1785. It was taken down, and refounded at London, on the 17th October following, having the names of the then magistrates cast on its body ; the charges were, of course, defrayed by the town. This is the history of the '*Big Bell*' for a period of two hundred and fifty years."

But the interior of the church possessed all the dignified grandeur which was wanting in its outward aspect. Two rows of massive stone pillars, terminating in high Gothic arches, ran along each side, and supported the lofty arched roof. The length of the church was eighty feet, and its breadth sixty. The pulpit was of oak, curiously carved and massive, as were the principal galleries and seats. Four brass chandeliers, of antique workmanship, and each containing twelve sockets, hung from the roof by a chain of twisted iron. Some old escutcheons and gilded memorials of bequeathments to the poor hung from the walls, and in the aisles were a few monuments of departed worthies. The interior was of ample dimensions, and was capable of containing about two thousand persons. Besides a gallery or "loft" for the magistrates, there were others

placed round for the burgesses, and one for each of the trades. Here, for many generations, the rich and the poor had been accustomed to bow before their Maker, and the young imbibed those feelings and associations which accompanied them through life. On the solemn festivals of the Church, no scene could be more imposing, or more pregnant with reverential awe, than to see every corner of this pile crowded with a great multitude, who came up from every part of the country round. And the young will not readily forget the evening devotions of those sacred times, when every corner of this huge fabric was lit up with the flickering lights, which waved and fluttered with the breath of innumerable voices joining in the hymn of praise.

To every native of Elgin, the Muckle Kirk was an object of reverence; to those at a distance, it always called up pleasing recollections, and a general feeling of dismay was experienced when it was determined to sweep it utterly away. It seems, symptoms of decay began to manifest themselves in the roof, and probably another accident like that of 1679 was dreaded. Yet the pillars and walls were strong as rocks, and, no doubt, would have outlasted as many more centuries as they had seen. On this consideration, and wisely reflecting that a place of worship with so many hallowed recollections should not if possible be rashly changed, many wished that a repair or reconstruction should have been attempted; but it was decided otherwise, and means were taken for the erection of the present elegant structure in

its stead. The contract for building the new church was executed in 1826, and the old fabric was then pulled down. The new church cost £ 8,700, and was opened for public worship in October, 1828. It is seated for about two thousand persons, and the sittings are divided among the heritors. The expense of rebuilding the old church in 1684 cost £ 4,003 Scots. The oaken pulpit, which is now placed in the church of the Priory at Pluscarden, cost £ 244.

As an appropriate accompaniment to this sketch of the Muckle Kirk, we add the following admirable poetic description by Mr Hay. It forms one of the annual effusions with which he treats the Edinburgh Morayshire Society in his capacity of their Laureate :

I.

The subject of my song
 I quickly will you shew, sir ;
 It is the Muckle Kirk,
 Some twenty years ago, sir.
 Thus future times shall know
 What a glorious Kirk we had, sir,
 And Moray loons may learn
 How pious were their dads, sir.
Chorus.—Oh, the Muckle Kirk,
 The Elgin Muckle Kirk, sir ;
 Nae sic Kirks are noo,
 Nae sic mason work, sir.

II.

'Tis Sunday, and the bells
 Are summoning the people,
 And Parkey's peeping o'er,
 Wi' his bonnet frae the steeple,
 To ring the person in
 O' the parson, in his gown, sir,
 Wi' his sermon in his pouch,
 Who is jogging down the town, sir.

III.

But hark ! the Bailies come,
 Wi' their officers before them ;
 Proud, could they now look up,
 Would the mithers be that bore them.
 And having reach'd the door,
 Wi' their halberts form a sentry,
 And while the Bailies pass,
 Stand booing at the entry.

IV.

See college Captain Duff,
 Like a gentleman, draws near, sir,
 Wi' a large flower in his breast,
 Which he has throughout the year, sir.
 Feel Robie runs about
 Wi' his fingers in his mouth, sir ;
 And the folks are pouring in
 Frae the east, west, north, and south, sir.

V.

And now the Trades draw near,
 Wi' order and decorum,
 And proud as Bubly-Jocks,
 Their Deacons strut before 'em ;
 Their glory is so great,
 Oh, let flesh and blood forgi'e them ;
 And as the folks gang in,
 So let us enter wi' them.

VI.

See those long-withdrawing aisles,
 And that carving rich and rare ;
 See many a cosey nook
 Fit for slumber or for prayer ;
 And the gifts of pious men
 Full many a board declares,
 Who mortified their cash,
 To mortify their heirs. *

VII.

The Bailies now behold
 In a' their crimson state, sir,
 Who next the pulpit sit,
 In honour very great, sir ;

* These boards are still preserved, on which donations to the poor, and the names of the donors are blazoned in gilt letters. Copies of those are inscribed on oaken boards built into the wall of the vestibule of the new church.

Shooting terrour from their eyes
 On all rogues whom they can see :—
 A protection and a praise
 To loons like you and me.

VIII.

The Sutors next you see,
 Who this maxim ne'er forget, sir,—
 " Leather winna work
 Except it first be wet, sir."
 All human flesh is grass,
 And all grass maun ha'e a steepin ;
 Last night they were sae fou,
 That the whole o' them are sleepin.

IX.

Good Deacon Laing, my friend,
 Forbear to wake John Lamb, sir,
 He's off to the Land of Nod,
 To sleep wi' Abraham, sir.
 Poor chieils! their soles are sound,
 Though their heads be hard as pewter ;
 And their last they ne'er forget,
 " *Ultra crepidam ne Sutor.*"

X.

Next come we to the Smiths,
 Whose skins no wash could scour, sir ;
 Like niggers did they grin,
 Like tiggers did they glower, sir.
 Behind them was a place
 Remote from all decorum,
 A lounge for loons like me,
 Our *Sanctissimum Sanctorum*.

XI.

There often have I drawn
 Poetic inspiration ;
 There frown'd the Cutty Stool,
 That throne of fornication ;
 There Scavey often scowl'd,
 And called us Pagan vermin,
 There often bann'd our eyes,
 And bid us mind the sermon.

XII.

The Glovers, though but two,
 Were each worthy of the other ;
 James Elder was the one,
 Rob Blancher was his brother.
 Great men renowned for fat,
 The most weighty in the nation,
 They made, though only two,
 A most solid corporation.

XIII.

The Tailors, where are they ?
 Those fractionals of men, sir.
 Look forward and behold
 Yon gruesome looking den, sir ;
 There the weavers and the Snips,
 Like owls that love the night,
 Or like clippings or like thrums,
 Are huddled out of sight.

XIV.

See the Carpenters aloft,
 Like eagles proudly soaring ;
 Hear the thunder of their beaks,
 For most of them are snoring.
 Ye sinful wicked Wrights
 Why slumber ye and sleep ?
 When your Minister 's below
 'Mong the wonders of the deep.

XV.

But who is she that sings
 In rapture upward borne, sir ?
 Who tosses round her head
 Like a filly at her corn, sir ?
 'Tis Madame Sinclair sure,
 What skylarking and what shaking,
 Like Precentor Rust,* she sets
 The very ghosts a-quaking.

* At what time Mr Rust flourished, history is silent ; but that he did flourish as one of the most powerful and strong-lunged Precentors that ever conducted the Psalmody of the Muckle or any other Kirk, is a fact, the truth of which no one can doubt who ever heard old Saunders Fraser's account of him. His tombstone may still be seen, on which is inscribed an epitaph in verse. We remember only a single stanza, and one line :

“ The famous Rust is gone from us,
 And mingled into dust :
 But now 'tis hoped his soul 's above,
 Among the spirits just.
 In vocal music he excelled——”

XVI.

Are prayers * still offer'd up
 For Katherine M'Craw, sir,
 Amelia Munro,
 Janet Dunbar, *et cetera*, sir ?
 If prayers avail the dead,
 Then these women did not lose them,
 Long after they had gone,
 In peace, to Abr'am's bosom.

XVII.

Say, Parkey, for I wot
 Full often you could tell, sir,
 What scenes you've seen at night,
 When you went to ring the bell, sir.
 Strange sounds, and stranger sights,
 That might set the soul a-hobblin
 Of any mortal man
 Not used to ghost or goblin.

XVIII.

When sheeted ghosts were seen
 Each on his coffin sitting,
 And a dim unearthly light
 Alang the kirk was flitting ;
 While in the pulpit stood
 A ghostly parson, giving
 A sermon—just as good
 As *we* get frae the living.
Chorus.—Gone is the Muckle Kirk,
 The Elgin Muckle Kirk, sir ;
 Nae sic Kirks are noo,
 Nae sic mason-work, sir.

We would request of our friend, John Shanks, F.A.S.E. to send us the whole of the inscription. He will find the tombstone lying about six or eight yards from the south-east corner of the Gordon family's tomb. The stone lies flat on the ground, much covered with moss, and the words of the inscription it is very difficult to decipher, as they are arranged, not in lines, but encircle the stone, without stop or pause.

* We know that the good folks of Elgin have a genuine true-blue Presbyterian contempt for the Scarlet Limmer of the Seven Hills, and all the heresies of which she has been the most productive mother. Yet, though they abhor the doctrine of purgatory, they did, for many years after the worthies mentioned in the text had gone the way of all the earth, pray for them with their usual fervency of devotion. We know not if the thing have yet fallen into disuse.

[We believe these prayers were requested with a double view, of spiritual and temporal benefit to the objects of them. Hence, when a little temporal aid was necessary for a poor person, the precentor was requested to call the name over every Sunday, with a good loud voice.]—ED.

THE JAIL AND COURT HOUSE.

FROM an entry in the burgh records, the Jail appears to have been built in 1605, for under this date we have "The Tolbooth biggit wt stanes frae ye kirk yard dyke, and sclaited wt stanes frae Dolass." It would appear as if the previous Tolbooth had been of wood and thatched; for an entry a little before in the same record stands, "Item, £3, 6s. 8d. for fog, to theck the Tolbooth."*

* We subjoin the first entry in the oldest book in the town's possession.

"The heid Burrow court of Elgin, halden wtin ye Tolbuith of ye samyn, be Jon Zoung, eldar Provost, Wm. Gaderar, Zounger, and Wm. Robertson, Bailzies of ye samyn, ye four day of october, in ye zeir of God, jay v.c. and forty zeirs (1540.) The suittis callit ye court Lauchfulle affirmit.

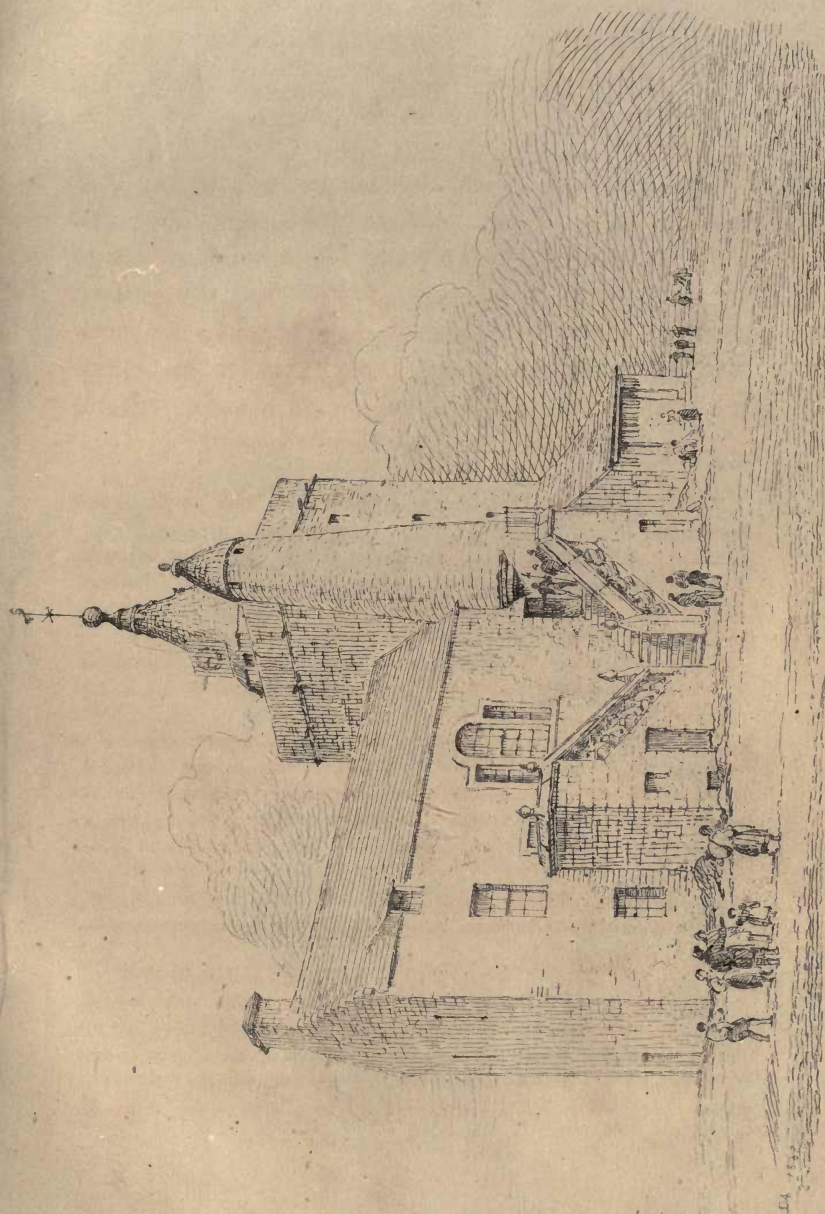
"The quhilk day, David Hardy, wt ye consent of ye haille communitie, wes creat and sworne frieman of yis Burgh, and maid aythe as use is, and sall pay ane stane wax to ye next Zoull wake."

The quhilk day Margaret Balfour, wis fined in ane amerciament for ye wrangness defaming of Johne Murray, Cathaness man, sayand he theifed, wt utyrs injurious words; and, in lyikwis, for wrangus halding of 20s. fro' ye said Johne, as dett, for ye quhilk injurious words, sche was decernit to restore ye said Johne to his guid fame and offer ane pund of wax to SAINT GELISS wake.

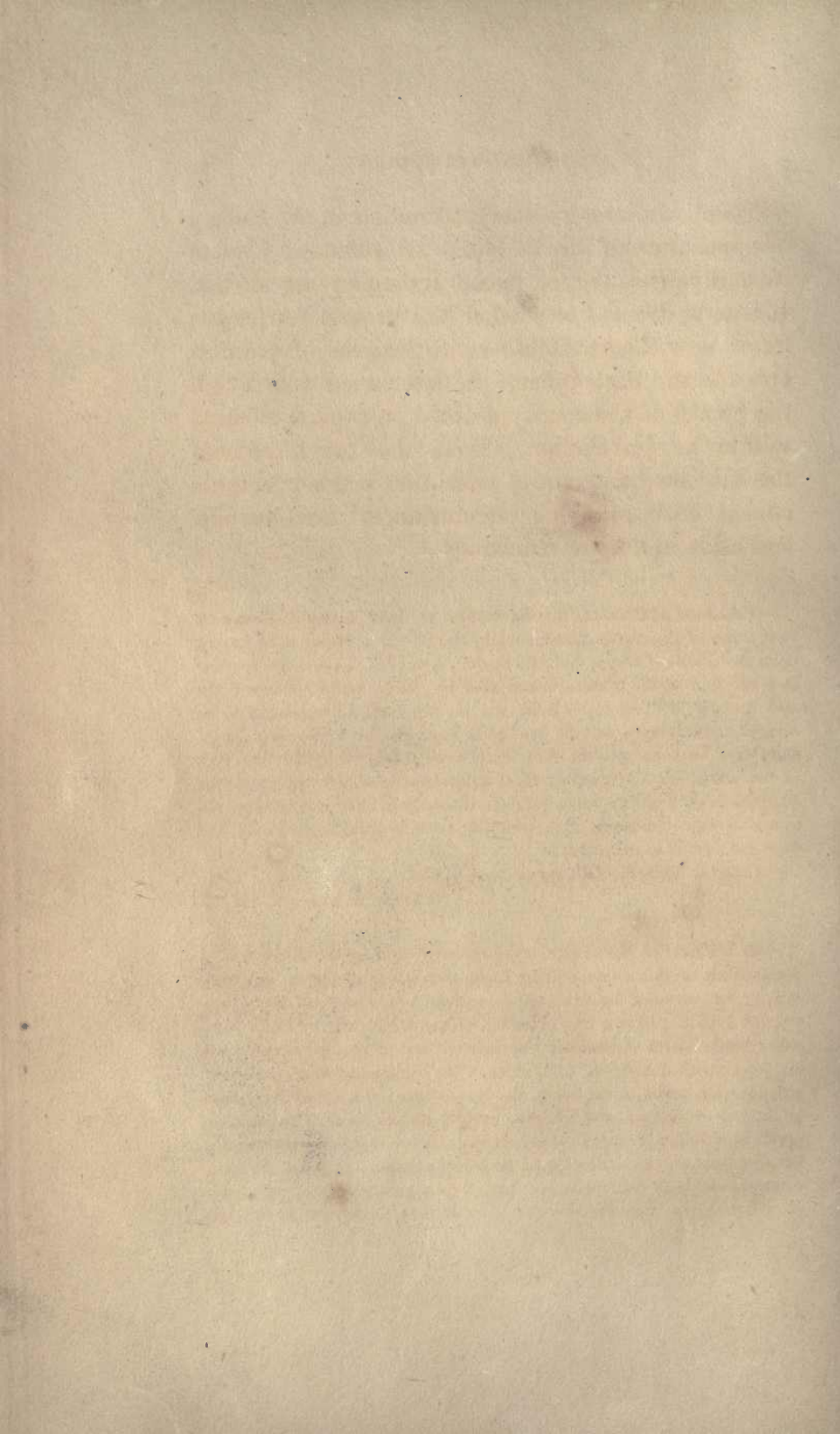
The quhilk day, William Gaderar, eldar, was electit, and chosin ALDERMAN, for ane zeir, next to come, and sworne to execute ye samyn trewlie, during ye said space.

"25th day of Merche, (1541.)

"The quhilk day ye assise deliverit, yt Augness Haynie wrangit in ye away passand vi. dais fra Isobell Dowglass service, sche beand her feit servant; and, also, yt ye said Augness wrangit in ye drawing of ye said Isbell Douglas hair, and striking of her, and sall aske ye said Isbell's forgiveness, and stand in ye iron collar quhill iij. howris efter nowne, and dome giffen yrupon."



Elgin Jail



There is nothing remarkable either in the history or appearance of this building. A sufficient idea of its outline is conveyed in the accompanying sketch. It is now doomed to cumber the ground no longer, for a new Court House is in progress of erection opposite the Post Office. So late as the year 1713, the Sheriff of the county decided on capital offences within his jurisdiction. From the burgh records the subjoined warrant of execution is taken, accompanied with revolting circumstances now happily laid aside in a more refined age.*

* “ Andrew M’Pherson, for the murder of John Gatherer, farmer at Netherbyre of Pluscarden, condemned by the Sheriff of Moray to be hanged upon the Gibbet of Elgin, this 24th day of June, 1713, betwixt the hours of two and four in the afternoon, and after his death, by this sentence, the said Andrew M’Pherson, his head and his two arms are appointed to be severed from his body, and the head to be put upon the Tolbooth of Elgin, and one of his arms upon the West Port, and the other upon the East Port of the said burgh. Wherefore, these do authorize and give warrand to the Magistrates of Elgin, to cause putt the foresaid sentence in execution, and to see the same punctually done, according to the tenor of the sentence, and form and custom of the nation.

“ Given at Elgin the 24th day of June, 1713.”

“ ALEX. DUNBAR, Sheriff.”

“ Mr Gatherer of Netherbyre, who was progenitor in the direct line of the families of that name, still in Elgin, and whose ancestors, at a very early period, occupied important public stations in the burgh of Elgin, was dragged from his bed in a state of nudity, on a summer night, by M’Pherson, a deserter in search of plunder, who inflicted several deadly wounds upon his person with a bayonet. The cries of the dying man brought a servant girl, the only inmate of the house, to his assistance; she seized the ruffian by the hair of the head, and brought him with his face to the ground, knelt upon his back, and in this position held him till her screams awakened the farm-servants who were sleeping in the offices adjacent—they had the murderer secured with cart ropes, and lodged in a garret till the arrival of a party from Elgin, with the Sheriff’s order to incarcerate him in the jail,

According to ancient ecclesiastical custom, the *matin* or morning bell tolls at six o'clock, and the *curfew* or evening bell at eight. In addition to this, a town's drummer perambulates the streets of the burgh, at five in the morning, and nine at night. The late drummer was an example of the health and longevity arising from, or rather accompanying, habits of regularity and early rising. He never was absent from his beat, either morning or evening, let the weather be ever so severe, during a long life, nor had he ever so much as a headache, except when the mistaken kindness of friends imposed one upon him, during his annual visits upon Hanselmonday. The drummership seems a hereditary post, and George II. if we mistake not, now reigns in place of George I.

The accompanying sketches will afford a good idea of the old style of dwelling-houses.

THE LIBRARY OF MESSRS FORSYTH AND YOUNG.

THIS is an old building, supposed of the Elizabethan age; and was one of the few slated houses of the olden time. It is believed to have been the property of the Knights Templars, who had an

He was, in terms of the sentence as above, hanged and quartered on that small mound, immediately north of Mr Robertson's house, on Gallow Green. His head was affixed to an iron spike on the top of the jail stair. His right quarter was placed on the top of the West Port Bow, close by West Park, and his left quarter was hung up on the East Port, nearly opposite the Bead houses."



Foyth's Library



establishment here, and at Kinermony, on Spey side. Or rather, perhaps, it held of them as superiors. In the time of the present proprietor's father, there existed a large iron cross on the top of the building, when a slater, sent to repair the roof, tore it up as an encumbrance, and it was destroyed.

The front tower contains a narrow circular stair, which leads up to the premises. In two places in front of this building, the arms of the Rothes' family appear carved in stone. Perhaps this may have been the town residence of that family, or of some branch of it. We need not remind our readers, that this has been the great mart of literature for the north for about forty years; and that during the first part of this period, it was the only bookseller's establishment in the county. The enterprising and public spirited Proprietor, was also the first to establish a circulating library here, by means of which much useful information and rational entertainment have been diffused over the country.

THUNDERTON HOUSE.

THIS was anciently the town mansion of the family of Sutherland of Duffus. In its pristine state, it formed a large spacious building, with a square tower surmounted by a bartisan, having a curiously cut ballustrade, representing the letters of the name Sutherland, with various astronomical figures. At the back entrance were two stone

figures, the salvages or supporters of the family arms, now to be seen at Pluscarden. A spacious court extended to the High Street. This place was latterly purchased by John Batchen, an auctioneer, and was called Batchen's Ha'.

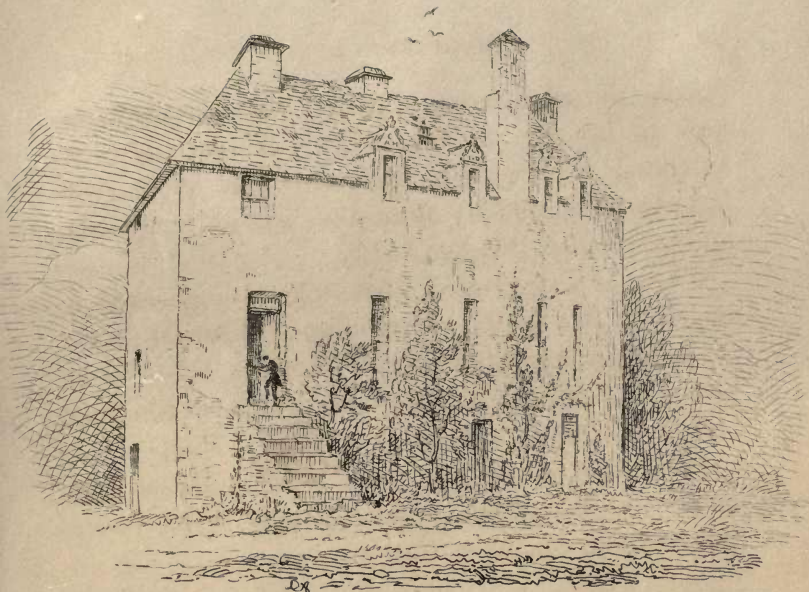
There is a story told, that John, being asked to re-sell the *Muckle House*, replied,—“I would sooner make a kirk and a mill o' it.” This he did—for he placed a wind-mill in the bartisan, and let the large hall as a place of worship.

