

A  
GENEALOGICAL ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
**BARCLAYS OF URIE,**

FOR UPWARDS OF  
SEVEN HUNDRED YEARS:

WITH  
**MEMOIRS**

OF  
COLONEL DAVID BARCLAY,

AND HIS SON

**ROBERT BARCLAY,**

*Author of the Apology for the People called Quakers.*

ALSO

**LETTERS**

That passed between him,

**THE DUKE OF YORK,**

*ELIZABETH PRINCESS PALATINE OF THE RHINE, ARCHBISHOP  
SHARP, THE EARL OF PERTH,*

And other Distinguished Characters;

CONTAINING CURIOUS AND INTERESTING INFORMATION, NEVER  
BEFORE PUBLISHED.

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**PREFACE.**

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**T**HE following little work contains so many curious anecdotes relative to the celebrated Apologist of the Quakers, that, by giving it a greater degree of publicity, I trust I shall render an acceptable service to the literary world, and particularly to that respectable class of Christians whose cause he defended with such zeal, and whose tenets he explained with such ability, as to convert into an appellation of honourable distinction what was intended by their calumniators as a stigma of reproach.

The Memoirs were written about the year 1740, by Robert Barclay, the son of the Apologist, and printed chiefly for distribution among his relatives and friends. Having been born in the neighbourhood of Urie, and during my early youth much connected with the Quakers in my native county, a copy was presented to me by a friend in 1774, and has since that time been preserved with great care; having many years ago considered it, on account of its rarity and intrinsic value, worthy of being re-printed and published.

Some of my friends, to whom I communicated my intention, advised me to omit the genealogical details relative to the ancient possessors of Mathers and Urie, as, perhaps, less interesting to the public in general. But I felt equally a dislike to con-

sent either to abridgement or amplification; and I hope the antiquarian will not be displeased with me for giving the work *verbatim et literatim* as I found it; except some slight corrections of what evidently appeared to be errors of the press. I have not even altered the Scotticisms with which it abounds: and, indeed, any attempt on my part to accommodate the language to the taste of the present age, would have been like an endeavour to improve the simple garb of the Friends by the addition of tinsel and lace.

It was my intention to bring down to the present times the history of a family so distinguished for probity, talents, and eccentricity; but I have only been able to subjoin to the re-printed Memoirs a few particulars gleaned from tradition, from

conversation with the late Mr. Barclay, to whom I had the honour to be known, and from other authentic sources of information.

**HENRY MILL.**

*East Row, City Road.*

A

GENEALOGICAL ACCOUNT

OF THE

BARCLAYS, OF URIE,

&c. &c.

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**W**HETHER the ancient surname of Berkeley or Barclay be originally of Caledonian, British, or Saxon extract, is what cannot, at this distance of time, be certainly concluded: but it is vouched, beyond contradiction, that there were four great and eminent families of that name settled in Scotland, viz.—Walter de Berkeley, William de Berkeley, Humphrey de Berkeley, and

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Robert de Berkeley, in the days of William the Lion, of Scotland, and Henry II. of England; the two first having been Great Chamberlains of the Kingdom; Walter being so designed in a donation granted by him to the Monks of Aberbrothwick, of the Church of Innerkeleder, confirmed by William the Lion, both being in the old Cartulary of Aberbrothwick, in the Advocate's Library at Edinburgh; and William being so designed a witness to a deed granted by the same King to the Monks of the Cistercian Order, copied from the original by Anderson, in his *Independency of Scotland*; and all four considerable donators to the Abbacies.

All these circumstances determine us to believe their early settlement in this kingdom, no doubt before the Conquest, and makes it more than probable, that they were not of Norman Race: neither can it certainly be determined how long they have been settled in this kingdom; but this is sufficiently vouched, that this same Walter de Berkeley, in the Shire of Angus, was one of the pledges

for King William the Lion, to Henry II. of England, as is mentioned in Abercrombie's History of Scotland; he observing upon the margin, that the document is in the custody of Panmure: an evident demonstration that they had been long settled here before that time, it not being to be supposed, that a stranger, immediately come to the country, would have been accepted of as a pledge for the King; neither that such would have been honoured or trusted with being Great Chamberlains of the Kingdom. This Walter left no children but two daughters; one of them, according to Nicol's Peerage, married to Seton, of Seton, predecessor to the Earl of Winton.