Batchen was a quaint wit in his day, but all that remains of his genius, is an epitaph on his tombstone, which concludes thus—

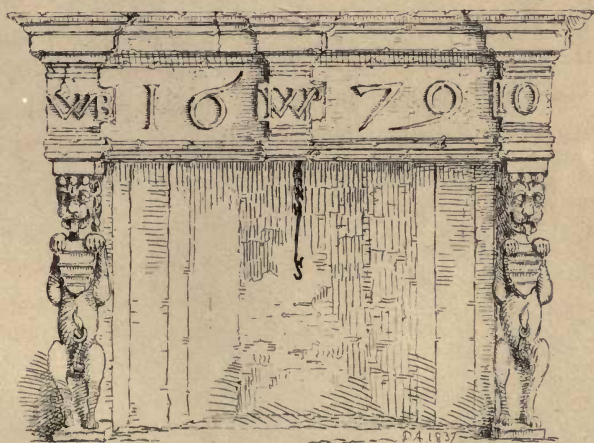
What faults you see in me take care to shun,
Look well at home, enough there 's to be done.

ELCHIE'S HOUSE.

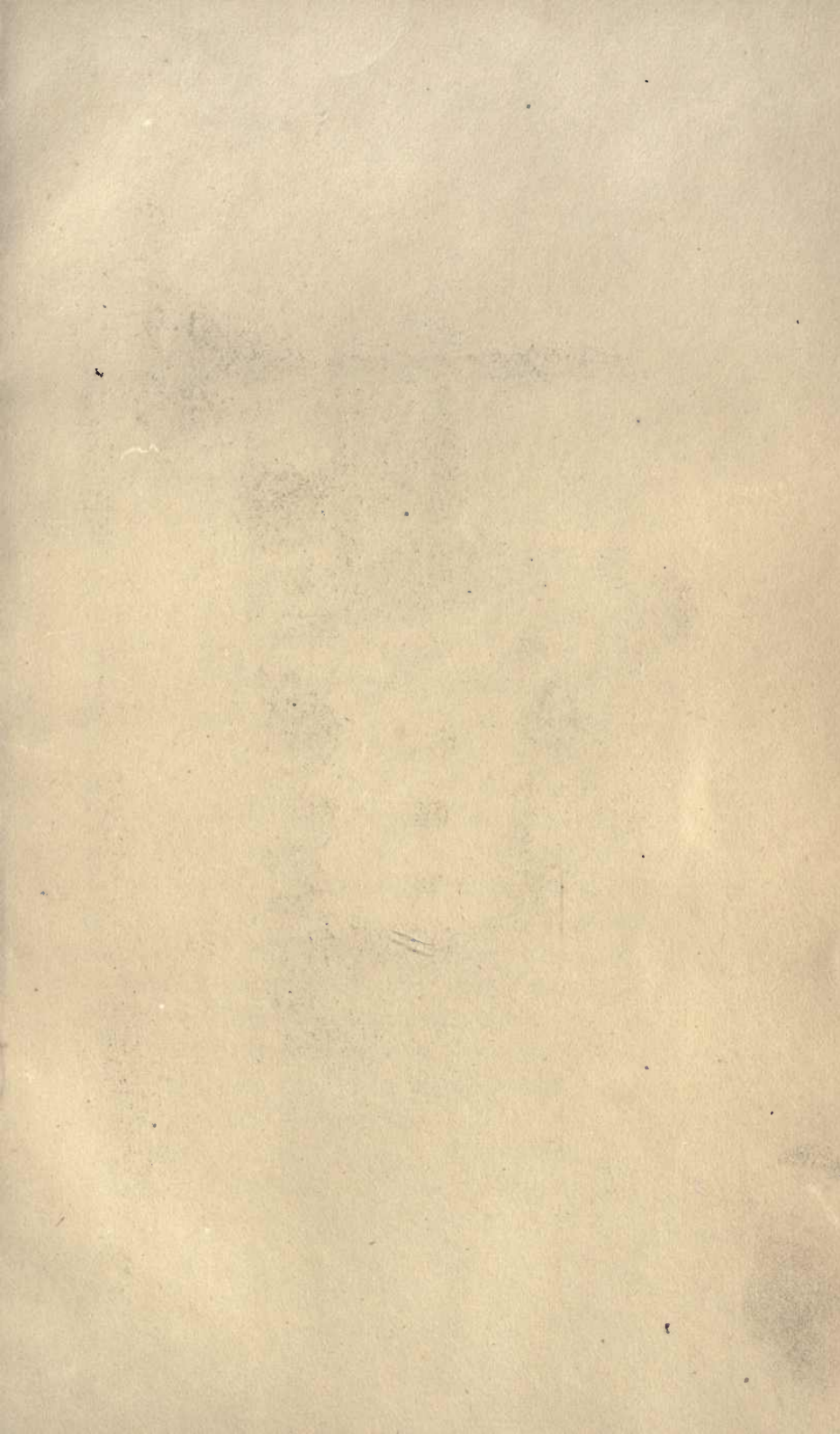
THIS house affords one of the few examples of the open piazzas now remaining, and which at one time were so common. In other houses still standing, they have been built up, and converted into shops. The original owners of this house were the Cummings, probably of Pitullie—then it passed to King of New Mill—Grant of Elchies, and is now the property of the Misses Shand.

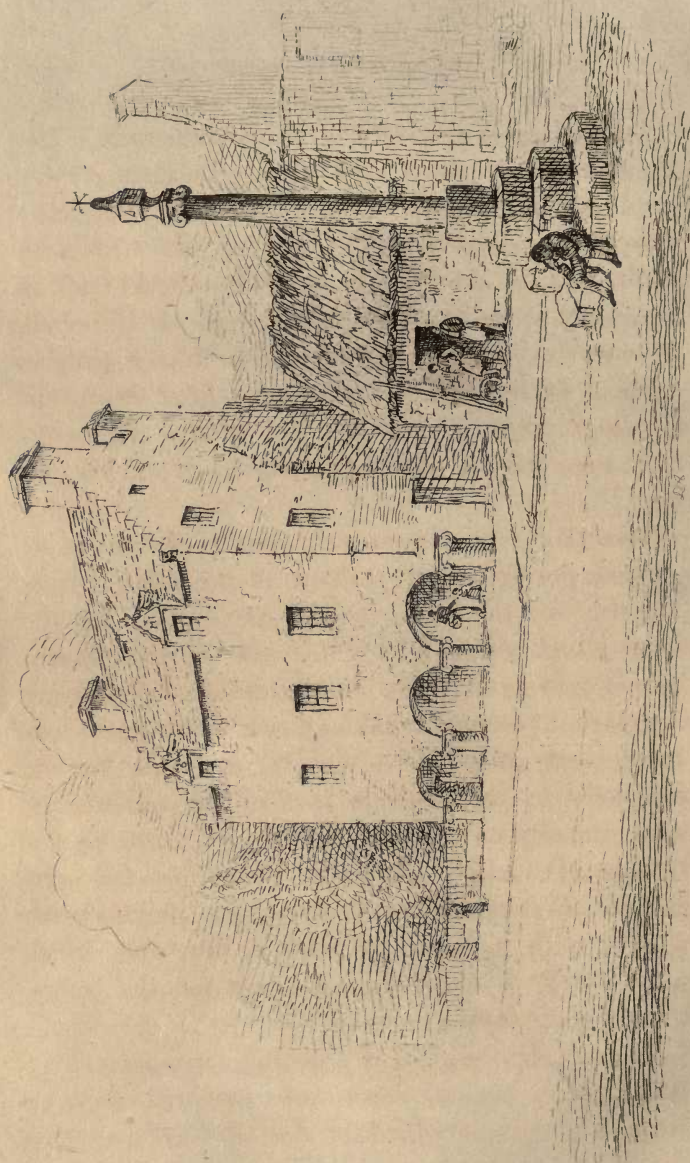


Thunderbolt House



Mosaic piece in Old Monse





The Little Cross - Elgin.

HOUSE, LITTLE CROSS.

THIS is also a specimen of old architecture. The original possessors are not known. Latterly it was inhabited by the grandfather of Patrick Duff, Esq. present town clerk, whose ancestor was also clerk of the burgh. He was called *Little* Clerk Duff, in contradistinction to Archibald Duff of Bilbohall, who was called the *Muckle* Clerk. At a time of political excitement, a bullet was fired in at the middle window, and struck the wall of the apartment near the bed where the little clerk and his wife lay.

THE LITTLE CROSS still stands entire in its original position, and perhaps marked the former boundary of the burgh to the east. The Muckle Cross stood about fifty yards east of the present church, and having been deemed an encumbrance in the market place, was taken down many years ago. Its ancient situation, however, was well known, especially to the juvenile part of the community, who annually on the 4th of June, the birth-day of George III. raised a splendid bonfire on the spot, formed of sticks collected from the neighbouring woods, with no little personal labour, and which were stored up in the black-hole for months before, awaiting the joyful occasion.

The ancient burgh was probably surrounded by a wall; at all events, there were two gateways or entrances to it, one called the East Port, and another the West.

LADY HILL.

ON this green hill, north-west of the burgh, stood a Royal Fort, in ancient times, for the protection of the town ; and most probably the houses were built closely around. The hill is conical, with very steep sides, its natural slope perhaps rendered more perpendicular by artificial cutting. On the level summit are still seen the remains of the walls, of great thickness ; and having been formed of stones cemented together with run lime, the whole has now the hardness and durability of a natural rock. These forts were generally of a square or oblong form, about twenty feet high, with towers in the angles, and surrounded by a fosse, with a draw-bridge. The Randolphins, Dunbars, and Douglasses, Earls of Moray, were constables of the Fort, and had the customs of the town, the assize of ale, and probably the sixty-auchten parts, and the moss wards now belonging to the town for their salary.* When the warlike spirit of the age began to subside, this castle fell into neglect and decay ; but the legendary tales of the nursery give another account of its disappearance. They tell,

How that the castle in a single night,
 With all its inmates sunk quite out of sight —
 There, at the midnight hour, is heard the sound
 Of various voices talking under ground ;
 The rock of cradles, wailing infants' cries,
 And nurses singing soothing lullabies.

* Shaw.

It seems the *pest* or plague had seized the unfortunate inhabitants — the ground gaped to receive them ; or they, and the whole of their castle, were covered over by their neighbours to ensure the general safety ; and if a bit of the ground be dug up even at this day, it is death to the whole country ! That the plague raged in Elgin about the middle of the sixteenth century, we have evidence from the following extract from the burgh records. “ Item, 18s. for an quart of wyne and bread, and an glass giffen to ye Bailzies of Forres at ye eist Port ye time of ye infectioun of ye Pest.”

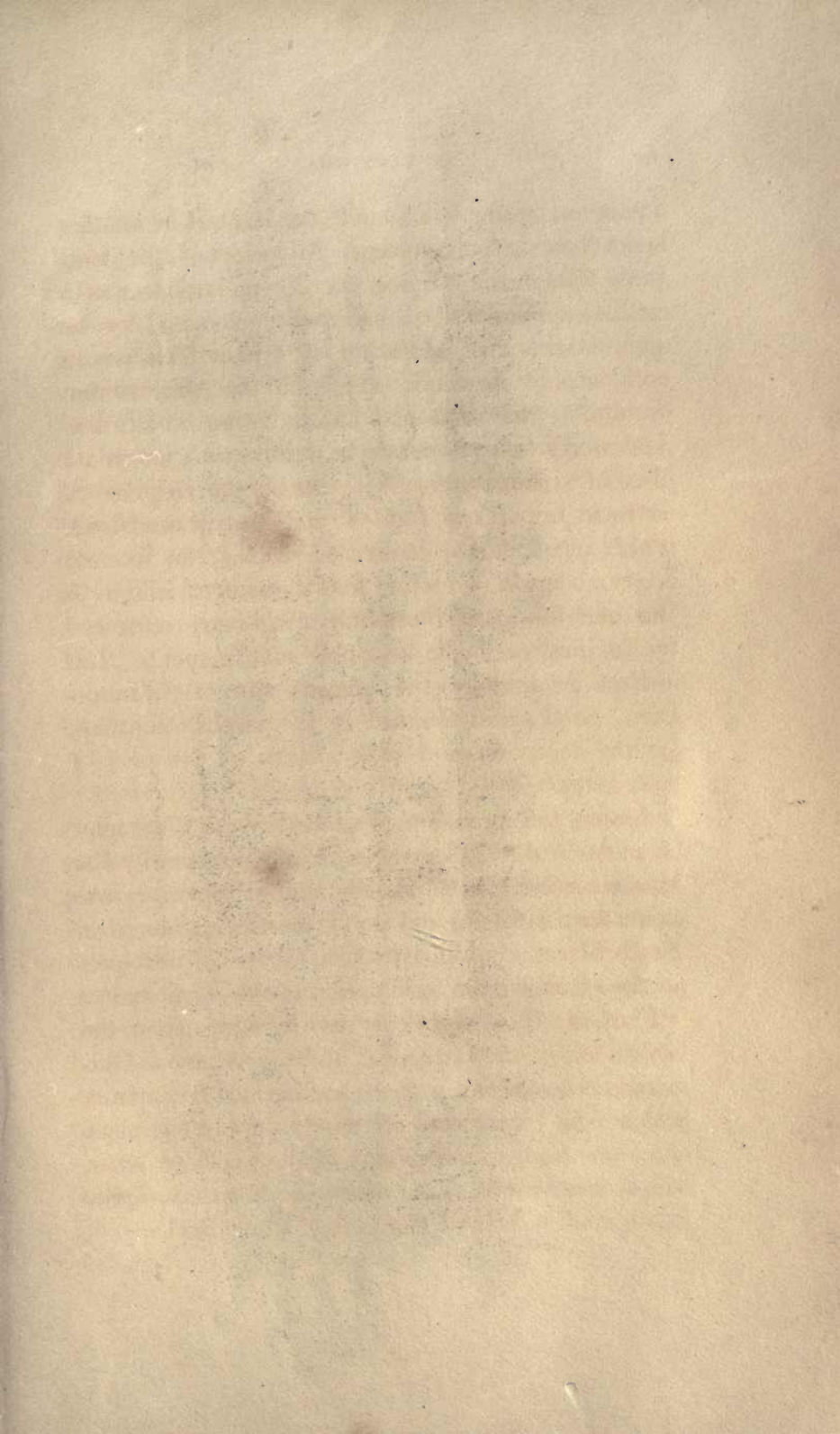
A monumental pillar, to the memory of the late Duke of Gordon, the funds for which were raised by subscription in the county, is now to occupy a place beside the castle on the summit of Lady Hill.

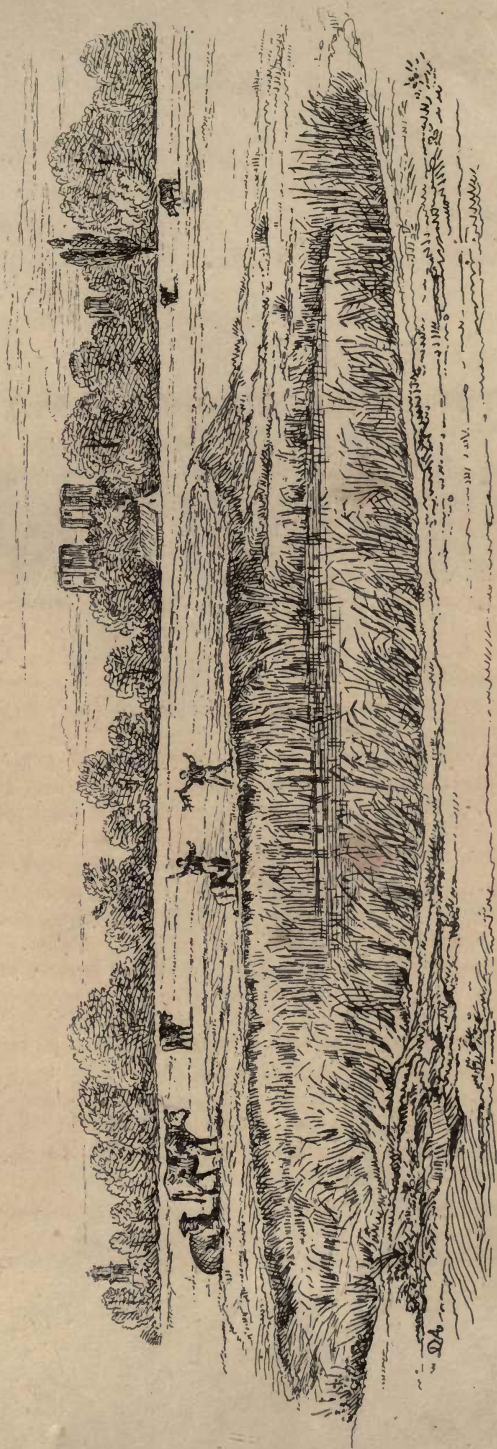
BUT with these changes the whole character and aspect of the burgh has now completely changed. Smart new houses occupy the place of the old, new streets have been opened up, and a suburb of handsome villas, with gardens and shrubberies, extends to the south. The streets are now clean and well paved ; and gas light has been introduced to cheer the dark gloom of winter. In 1815, an hospital was erected for the cure of the sick, on an eminence to the west of the town, from a munificent bequest (£26,000) by Dr Gray of India, who was a native of Moray, and which bears his name. A lunatic asylum has also been lately added to this institution. In 1832, Anderson's Institution was built and endowed at the eastern end of the burgh, from

a fund amounting to £70,000, bequeathed by another benevolent native, General Anderson of the East India Company's Service, for the maintenance of a certain number of aged men and women, and for the maintenance and education of orphan children of both sexes. A public school, on the Lancasterian system, is also attached to the latter institution. Anderson's Institution is a beautiful and appropriate piece of architecture. With the simple elegance of outward proportions, and built with native sandstone, which even marble could not surpass, its internal accommodation presents every comfort suited to the inmates; and these advantages are enhanced by the most methodic and able management. The institution occupies the ancient site of "Maison Dieu," an hospital founded in the twelfth century, for the reception and maintenance of the poor of both sexes.

Among the recent improvements of the town may be mentioned, the Assembly Rooms, erected by the Masonic Society in 1822, containing elegant apartments for assemblies and public meetings, situated in North Street; and an Episcopal Chapel of neat proportions forming the termination of the same street.

Formerly there were only two bridges across the Lossie, one at the Cathedral, and the other at Old-mills. Now there is one leading to Bishopmill, which was constructed of iron to supply the place of a stone bridge swept away in the floods of 1829, one at Sherrifinill, over which the Forres turnpike passes, and another at the Palmer Cross Bridge.





Order Pot

THE ORDER, OR ORDEAL POT.

THIS deep pool, which lies in the hollow ground to the eastward of the Cathedral, has long been well known to every school-boy. Strange ideas of its awful depth, and dark legends of its history, have ever haunted the minds of boyhood. We fear there may be too good grounds for supposing, that here some of those disgraceful tragedies may have been consummated which disfigure even the most barbarous ages, and cast a deep stain on the intellect of man. So late as 1560, witches were publicly and *legally* punished in Elgin.* We have no authentic records regarding the history of this pool. Tradition suggests, however, that it may formerly have been called the Ordeal Pot, or place where witches were tried; and that the common name of the present day may be a corruption. It has been supposed, that at a remote period, the channel of the Lossie may have passed through the Order Pot.

* “The comptar, viz. Andro Edie, discharges him of 40s. debursed be him at ye town’s command, for the binners to ye wyffis yat war wardit in ye stepill for witches in summer last by-past.”—*Burgh Records*.

There is certainly some mysterious sympathy between them, for whenever the Lossie is swelled by unusual floods, it makes for its old haunts. There is an old prophecy, said to be Thomas-a-Rhymer's :

The Order Pot, and Lossie gray,
Shall sweep the Chan'ry Kirk away.

The following extract, though unauthenticated, may be interesting as alluding to the spot.

“ The whilk day ane great multitude rushinge thorough the Pannis Port, surroundit ye pool, and hither wis draggit thorough ye stoure ye said Marjory Bysseth in sore plight, wid her grey hairis hanging loose, and crying, ‘ Pitie, pitie.’ Now Maister Wyseman, the samin clerk who had stode up at her tryal, stepped forward, and saide, I kno thys womyan to have been ane peaceable and unoffendyng ane, living in ye privacy of her widowhoode, and skaithing or gainsaying no ane. Quhat have ye furthir to say again her ? Then thir was gret murmuring and displeasance among ye peopl, but Maister Wyseman, staunding firme, agen asked, Quhat further have ye again her ? Then did ye Friares agen repeate how that she had muttered her aves backward, and othirs that the maukin started at Bareflet, had ben traced to her dwellinge, and how that the aforesaid cattel had died by her connivance. Bot shee, hearing this, cried the more, ‘ Pitie, pitie,’ I am guiltlesse of ye fause crymes, never sae muche as thought of be me.’ Then suddenlie there was ane motion in ye crowd, and ye peopel parting on ilk syde, ane leper cam doun frae ye hous, and in ye face of ye peopel bared his hand and his hale arm, ye which was wythered, and covered over with scurfs, most pyteous to behold ; and he said, ‘ At ye day of Pentecost last past, thys woman did give unto me ane shell of oyntment, with ye which I anoynted my hand, to cure ane imposthume whiche had com over it, and beholde, from that daye furthe untill thys it hath shrunke and wythered as you see it now.’ Whereupon ye croud closed rounde, and becam clamorous ; but ye said Marjory Bysset cried pyteously, that God had forsaken her — that she had meanyed gude only, and not evil — that the oyntment was ane gift of her husband, who had ben beyond seas, and that it was ane gift to him from ane holy man and true, and that she had given it free of reward or hyre, wishing only that it mote be of gude ; but that gif gude was to be payed backe with evil, sorrow and gif Sathan mot not have his owin. Whereupon the people did presse roun’, and becam clamorus, and they take ye woman and drag her, amid mony tears and cryes, to ye pool, and crie, ‘ To tryal, to tryal ;’ and

soe they plunge her into ye water. And quhen, as she went doun in ye water, ther was ane gret shoute ; bot as she rose agayn, and raised up her armes, as gif she wode have come up, there was silence for ane space, when agane she went doune with ane bublinge noise, they shouted finallie, ‘ To Sathan’s kyngdome she hath gone,’ and forthwith went their wayes.”—*Old MS.*

As connected with this subject, and illustrative of the modes of thinking (and, alas ! acting) of the age, we may here allude to the “ Witches’ Stane” near Forres, a sketch of which is given in the accompanying plate. This large stone, still to be seen on the road-side immediately to the eastward of the burgh, was that on which unfortunate beings accused of this imaginary crime were wont to suffer. Some years ago, when the turnpike road was in progress, the workmen had proceeded to break down this mass of stone, when the townspeople discovering the depredation, and attached to a relic of bygone times, immediately caused it to be clasped with iron, in which state it still remains. The following narrative, said to be illustrative of an actual trial and execution recorded in the burgh books, we take the liberty of transferring to these pages, as it very happily exemplifies the kind of vague and imaginary fictions by which imputed witchcraft was got up in those days.

AUTHENTIC MEMOIR of DOROTHY CALDER, who was burnt for witchcraft, at Drumduan, near Forres.

Dorothy Calder led a retired life in a little cottage on the right bank of the river Findhorn, near to the spot where the suspension bridge now stands. Her fame extended far and wide as a kindly canny wife ; but how far she deserved this character will appear by the following anecdotes, communicated to the writer of this article by old persons who had them from two old men, who, when boys, had helped to drive the peats that burned her and her companion in iniquity. Of her fellow-criminal tradition is silent.

One cold morning in spring, after the crew of one of the salmon cobbles had toiled all night, and caught nothing; weary, cold, and dispirited, they entered Dorothy's humble cot, and craved the liberty of warming themselves by her fire. "Poor lads," said Dorothy, "ye have had a sair night o't, an' little for't, I fear; but sit down, an' I'se put on a cow to warm ye, an' whan ye hae made yoursel's comfortable, ye'll maybe hae better luck." Dorothy made haste to light up a comfortable spunk on a low hearth in the middle of the floor, and with knotted straws encircled the group, muttering to herself the while. When the lads had well warmed themselves. "Now," said she, "gang out, an' ca' a shot, and my life for ye, ye'se get plenty o' fish, but ye'll get ae gleyed ane amo' the number, dinna kill him, lay him back in the pool as tenty as ye can." The fishers were not slow in obeying Dorothy's injunctions, and never was such a take of fish, at one cast, on the river of Findhorn. With great glee did the fishers return to Dorothy's cabin, the kenner bringing with him a large salmon, as a present to Dorothy for her good luck. "You did my bidding," said she; "and did you see the gleyed ane?—I hope ye didna attempt to kill him." "Na weel a wite we, Dorothy," returned the kenner, "I kissed him for good luck, and returned him tentily to the water as you bade." "His presence be about me," quo' Dorothy, "ye have kissed the de'il, an' ye're his ain!" Horror-struck at the unhappy deed, the conscience-struck kenner ran to his own house, opposite the street well in Forres, bolted the doors behind him, and hanged himself in the kitchen, leaving a wife and children to bewail his loss.

Still more wonderful, no less atrocious, and equally well authenticated is the following anecdote of this *familiar* of Satan. One stormy winter evening a rap was heard at Dorothy's door: she made haste to draw back the bar, and entered, in full dress, the principal man-servant of the house of Burdsyards. After mutual salutations, he proceeded to unfold the purpose of his visit. "Dorothy," said he, "I sadly want your assistance, and, if ye speed my errand, right handsome shall be your reward. Our lady has lost a valuable gold ring, and she blames ane o' the lasses for the theft, and I am sure the poor lassie is innocent." "Poor lassie," said Dorothy, "I'm wae baith for you an' her, ye've had a sair blast—lay aside your sword, an' tak' a short nap on my bed, and I'se see what can be done." The lad unbuckled his sword belt accordingly, laid it and the sword on a stool, and laid himself on Dorothy's pallet, where he soon pretended to fall asleep, but took good care to keep himself broad awake, the better to observe the witch's cantraps; and, whether dictated by curiosity, or whether his better angel kept a wakeful eye over him, lucky was it for him that he took this precaution in this his perilous circumstances, for perilous they were in the highest degree, as the sequel will abundantly testify. To work went the witch with her incantations—and entered the Devil in "*propria persona*," whether with his several appurtenances of horns, tail, and cloven feet, our informant saith

not—but certain it is, he bore some of them, most probably the cloots, or how else should his intended victim have known him at the first glance, for it must be presumed that till this moment he had never set eyes on him — “ Well,” said the arch-fiend, “ on what fool’s errand have you sent for me now, on this stormy night, when, as ‘ prince of the power of the air,’ you know that I had so many weighty matters on hand ?” Dorothy explained to him the circumstances concerning the ring, as narrated by the servant. “ A fine story, troth, to call me up for ; is it sic a heart-sair to you to see an innocent person unjustly accused ? It’s nae to vindicate innocence, but to clear the guilty, that I haud the sceptre, and wherein shall I profit by this deed, and what’s to be my reward should I make this notable discovery you are so much interested in ?” “ The first fill of this,” said Dorothy, lifting the sword belt, and extending it between her hands. “ A fair remuneration, I must admit,” quoth the De’il—“ then, tell him to look in the third sack of corn from the barn door ; the lady was examining the dressed corn, and the ring slipped from her finger into the sack”—so saying, the devil disappeared. Dorothy roused her guest, and informed him of that which he knew as well as herself. He put gold into her hand, lifted his sword belt, and took his leave ; but instead of buckling on his sword, he fastened it round a log of bog fir that lay at the end of Dorothy’s house, and scarcely had he time to fix the strap, when the log mounted into the air in a flame of fire.

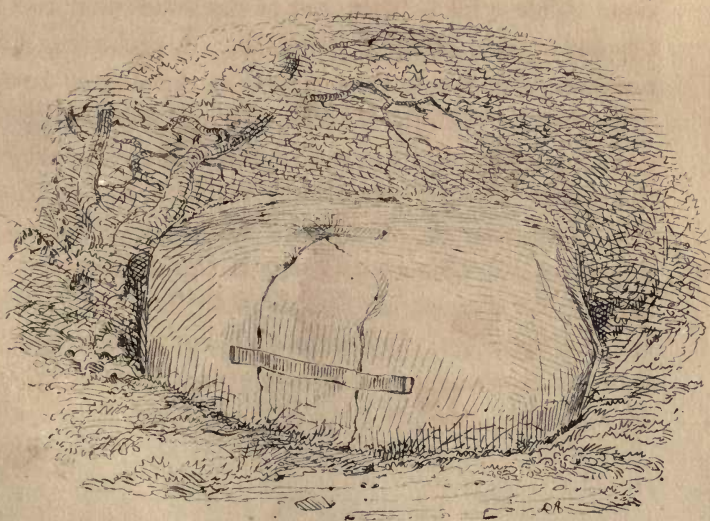
These facts, with several others, which might be narrated, having come to the ears of the parish minister, he lost no time in bringing Dorothy to the proper tribunal. Evidence was led in support of certain parts of the indictment, but was found irrelevant, and it was chiefly upon the two above detailed circumstances that Dorothy was condemned. After a minute and lengthened investigation, she was sentenced to be burnt after the lapse of twenty-four hours. Accordingly, at the expiry of that time, she, along with a companion, adjudged to the same punishment, was led forth, amidst the hooting and execrations of the people, to a moor opposite Trafalgar Tower, at that period belonging to the town of Forres. A stake was erected about twenty yards south of where the “ wiche’s stane” now rests ; to this stake Dorothy and her accomplice, after being pinioned, were tied, back to back, with a stout iron chain. Fifteen cart loads of peats were then built round about them, a few feet from the stake, the inner space being filled with dry whins. The pile was set fire to, and the shouts of the superstitious throng, assembled on the occasion, drowned the piercing cries of “ *mercy, mercy !*” uttered, but in vain, by the supplicating victims, who in a few minutes ceased to exist.—*Forres Gazette*.

ANCIENT WELL AT BURGHEAD.

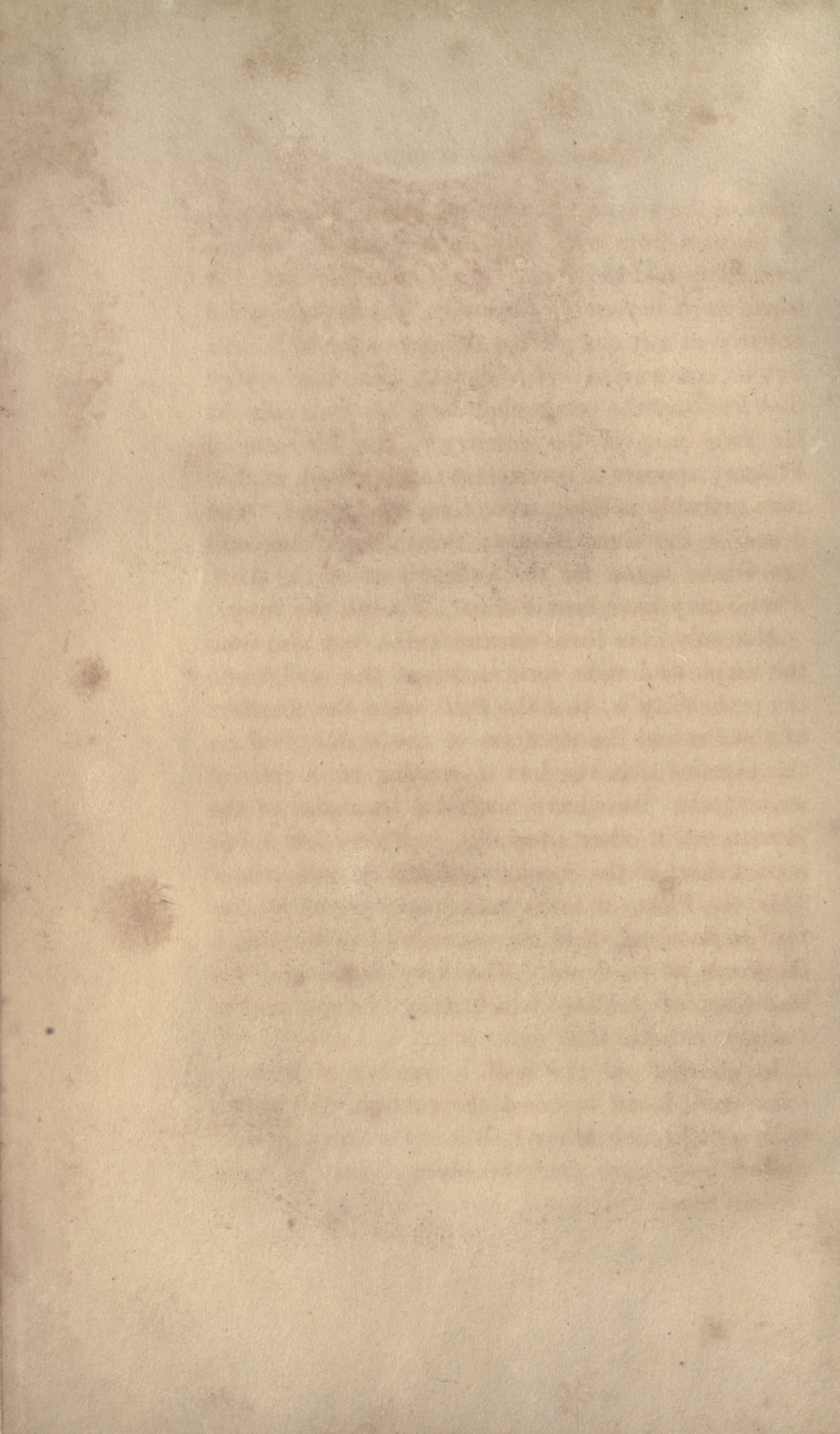
THE promontory called Burghead, eight miles north-west of Elgin, contains evident traces of an ancient fortification. It consists of a round hill about fifty feet in height, guarded by high perpendicular sides to the north and west, and rocks washed by the sea. To the south, a trench was cut, into which the sea flowed. The ramparts consist of three parallel ridges on the top. Tradition had hitherto assigned this stronghold to the Danes; but about thirty years ago, in erecting a new harbour, a well was discovered cut out in the rock of the northern side, the inspection of which has induced some to pronounce it to be of Roman formation. This well is hewn out of the solid rock, and is ten feet square, and four feet deep. A projecting cornice runs round near the top, and at one side is a sort of pedestal. A flight of steps, also cut out of the solid rock, leads down to the well. When first discovered, the public spirited proprietor, William Young, Esq. caused an archway of stone to be built over the well to protect it. This arch is seen in the accompanying sketch, but it must not be mistaken for a part of the original structure. It does not appear at all probable that the Romans ever had any permanent footing in Moray. Severus, it is true, penetrated into some



Well at Burghhead



Witches Stone, Forres



parts of the north ; but after the loss of a great part of his men from cold, fatigue, and famine, he was soon compelled to retreat. Agricola sailed round the island on a voyage of discovery, but certainly did not stop at any one place a sufficient time to build a fort or construct a well. It was from this voyage that Ptolemy the geographer drew his materials for his rude map of the country. The *Ptoroton* of Ptolemy appears to correspond to Burghead, at that time probably nothing more than a headland. The *Varar* is the river Beaully ; Strathfarar being still the Gaelic name for the valley west of the Aird. *Varris* may have been Forres. *Tuessis*, the Spey.

Not only from these circumstances, but also from the simple and rude construction of the well itself, the probability is, that the Picts were the founders of the fort and the artificers of the well. Nor on this account is it the less interesting as a relic of ancient art. We have abundant examples of the Roman art in other situations, but very few specimens indeed of the ingenuity of the Scandinavians. That the Picts, in times subsequent to the Roman visit to Scotland, held this stronghold of Burghead, there can be no doubt. The very name, and the traditions of battles which they fought in the vicinity, indicate this.

In clearing out the well, a number of Spanish coins were found amongst the rubbish, and a slab with a bull rudely carved on it. Perhaps the Buccaneers may have paid the place a visit in more modern times.

CASTLE OF OLD DUFFUS.

THIS castle must be of great antiquity. One of its earliest possessors, and perhaps its founder, was Freskinus de Moravia, whose family became conspicuous in Moray in the reign of David I. Bishop Bricius founded a chapel here early in the thirteenth century, and we find, from the chartulary, that Mary de Federeth, an heiress of the house of De Moravia, held possession of it from 1269 to 1312.

The castle stood on an elevated mound on the north-western shore of Loch Spynie. A deep moat surrounded it, with a parapet wall and drawbridge; and, from the low-lying marshy state of the ground, it must have been almost encompassed with water, and thus well secured against the attacks of enemies. A considerable portion of the walls yet remains, and from these, we find that they formed a large square, rising twenty feet in height, and enclosed a considerable area, which, according to Shaw, was occupied by wooden buildings. The walls are formed of rude workmanship, being composed of rough stones run together with lime, the whole forming a mass five feet thick. Of course, strength and solidity were aimed at in their design, not architectural beauty.

The ruin as now seen, surrounded with its clumps of aged trees, has a picturesque appearance. In the distance is perceived the Palace of Spynie, now also dilapidated. Formerly, the walls of both these places must have been washed by the waters of the loch, but now, since these have been drained away, corn fields and green pastures intervene. No doubt the Castle of Old Duffus formed a place of strength for the protection of the palace against the lawless invaders of the times, and many a scene of strife and skirmish must have been witnessed on those plains where now peace and tranquillity prevail.

We have no certain information when this castle was dilapidated. Alexander Sutherland, of the ancient family of Duffus, was created Lord Duffus in 1650. James, the second lord, who died in 1705, sold the greater part of the property to Archibald Dunbar of Thunderton, the ancestor of Sir Archibald Dunbar, baronet.* The title was attained in 1715, and the remainder of the property lost. It was to this family that Thunderton House in Elgin belonged. Thus the great and powerful family of De Moravia, who at one time had large possessions and great sway in the land, have now no longer a local habitation or a name in the county.

* Shaw.

ROTHES CASTLE.

THIS was one of the most ancient castles or fortalices of the county, but a small portion only of the walls now remains. The ruin is situated on the summit of a round hill adjoining the village of Rothes, and ten miles to the south of Elgin. The sides of the hill are perpendicular like the Lady Hill at Elgin, and a fosse or ditch surrounds the whole.

The family of Rothes is of great antiquity. In 1238, Eva de Mortach, daughter of Muriel de Polloc, who was daughter of Petrus de Polloc, was Domina de Rothes.* In 1263, we find the same lady bestowing by charter the lands of Inverlochtie on the Holy Trinity and Cathedral of Moray. The Leslie's are supposed to have come from Hungary with Atheling, the wife of Malcolm Canmore. The first Earl of Rothes was created in 1457 by James II. In 1620, there must have been a habitable castle here, for the Earl of Rothes dates a writing from it. After this period, however, the family moved to Fifeshire, and about 1700, their remaining possessions here were purchased by Grant of Elchies. An old house in Elgin has already been mentioned as bearing the arms of the Rothes family.

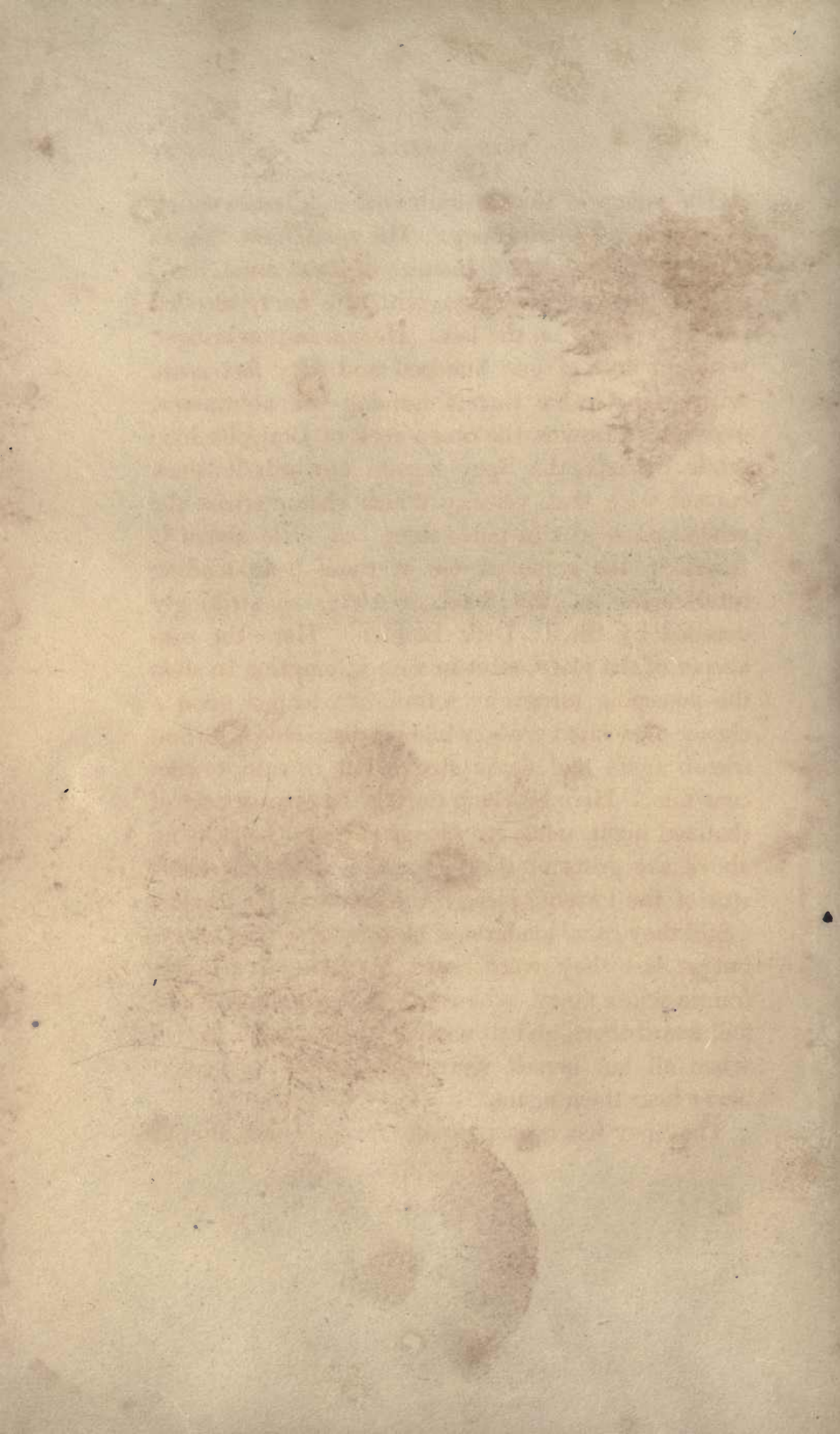
* Regist. Morav.



Blerrie Tower



Rothas Castle



The village of Rothes is situated in a fertile valley on the banks of the Spey. The road from this to Craigellachie Bridge, a distance of three miles, leads through a picturesque pass, with the finely wooded seat of Arndilly on the left. Here is an iron bridge* with an arch of one hundred and fifty feet span, with four Gothic turrets forming the abutments, over which frowns the steep rock of Craigellachie; while beneath, the Spey hurries onwards its dark current with that velocity which characterizes the whole course of this noble river. A little above is Aberlour, the scene of one of those heart-rending catastrophes of the flood of 1829, so strikingly detailed by Sir T. Dick Lauder. Here the inn-keeper of the place, after in vain attempting to stem the sweeping torrent in a frail raft, leaped upon a cluster of isolated trees, while his distracted wife and friends again and again strove, but in vain, to succour him. Here he clung during the greater part of that sad night, while his piteous cries for help, rising above the gusts of the tempest, and the incessant roar of the torrent, pierced the hearts of his friends. "Still they came louder and clearer for a brief space, but at last they were heard no more, save in his frantic wife's fancy, who continued to start as if she still heard them, and to wander about, and to listen, when all but herself were satisfied that she could never hear them again."

The Spey has most probably several times altered

* Erected in 1814.

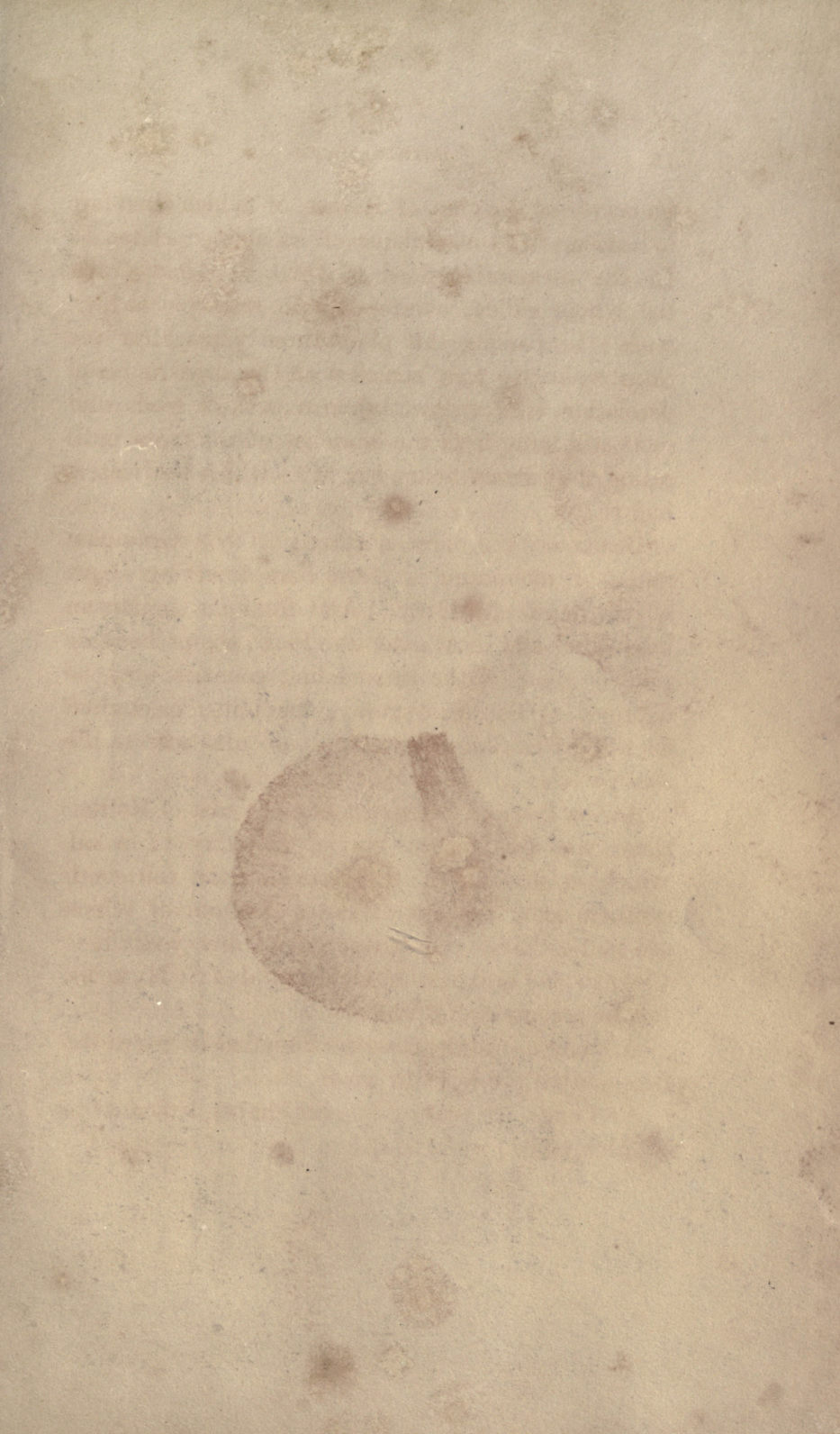
its course in the glen of Rothes, of which there are indications in the remains of its former channels. In the memorable flood of 1829, it spread over the whole valley, overtopping in some places high trees. In passing this place three years after the catastrophe, we were struck with the appearances of desolation still visible, while masses of reeds and roots still hung from the branches of the trees, indicating the extraordinary height to which the waters had risen.

Benrinnis, the most northerly of the Grampian range of mountains, is seen here towering above all the land of Moray. And from its summit an interesting and most extensive view, comprehending part of nine of the surrounding counties, may be obtained. The Cairngorm mountains, celebrated for their well known crystals, are also seen to the south-west.

At the Boat of Brigg, a few miles east of Rothes, there was an ancient bridge, probably of wood, which existed in the beginning of the thirteenth century, some remains of the foundation of which are said to have been perceptible a few years ago. Close to this bridge was the Hospital of St Nicholas, for the reception of travellers.

A modern bridge across the Spey has been erected here within the last few years.

At Langmorn was an ancient chapel dedicated to St Morgan.





Ely Cathedral

ELGIN CATHEDRAL.

Arcibus heroum nitidis urbs cingitur, intus
 Plebeis radiant, nobiliumque lares ;
 Omnia delectant ; veteris sed rudera templi,
 Dum spectas, lachrymis, Scotia tinge genas.

JOHNSTONI POEMAT.

Bright towers of warlike chiefs around appear,
 The lowly roof and noble dome are here ;
 Sweet is the scene : yet, Scotia, turn thine eyes,
 And weep, for lo ! thy church a ruin lies.

Dying insensibly away
 From human thoughts and purposes,
 It seems—wall, window, roof, and tower—
 To bow to some transforming power,
 And blend with the surrounding trees.

WORDSWORTH.

THIS venerable ruin is the boast of Moray, and when entire, and in its pristine splendour, must have been the chief glory and highest ornament of the district. At a period when the country was comparatively rude and uncultivated, when the dwellings of the mass of the people were mere temporary huts, and even the castles of the chiefs and nobles possessed no architectural beauty, and were devoid of taste and ornament, the solemn grandeur of such a pile, and the sacred purposes with which it was associated, must have inspired an awe and reverence of which we can form but a very faint conception.

The prevailing impulse of the religion of the

period led its zealous followers to concentrate their whole energies in the erection of such magnificent structures ; and while there was little skill or industry manifested in the common arts of life, and no associations for promoting the temporal comforts of the people, the grand conceptions displayed in the architecture of the middle ages, the taste and persevering industry, and the amount of wealth and labour, bestowed on those sacred edifices, find no parallel in modern times.