It being certain that the armorial-bearing of Berkeley, of Innerkeleider, was the very same, both in the tincture of the field, viz. azure, and the crosses, argent, that has been always borne by Berkeley, of Mathers, and by no other family of the name that is known or ever heard of, either now in being, or formerly, excepting Berkeley, Lord Brechin,



and their other acknowledged cadets; for according to Heraldry, this proves Brechin to have been of them; Innerkeleder being extinct many years e'er Berkeley married the heiress of Brechin: although this proves Innerkeleder and Mathers to have been one family, yet there is no sufficient document positively to determine their relation: nevertheless, the exact parity of their armorial-bearing, the circumstances of time, Walter de Berkeley, of Innerkeleder, and Humphrey, son to Theobald de Berkeley, being apparently co-temporaries, as both having confirmations from William the Lion: all these reasons, corroborated by constant tradition confirm the belief, that Walter de Berkeley of Innerkeleder, was cousin-german to Humphrey, and brother-son to

(1) THEOBALD DE BERKELEY,

he being the first whose name is transmitted down with such certainty as may be depended upon, to have been the original of the family of Mathers; he appearing, by unquestionable records, to have lived in the days of David I.

of Scotland, commonly called St. David, who began his reign A. D. 1124, Theobald being, as is supposed, born about A. D. 1110, in the third year of the reign of Alexander I. son to Malcolm III. commonly called Canmore, both Kings of Scotland, and tenth of Henry I. son to William the Conqueror, both Kings of England. This Theobald had two sons, Humphrey and John: Humphrey being in possession of a large estate in the Shire of the Mearns, did, according to the devotion of these times, upon part thereof, viz. Balseith, Monboddo, Glenfarquhar, &c. in the parish of Fordon, grant a donation to the Abbot and Monks of Aberbrothwick, witnessed by *Willielmo et Waltero capellanis dom. regis, Willielmo Cummin, Willielmo Giffard, Philippo de Moubray, Dom. de Aberbuthenot, Philippo de Mallewill, Johanne de Montfort, Waltero Scot, et Waltero filio suo, Agatha sponsa mea, cum multis aliis.* This donation was confirmed by William the Lion, (who began his reign A. D. 1165) before these witnesses, *Waltero et Willielmo capellanis nostris, Will. Cummin, Philippo de Mou-*

bray, Roberto de Lunden, Roberto de Berkeley, cum multis aliis; apud Forfar xxvi. Martii. This same donation of Humphrey's was renewed and augmented by his only child and daughter Richenda, and Robert, the son of Warnebald, her husband, (who was, according to Nicol's Peerage, predecessor to the Earl of Glencairn) the witnesses thereto being *Dom. J. Wishart, vicecom. de Mernis, et Johanne filio ejus; Dom. Duncano de Aberbuthenot, et filio ejus, Humphreo de Middleton, cum multis aliis.* This second donation was confirmed by Alexander II. the witnesses thereto, *A. Abbato de Melross, Ro. Abbato de Newbottle, Tho. de Hay, Alex. de Seton, cum multis aliis, vicesimo die Martii, anno regni nostri, vicesimo quarto.* After the death of Robert, the son of Warnebald, the Monks got Richenda, his widow, to dispose these lands to them for the third time; *et ad majus hujus rei testimonium, in posterum una cum sigillo meo huic scripto, sigillum venerab. patris nostri R. Abredonensis episc. et sigillum Domini Anselm Cammel seci apponi, coram his test. Dom. A. Archide Bre-*

*chin, Dom. Nigello de Moubray, Dom. Roberto de Montealto, et Dom. Will. de Hunyter, cum multis aliis.* 'This third donation was confirmed by Alexander II. at Aberbrothwick, the 7th day of March, and 32d year of his reign. *Coram test. venerab. patr. Ro. Epis. Abre. Willielmo Comite de Marr. Waltero de Moravie, R. de Montealto.*

All these six documents, viz. the three donations, and their three respective confirmations, being registrate in the antient Cartulary of Aberbrothwick, now in the Advocates Library in Edinburgh, from whence the Author of this Genealogy had them extracted.

Notwithstanding all this precaution of the Monks, Humphrey, and his daughter Richenda, being dead, and he having no heirs-male of his own body, was succeeded by his brother

(2) JOHN DE BERKELEY,

who not being satisfied with the liberality of his brother, and the other two donators,

turned the Abbot and Monks out of all their possessions in his lands; but was obliged, with consent and concurrence of his son and heir, Robert de Berkeley, to come to an agreement with them, whereby, in lieu of what he dispossessed them, to give them the mill of Conveth, with the appurtenances thereof, binding them, at the same time, to pay to him and his heirs, in all time coming, the sum of 13 merks of silver yearly.