The Elgin Cathedral was founded under the auspices of Bishop Andrew Moray, a scion of the great and powerful family of De Moravia, who possessed the greater part of the district, and whose wealth and influence must have been very considerable even in that rude period. We cannot, however, suppose, that this cathedral owed all its excellence of design or execution to native talent. The general resemblance of plan manifested in the greater proportion of similar structures of the period, point out a common source from which all derived their origin. Architecture and practical masonry were then the fashionable professions, and companies or incorporations of free masons, furnished with papal bulls and ample privileges, then traversed Europe. Ecclesiastics, too, from the highest to the lowest, were also trained as proficient in the trade. Gundulph, a monk of Bec Abbey, afterwards Bishop of Rochester, we are told, was a celebrated practical architect. Bishop Lucy, in the year 1202, first introduced the high

pointed arch, and Bishop Hugh of Lincoln was so enthusiastic in the building of the cathedral of that name, that he not only planned and superintended the work, but actually carried stones and mortar on his shoulders for the use of the masons.*

It is not improbable but that Bishop Andrew Moray was equally knowing regarding the mysteries of the craft; and attached to a charter of this same founder of the cathedral, among other names, both local and foreign,† are the signatures of Master Gregory the mason, and Richard the glazier, who, doubtless, were employed on the work.

The original structure was founded in the year 1224, and probably completed during the eighteen years in which Bishop Andrew occupied the see. After standing one hundred and sixty-six years, it was burnt in 1390 by the Wolfe of Badenoch. Soon after, Bishop Barr began to rebuild it, and from the year 1414, the work was sedulously pursued till its completion. In 1506, the great steeple in the centre fell, and was rebuilt soon afterwards. Whether in the conflagration of 1390 the entire structure was demolished has not been distinctly recorded. It is probable, however, that a portion of the walls may have remained, and this conjecture is strengthened by the fact, that different styles of architecture, in the existing ruins, point out different periods.

* Matthew Paris, ann. 1195.

† *e. g.* David de Strathbolgy, W. Agno, W. de Sutherland, Brother Nicholas, Brother Alano, Monk Laurentius and Bartholomeus. — *Regist. Morav.*

Neither have we any means of ascertaining whether the original plan of the cathedral was preserved in its subsequent restorations, or a new model adopted.

The general style of the architecture would lead us to suppose, that the original plan had been on the whole adhered to, for it is of that kind which characterized the cathedrals of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. At that period, a change was in progress from the Saxon style, where plain circular arches and broad buttresses characterized the buildings, to the Norman style, where the arch was pointed, the pillars and buttresses of a lighter form, and the tracery and ornaments more profuse. Yet there was often in the buildings of this period a mixture of the Saxon and Norman styles, such as is found in the Elgin Cathedral. In several parts of this building, the circular arch is visible, and grouped windows, with pointed arches, surmounted by a circular arch above.

On the whole it is highly probable, that on the burning of the cathedral, a considerable portion of the walls remained—that these were restored, and the dilapidated parts rebuilt from the same foundations, and that any alterations on the original structure consisted more in the additional ornaments, and slight architectural changes of subordinate parts, than in a total change of form. Bishop Barr, in his touching letter on the destruction of the edifice, characterizes it as the chief ornament of the district, and glory of the kingdom, and the admiration both of foreigners and natives.

Now, if such a description was characteristic of its former splendour, it is not likely that its style was inferior to what it appears to have been on its subsequent restoration.

The cathedral, like every other similar structure of the times, was built in the form of a Jerusalem Cross. It lies due east and west, with the choir and altar facing the east, the transepts or cross wings are on the north and south, and the grand entrance is to the west. There were five towers,—two on the east, two western towers, and one tower with a lofty spire in the centre.

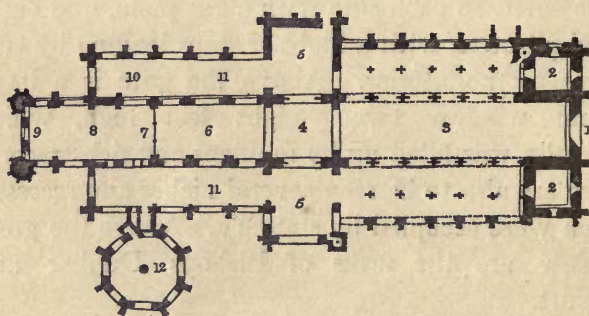
The two western towers are of massive but elegant proportions, and form the most entire part of the ruins. Between these is the great gate or entrance, ornamented on each side with eight plain, and eight fluted pilasters, with a flight of steps leading by two valves to the interior. Above the gate is a large central window twenty-eight feet high, which originally was filled up by mullions and rich tracery. There are also to be seen several niches and recesses, which were occupied by statuary. Above the great window are the arms of Bishops Dunbar and Stewart.

Entering the great gateway by a flight of steps, the nave of the church occupies the centre. On each side a row of stately pillars rose up in the middle to support the roof; but they have all fallen—the foundations alone, and a few of the pedestals, marking out their former situation.

The walls of the great central tower occupied the

space between the nave and choir, and on each side were the transepts. On the right, in a recess of the wall of the south transept, are two tombs, apparently very ancient, with recumbent figures in armour; and the carved arms on the breast of one of them, containing three stars, point out the Sutherland family. In the northern transept are similar figures, on one of which are the Randolph arms. East of the transepts the choir extends to the chancel, from which it was separated by a screen. Below the eastern windows the grand altar was situated. It was lighted up by a double row of slender windows, with pointed

GROUND PLAN OF THE CATHEDRAL.



1. Grand west entrance.
2. 2. Western towers.
3. Nave.
4. Central tower.

5. 5. South and north transepts.
6. Choir.
7. Screen.
8. Chancel.

9. Grand altar.
10. St Mary's aisle.
11. 11. Cloisters.
12. Chapter-house.

	FEET		FEET
Length from east to west, including towers	289	Height of grand entrance	26
Breadth of nave and side aisles	144	Height of chapter-house	34
Breadth of choir, including walls and aisles	79	Breadth of do. with walls	37
Length of transept, including walls	120	Height of great western window	28
Height of west towers	83	Diameter of eastern wheel window	12
Height of east towers	64	Height of side walls, including choriistry	43
Height of middle tower, including spire	198	Breadth of side aisles	18



Entrance to
Chapter House Ely Cathedral



Greyfriars Church

arches, five below and five above,—the whole surmounted by a large circular window, with rich ornamental tracery. The choir and nave were also lighted by two rows of windows, the lower and larger ones belonged to the aisles, the upper ones ranged along the side walls and a gallery immediately below, and communicating with these windows extended over the whole building. St Mary's aisle in the south is now the burying place of the Gordon and Richmond families. In the choir some of the bishops lie interred, several large blue slabs pointing out their graves.

On the north is the entrance to the chapter house through an arched apartment, called the *Sacristy*, where the vessels and materials used at the altar were deposited, and where a richly carved stone basin called *Piscina* is placed, the use of which was to contain water for the priest previous to the celebration of the mass, as also to receive the consecrated water used at their ceremonies, and hence called the holy water.

The chapter house is an octagon, thirty-five feet high, and about the same in diameter, with a pillar of elaborate workmanship in the centre, supporting a richly groined roof. It is lighted by seven large windows, and in the walls are seen the niches where the oaken stalls of the dignified clergy who formed the bishop's council were placed, the centre one for the bishop or dean being more elevated than the rest. This apartment was richly ornamented with sculptured figures, and it now also contains many of

the grotesque heads and other devices which occupied niches and capitals of the pillars in other parts of the building. The *apprentice aisle* is a name which the chapter house, in common with similar portions of many ancient buildings, obtained, and had associated with it the usual legends of the vulgar.*

Many parts of the interior of the Church were decorated with paintings, some of which, as in the rooms of the western tower, and in the cloisters, were tolerably entire so late as 1640. In that year a number of zealous protestants, among whom were the lairds of Innes and Brodie, headed by the clergyman of Elgin, Gilbert Ross, proceeded to the cathedral and tore down the wooden partition which separated the chancel from the choir, and which had remained untouched since the Reformation—a period of nearly a century and a half.

On the western side of this partition was a paint-

* This hackneyed legend is,—That the master mason, being otherwise engaged, left, in his absence, the charge of the work with his assistant or apprentice. On his return the apprentice had finished his labours in such a superior style as to excite the jealousy of the master, who did not rest satisfied till he had compassed his death.

Another equally well-founded tradition in this county is, that the Elgin Cathedral is, in fact, the Chanonry Kirk which was originally built at Fortrose; but that a legion of envious fairies from Morayshire, coveting this splendid structure for their own district, set, one evening, to work, and having constructed a roadway across the firth, nearly opposite to Fort George, fairly took up, without displacing one stone from another, the Fortrose Cathedral, and, carrying it to Elgin, placed the Elgin Cathedral in its stead at Fortrose, and made all so right and tight before morning as to leave no traces of their night's labour, except a jutting causeway of rocks and stones, which is still seen projecting into the firth at the spot alluded to.

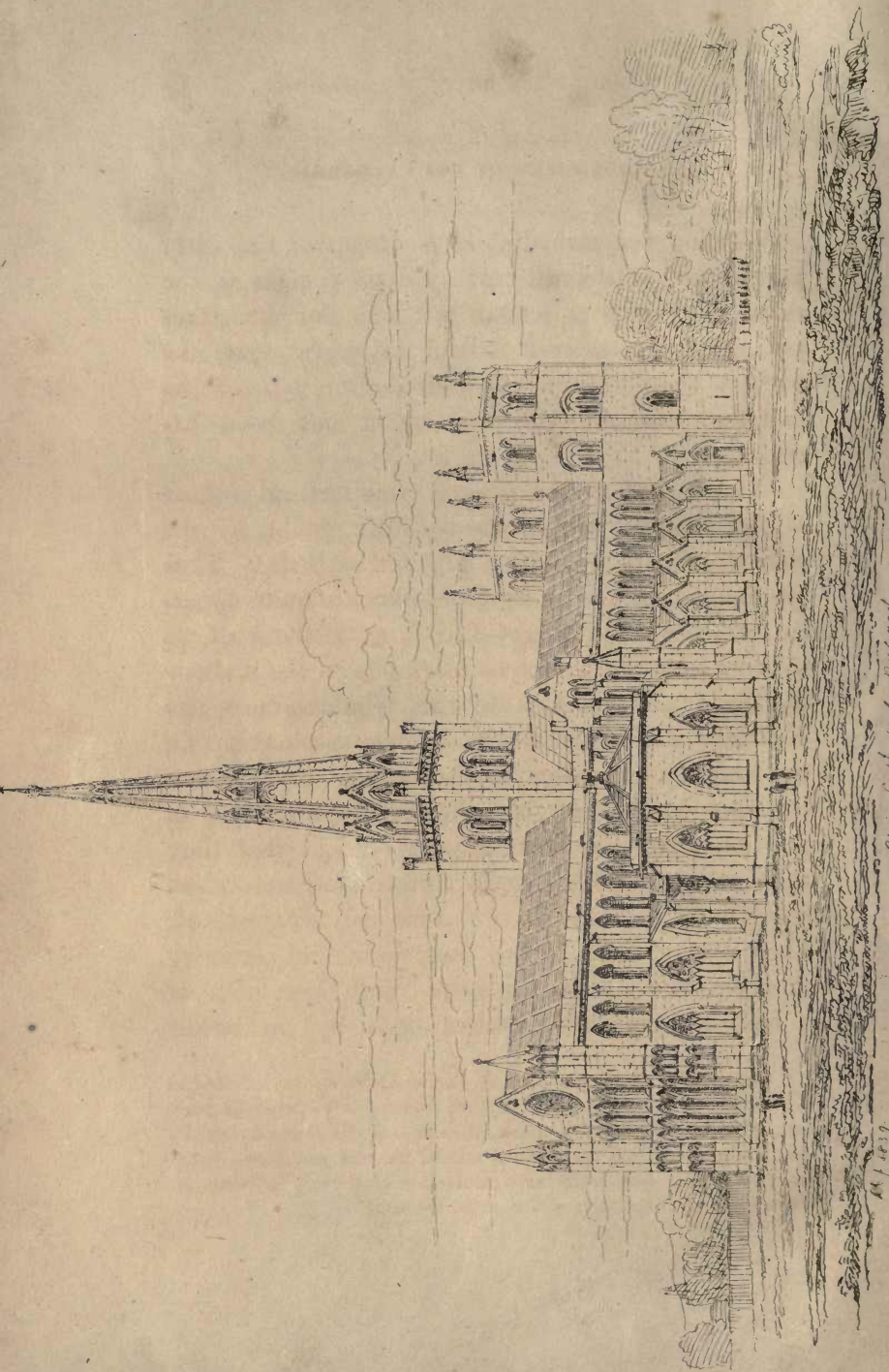
ing of the crucifixion, the colours of which were remarkably vivid, notwithstanding its partial exposure to the weather. The eastern side, fronting the high altar, contained a representation of the last judgment. The windows were glazed with tinted glass, bearing various figures and devices, fused masses of which have been dug out of the ruins, where they had lain probably since the conflagration of 1390. High toned bells also must have been in the steeples, for Bishop Barr alludes to them as part of the lost accompaniments of the destroyed cathedral.

When entire, then, and in its pristine glory, this magnificent temple must have afforded a splendid spectacle. A vast dome, extending from the western entrance to the high altar, a length of 289 feet — with its richly ornamented arches, crossing and re-crossing each other, to lean for support on the double rows of stately massive pillars — the mellowed light streaming in at the gorgeous windows above, and flickering below amid the deep and dark shades of the pointed aisles, while the tapers of the lit up altars twinkled through the rolling clouds of incense — the paintings on the walls — the solemn tones of the chaunted mass — the rich modulated music of the choir — and the gorgeous dresses and imposing ceremonies and processions of a priesthood sedulous of every adjunct to dazzle and elevate the fancy, — must have deeply impressed, with awe and veneration, a people in a remote region — in a semi-barbarous age — and with nothing around them, or

even in their uninformed imaginations, in the slightest degree to compare with such splendour. No wonder that the people were proud of such a structure, or that the clergy became attached to it. It was a fit scene for a Latin author of the period, writing on the "tranquillity of the soul," to select for his "Temple of Peace," and under its walls to lay the scene of his philosophical dialogues.*

Neither has this high estimate of the cathedral, even as a ruin, lost any of its force in modern times. On the contrary, it forms a prominent object amid the mass of feelings of local attachment which wind about the heart of every Morayshire man. We have heard of a native of the county who, early in life, emigrated to America, and who, during a sojourn of upwards of forty years in a strange land, still retained such lively impressions of the "chan'ry kirk," that he could call up most vividly in his imagination almost every turret and stone of the building, and which he described to his listening family around his winter hearth, as one of the seven wonders of the world. Age and infirmities would not permit him to revisit the scene himself; but as the next substitute to beholding it with his own eyes, he sent his son, that he might come back to him laden with fresh images and grateful tidings of his beloved county.

* Volusenus, Scotus. De anima Tranquillitate.



Ely Cathedral - Rutland

1871

RESTORED VIEW OF THE CATHEDRAL.

Viewing the cathedral as a design of the early part of the thirteenth century, and comparing the ruins as they now remain with similar structures yet entire, and after a careful investigation of the earliest sketches and written descriptions of the building, the annexed restoration has been attempted.*

With regard to the general architectural outline of the building there can be little doubt, as the elements for its restoration are still existing. Thus the foundation line and ground plan are quite apparent, and so is the height and form of the roof, as indicated by the numerous markings on the walls—the form and position of the windows are also distinctly shewn by the remaining specimens. Of the conical termination of the eastern towers there can be no doubt, and from the architectural style of the two western it is abundantly evident that they were surmounted by small turrets, and not raised into spires, as some have erroneously conjectured. Their massy form, broad buttresses, and severity of style, are all incompatible with the idea of a high tapering spire, which was by no means

* The splendid work of Britton on English Cathedrals has afforded us ample materials for such comparisons; and we have to acknowledge many useful hints from Mr Kemp, architect, the author of the design for Sir W. Scott's monument, who has minutely studied the ruin, and whose enthusiasm for ancient architecture even rivals that of Britton, by whom his self-taught labours have met with a cordial sympathy.

characteristic of the period when they were designed, if not actually built. Indeed, it is doubtful whether the central tower, when first erected, contained a spire, although there can be no hesitation in believing that the restored tower, completed in 1538, had this termination, for we are told that it was then 198 feet in height. Many minor alterations and additions of this kind, no doubt, were substituted as the rebuilding and restoration of the cathedral gradually took place, in accordance with the progressing architectural taste of the times.

The ground plan, p. 78, will sufficiently point out the double row of pillars passing along the centre of the nave and choir, as also the pillars supporting the arches forming the aisles on each side of the nave. The subjoined measurements, kindly furnished to us by Mr Kemp, will also be found more correct than any hitherto published.

The whole roof was probably covered with lead, or the nave and choir may have been slated with grey sandstone slabs, while the central spire, western towers, and chapter house, may have had a leaden covering.



Sains Port



THE COLLEGE.

A STRONG wall, eight feet high, surrounded the cathedral, and enclosed a space of 900 yards in circumference, called the College, which included the manses and gardens of the resident canons or dignified clergy. A paved street ran around this area, and led to five gates. The eastern gate, called the Water Gate or Pann's Port,* had an iron portcullis, the groove for which is seen in the sketch of this, the only remaining entrance of the cathedral. Near this gate is a noble beech tree, whose venerable aspect, large trunk, and wide spreading branches, might lead us to the not improbable supposition, that some ancient inmate of the college may have planted it with his own hand. Immediately west of the college was a small burgh distinct from the town of Elgin, which was under the jurisdiction of the bishop.

There were twenty-two canons who resided within the college and composed the chapter; they were chosen from the ministers of the diocese,

* The meadow-land lying east of Pann's Port is termed Pannis in the oldest deeds, and seems an abbreviation of *pannaqium*, a meadow or pasture land.

officiated in the cathedral, and part of them formed the bishop's council. They were also called prebendaries, because each had a *prebendum* or portion of land allotted to him for his services. Hence the local names of small portions of land yet remaining, as the "Dean's Crook," "Dipple Croft," "Moy Croft."

The canons were the ministers of

Auldearn (Dean.)	Kingussie.	Pettie.
Forres (Archdeacon.)	Duthil.	Duffus.
Alves (Chantor.)	Advie.	Spynie.
Inveravon (Chancellor.)	Aberlour.	Rennie.
Kinnedar (Treasurer.)	Dipple.	Moy.
Dallas.	Botarie.	Croy.
Rafford.	Inverkeithnie.	Vicar of Elgin.
	Kinnore.	

Each of them had a manse and garden within the college, besides vicarages attached to their parishes in the country, whose joint revenues they drew. Only three of these manses now remain.

The Dean was anciently superior over ten canons. In the absence of the Bishop he presided in the chapter, in synods, and all church courts.

The Archdeacon visited the diocese, examined candidates for orders, gave collations, and was the Bishop's vicar.

The Chantor regulated the music, and presided in the choir.

The Chancellor was the judge of the bishop's court, the secretary of the chapter, and keeper of their seal.

The Treasurer took charge of the treasure and common revenues of the diocese.

The whole of these arrangements were modelled on that of the see of Lincoln, and coincide generally with the other cathedrals of the time.

The power of the Bishop was almost supreme within the diocese ; and for carrying this power into execution he had courts and officers, ecclesiastical, civil, and criminal. With the advice of his council he made laws, canons, and regulations ; erected, disjoined, or united parishes, and sold or purchased church lands and tithes.

UNTHANK MANSE is represented in the accompanying sketches. It bears on its wall the arms marked 7, in the plate of armorial bearings, which seem to be that of the family of Moray or Dunbar. There is also in one of the rooms a curious stone mantelpiece, represented in one of the accompanying sketches, and bearing the date 1679.

DUFFUS MANSE was pulled down about ten years ago. It was a small plain house, with an octagon turret. *See Sketch.*

THE COLLEGE, now the property of Mrs Robertson, was the residence of the Dean of Moray. During the terrible famine of the year 1742, the beneficent lady of Dunbar of Burgie, who then occupied this house, caused a large cauldron of gruel to be prepared daily, to be doled out to the numerous wretched beings who wandered about the country in the last agonies of starvation ; and it is related that such was the state of extreme exhaus-

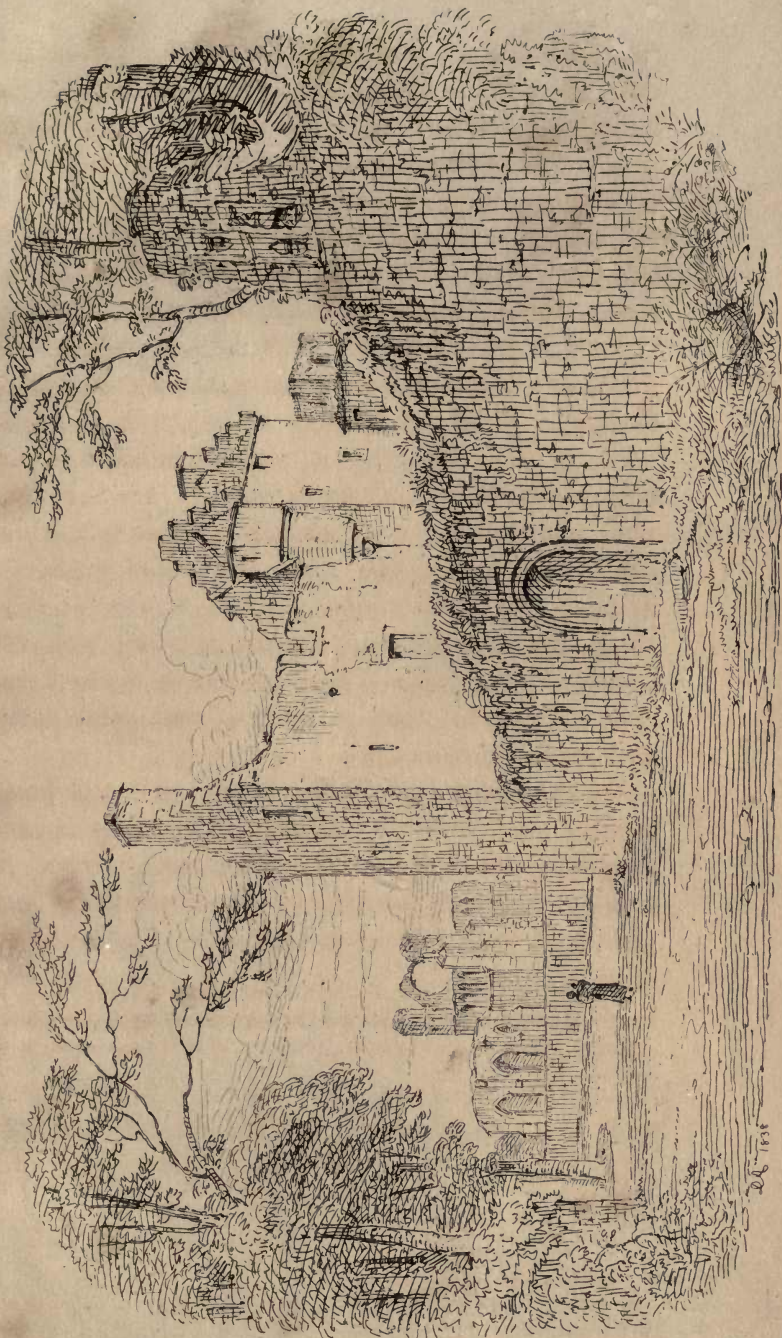
tion of many of those who flocked to receive this charity, that frequently the lane leading to the house was strewed with the dead bodies of those whose last energies were insufficient to bear them up to the hospitable door.

The house occupied by the late Major Duff, college, was the manse of the subdean; but it has received many additions and alterations.

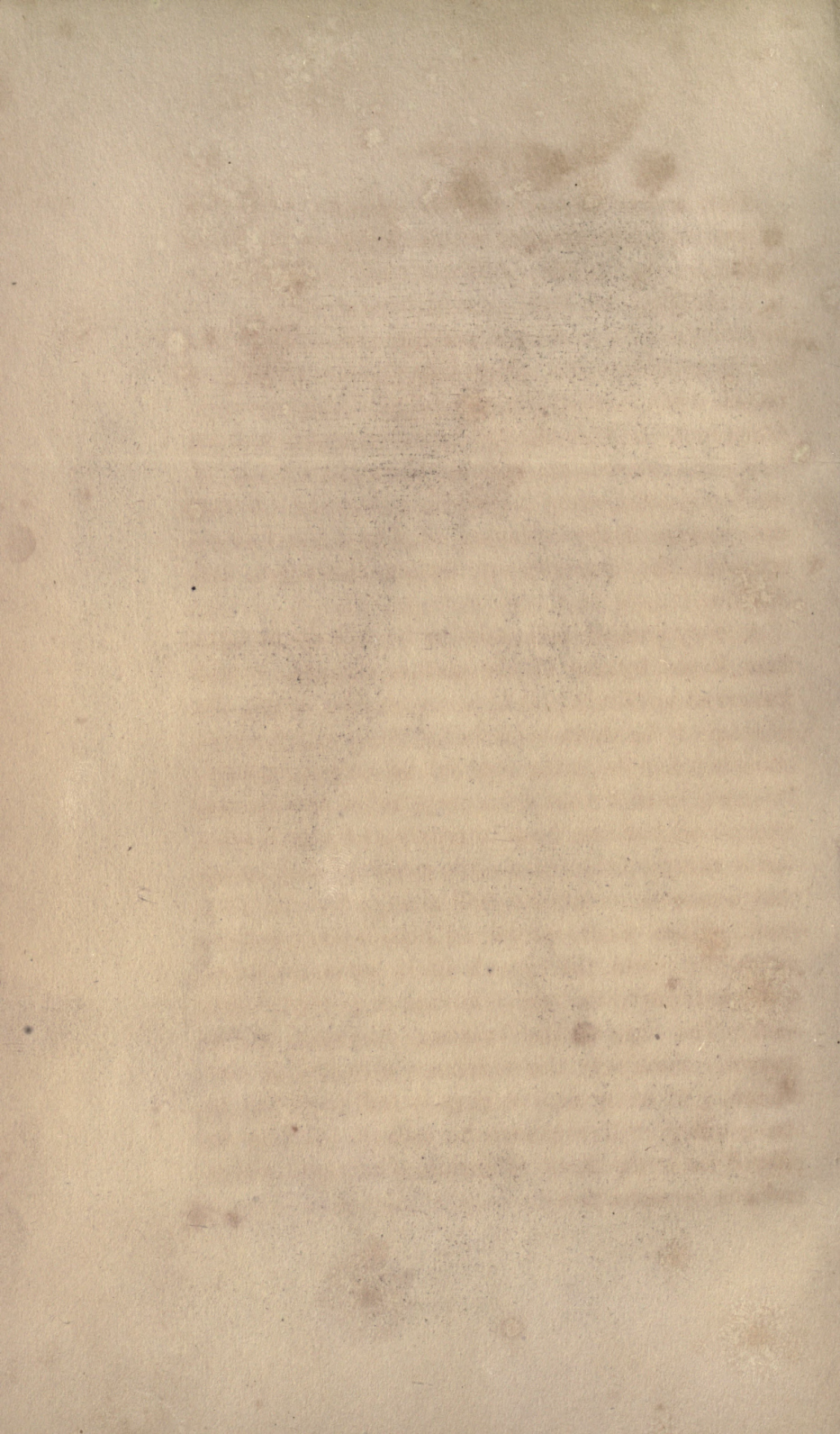
THE BISHOP'S TOWN RESIDENCE, which still exists as a ruin, forms also one of the accompanying sketches. From its bearing on a slab in the front wall the Stewart arms, it was probably built by Bishop David or Andrew Stewart.* On the same wall, above the carved arms, is a figure with three heads—the usual gothic attempt at representing the Trinity. In the interior, portions of the stuccoed walls of the rooms still remain, in which are seen traces of paintings. These are much defaced, but exhibit traces of warriors, priests, a musical party, and scrolls with mottoes.

On the alienation of the church lands, this house became the property of Alexander Seton, Lord Urquhart, and Earl of Dunfermline. Hence its name of Dunfermline House. It subsequently was purchased by the Duke of Gordon.

* The late Rev. Mr Grant, in the "Survey of the Province," says, on what authority we know not, that it was erected by Bishop Patrick Hepburn. His arms are also on the walls, but he lived subsequently to the Stewarts.



Bishop's Palace, Elgon



THE ANCIENT DIOCESE OF MORAY was very extensive, comprehending within its bounds the whole of the present counties of Moray and Nairn, and also part of Aberdeen, Banff, and Inverness-shires. The exact date of its erection into a bishopric is unknown; but it probably took place about the beginning of the eleventh century, in the reign of Alexander I. Gregory is the first bishop's name on record, and he flourished towards the end of Alexander's reign, or the commencement of his successor, David I. Before the erection of the cathedral at Elgin, the bishops occupied the churches of Birnie, Kinnedar, and Spynie.

A very ancient bell, said to have been brought from Rome by one of the earliest bishops, is still preserved at Birnie. It is of an angular shape, the joinings at the three sides being rivetted by nails; there is a handle at the top, but no tongue remains. It seems to be formed of a mixture of bronze and silver, and has long been in repute as a sacred relic, and a fixture of the place—the general belief being, that wherever removed it will always find its way back. There is also preserved here a very ancient stone font; and the church itself bears marks of great antiquity, the choir having a purely Saxon arch. The date of the building, however, is unknown. Such was the reverence attached to this church, that an ancient saying is still prevalent in the country, “If a person be unwell, let him be prayed for in the Kirk of Birnie, which will either end him or mend him.”

In 1224, Bishop Andrew Moray obtained permission of Pope Honorius to transfer the cathedral to the church of the Holy Trinity at Elgin, as being a situation much more suitable, and in the same year laid the foundation of the building.

In 1390, after it had stood 166 years, Alexander, Lord of Badenoch, and son of King Robert II. to revenge himself on Bishop Barr, set fire to the cathedral and college, the hospital of Maison Dieu, and the church of St Giles, by which they were reduced to a heap of ruins. It would appear that this Highland savage, whose ferocity obtained for him the appellation of the Wolfe of Badenoch, had, some time before, unjustly seized on the church lands in his district, belonging to the cathedral, and refusing to give them up, had been excommunicated by the bishop. Filled with resentment at this the highest punishment of the times, he, with his followers, made an incursion first on the burgh of Forres, which he burnt; and afterwards, in the month of June, on the devoted cathedral and college of Elgin. In order to form some idea of the reckless ferocity of his character we have to consider, not only the cruelty of thus pouncing with an armed band on a defenceless old man, surrounded by his equally defenceless household; but also the sacrilegious nature of the act in a period when all crimes against the church were looked on with peculiar horror and indignation. We may easily conceive the consternation and dismay which this raid excited among the peaceful burghers and the quiet ecclesias-

tical inmates of its sacred edifices ; and the following vivid description faithfully fills up the more meagre details of the historian.

“The vesper hymn had died away through the lengthened aisles of the venerable cathedral ; every note of labour or of mirth was silenced within the town. The weary burghers were sunk in sleep, and even the members of the various holy fraternities had retired to their repose. No eye was awake, save those of a few individuals among the religious, who, having habits of more than ordinary severity of discipline, had doomed themselves to wear the hard pavement with their bare knees, and their hours in endless repetition of penitential prayers before the shrine of the Virgin, or the image of some favourite saint. Not even a dog was heard to stir in the streets. They were as dark, too, as they were silent, for with the exception of a feeble lamp or two, which burned in niches before the little figures set up here and there for Popish worship, there was nothing to interrupt the deep obscurity that prevailed. Suddenly the sound of a large body of horsemen was heard entering the town from the west. The dreams of the burghers were broken, and they were roused from their slumbers. The casements were opened, one after another, as the band passed along ; and many a curious head was thrust out. They moved on alertly, without talking ; but although they uttered no sounds, and were but dimly seen, the clank of their weapons, and of their steel harness, told well enough that they were no

band of vulgar peace-loving merchants, but a troop of stirring men-at-arms; and many was the cheek that blanched, and many was the ejaculation that escaped the shuddering lips of the timid burghers as they shrunk within their houses at the alarming conviction. They crossed and blessed themselves after the warriors had passed by, and each again sought his bed.

“But the repose of the inhabitants was, for that night, doomed to be short. Distant shrieks of despair, mingled with shouts of exultation, began to arise in the neighbourhood of the cathedral and the college, in which all the houses of the canons were clustered; and soon the town was alarmed from its centre to its suburbs, by the confused cries of half naked fugitives, who hurried along into the country, as if rushing from some dreadful danger.

“‘Fire, fire! murder! fire, fire! the Wolfe of Badenoch!’ The terrible name of the fell Earl of Buchan was enough of itself to have spread universal panic through the town, even in the midst of broad sunshine. But darkness now magnified their fears. Every one hastened to huddle on what garments might be at hand, and to seize what things were most valuable and portable; and all, without exception, men, women, and children, hurried out into the streets, to seek immediate safety in flight. As the crowd pressed onwards, scarcely daring to look behind them, they beheld the intense darkness of the night invaded by flames that began to shoot upwards in fitful jets. The screams and

the shouts rang in their ears, and they quickened their trembling speed, their voices subdued by fear as they went into indistinct whispers of horror.

“No one dared to stop, but urging on his own steps, he dragged after him those of his feeble parents, or tottering wife, or helpless children. Those who were most timorous, halted not until they had hid themselves in the neighbouring woods ; but those whose curiosity was, in some degree, an equipoise to their fears, stopped to look behind them whenever a view of the town could be obtained, that they might judge of, and lament over the devastation that was going forward. Already they could see that the college, the church of St Giles, and the hospital of the Maison Dieu, were burning ; but these were all forgotten as they beheld the dire spectacle of the cathedral illuminated throughout all the rich tracery of its Gothic windows by a furious fire that was already raging high within it. Groans and lamentations burst from their hearts, and loud curses were poured out on the impious heads of those whose fury had led them to destroy so glorious a fabric and edifice, which they had been taught to venerate from their earliest infancy, and to which they were attached by every association, divine and human, that could possibly bind the heart of man. In the midst of their wailings the pitchy vault of heaven began to be reddened by the glare of the spreading conflagration, and the loud and triumphant shouts that now arose, unmingled with those cries of terror which had at first blended

with them, too plainly told that the power of the destroyer was resistless.”*

Yet, strange to say, even after this second outrage, this same Wolfe of Badenoch, after his humble submission in the Black Friars Church at Perth, received full absolution of his crimes, on condition of his making ample satisfaction to the Bishop of Moray; and after his death a flattering monument asserts, that he died in full reconciliation with the church, which he had so outraged.

Soon after this catastrophe, Bishop Barr took active measures for rebuilding the cathedral. He addressed a pathetic letter to his sovereign, setting forth the low condition to which he, an old and debilitated man, had been brought by robbery and depredation, and reduced to such a state of poverty, that scarcely had he ought to sustain his own life and that of his few dependents; and imploring his majesty to compel the spoilers to make restitution, and enable him to rebuild that church which formed the chief ornament and glory of the county, and the admiration of strangers; and in which, as he believed, the Supreme Being was truly worshipped.*

* “The Wolfe of Badenoch.” By Sir T. D. Lauder, Bart.

† *Supplicatio Episcopi pro remedio reedificationis suae ecclesie*,—

Humillima mei recommendatione premissa, princeps serenissime et domine metuende, dignetur scire celsitudo regia me debilitatum senio et multis depredationibus et latrociniiis depauperatum et confractum ac ad tantum redactum inopiam quod vix vitam pauperem pro me et paucis familiaribus valeo sustinere. Cum magna difficultate ad istud parlamentum vestrum apud Sconam ista vice. pro remedio reedificationis ecclesie mee que fuit speciale patrie decus regni gloria et delectatio extraneorum et supervenientium hospitem laus et exaltatio laudis in regnis extraneis in multitudine

We do not know the immediate result of this appeal; but the bishop commenced rebuilding the church, and his canons contributed. After his death, Bishop Spynie continued the work; every parish contributed; but the unsettled state of the times prevented it from making rapid advances.

In 1402, another lawless incendiary, Alexander Macdonald, third son of the Lord of the Isles, after burning a great part of the town of Elgin, entered the college, and completely plundered it. For this outrage he was excommunicated; but afterwards purchased his pardon and absolution by a sum of gold, which was appropriated to the erection of a cross and bell at the east end of the town, the same probably now standing, and called the "Little Cross."

servantium et ornatu pulcherrimo . et in qua ut creditur Deus recte colebatur . ut de altis ipsius campanilibus et de venustissimo ipsius apparatu intrinseco et jocalibus ipsius innumerus taceam . personaliter cum quibusdam ecclesie mee canonicis laborasse et quia ipsum parliamentum non tenuit nec potui pro expensarum defectu ad vos ulterius laborare . causam Dei et ecclesie mee in majestatis vestre regie deduco memoriam . supplicans quantam possum humiliter quatenus incendiarios et malefactores alios dignemini ad ipsius reedificationem debitam et aliorum dampnorum illatorum satisfactionem congruam compellere per omnem censuram quam de concilio vestro videritis opportunam . Et quia ego senex et debilis pro causis predictis injuriam et combustionem ecclesie mee prosequi ulterius ad presens non valeo . causam ipsam majestati regie in subsidium justitie et servitium Dei et sancte fidei orthodoxe prosequendam et emendandam comitto . Sicut venerabilis pater dominus episcopus Rossensis cui hec exponendo comissi excellentie regie plenius intimabit (cui dignetur) majestas regia super hiis credere . et mihi vestro capellano per ipsum precipere confideret . Scriptum apud Sconam secundo dei Decembris anno regni vestri primo . tempore coronationis vestre querelam feci sed nihil invenio reformatum . Sceptrum vestrum regium inclitum et solium in sanctitate et justitia corroboraret et dirigat dominantium dominus et rex regum.—*Regist. Morav.*

Bishop Innes founded the great steeple in the centre ; and on his death a resolution was passed by the chapter, in 1414, that whoever succeeded as bishop should bind himself, by an oath, to apply a third of his annual revenue until the cathedral was completed. The great steeple having fallen in 1506, Bishop Foreman began to rebuild it ; but the work was not completed till 1538.

The sandstone, composing the walls of the cathedral, is that of the surrounding country ; but from what particular locality it was taken cannot now be ascertained. It is a fine grained, moderately hard, and extremely durable stone ; of a pale yellowish tint, and a smooth and uniform surface when polished. As a building stone it possesses advantages superior to any, perhaps, in the kingdom.

The levelling spirit of the Reformation did not extend into this remote district ; and the cathedral having outstood that period, might have remained, even to the present day, in a tolerable state of preservation, had it not been for an act of the Privy Council of 1568, which directed the lead to be stripped off the cathedrals of Aberdeen and Elgin, and shipped for Holland, to afford funds for the payment of the King's troops. This order was punctually obeyed, under the guidance of the legal authorities ; the lead was shipped at Aberdeen ; but in the passage to Holland the vessel sunk, it is said, in consequence of the superstitious timidity of the Catholic captain.

From a drawing of the cathedral, taken in 1618,

it appears that, notwithstanding it had been unroofed for a century, the greater part of the walls still stood entire; the mason-work of the centre tower still remained, as well as the walls of the nave, choir, and transepts. From this period, however, it gradually yielded to the influence of the weather. On Easter Sunday, 1711, the central tower fell to the ground, just as a number of towns people and children, who had been enjoying themselves under it, had retired to breakfast.

The ruin thus remained in a greatly neglected state till about 1820, when the attention of the barons of his majesty's exchequer was directed to it, and a sum of money was granted for its repair and preservation. In consequence of this, the walls of the whole building, and every place exposed to the weather, received a judicious and thorough repair; the chapter house was roofed in, and the foundations cleared of rubbish, and secured; so that in its present condition, it promises yet to outlast many centuries.*

* We must not here omit mentioning the individual appointed, in 1825, to superintend all that now remains of the see of Moray. In John Shanks seem combined the ancient architectural enthusiasm of Bishop Andrew Moray, joined to the rooted aversion of Bishop Barr for the sacrilegious Wolfe of Badenoch. No sooner did John succeed to his charge, than, with a most laudable zeal and persevering industry, he set personally to work, and with his pick-axe and shovel cleared out from the ruins, no less than 2,866 barrowfulls of rubbish. In this way numerous dilapidated ornaments and figures were brought to light. Several tombs of heroes and holy men were exposed to view, the foundations of the whole building were more distinctly revealed, and a flight of steps, leading to the grand gateway, which had hitherto been covered up, being now fully cleared out, added not a little to the imposing effect of the great western front. Joined to all



*hic jacet wills de le hay quōdā dñs de lochloy qui
obit hñ die mēsis decēbris anno dñi m cccc xxi.*

The consecrated ground of the cathedral was, no doubt, an enviable place for the last repose of the turbulent warriors, as well as the pious sages of the period. The ruins and dilapidations of time have, however, marred and overturned many elaborate monuments, which were, no doubt, destined to go down to an indefinite posterity. One of those, of which the above is a representation, was rescued from the ruins, and now stands in the middle of the choir. It is a stone sarcophagus, with a recumbent knight on the lid, in full armour ; and the inscription tells us, that the mortal remains within are those of William de le Hay of Lochloy, who died, 1421,—a name that frequently appears in the charters of the period, and whose domains were situated in the western part of the province.

these labours, John is also the living chronicler of the sacred demesne, and his legendary lore is always at the service of every stranger visiter. A figure of this worthy is seen in the sketch of the entrance to the chapter house.

LIST OF THE BISHOPS OF MORAY,

WITH HISTORICAL NOTICES.*

GREGORIUS is the first Bishop of Moray on record. He held the see in the end of the reign of Alexander I. and the beginning of that of David.

WILLIAM was Bishop of Moray before 1158, or 1159, when he went on a mission from King Malcolm IV. to the Pope, and in 1160 returned papal legate to Scotland. He died 9 Kal. Feb. 1161.

FELIX succeeded 1162, and died 1170, or 1171.

SIMON DE TOENY, elected 1171, consecrated 10 Kal. Feb. 1172. This is the first bishop in whose favour deeds are recorded in the chartulary, and he is the first in a roll of bishops of the see, certainly of considerable antiquity. He died 15 Kal. Octob. 1184, and was buried at Birnie.

ANDREW, consecrated 1184, died 1185.

RICHARD, *Clericus Regis*, elected Kal. Mar. consecrated Id. Mar. 1187. King William appears to have resided frequently in the diocese during his episcopate, and besides considerable grants to his old servant, repeatedly lent the authority of the civil magistrate for enforcing the tithes and dues of the

* Regist. Morav. collated with Chart. Melros, Ferne Calendar, and Shaw.

Church, and supporting its jurisdiction. Richard died in 1203, and was buried at Spynie.

BRICIUS, a son of the House of Douglas, previously prior of Lesmahago, probably also Dean of Moray, succeeded in 1203. Whether from consanguinity or alliance, he seems to have been closely connected with the powerful family of De Moravia, to which perhaps he owed his promotion to a benefice so far from his own country. He was a great benefactor to the Church. He procured the cathedral formerly undefined, and held at Birney, Spynie, or Kinnedar, to be fixed at Spynie. And it would appear that he afterwards applied to Rome for its transference to Elgin—for the Pope speaks of the personal representations of the bishop—though this change did not take place till after his demise. He founded a chapter of eight secular canons, and gave to his cathedral a constitution, founded on the usage of Lincoln, which he ascertained by a mission to England. He brought with him into Moray his brothers, Archibald, Alexander, Hugh, Henry, and probably Freskinus, and provided for some of them by grants of land, for others as beneficed churchmen. The promotion of their brother to the bishopric, and perhaps the connection with the great northern family already mentioned, seems to have laid the first foundation of the power of the family of Douglas, whose name before this period is scarcely known in history. Bricius died in 1222, and was buried at Spynie.

ANDREW *de Moravia*, succeeded in 1222, but

was not consecrated till after 1223. He was probably the son of Hugh de Moravia, Lord of Duffus, and before being raised to the bishopric, parson of Duffus, in which character he consented to the erection of the chapel. In his time, in 1224, the transference of the episcopal see, and the cathedral of the diocese of Elgin, was effected, which had been designed and solicited by his predecessor. This bishop probably built the cathedral church, and he at different times, and chiefly by munificent endowments obtained from his own relatives of the families of De Moravia, of Duffus, and Petty, increased the number of prebends in the cathedral to twenty-three; of which the bishop held one, and sat as a simple undignified canon in the chapter. Andrew died in 1242, and lies buried in the choir of the cathedral under a large blue stone.

SIMON, probably the Dean of Moray, succeeded in 1243. He died 1252, and was buried in the choir, where a blue stone rests on his grave.

ARCHIBALD, Dean of Moray, was consecrated in 1253. He built the Palace of Kinnedar, and resided there. In his time William, Earl of Ross, had done some injury to the Church of Pettie, and Prebend of Brachlie, for the reparation of which he gave the lands of Catboll in Ross, and other lands, to the bishop and canons. He died 5th December, 1298, and was buried in the cathedral.

DAVID de Moravia was consecrated by Pope Boniface VIII. at Agnanià, on the 28th June, 1299. This bishop was a zealous supporter of Bruce in the

war of independence, “dedit eis intelligere prædicando, periculo animæ suae, quod non minus, possent mereri qui cum domino Roberto in ipsius auxilium contra regem Angliæ et suos insurgerent, et partem ipsius Robertum juvarent, quam si in terram sanctam contra Paganos et Saracenos proficiscerentur.”—(Hailes.) He died 5 Idus Januarii, 1325, and was buried in the choir of the cathedral.

JOHN Pilmore, son of Adam Pilmore, burgess of Dundee, elected Bishop of Ross, was postulated Bishop of Moray, and consecrated by Pope John XXII. at Avignon, 3 Kal. Apr. 1326. He died at Spynie, 28th September, 1362.

ALEXANDER Barr succeeded, consecrated at Avignon, by Pope Urban V. in the month of December, 1362. He was the author of the affecting letter to the king, on the burning of the cathedral by the Wolfe of Badenoch. He died at Spynie 15th May, 1397, and was interred in the cathedral.

WILLIAM de Spyny, Chantor of Moray, consecrated at Avignon by Pope Benedict, 16th September, 1397. Died at Elgin, 20th August, 1406, and was buried in the cathedral.

JOHN de Innes, Parson of Duffus, and Archdean of Caithness, consecrated at Avignon by Pope Benedict, 23d January, 1406. Died at Elgin 25th April, 1414. He began the building of the great central steeple, and was buried at the foot of the north-west pillar of it. At the chapter held for electing his successor, the canons agreed, and made oath, that if any of them should be elected bishop, he should

bestow the third of the revenues of the bishopric on the building of the church until its complete restoration. The person elected was

HENRY de Lychton, Parson of Duffus, LL.D. consecrated at Valentia by Pope Benedict XIII. 8th March, 1414, translated to Aberdeen, 1421.

DAVID succeeded, and was bishop till 1429.

COLUMBA de Dunbar, Dean of Dunbar, succeeded in 1429, who died at Spynie, 1435.

JOHN Winchester, L.B. *Clericus Regis*, Prebendary of Dunkeld, Provost of Lincluden, Lord Register, elected and confirmed by the Pope, April, 1436, consecrated at Cambus Kenneth, 9th May, 1437, A person in great confidence and high employment under James I. He died 1st April, 1460.

JAMES Stewart, of the family of Lorn, Dean of Moray, and high treasurer, succeeded. He died 5th August, 1453.

DAVID Stewart, brother of James, consecrated 1461. He built the great tower of the palace of Spynie, which still stands. He enacted several salutary regulations within the diocese, and died 1475.

WILLIAM Tulloch, Bishop of Orkney, translated to Moray 1477. He was keeper of the privy seal, and died 1482.

ANDREW Stewart, son of the queen-mother by her second marriage with Sir James Stewart of Lorn, elected 1482, consecrated 1483. He died 29th September, 1501.

ANDREW Forman succeeded in 1501. He was

frequently employed in embassies, and was in great favour with James IV. He was commendator of the Abbeys of Dryburgh and Pittenweem, and of Collingham in England; and was translated to the see of St Andrews in 1514.

JAMES Hepburn, Abbot of Dunfermline, and High Treasurer, the third son of Adam, Lord Hales, succeeded. He was consecrated in 1516. He died before November, 1524, when the Earl of Angus wrote to Cardinal Wolsey, to solicit the Pope for the Bishoprick of Moray and Abbacy of Melrose for his brother,—“whilkis are baith vacant.”

ROBERT Schaw, Abbot of Paisley, promoted to the see of Moray 1524, died 1527.

ALEXANDER Stewart, son of Alexander, Duke of Albany, who was son of James II. by Catherine Sinclair, succeeded 1527. He held the Abbacy of Scoon in commendam, and died in 1534.

PATRICK Hepburn, son of Patrick, first Earl of Bothwell, and uncle of the murderer of Darnley, was bishop in 1535. He had previously held the Priory of St Andrews, and was for some time secretary. After his promotion to the bishoprick he held the Abbacy of Scoon in commendam. He was of abandoned character, and the great dilapidator of the church possessions; almost all the charters of alienation were granted by him. He had numerous children, and he provided for many of them, both sons and daughters, out of the possessions of his bishopric and abbacy. He outlived and braved the Reformation, and continued his former mode of life

in his palace and castle of Spynie, and his profuse alienation of church lands till his death, 20th June, 1573. He was the last Popish bishop.

GEORGE Douglas, natural son of Archibald, Earl of Angus, was appointed the first Protestant bishop 12th August, and consecrated 5th February, 1573. He was bishop in January, 1584. On his death, the temporality of the Bishopric of Moray was erected by King James VI. into a temporal lordship in favour of Alexander Lindsay, created Lord Spyny. It was repurchased from him by the Crown, and restored to the Church on the re-establishing of Episcopacy in 1606. After that period the bishops were

ALEXANDER Douglas, probably son of the former. He was ordained minister of Elgin about the year 1582, and served as a Presbyterian minister till the year 1606. In that year, Prelacy was established by parliament, and he was ordained bishop in 1610. He died 1623, and was buried in the aisle of St Giles' Church, Elgin, where a monument was erected to him by his wife, a daughter of the Laird of Innes.