This agreement was not only signed and sealed by the Abbot and Monks of Aberbrothwick, by John and his heir Robert de Berkeley, but also, *una cum sigillis vener. virorum Greg. Episco. Brechin, et Dom. Willielmo de Besco, Dom. Regis Can. et Dom. de Lunden, fratris illustr. Regis Alex. apponi procurarent; coram test. Willielmo Capellano, Dom. Episco. Brechin, mag. Andrea de Perth, mag. Hugo de Milbourn, cum multis aliis*, and confirmed by King Alexander II. at Dundee, the first of January; *coram test. Greg. Episco. Brechin, Willielmo de Bosco, nostro cancellario; Ro. de Lunden, nostro fratre; Hugo. Cameron, cum multis aliis.*

Both this agreement, with the confirmation thereof, are also extracted out of the Cartulary of Aberbrothwick.

According to what hath been already observed, of Theobald's being born about A. D. 1110, and his son John's agreement with the Abbot and Monks being confirmed by Alexander II. it naturally follows, that Theobald, Humphrey, and John, must have lived in the days of Alexander I. David I. Malcolm IV. William the Lion, Alexander II. all Kings of Scotland, and of Henry I. King Stephen, Henry II. (the first of the name of Plantagenet) Richard I. and John, all Kings of England. It may also be observed, that, during that time, Jerusalem being taken by Godfrey of Bulloin, and the war in the Holy Land carried on by the Christians against the Saracens, the armorial-bearing of the Berkeleys makes it very probable, they were of the number of those zealots, who put on the Cross, as is positively asserted by Cambden. Upon John's death he was succeeded by his son,

(3) ROBERT DE BERKELEY,

who, as is already observed, consented to the agreement between his father and the Abbot and Monks of Aberbrothwick; being succeeded by his son,

(4) HUGH DE BERKELEY,

who obtained a Charter from King Robert Bruce, upon Westerton, being lands lying near to the above mentioned Mill of Conveth; which Charter Nisbet asserts to be registrate in the Cartulary of Melross, his son's name being

(5) ALEXANDER DE BERKELEY,

of Mathers, who by marrying Catherine, sister to William de Keith, Marishal of Scotland, obtained the lands of Mathers, which he added to his paternal estate, vouched by a Charter, dated A. D. 1351, granted by the said William de Keith, with consent (as the Charter words it) of Margaret my wife, to Alexander de Berkeley, and Catharine, my sister, his spouse, and the longest liver of

them two, and the heirs-male of their bodies; my lands of Mathers, *datum apud mansum capitale nostrum de Strathekin, die Martii inventione sanctæ crucis, A. D. 1351. Coram test. reverendo in Christo patr. Dom. Philippo, Dei gratia Episc. Brechin, Dom. Willielmo, eadem gratia Abbato de Aberbrothwick, David de Fleming, Willielmo de Liddel, militibus; Johan. de Seton, et aliis.*

This Charter of Marishal's being repeated *verbatim*, is confirmed by King David Bruce, at Perth, the 18th day of March, and 21st of his reign, *coram test. Roberto seneschallo, nepote nostro*, (the first King of Scotland of the name of Stewart) *Tho. seneschal. comite de Angus, Tho. de Moravie, panacri nostro Scotiæ, Roberto de Erskine et Tho. de Falside, militibus.*

This original Charter from Marishal, with the original confirmation thereof by King David Bruce, are both in the custody of the present Barclay of Urie. Upon the death of this Alexander, he was succeeded by his son,



of Mathers, who by all the accounts that can

(6) **DAVID DE BERKELEY,**

of Mathers, who by all the accounts that can be had, married — Seton, daughter to the same John de Seton, who witnessed the preceding Charter from Marishal, to his father: their son's name being

(7) **ALEXANDER DE BERKELEY,**

of Mathers, by the tradition of the family; he married Helen Græme, daughter to — Græme, of Morphie; their son being,

(8) **DAVID DE BERKELEY,**

of Mathers, who as is supposed, built the

Castle, called the Keim, of Mathers, where the family, for their better security, lived for a while during some troublesome times. He married Elizabeth Strachan, daughter to — Strachan, of Thornton, then, an ancient and flourishing family in the Mearns; who bore to him