JOHN Guthrie, minister of Edinburgh, was consecrated in 1623, and was deposed by the General Assembly which met in 1638. He kept possession of the castle of Spynie however, and garrisoned it in self defence. In 1640, when the Covenanters took arms, Major-General Munro marched with three hundred men to reduce the palace, when the bishop, on the advice of his son-in-law, Mr Brodie, minister

of Keith, surrendered, delivering up the arms and horses of the place. The bishop retired to his paternal estate in Angus, and the see remained vacant till after the restoration.

MURDOCH Mackenzie, chaplain in the army of Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden, and afterwards minister of Contin, Ross-shire, from thence translated to Inverness, and from that burgh to Elgin, was consecrated bishop 18th January, 1662. Originally a zealous Presbyterian and Covenanter, he, as a bishop, became an equally uncompromising prelate, and deposed some of his clergy for non-conformity. He was translated to the see of Orkney in 1676, and died in 1688.

JAMES Aitkin, rector of Wimprey, in the county of Bristol, was, on the king's recommendation, elected in January, 1677. He was a man of great piety, and maintained strict order and discipline among his clergy, without severity to Dissenters. He was translated to Galloway in 1680, and died 1687.

COLIN Falconer, son of William of Dunduff, minister of Essil, and then of Forres, was made Bishop of Argyle in 1679, but being ignorant of the Gaelic language, was translated to Moray in 1680. He died in 1686, and was buried in the aisle of St Giles' Church.

ALEXANDER Rose, of the family of Inch in Garrioch, a branch of the family of Kilravock, was successively minister of Perth, Professor of Divinity at Glasgow, and Principal of St Mary's College,

St Andrews. He was consecrated bishop in 1687, and the same year was translated to Edinburgh, where he died in 1720.

WILLIAM Hay, D.D. of the family of Park in Moray, minister of Perth, was consecrated in 1688 at St Andrews, and was ejected at the Revolution the same year. He returned to the house of his son-in-law near Inverness, and died 1707.

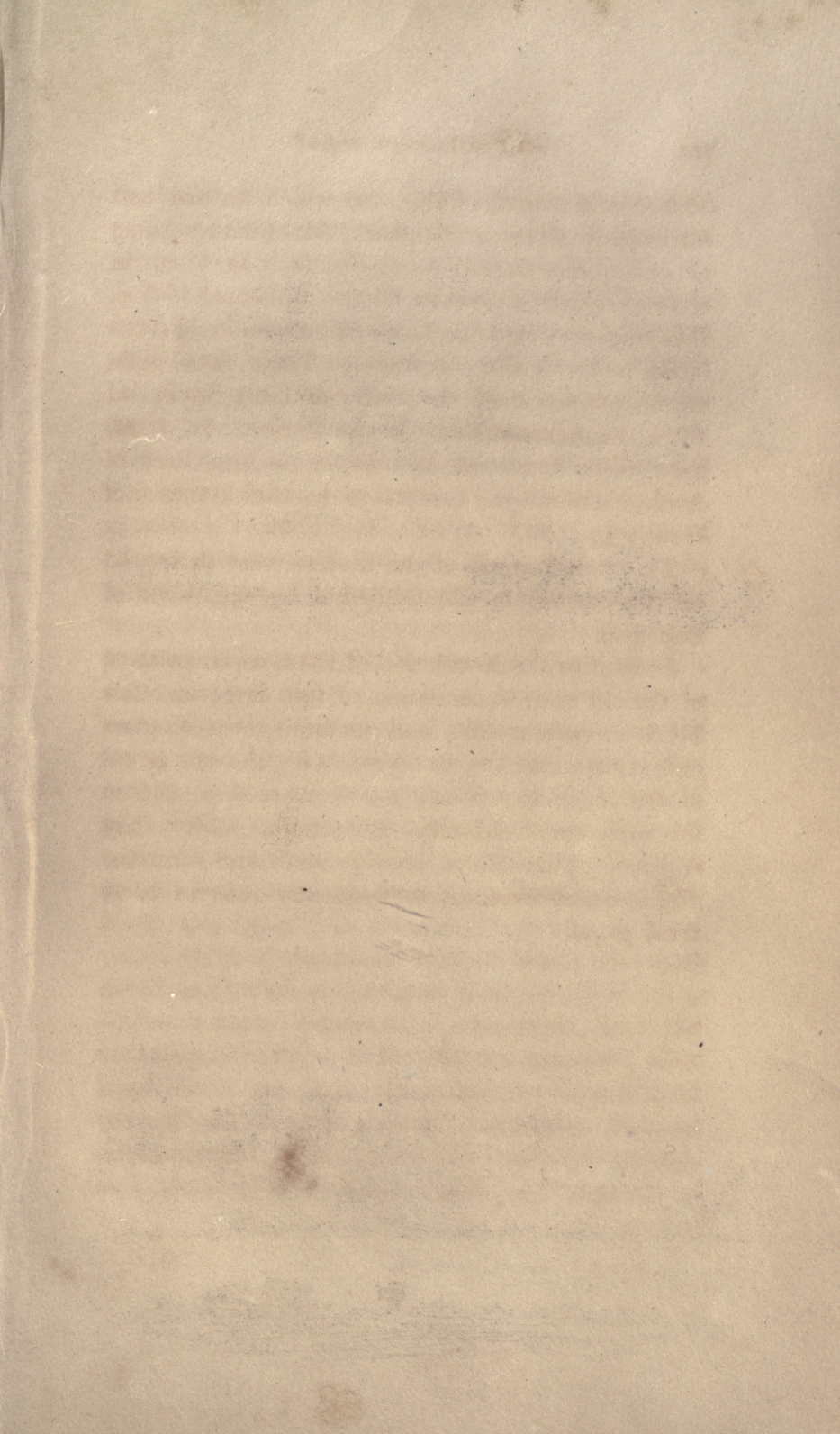
The revenues of the bishopric were, in its high and palmy days, very ample. William the Lion, at a very early period, granted to it the tenth of all his returns from Moray; and grants of lands, forests, and fishings, were successively made by other monarchs and chiefs. Besides holding considerable property in land within the limits of the diocese, it also possessed property in Ross, Inverness, Strathnaver, &c. The amount of the rental as given in the year 1563 was L.1640 Scots money, 77 chalders barley, 10 bolls wheat, 2 chalders oats, 8 lasts of salmon, and 223 poultry. By this time, however, more than half the Church lands were alienated, the full rents were not given up, and altogether probably the items just enumerated were not more than a third of the actual income during the most flourishing period of the Church.

The temporal estates of the bishopric, with the patronages belonging to the bishop, remained, after the Reformation, in the power of the Crown until the year 1590, when James VI. assigned them to Alexander Lindsay, son of the Earl of Crawford, and grandson of Cardinal Beaton, for payment of

10,000 gold crowns of the sun, which he had lent his majesty when in Denmark, Mr Lindsay being at same time created Lord Spynie. In 1620, in order to obtain a revenue for the Episcopal bishop, the king prevailed on Lord Spynie to resign the lands, reserving the patronages. Those patronages, on the extinction of the family of Lord Spynie in 1670, were reassumed by the Crown. In 1674, they were conveyed by charter to the Earl of Airlie, who disposed of them to the Marquis of Huntly in 1682.

The early records of the diocese were destroyed on the burning of the Cathedral by the Wolfe of Badenoch.

Soon after the Revolution of 1688, copies of some of the old records, consisting of two large and fair MSS. in parchments, and containing the charters and registers of the bishopric, with the old rental of the revenues of the Church, were deposited in the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh, where they still are. These have been printed, and form the *Registrum Moraviense*, so frequently referred to in these pages.





Palace of Spynie



Castle of Duffus

SPYNIE PALACE.

THE surrounding scenery of this palace has, in the course of ages, undergone perhaps as much of change and deterioration as the ruin itself. Formerly the estuary of the Lossie extended in broad expanse along the valley of Pitgaveny, so that the ocean tides approached within a short distance of the eastern side of the precincts, while the blue waters of the Loch Spynie, then of considerable extent, spread out in one uniform mirrored sheet to the westward. The palace, on a gently elevated ground, surrounded with gardens and clumps of trees, then reared its tall towers, and, from its commanding situation, enjoyed a view of the fertile wooded valley, the broad expanse of the firth, and the distant hills of Sutherland and Ross raising their bold blue outlines in the distance. Now, however, the sea has receded, and left only its barren stone-beach behind. The lake has been drained into a stagnant morass. Trees and gardens are gone, and only the bare solitary walls remain to tell a tale of ages that are past, and to suggest to the imagination what days and evenings of calm contemplation—what pomps and processions—what

scheming nights of good and of evil—what deeds of mild beneficence and harsh oppression—what scenes of mirth and festivity—of warfare and cruel outrage—of kind and warm hospitality, and of cold desolation, have all passed in succession in this very spot. The first local habitation of the primitive bishops appears to have been Bruneth or Birney, where the traditional name of the “Castle Hill” alone remains to point out its site. In 1280, Bishop Archibald built a large double house at Kinnedar, a mere fragment of the wall of which is still to be seen on the east side of the churchyard. The first erection at Spynie probably took place soon after the death of Bricius in 1222, and since that period various additions were made by successive bishops. The buildings formed a square of about forty yards, a high wall surrounded the whole, and a noble gateway formed the entrance to the east. Over this gateway are carved the arms of Bishop John Innes, in whose time (about 1406) it was most probably built. The square tower to the south-west, now forming the chief part of the ruins, was built by Bishop David Stewart between 1461 and 1475. Hence it bears the name of “Davie’s Tower.” This bishop having a feud with the Earl of Huntly, laid him under ecclesiastical censure, which so provoked the clan, that they threatened to pull the prelate out of his pigeon holes, meaning the small rooms of the old building. The bishop is said to have replied, that he would soon build a house out of which the Earl and all his clan should not be

able to pull him. This tower certainly does great credit to "Davie's" notions of comfort and magnificence, if not to his architectural taste. It is sixty feet long by thirty-six, and about sixty feet high. The walls are enormously thick, being nine feet; the windows of ample size, considering the fashion of the time. Below were vaulted rooms. Above them four spacious state apartments and bedrooms, with vaulted closets, succeeded. The roof was also vaulted over, and surmounted by a cape-house with surrounding battlements. A winding stair led to the top. The plaster of the walls still remains pretty entire; and when covered with tapestry and oaken pannels, according to the munificence of the times, must have formed very stately apartments. The arms of Bishops David and Andrew Stewart, and those of Patrick Hepburn, are carved on the south wall of this tower.* The other three corners of the quadrangle had also small turrets. In the south side of the area was a spacious tennis court, and parallel to it in the inside a chapel. On the north side were bedrooms and cellars, and on the east stables. Around the court and precincts were gardens well supplied with fruit trees.

After the Reformation the Episcopal bishops then appointed resided in this palace.

During the troublous times of the Charleses, the inhabitants of Moray being opposed to the measures of the Court, frequently suffered from the king's troops. In 1645, when Montrose laid waste the

* See plate of armorial bearings, 1, 2, 3.

lands of Moray with fire and sword, the inhabitants of Elgin, terrified at the approach of the destroyer, fled on a Fasten's eve market, and took shelter with their families and most valuable effects in the castle of Spynie, at that time a fortress of some strength.

After the Revolution, although retained in possession of the Crown, the castle was suffered to be slowly and silently plundered of every thing it contained; even the iron gates, chain of the portcullis, oaken joists and flooring, doors, windows,—all were abstracted, and only the bare walls left. The Barons of Exchequer have now placed a custodier over it, have planted and improved the grounds, and built a lodge for the keeper.

Before the loch of Spynie was drained, it was the resort of numerous flocks of the wild swan. Now, these birds have totally disappeared even from the district. The caperkylie, or cock of the wood, was also a regular winter visitant of the pine woods in the neighbourhood, within the last sixty years; but it, too, has now ceased to make its appearance in the country, and is unknown throughout Scotland. So that both these luxurious birds have fled with the bishops.

GREY FRIARS.

IN the wake of the Episcopal establishment, were numerous other religious houses and institutions in the vicinity of Elgin,—Friars “black and grey,” knights of St John, and wandering monks innumerable. The Grey Friars, or Franciscans, had an establishment said to have been endowed by Alexander II. The ruins of a portion of their chapel wall still remains, and their convent walls form part of the modern mansion of the late William King of New Milne, now the property of Captain Stewart of Lesmurdie. From an entry in the town’s records, 1587, it appears that the Courts of Justiciary were then held in this convent. The accompanying sketch points out all that is to be seen of the ruin.

The Black Friars, or Dominicans, had a house on a piece of ground, still called Blackfriar’s Haugh. But not a vestige of it now remains.

A charitable establishment called *Maison Dieu*, or “The House of God,” founded by Bishop Andrew Moray, for the reception of the poor, and the entertainment of strangers, also occupied the grounds on which Anderson’s Institution now stands. It was largely endowed with lands by various kings and nobles. On the overthrow of the monasteries, the

Crown took possession of its revenues. In 1620, King James made these over to the Magistrates of Elgin for the support of the poor, and the establishment of a music school. Several *Beads-men* are still supported in houses at the east end of the town from these funds, and the remainder is appropriated to the academy.

A leper house also stood in the vicinity, some crofts still bearing the name of "leper lands." This place was for the reception of patients affected with leprosy, a disease very prevalent in this country in the middle ages, but which is now totally unknown in Britain.

In taking a final leave of these religionists, it cannot fail to be remarked how much they accomplished in a remote corner of a barbarous country, and in a rude age, which afforded few resources for the energies of the ameliorators of mankind. Splendid cathedrals were built, parish churches erected, and hospitals for the stranger, the poor, the sick, and incurable. We know little of their domestic histories or employments, for almost all their public and private records were burned or destroyed. One longs to know something more of their tastes and opinions, their leading impulses and guiding principles—these are buried in oblivion, and only their later vices and corruptions live in the satires of their opponents. Theirs was not an era of literature or science, and yet the names of Bede, Roger Bacon, Fordun, Gawin Douglas, and many others, make no mean figure as philosophers, historians, and poets.

We cannot, however, in the long list of ecclesiastics of the see of Moray, particularize one name which, in genius, rose above the clods of the valley; and the meagre existing records of their times are, like many others of the kind, it must be allowed, singularly deficient in any one effort of genius, or ray of imagination.

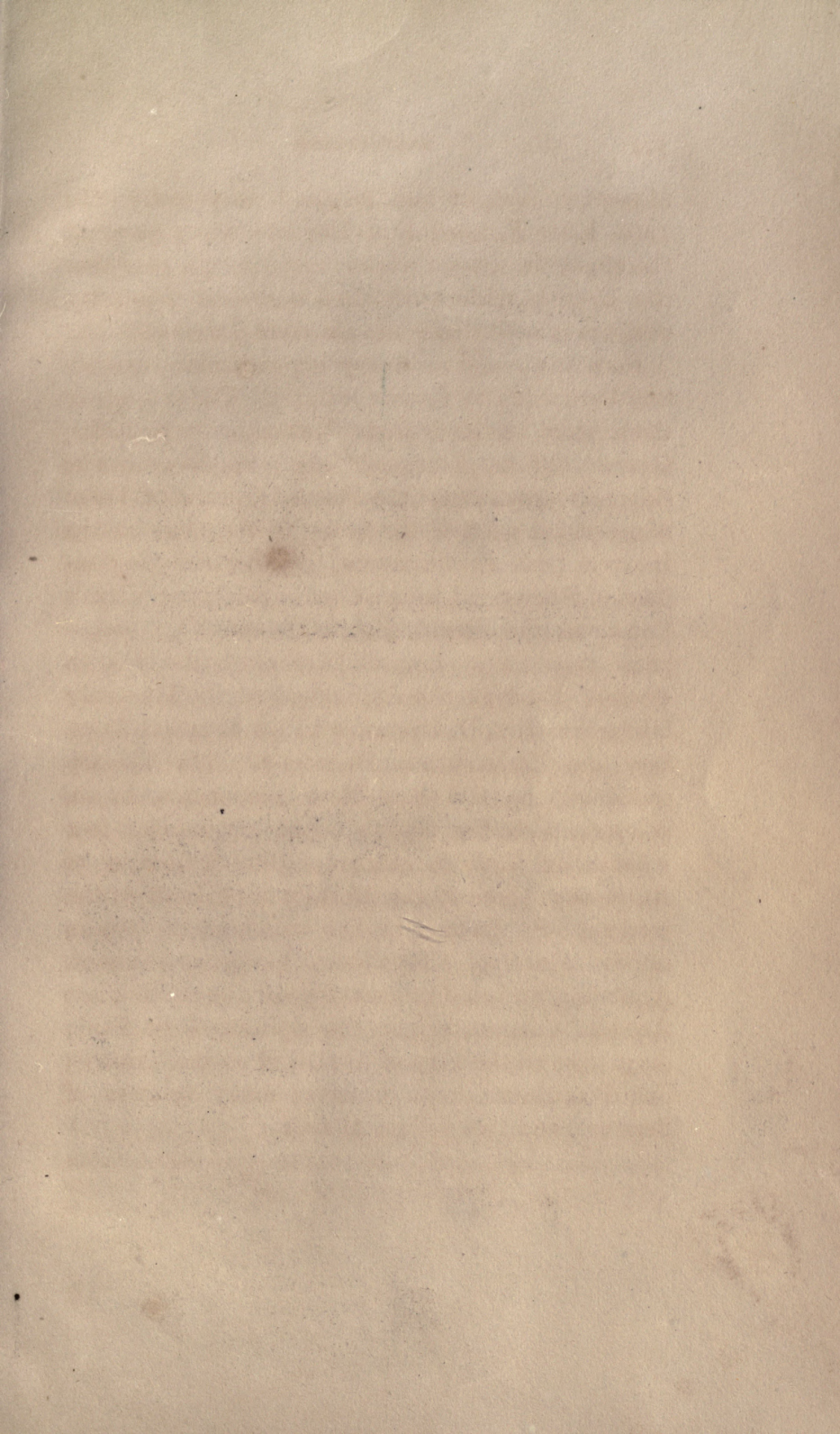
Yet they were not deficient in the fashionable accomplishments of the times; and, at least, architectural taste and genius of no mean order cannot be denied them. To this we may add a considerable proficiency in horticultural art.

Nor were books by any means awanting, embracing the current literature of the era. We learn from the MS. history of Ferrerius, an ecclesiastic brought from Italy in 1520, by Robert Reid,* Abbot of Kinloss, to instruct the members of the abbacy, some interesting particulars regarding the domestic and literary establishment of that place. After describing the church as being of large dimensions, and ornamented with paintings, statues, organs, and altars, he mentions the dormitory of the monks, the refectory, or dining room, the hospital, brew house, kitchen, pigeon house, and garden. The furniture was plentiful, and elegant. There were fifty feather beds, twenty-eight arras coverings, and two silk beds. The table was supplied with vessels

* Robert Reid was a native of Aikenhead, near Kinnedar, was Abbot of Kinloss, and afterwards Bishop of Orkney, and employed in many foreign embassies of State. He gave £450 to the Magistrates to found the University of Edinburgh.

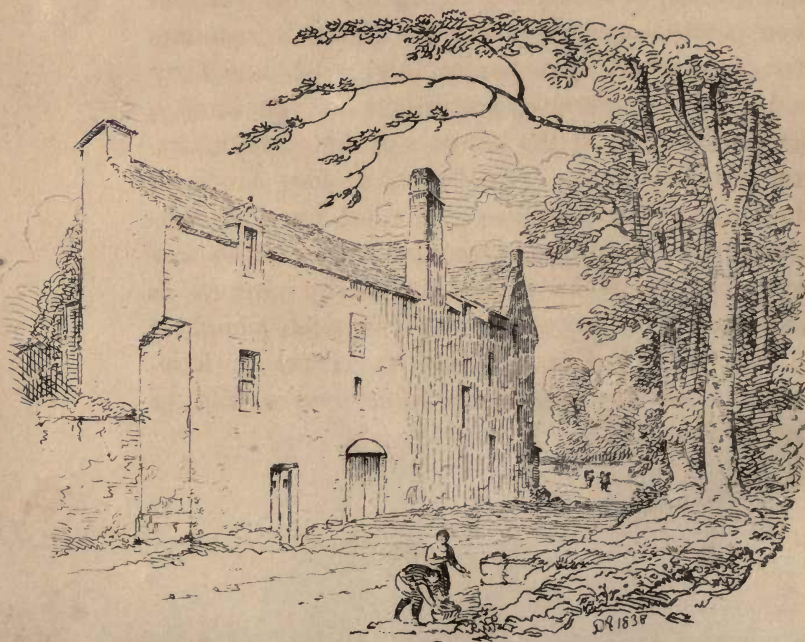
of pewter, brought from England, very costly. In 1303, King Edward I. of England was a guest at the abbey for several weeks ; and during a year that the English soldiers occupied it, no less than sixty chalders of malt made into ale were consumed.

Ferrerus remained five years at Kinloss, instructing the monks by private lectures. The subjects of these were derived from Melancthon's *Syntaxis*, Cicero's *Offices*, Erasmus, *Copia* ; the *Dialectics* of George Trapezuntius ; the *Parva Logicalia* of Faber Stapulensis ; some of the books of Aristotle on the Heavens ; his *Predicaments* ; Melancthon's *Institutions of Rhetoric* ; Cicero's *Oration for Milo* ; Virgil's *Pastorals* ; the *Æneid*, Books II. and VI. ; Rodolphus' *Agricola of Logical Invention* ; the Fourth Book of Peter Lombard's *Sentences* ; the *Heavenly Hierarchy* of St Dionysius, with his *Mystical Theology* and *Ecclesiastical Hierarchy*. The Library contained the Old and New Testaments, in six volumes, with the Glosses commonly in use ; four volumes of Vincent ; three of the *Chronicle* of Antoninus ; three of the *Epistles* of St Jerome ; the works of St Jerome, in five volumes ; the works of St Ambrose, Chrysostom, Gregory, Bernard, Aquinas ; Scotus' *Commentary on the Sentences* ; Aquinas' *Commentary on the Epistles of St Paul* ; Augustine on the *City of God*, and on the *Trinity* ; *Jus Pontificium*, with Glosses ; many volumes of *Sermons*, and two vellum *Missals*.





Elchies House



Dunkinty House

DUNKINTY — FAMILY OF INNES.

THE family of Innes is of great antiquity, dating its origin from Beroaldus Flandrensis, who obtained the Barony of Innes by charter from King Malcolm IV. 1157. This Beroaldus was either a Flandrian by birth, or one of the ancient Moravienses, and having been for some time in Flanders, may have got his cognomen from this circumstance, a practice very common in those days.

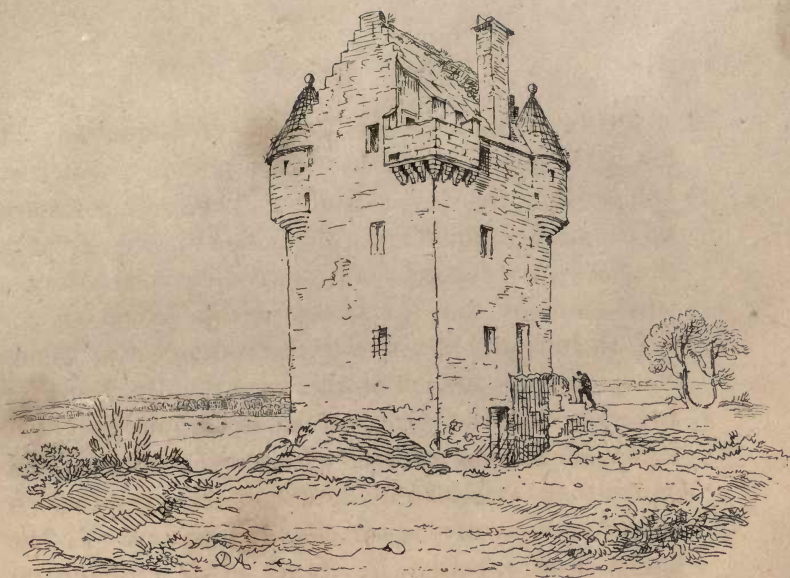
That he was, however, intimately related to the De Moravia family, is evident from the Morays, Sutherlands, and Inneses, all having three stars in their paternal armorial bearings. There were numerous subsequent branches of this house, and they had very considerable possessions in the county, being proprietors of the baronies of Innes, Leuchars, and Kelmalemnock, in Moray, besides lands in Banff and Caithness-shires. The last lineal descendant, Sir James Innes, succeeded to the titles and estates of the Duke of Roxburghe, by virtue of a marriage of his ancestor with Margaret, daughter of Henry Lord Kerr, heir to the Duke of Roxburghe. All the estates in Moray were sold to Lord Fife in 1767.

DUNKINTY, near the College of Elgin, an old house, forming one of the accompanying sketches, belonged to the Innes family. The front possesses no claims to architectural distinction; if we except a singularly irregular and incommodious plan of construction. Within is a square with a paved court.