(9) **ALEXANDER BARCLAY,**

of Mathers, who is the first of the family

whose name is found, both by old evidents, and his own subscriptions, spelled as now, viz. Barclay, by a Charter granted to him by William, Earl Marishal, Sheriff-Principal, and High Constable of the Shire of the Mearns, wherein he terms him, *Dilecto consanguineo nostro*, i.e.—to our beloved kinsman, Alexander Barclay, of Mathers, and Catharine his wife, (this was Catharine Wishart) dated A. D. 1483; which Charter is extant in the family. As he lived to old age, so upon his son's marriage, he put him in possession of the old estate, reserving Mathers to himself during life. As he was reputed a scholar, and something of a poet, so to him are ascribed the Verses, made by a laird of Mathers, and given as advice to his son and successors, which, as worthy, are here inserted:

Giff thou desire thy house lang stand,  
 And thy successors bruik thy land;  
 Abive all things lief God in fear:  
 Intromit nought with wrangous gear:  
 Nor conquest nothing wrangously:  
 With thy neighbour keep charity.

See that thou pass not thy estate :  
 Obey duly thy magistrate.  
 Oppress not, but support the puire :  
 To help the common-weill take cuire.  
 Use no deceit: mell not with treason :  
 And to all men do right and reason.  
 Both unto word and deed be true :  
 All kind of wickedness eschew.  
 Slay no man, nor thereto consent :  
 Be nought cruel, but patient.  
 Altya ay in some guid place,  
 With noble, honest, godly race ;  
 Hate huirdome, and all vices flee ;  
 Be humble, haunt guide companie.  
 Help thy friend, and do nae wrang,  
 And God shall cause thy house stand lang.

It appears by the above document, he married the already-mentioned Catharine Wishart, daughter to Wishart, of Pittarrow, a family for a long time of great eminency in the Mearns; some of them having been High or Principal Sheriffs thereof, being so designed in several of the family's ancient papers. She bore to him,

(10) DAVID BARCLAY,  
 of Mathers, who married Janet Irvine,

daughter to Irvine, of Drum, then one of the most considerable families in the Shire of Aberdeen. This marriage with Drum's daughter is vouched by several documents in the family, viz. an antient M.S. wrote A.D. 1578, entituled, Genealogy of the Barons of the Mearns, (in which are insert the above Verses) as also by Charters upon the lands of Falside and Slains, in the Mearns. His eldest son was,

(11) ALEXANDER BARCLAY,

of Mathers, vouched by the Genealogy of the Barons of the Mearns, old Charters, &c. to have married Marjory Auchinleck, second daughter to James Auchinleck, laird of Glenbervie, who was son to John Auchinleck, of Auchinleck, in Angus; and who, by marrying the only daughter of that same Sheriff, John Melville, that was killed by the Barons of the Mearns, obtained the estate of Glenbervie.

This same James Auchinleck leaving no children but two daughters, the eldest being

married to Sir William Douglas, second son to the famous Earl of Angus, called Bell the Cat; by this marriage came the Douglasses first into the estate of Glenbervie, in the Mearns, and from whom are descended the Earls of Angus, and Dukes of Douglas.

This Alexander Barclay sold the lands of Slains and Falside, in the Mearns, to Andrew Moncur, of Knapp, to whom he granted a Charter of these lands, to be holden of himself and his heirs, dated A. D. 1497, which Charter is extant in the family; as also a conveyance of the lands; all writ and subscribed with his own hand, at Edinburgh, the 17th day of March, 1497: in which he obliges himself to bear the said Andrew Moncur harmless, both from his mother, the above Janet Irvine, (these lands being, as it seems, part of her jointure) and from a contract he had entered into with Sir James Auchterlony, of Auchterlony and Kellie, for a marriage between his son George and Auchterlony's daughter.

It was this same Alexander Barclay, who being Superior of the Lands of Durn, in the Shire of Banff, granted to Sir James Ogilvie, of Deskford, predecessor to the Earl of Findlater, a precept of Clare constat, as heir to his grandfather, Sir James Ogilvie, of Deskford, for infesting him in the lands of Durn: the original of which precept, with his seal and arms appended, bearing date the 29th April, 1510, at Kirktonhill, the seat of the family of Mathers, is in the custody of Sir James Dunbar, of Durn. This Alexander's son's name being

(12) GEORGE BARCLAY,

of Mathers, who married Marjory Auchterlony, daughter to the above-mentioned Sir James Auchterlony, of Auchterlony and Kellie, then a considerable family in the Shire of Angus; their son's name being

(13) DAVID BARCLAY,

of Mathers, who married first Mary Rait, daughter to Rait, of Halgreen, by whom he had George, who succeeded him; and had

for his second wife Catharine Home, by whom he had John, to whom he gave the lands of Johnston, in the Mearns; as is evident by Barclays', of Johnston, first Charter, dated A. D. 1560, and the Genealogy of his Family, in his own custody. Barclay, of Balmaquean, is a cadet of Johnston's family. Fullarton, of Kinabre, married a daughter of this David Barclay, whose eldest son, as above, was

(14) **GEORGE BARCLAY,**  
of Mathers, married first to Mary Erskine, daughter to Sir Thomas Erskine, of Brechin, who was Secretary of State to King James V. of Scotland. He, or his immediate successor, exchanged the estate of Brechin for that of Pittodrie, in the Shire of Aberdeen, his posterity continuing there a flourishing family. For his second wife he married Margaret Wood, daughter to Wood, of Bonnington, in Angus, who bore him a son, Alexander, to whom he gave the lands of Bridgetoun and Jackstoun, in the Mearns, whose lineal heir-male is George Barclay, Merchant,

of Bauff. His eldest son, by Mary Erskine, succeeding to the estate, his name being  
 (15) THOMAS BARCLAY,  
 of Mathers; who married Janet Straiton, daughter to Straiton, of Lauristoun, in the Mearns, a family eminent both for its antiquity and greatness, extinguished only in this present age. This Thomas Barclay died before his father, leaving only one son behind him,

(16) DAVID BARCLAY,

of Mathers, great grandfather to the present Barclay, of Urie, born A. D. 1580. He married Elizabeth Livingston, daughter to Livingston, of Dunnipace. He was called a very polite well-bred man; but by the easiness of his temper, and living much at Court, he brought himself into such difficulties, as obliged him to sell the estate, first Mathers, after they had kept it near 300 years, and then the old estate, after they had kept it upwards of 500 years. He had a daughter, Anne, first married to Douglas, of



Tillewhilly, by whom he had a daughter, grandmother to — Hogg, of Raimore; her last husband was Strachan, afterwards Bishop of Brechin. He had also several sons: John and Alexander, both dying young and unmarried; Colonel David, of whom more afterwards; Robert, Rector of the Scots College, at Paris; and James, a Captain of a Troop of Horse, in his brother David's regiment, killed at Philliphaugh, also unmarried, as they all were, except his son the above

(17) Colonel DAVID BARCLAY,  
 of Urie, who purchased the estate, A.D. 1648. He was born at Kirktonhill, 1610, belonging to his father upon the old estate, upon some of which, the servitude had been granted by Humphrey, &c. to the Abbot and Monks of Aberbrothwick, as is already mentioned; part of which they had all along retained until the year 1651, as appears by a fitted accompt, attested by Wishart, Notary Public and Clerk, (at the oversight of the Viscount of Arbuthnot, Sir Robert Far-

quhar, of Munie, and Summer, of Beordie, between the Colonel, as representing his father, David Barclay, of Mathers, on the one part, and John Barclay, of Johnstoun, as having had the management of Mathers' affairs for twenty years, on the other part. This decision bears date at Bervie, and kirk of Benholm, from the 21st to the 26th day of May, 1651.

As hath been already observed, he purchased Urie, A. D. 1648, from William Earl Marishal, being designed in all the conveyances of the lands of Urie, Colonel David Barclay, lawful son of David Barclay, of Mathers; as he is also in his own contract marriage, dated at Bog of Gight, (now Castle Gordon) and Gordonstoun, the 24th day of December, 1647; and likewise in his sister Anne's contract of marriage with her last husband, Strachan, afterwards Bishop of Brechin, dated at Aberluthnot, the 21st day of May, 1649, written by the above John Barclay, of Johnstoun, and subscribed by David Barclay, of Mathers, her father, and Colonel David Barclay, her brother, con-

senters, they being so designed in the paper :  
 both these contracts of marriage, as also the  
 fitted accompt, being [in 1740] in the custody  
 of Robert Barclay, of Urie, his grandchild.  
 He married Katharine Gordon, daughter to  
 Sir Robert Gordon, of Gordonstoun, second  
 son to the Earl of Sutherland, and second-  
 cousin to King James the VIth, of Scotland,  
 and First of Great Britain, by his grand-  
 aunt Lady Helen Steuart, sister to Matthew  
 Earl of Lennox, being the said Sir Robert's  
 grandmother, his mother being Lady Jean  
 Gordon, daughter to the Earl of Huntly.  
 Katharine Gordon bore to him three sons,  
 Robert, John, and David, and two daughters,  
 Lucy and Jean : David and Lucy died un-  
 married ; Jean was married to Sir Euen Ca-  
 meron, of Locheill, to whom she bore eight  
 children, who were all married. John mar-  
 ried in East Jersey, and hath left children.  
 The eldest,