COXTON, an old tower to the south-east of Elgin, belonged to a branch of the same family, Innes of Invermarkie, who was created a baronet in 1687. It is a small square tower with angular turrets; and is built on an elevated situation, commanding an extensive view of the surrounding country. It has lately been repaired by Lord Fife's trustees, to whose property it belongs, and now forms the residence of the keeper of the adjoining grounds.

INNES HOUSE, in the parish of Urquhart, with the adjoining estate, now the property of Lord Fife, also belonged to the family whose name it bears. It is a spacious dwelling in the old style of architecture, and contains a considerable collection of pictures, chiefly portraits of individuals connected with the families of the county.

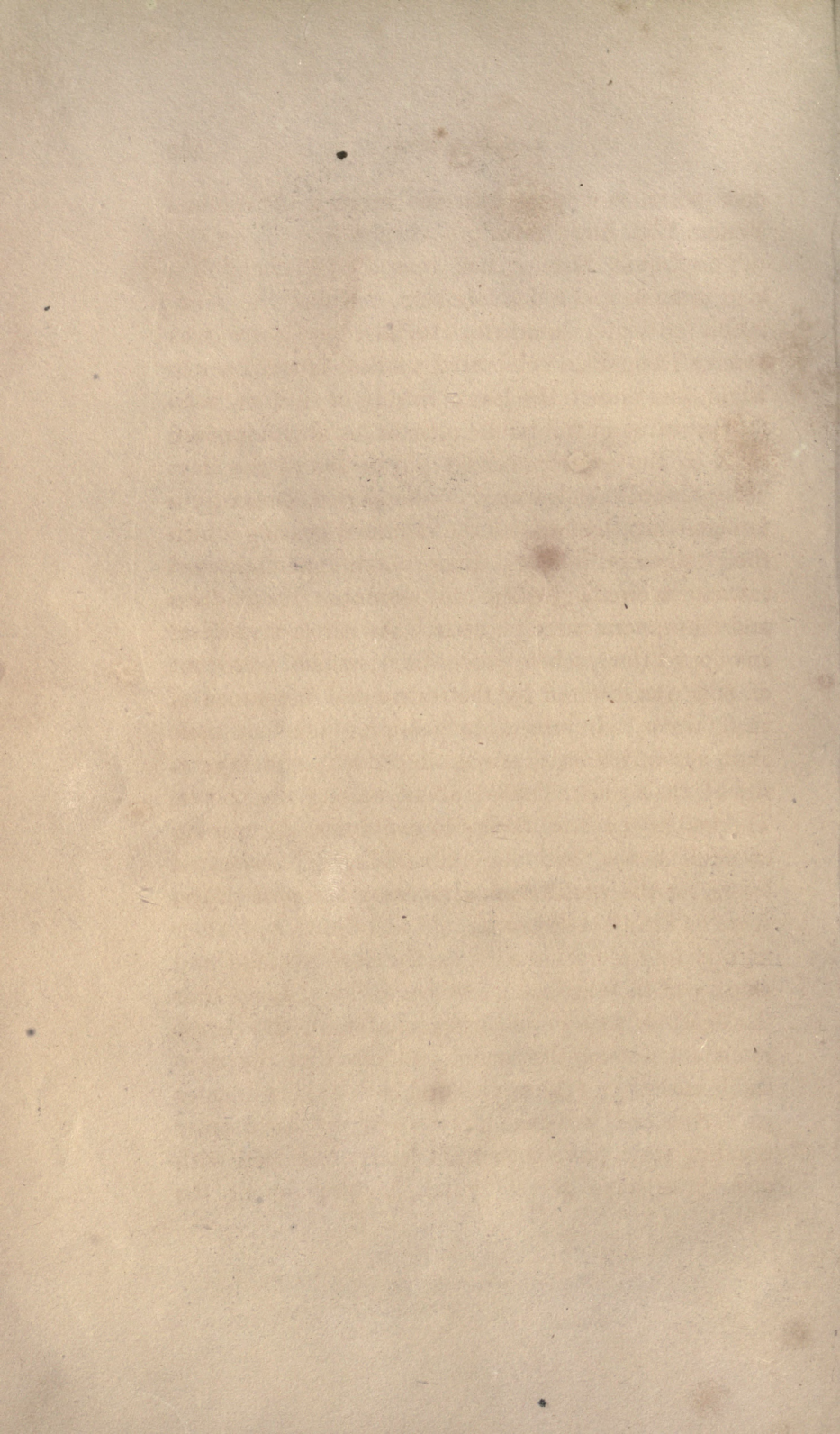
CALDER HOUSE, Elgin. This house was the town residence of an ancient family, Sir J. Calder, who had considerable possessions in the county, but the last of its branches falling into decay, found an asylum in Sutherland from the generosity of the noble proprietor of that county, and at last became extinct. The house was situated where the Assembly Rooms now stand, and fronted the street. The only remnants of it preserved are the two carved



Coxlon Tower



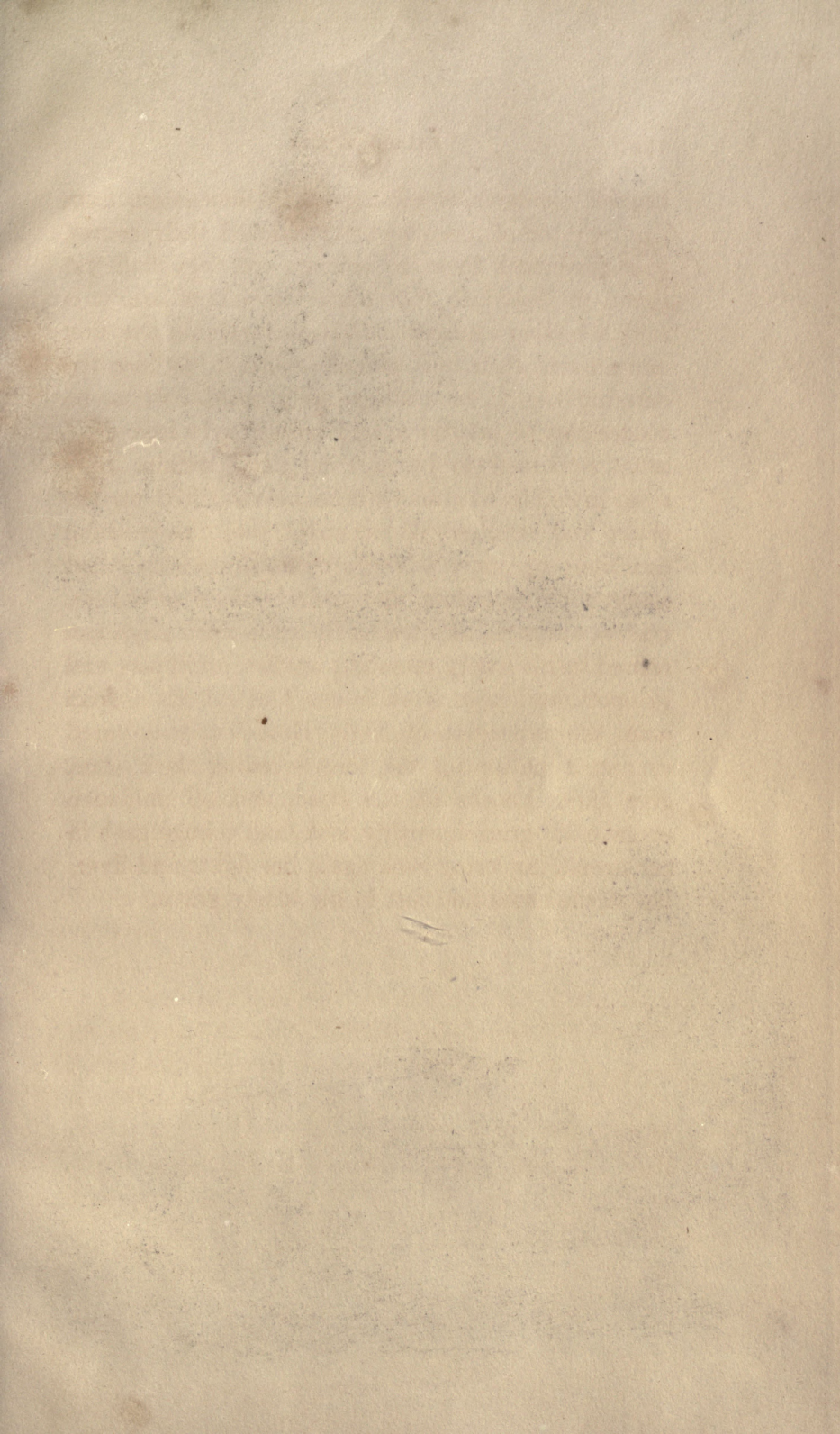
Gateway of Spynie Palace



door posts, now placed in the grounds of William Young, Esq. Lady Hill.

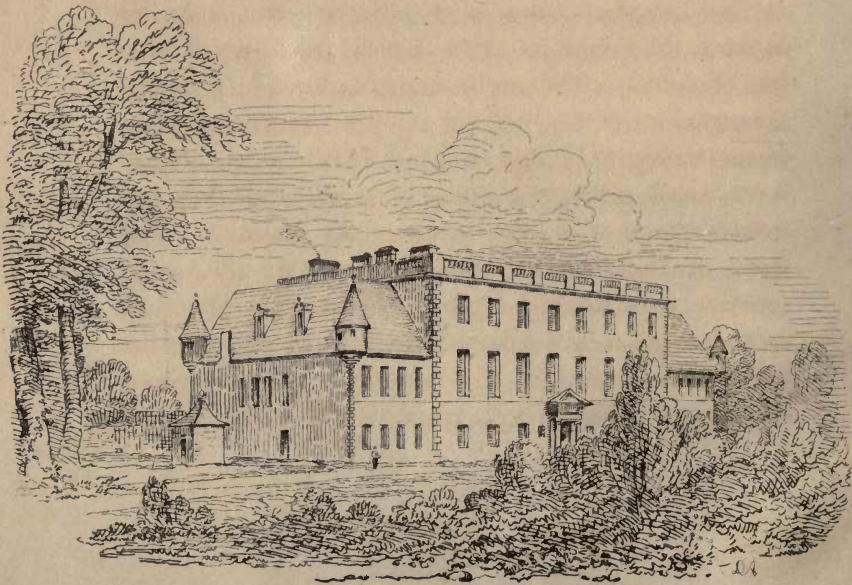
This house, after it had ceased to be habitable, long remained as a desolate ruin, and had the reputation of being haunted. Its last proprietor was Doctor Dougald, a celebrated medical practitioner in Elgin, and one of the last of a race of doctors, who held a status in the public estimation, now unknown even to the most esteemed physicians of the day. They had all the learning of the period, generally a foreign education, and all the dignified bearing which their superiority over their more unenlightened townsmen enabled them to assume. Their dress and demeanour were peculiar. An air of mysticism enveloped their whole proceedings, which arose out of, and was fostered by the reverential ignorance of their times. Innumerable gossiping tales of their skill, eccentricities, caprices, and the fearful mysteries of their craft, floated about among the people. The boiling of dead bodies in cauldrons, the rasping of skull bones, and the pulverizing of desiccated livers, for the preparation and composition of drugs, were as firmly believed in, and associated with their nightly and secret labours, as the real exercise and efficacy of their ordinary medical duties. Long after the death of its awe-inspiring inhabitant, this house remained a tenantless ruin, and often as the insatiable curiosity of the boyish urchins led them to enter its portals, and advance a few steps up the narrow winding stair, have their faint hearts trembled with dismay, as some gust of wind, flapping among the

broken windows, or coming in a hollow sough from the very top of the tenement, arrested their course, and compelled them to retreat, ere they had yet dared to look into that dark kitchen, where, it is said, a boiling cauldron stood constantly on the fire, and an arm chair was placed before it, to lure the entering beggar or stranger to a seat — when, no sooner had he sat down, and with greedy look eyed what appeared to be enticing soup within, than some invisible machinery from below tilted up the chair, and emptied its occupant into the seething cauldron: or, more adventurous still, ere they had essayed to peep into that gloomy chamber where, tradition reports, as often as the care-worn physician retired to his lonely midnight studies, amid jars and gallipots, and cases of skeletons, and infants a span long, the apparition of Nelly Homeless was heard to patter patter up the long winding dark stair, give three knocks at the door, and all unbidden enter with grim unearthly look, and a huge gash in her breast, imploring back again her lights and liver, before she could find rest in her lonely grave.





Michael Kirk



Gordonston House

GORDONSTOWN HOUSE.

THE estate of Gordonstown formerly belonged to a cadet of the family of Sutherland. Sir Robert Gordon, the first baronet, was a person of considerable talent and consequence, and was one of the Privy Council of Charles I. The fourth in descent from this baronet left two sons, Robert and William, who both dying without issue, the baronetcy went to Sir James Gordon of Letterfoury, and the estate to Sir A. Cumming of Altyre, a relation on the female side.

The mansion-house was built by the last Sir Robert, who died in 1776, before the interior was half finished. The architecture is heavy, and the arrangement of the interior is by no means commodious or elegant. The situation is low, being a level lawn, with gloomy avenues of trees, and shut out from any view of the surrounding country. The front of the mansion, too, contrary to the usual practice, faces the north, and altogether the plan and arrangement seem to have been in accordance with the eccentric taste of the proprietor. The present possessor, Sir W. G. Cumming Gordon, of Altyre,

has fitted up several of the apartments in an elegant style.

Sir Robert Gordon was of a retired, it is said, morose disposition, and addicted to scientific studies. A chemical laboratory, in the underground apartments of the mansion, with a chimney of ample size, and a single window, admitting a dim light, is said to have been his favourite place of resort. He rather survived the period, else from the vulgar rumours, it might have been conjectured that alchemy formed at least one of his favourite pursuits. At all events, his habits were different from those of his neighbouring squires, and of course incomprehensible to them, as well as to the surrounding populace. The consequence was, that he arrived at the full reputation of a wizard, and in his person were identified all those dark tales of *diablerie* which were so prevalent in former ages, and are equally common to the Germans as to their Scandinavian descendants. According to these, Sir Robert was educated at the school of "Black Art," and initiated into every species of subtile learning and hidden knowledge. At the end of every season it was the practice of the Devil to call for one of the students as his perquisite. Lots were cast among the youths, and the lot fell on Sir Robert. The young philosopher was a match for his Satanic majesty, and when the latter waited as the students marched out of the hall to seize on the last of the group as his allotted prey, Sir Robert pointed to his shadow on the floor, and bade the Devil take that fellow. The conse-

quence was, that ever after, Sir Robert had no shadow. As he rode along in the bright sunshine, his horse, and hat, and spurs, and the whip in his hand, all were visibly depicted in black shade, but Sir Robert himself made no impression on the ground.

He was a being to be feared and shunned, not to be loved, and lived in single blessedness — shutting himself up for days and weeks in the solitudes of his sombre and half finished mansion. There is a portrait of him in Innes House; and it is said the artist requested of him, while sitting, to look as cheerful as possible; and if that was really his most cheerful aspect, what must have been his frown! The baron in Redgauntlet, the hero of Wandering Willie's tale, with the horse-shoe mark on his forehead, must have had a smiling and prepossessing aspect compared to Sir Robert.

Among the romantic rocks of the adjoining shore of Covesea, are several deep caves, hollowed out by the sea waves, one of which was furnished with a door, and it is said formed a place of security for Sir Robert's valuables, and horses and cattle, during the Rebellion of 1745; and which, according to the common belief, though the fact was never put to the test, is reported to communicate by a subterranean passage with Gordonstown House, — a very improbable supposition, considering that the distance is nearly two miles. Indeed, it is more shrewdly conjectured to have served as a place of concealment when smuggling was a common and lucrative practice on this northern coast.

The scenery of this portion of the coast is very striking. A bold rocky shore of shelving sandstone forms an abrupt barrier to the ocean, whose waves dash and foam along the base. Two singular rocks stand apart within the boundaries of the surf, in appearance like architectural turrets, wrought into fantastic shapes; while numerous sea gulls claim them as their "procreant cradles." Several cays also penetrate into the sandstone of the shore, and open out amid green hollows, whose deep verdure and flowery embellishments contrast vividly with the brown crags around.

Here, as on other parts of the coast, are extensive stone quarries, which, from early periods, have been resorted to for building materials and millstones. The latter commodity used to be particularly in request, even by those in remote parts of the county.

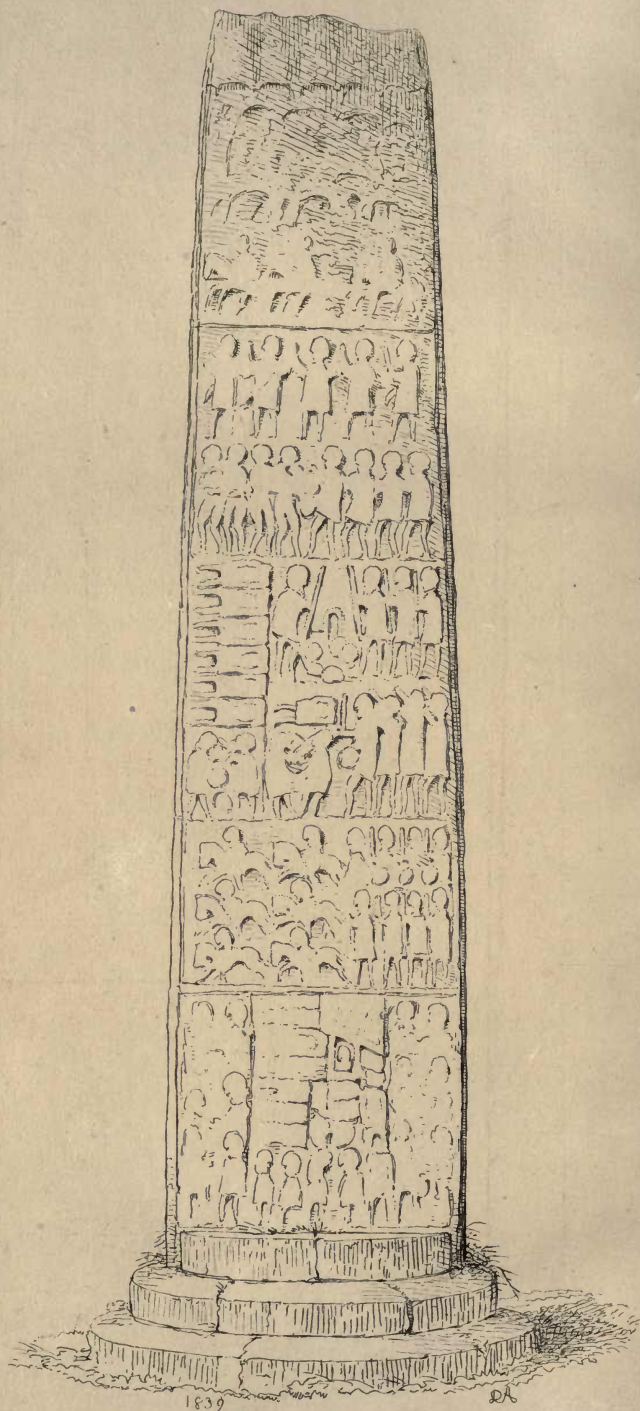
In those days, the quarrying out, and especially the transportation of a millstone, was a matter of no small moment, and generally engaged the energies and ingenuity of a whole district. There is a tradition, that a laird, with his vassals, from the neighbourhood of Keith, after having, with great labour, hewn out a millstone from these quarries, was in the act of transporting it home across the lands of Sir Robert Gordon. A large and long beam of wood was passed through the central hole of the stone, and a dozen of men, each relieved in their turns by the surrounding crowd, rolled on the mass, over hill and through hollow, like a large wheel revolving

with its axle. As the party passed over the lands of Gordonstown, toiling like so many ants at their wearisome labour, they were espied by the philosopher. Unfortunately they had never taken the precaution of first asking his leave to hew the stone, or negotiating a safe convoy for it over his lands: his wrath was raised, and he despatched his whole household to interrupt proceedings.

These soon arrived, and angrily demanding by what right the strangers dared to make this trespass, instantly ordered them at their peril to desist. The Keith laird was not of that mettle, however, to be thus daunted. He had expended much toil and trouble, and he would not now be so summarily foiled of his object. From vague questionings they came to rough words, and from words to blows, and a furious battle was the consequence. The Keith men were more numerous, if not more powerful, than their opponents; and notwithstanding that cottars and tenants from all the neighbouring fields rapidly poured in to join the *melée*, yet the Duffus men were on the point of being utterly routed, when presently the apparition of the wizard himself, mounted on his black horse, and coming galloping up with a fierce countenance, suddenly changed the whole aspect of affairs. The Keith men, to whom his reputation was not unknown, were instantly terror struck, as if electrified; and with their laird at their head, fled precipitately, and never looked behind them till they were fairly beyond Quarrelwood, leaving the millstone, and its huge axle-tree,

half sunk in the clayey meadow, where it stood fixed for many a day—the dread and terror of all intruders.

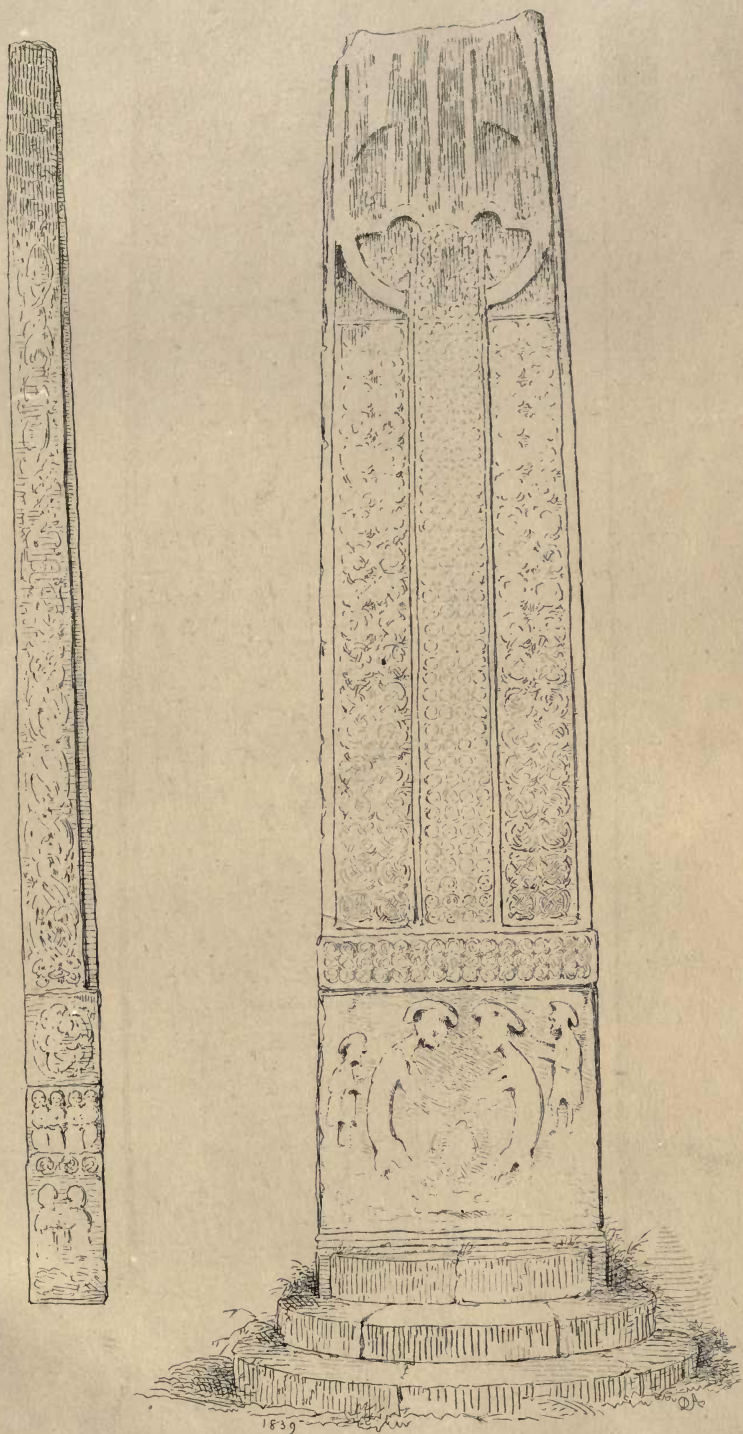
MICHAEL KIRK is a cemetery of the Gordonstown family, built on an elevated piece of ground, about half a mile east of the mansion-house. It is a simple structure, of rather elegant proportions, with a fine Gothic window in each end. The space within is open, and unornamented, and contains the mortal remains of a race of Sutherlands and Gordons, the late Sir A. Cumming of Altyre, &c. The date on the wall is 1705, so that it must have been built by Sir Robert, the father of the wizard, who certainly chose a more airy and cheerful situation for his last home, than his successor did for his living domicile.



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Sveno's Stone, Forres



Sueno's Stone, Torres

RUNIC OBELISKS.

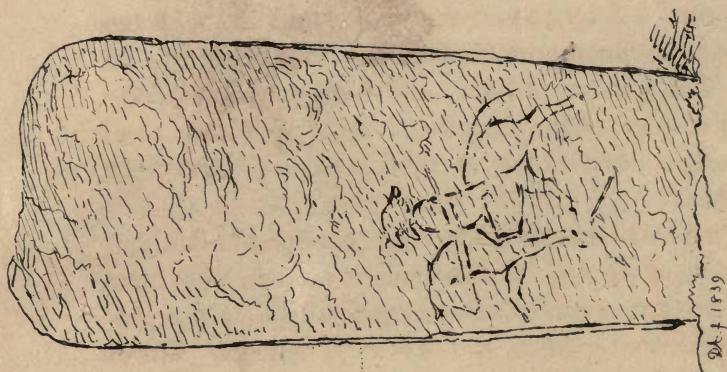
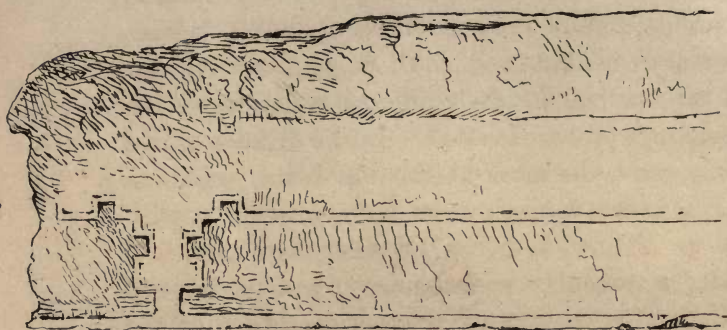
THE obelisks represented in the accompanying sketches are decidedly the oldest monuments of art within the county, and bear every appearance of having owed their origin to a period of very remote antiquity. These sketches were taken with great care and discrimination, and in every minute detail will be found to exhibit a faithful transcript of the actual carvings on the stones. The Forres pillar, that of Mortlich, the stone found at Elgin, and now placed in the cathedral, and the pillars in the grounds of Altyre and Dyke, are all here grouped together, because they appear all to belong to one era, and to be the production of the same people. The Forres pillar has been frequently engraved; but all those specimens we have seen impart a very imperfect idea of its actual contents. We are not aware that any of the other stones have been hitherto delineated.

THE FORRES PILLAR, commonly called *Sveno's Stone*, is situated about half a mile to the east of Forres, on the north side of the highway, and occupies the position in which, in all probability, it originally was placed. The stone steps around the

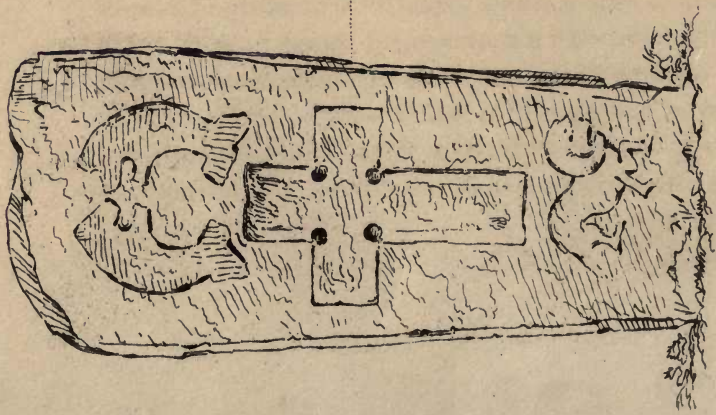
base are modern, and were placed as supports to the pillar by a late Countess of Moray, Lady Ann Campbell. It is a hard sandstone twenty-three feet in height above ground, and said to be twelve feet more under ground; the breadth at the base is four feet, the thickness about fifteen inches. On the south side there are five divisions, each filled up by numerous figures cut in relief.

The first division represents a number of persons as if engaged in deep council, and holding conversations in groups, probably the back ground representing the walls of some hall or fortification. The second division exhibits an army of horse and foot on the march, the cavalry being in the van, and at full gallop, the infantry following with spears in their hands and shields. In the third division are appearances of a battle, both single combats and general fighting; in one corner are several decapitated bodies lying piled one on the other, while at the top of this division troops are seen entering the gate of a city, or it may be besieging it. The fourth division shews a number of captives bound together, some naked, and apparently females, others clothed in short jackets, while a row of warriors above, with unsheathed swords, are shouting victory. The last division is very obscure, but it gives indications of horsemen either returning as conquerors from the battle, or retreating as beaten fugitives.

The other, or north side of the stone, has only three divisions. Below are two figures, with human heads, though their bodies are of rather grotesque forms,



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typical perhaps of priests, bending over something as if in an attitude of prayer, while a smaller human figure stands behind each. All these figures have a broad cap on their heads, while the warriors on the other side are all bare headed. In the division above is a long cross, the arms at the top being within a circle. This part is much worn, but comparing it with the more distinct figure in the other plate (fig. 3) of the Altyre stone, the resemblance to a cross is very evident. The cross, and the entire spaces of the middle division are filled up by most ingenious carving, representing the intricate and endless convolutions of the Runic knot. The edges of the stone are also occupied by these runic knots, and although too minute to be represented in the engraving, are on the stone most distinct, and evidently shew the elaborate art of the sculptors. At the base of one of the edges of the stone are several figures, apparently females.*

THE MORTLICH Pillar (fig. 1, 2) is only about six feet in length. On one side is a cross, and above this are two figures, either intended as rude representations of priests, the same as on the Forres stone, or as the figures of some animal, perhaps dolphins. Below is evidently a quadruped resembling a dog, with a snake coiled round its neck. On the obverse side (fig. 2) is a single horseman, in grooved lines, not in relief.

THE ALTYRE STONE was found, it is said, about Duffus, and was transferred to the position

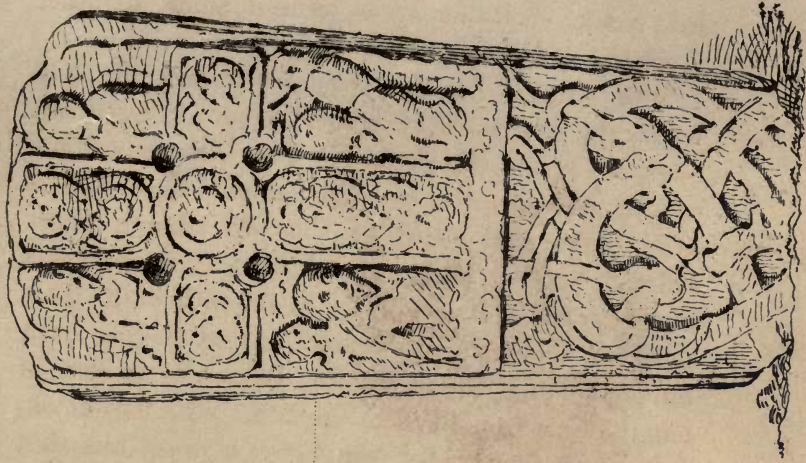
* By using a strong magnifying lens in examining the etchings, the intricate and elaborate nature of these knots will be more apparent.

which it now occupies. It contains simply a cross crosslet, differing from the Mortlich or Elgin cross, but resembling the Forres cross, in having its middle part greatly elongated. There appear to be faint marks of Runic knots on this stone, or other carvings. Its height is fifteen feet.

THE ELGIN PILLAR was discovered in 1823 when the streets were under repair, lying about two feet below the surface in a horizontal position, as if it had been thrown down there by accident, a little to the north-east of the Old Church of St Giles. Nothing whatever is known of its previous history. It is now preserved in the cathedral. This pillar is evidently incomplete, a part having been broken off from one end of it. It is now six feet in length, two and a half in breadth, and a foot thick, composed of a reddish gray granite, very like that of Aberdeenshire. The base of this stone is of less breadth than the top, which is the case with the Mortlich stone also. One side represents very distinctly a hunting party, consisting of four men on horseback, and three dogs: one of these is seizing a deer by the flank. On each side of the uppermost horseman are two birds, most probably hawks. It is difficult to say what the figures above this hunting party represent. One is a crescent reversed; above this are two circular bodies, united by two bands, through which passes a zigzag belt or band. Probably the whole is some form of the mystic knot, so common in runic carvings, or it may be some representation of the celestial bodies. The reverse of the stone contains, near the base, the Runic knot, with indications of



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St. Mary at Ely Cathedral

snakes' heads. In the upper division is a cross of very elegant proportions, also covered with the Runic convolutions. Several figures of priests, occupy the spaces at each of the four corners, the one on the left appears to have some ornament around his neck.

It is evident that these monuments, which have been no doubt erected by the aboriginal natives of the soil, for the commemoration of some great events in their history, indicate a period of society posterior to the time of the Druids, when only rude and shapeless stones were used for their circles; and yet, some time before the introduction of written characters, which afterwards became common in the form of inscriptions on their Runic monuments. That these monuments were constructed after the Christian era is not improbable, from the introduction of the cross as a leading and prominent figure. In the older monuments, however, it is remarkable that the cross is sculptured upon the stone, while in the later ones the stone itself assumes the form of a cross, and a written legend occupies the margin, in place of the emblematical figures or hieroglyphics of the older monuments.*

* In the very interesting Runic Cross preserved in the garden of the Rev. Dr Duncan of Ruthwell, which we have minutely inspected, the stone itself is formed into the shape of a cross; and besides emblematical figures carved on it, contains an inscription in Runic characters around the margin. These, as partially made out by Mr Repp, would indicate that the cross, with a baptismal font, had been presented by some chief to the Christian fathers, as a recompense or atonement for some devastation committed by him. On two sides of the cross are carvings of Scriptural subjects, and Latin inscriptions in the Roman character, supposed to have been added at a later period to the original Runic embellishments.

Throughout the whole of Scandinavia these stones and pillars were a usual mode of commemorating the great events of their history, such as battles, treaties, the death of heroes, and other national events, and the Runic characters are peculiar to such monuments.

There can be no doubt but that the Forres pillar was erected to commemorate some signal victory; and that this victory may have been the expulsion of the Danes by the aboriginal inhabitants is not at all improbable. The battle of Mortlich, recorded in history to have taken place in 1010, in the reign of Malcolm II. may have been one of those which, if it did not prove altogether decisive, yet paved the way to their final expulsion; and although no victory may have actually taken place at Forres, yet this may have been the spot where some final treaty was concluded — where the foreign aggressors may have embarked for their own country, or as being the seat of the northern monarchy for the time, or, at all events, a place of some note, may thus have been pitched upon as the site of this great national trophy.

In a charter of confirmation given by Alexander II. over certain lands of Burgie, and which bears, among other signatures, that of Freskinus de Moravia, the following description is given of the boundaries of the property: — “*Silicet a magno quercu in Malvin quam predictus comes Malcolmus primo fecit cruce signari, usque ad Rune Pictorum, et inde usque ad Tubernacrumkel, et inde usque ad*

Runet wethel et inde per rivulum qui currit per maresiam usque ad vadum quod dicitur Blakeford quod est inter Burgyn et Ulern," &c.

To this is appended an explanation of the names thus given.

" *Tubernacrumkel*, ane well with ane thrawin mouth, or ane cassin well or ane cruik in it.

" *Tubernafyne* of the grett or Kempis men, callit ffenis is ane well.

" *Rune Pictorum*, the carne of the Pethis, or the Pecht's feilds.

" *Malith*, the brow of ane hill." *

Whether the *Rune Pictorum* here mentioned alludes to the Forres stone may be difficult to affirm, although there is strong probability for supposing the above description to include the ground where it is now situated. If this should be the case, this very ancient allusion to it identifies its existence in the early part of the thirteenth century, while there is every reason to believe that it was erected at least two centuries previous; or it may have been of still older date.

It is more difficult to assign any definite place or object for the Elgin pillar. It may have been commemorative of the death and burial of some great general or chief, or the boundary mark of hunting grounds. The same conjecture may apply to the Mortlich and Altyre stones, or they may have marked out some sacred place set apart for religious observances, or the boundaries of property.

* Regist. Morav.

Another sculptured pillar stands by the road side in the parish of Dyke. It was found near Moy, and placed in its present position by the late Brodie of Brodie. We are enabled to give a view of one side of this stone from an original sketch by Sir T. Dick Lauder, Baronet, which he has kindly sent us. On the other side is a cross and Runic knots.

Whatever was their intention, these huge masses of stone, dug from their native quarries with great labour, transported probably over some hundred miles of country, carved with consummate art and perseverance, and with no little taste and judicious arrangement, all point out the ingenuity and resources of a people who, in many other respects, have been considered as little better than rude and untutored savages. They teach a lesson also to proud man, how limited and insignificant are his most durable monuments, erected even in prouder eras of his history. The Egyptian pyramids, the gigantic pillars of Thebes, the colossal figures of the cave of Elephanta, and a hundred others, which, in their day, were looked upon as lasting memorials of mighty events never to be forgotten, all now stand in need of memorials themselves, and their histories, or the objects for which they were erected, are as dark and unfathomable as the lonely pillar on the Forres moor.



Stones in the Parish of Pyke

from Sketches by Sir J. D. Lauder Burt: June—1831.

FORRES.

THIS town must have been a place of some note at a very early period. It is in all probability the *Varris* of Ptolemy's chart. And Boethius, so early as the year 535, makes mention of it as a burgh having merchants, who, for some trifling cause, were put to death, and their goods confiscated to the king's use. *Far-ius*, near the water, is probably the Gaelic derivation of the name. During the ninth and tenth centuries, it was frequently visited by the Scottish kings. Donald, the son of Constantine was slain at Forres. Malcolm frequently resided in the neighbourhood, and was killed in 959 at *Ulern*, which Shaw supposes is Aldern. King Duffus was murdered in the castle of Forres, by Donevald the governor, about the year 966. His body being interred under the bridge of Kinloss.* After the establishment of the bishoprick, however, Forres does not seem to have increased, or indeed kept up its consequence so much as Elgin, which then became the centre of the ecclesiastical establishments of the province, and the resort of the country gentry. The consequence is, that we find

* Boethius, Buchanan.

fewer remains of antiquity, either domestic or ecclesiastical, about Forres, than in the latter. It was the seat of the archdean, however, and had a parsonage dedicated to St Laurence. There was a chapel, also, a mile south of the town, and one at Logie.

The ancient charters of the borough having been destroyed by fire, a new one was granted by James IV. in the year 1496.

The town is pleasantly situated on a fertile plain, with undulating hilly ground to the south, and a sloping valley, extending by a gentle declivity to the north, where the river Findhorn, sweeping round from the south-west, forms an estuary with the sea. Findhorn, the sea port of the borough, lies on the north point of this estuary, three miles distant, and the ruins of Kinloss are situated on the margin of the winding bay.

The town consists of one long street, extending from east to west, with lanes or closes running off on each side. On the east is the Cluny Hill, a conspicuous object, with a tower on the summit.

In the centre of the town is the new jail, a very handsome structure recently erected. The old jail, which occupied the same position, was built about the year 1700, and twenty years afterwards, by the subscriptions of the spirited burgesses, four pyramids, and a central dome with a clock were added.

The church, at the western extremity of the main street, is a plain building. Anderson's Institution, an educational establishment for the youth of the

borough, is a neat and commodious structure, erected within the last twenty years, from a fund left by a native of the town. Trafalgar monument, an octagonal tower of three stories, and sixty-six feet in height, was built on the Cluny Hill by subscription in 1806-7, in memory of Lord Nelson's naval victory. It contains several apartments, where an anniversary dinner is held to commemorate the event which gave rise to its erection. The view from the top of this tower embraces the richly wooded and fertile plains to the west, through which winds the river Findhorn, the undulating hills to the south, a large open country to the east, and the blue waters of the ocean flowing up on the north, bounded in the distance by the Sutherland and Ross-shire hills, and the two *Sutors* which guard the entrance to the bay of Cromarty, forming a combination of rich and varied scenery, which few situations can rival.

THE CASTLE HILL is a green mound at the western termination of the town, surmounted by a few dilapidated walls, the only remains of what must, at one period, have been a bold and stately castle—a place of defence and safety, and frequently the abode of royalty. It is said, that after the foul murder of King Duffus within its walls, it was demolished. In the course of time, however, it must have been rebuilt. In 1346, Randolph, Earl of Moray, dates his charters from it. During some subsequent period, the Urquharts of Cromarty were appointed heritable keepers of it. In still later times, it became the property of the Dunbars of Westfield,

and has now passed into the possession of the Ear of Seafield. Like the castle on Lady Hill at Elgin, it was in all probability a strong square tower with battlements, and a moat surrounding it, and served as a place of defence and safety during those turbulent periods.

The scenery on the river Findhorn is by far the finest in Moray. This mountain river takes its rise in the Monadh-leadh hills, and traversing a country of sixty miles in direct extent, increased by its windings to thirty miles more, it falls into the Moray Firth. In its course to the sea, it struggles on through many opposing barriers of granite mountains—rushing through these narrow gorges with boiling and tumultuous current—now reposing its still waters in some round sweeping dark pool, and now patiently but assiduously wearing its way through the dark red sandstone cliffs which jut out from its channel, or which range in layer above layer, forming high barriers on its banks, while plants and shrubs, and lofty trees, crown and encompass the steep heights, and contrast finely their variegated green with the deep red of the cliffs on which they grow. Here, where in some overshadowed dells the summer sun with difficulty penetrates, is the solitary abode of the eagle or falcon, or the eyries of the congregated heron, thickly perched among the trees; while, during the hot noon, the ascending salmon rest by dozens in the deep dark pools.

As the stream winds towards the sea, its course becomes less interrupted and boisterous; it now sweeps along fertile meadows and wooded copses,

till at last all opposition giving way, it flows out a broad, still, and placid expanse of water, and meets the tides of the ocean half way up the smooth sandy bay. A low and level district surrounds the estuary of the Findhorn, and during the ever memorable floods of August, 1829, such was the rapidity of the rise of the stream, now swelled into another Amazon, that the whole plain, to the north and west of Forres, became one sea of water, so that a large boat, in full sail, swept along the fields to within a few yards of the borough.

A succession of gentlemen's seats are situated on the romantic banks of the Findhorn: Altyre, the mansion house of Sir W. Gordon Cumming, baronet, a descendant of one of the oldest families in the county; Logie, the seat of another Cumming of the same clan; Relugas, the beautiful villa of Mr M'Killigan; and Dumfail, the modern mansion of Major Cumming Bruce; while nearer the mouth of the river are Kincorth, the seat of R. Grant, Esq. and Tannachy, built by the late General Grant.

BLERVIE TOWER is situated about two miles south-east of Forres. A mere fragment of the wall now remains, and is represented in one of the accompanying sketches. This was the ancient seat of the Duffs of Blervie. A slab of stone, forming part of a chimney-piece in the ruin, bears the date 1398. There is also the remains of an old castle at Burgie, a few miles to the north-west, near the elegant modern mansion of that name.

DARNAWAY, or Tarnawa Castle, is situated a few miles to the south-west of Forres, on the skirts

of an ancient pine forest. Here was the ancient seat of the Earls of Moray. Earl Randolph, Regent of Scotland during the minority of David Bruce, in the fourteenth century, built a hunting lodge here, consisting of one large apartment, ninety feet long, by thirty-five feet broad. The walls rose to the height of thirty feet, and a roof of solid oak, arched like the Parliament House of Edinburgh, formed the inner ceiling. A large oaken table, and an arm chair heavily carved, and weighing sixty pounds weight, which formed part of the ancient furniture, still remain. This hall, no doubt, often dined several hundred persons; and when its floor, according to the times, was strewn with rushes or heather, as many hundreds of plaided warriors and hunters may have soundly slept many a night after the fatigues or revelries of the day. The present modern mansion was erected by the late Lord Moray, but the roof, and all that remained of the ancient hall, was very properly preserved. Unfortunately, the restoration of this magnificent hall has not been conducted on the strictest antiquarian principles.

The Hard moor to the westward of Forres, which commences after crossing the Findhorn, is supposed to be the place where Macbeth met the witches, while he and Banquo journeyed from the western islands to meet King Duncan at the castle of Forres. It is a bleak and barren enough heath, and its "blasted" aspect well befits the imaginary scene of such a supernatural meeting. No one can pass this spot without having his mind full of the horrors of the tragedy. Such is the wonderful power of the

poet, that out of a few meagre and uncertain traditions, he has rivetted the imagination of thousands to this locality, and encircled what was, perhaps, after all, but a common and vulgar assassination, with the intense interest of a great moral catastrophe.

SANDS OF CULBIN. These extend from the western edge of the mouth of the Findhorn, several miles along the margin of the firth, and are remarkable as the locality of a large extent of fertile land, which, about a century and a half ago, was completely covered over with sand. The estate of Culbin, one of the most valuable in Moray, belonged to an ancient family of the name of Kinnaird, who derived their descent from Freskinus, the first lord of Moray. Between the years 1670 and 1695, in consequence of the drift of loose sand from the westward, the lands were completely covered to the depth of several feet, and the estate so much destroyed, that the proprietor in 1695 petitioned parliament to be exempted from paying the public dues, the greater part of the land and the mansion-house, farm steadings and orchards, being all ruined. Some years after, the small remaining part of the estate was obliged to be sold to pay some burdens on it, and the heir, then a minor, was taken to Edinburgh by his faithful nurse, and maintained and educated by her till his mother's relatives procured him a situation in the army. The estate still remains completely covered over to this day, — the only traces of its former existence being the occasional appearance of the ruins of houses, and portions of soil, still retaining seeds having the power

of vegetating, which are occasionally dug up.* No satisfactory account of the manner in which this singular drifting took place has been recorded. We know not whether it was a gradual or a sudden process, or whether any remarkable state of the winds prevailed, or any change occurred in the ground in the vicinity, by which such an extensive disturbance and change in the surrounding sand was brought about. It is said that the sand was borne from the westward and south-west, by the winds which prevail from that quarter, and the removal of it was accelerated by the country people pulling up bent from the grounds in the parishes of Dyke and Auldearn. At all events, this practice was prohibited after the catastrophe, although it is somewhat doubtful whether it was ever before followed to such an extent as to influence in any material degree the drift of this substance. That considerable changes have taken place on the whole sea coast of the country, probably at different intervals of time, is abundantly evident. The entrance of the Findhorn into the sea was formerly two miles to the westward of its present situation—indications of an ancient forest are visible in the bay between Findhorn and Burghead. The low country, extending

* In the church-yard of Dyke is an old tombstone belonging to this family. And from an inscription, it appears that the provident couple who first slept under it, had it prepared during their lifetime. On the upper part of the stone are the initials V. K. B. I. below two armorial coats, and the date 1613. After which the following legend :

Valter Kinnaird, Elizabeth Innes, the builders of this hed of stane, are Laird and Ladie of Cobbine : Quhilk tua and theirs, quhane bratthe is gane, pleis God, bil sleip this hed bithin.

from Roseisle to Spynie, was once covered with water. The same drifting of sand had taken place to a considerable extent along the lower grounds of Inverugie and Hopeman, over fertile soil, which was trenched up several years ago—deposits of marine shells have been discovered in several situations, from six to eight feet above the present sea level, and extensive accumulations of water-worn pebbles, raised up into parallel ridges, are seen filling up the valley of Oakenhead near Lossiemouth. There are appearances, too, on the Covesea shore, as if several excavations, and markings on the rocks, now many feet above the highest sea mark, had owed their origin to the operations of the ocean. A line of fracture, too, of the solid sandstone, and great displacement of its strata, extending from Lossiemouth westward to Hopeman, would all tend to shew that the whole coast had at some period or periods been partially elevated, probably by some convulsive movements connected with distant earthquakes. During the eleventh century, Boethius and Fordun make mention of an extraordinary commotion and inundation of the sea on the coasts of Moray. “In the year 1097,” says Boethius, “King Malcolm died, and in the same year Albion was terrified by many most alarming prodigies, many villages, castles, towns, and extensive woods, both in England and in Scotland, were overwhelmed in an exundation of the German Ocean, by the weight of which tempest the lands of Godowine, (Goodwin,) near the mouth of the Thames, were overwhelmed by sand, and

likewise the land of Moray, in Scotland, was at that time desolated by the sea, castles subverted from the foundation, some towns destroyed, and the labours of men laid waste, by the discharge of sand from the sea, monstrous thunders also roaring, horrible and vast." At later periods, similar changes may have taken place on this coast, the effects probably of much more distant and extensive commotions in other regions of the globe, and these may have been so gradual, and even imperceptible in their immediate effects, as to have passed without much exciting the curiosity of the inhabitants. If we suppose, then, that the shores of the Moray Firth have been considerably raised above their former level, we have thus a large tract of arenaceous accumulation raised up out of the ocean, and exposed in such a way as to be easily drifted by the prevailing winds of the district. After this accumulation had been thus dispersed and levelled, the drifting process would again nearly cease; and we are not aware that at present any great movement is taking place in that locality.

THE END.

EDINBURGH:
Printed by ANDREW SHORTREDE, Thistle Lane.