(18) ROBERT BARCLAY,

of Urie, born A. D. 1648 : he was the author  
 of the Apology in behalf of the People called

Quakers, (which he presented to King Charles II.) with whom he joined himself about the 19th, and wrote the Apology in the 27th year of his age. He married Christian Mollison, daughter to Gilbert Mollison, Merchant in Aberdeen, by whom he left seven children behind him; three sons, Robert, David, and John; and four daughters, Patience, Catharine, Christian, and Jean. He died in the 42d year of his age, at Urie, the 3d of October, 1690: all his seven children being at this time alive, now full 50 years since he died, this being wrote A. D. 1740. His second son, David, settled in London, married first to Anne Taylor, daughter to James Taylor, Draper there, and afterwards to Precilla Frame, daughter to John Frame, Banker in London, having children by both the marriages: his eldest son James being also married, and hath children. His third son, John, settled in Dublin, married Anne Stretell, daughter to Amos Stretell, Merchant there. His daughters, Patience and Catharine, married to Timothy and James Forbeses, sons to Alexander Forbes, of

Aquorthes, in the Shire of Aberdeen, and Merchants in Dublin. His third daughter, Christian, married Alexander Jaffray, of Kingswells, in said Shire. His youngest, Jean, married Alexander Forbes, son to John Forbes, of Aquorthes, in the same Shire, Merchant in London. The eldest son,

(19) **ROBERT BARCLAY**, of Urie\*, born A. D. 1672, he married Elizabeth Brain, daughter to John Brain, of London, Merchant, by whom he had two sons, Robert and David, and three daughters, Mollison, Elizabeth, and Catharine. His son David settled a Merchant in London, married Mary Pardoe, daughter to John Pardoe, of Worcester, Merchant. His daughter Mollison married John Doubleday, son to John Doubleday, of Alnwick-Abbey, in Northumberland; Elizabeth married Sir William Ogilvie, of Barras, in the Mearns. His eldest son,

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\* Author of these Memoirs.

## (20) ROBERT BARCLAY,

of Urie, born A. D. 1699, married Une Cameron, daughter to Sir Euen Cameron, of Locheill, by whom he has four children; three sons, Robert, David, and Euen, and one daughter, Jean. His eldest son,

## (21) ROBERT BARCLAY,

of Urie, born A. D. 1731-2.

MEMOIRS OF THE LIVES  
OF  
**COLONEL DAVID BARCLAY,**  
OF URIE,  
&c. &c.

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**I**T being in the preceding Genealogy made evident from authentic documents, beyond contradiction, that the family of Barclay of Urie is the family of Barclay of Mathers continued, and the only true, lineal, and uncontroverted representative thereof; Colonel David Barclay, of Urie, being the only son of David Barclay, the last laird of Mathers that ever married; what I have in my view at present being only to make some observations or Memoirs of the Lives of the said Colonel David, and of his son, Robert Barclay, both of Urie.

Colonel David Barclay, of Urie, as is at large taken notice of in the Genealogy, was born at Kirkcounhill, both the seat and birth-place of his father, David Barclay, the last laird of Mathers, A. D. 1610. He no sooner went through his education in the schools, &c. than he went abroad on his travels in Germany, where he went a volunteer into the Swedish army, under Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden, in which he served until he was made a Captain (his commission, in the Swedish language, being still extant in the family); and having given pregnant proofs of his courage and conduct, was quickly made a Major; but his being called home by his relations, upon the breaking out of the civil wars, put a stop to his farther advancement in that service. Upon his coming home, he served awhile a Major, but soon got a regiment of horse. As he was a gentleman of great modesty, as well as bravery, he was very reserved in giving account of his own military actions, which obliges me to collect them from scattered



documents, and authors who have accidentally treated of them as they occurred in the course of their history; particularly Gilbert Gordon, of Sallach, in a manuscript continuation of the Family of Sutherland, in which he relates many of the transactions of his own time, of which he was eye or ear witness, or had from undoubted authority, and is therefore esteemed, by all who have read him, a very just and impartial historian. He gives account in page 60, that “Colonel David Barclay, with an army under his command, went to Banff, in pursuit of the Earl of Crawford, who had raised an insurrection, and burned several towns, particularly Fraserburgh, whom he entirely routed.” He also gives account, page 62, that “Colonel David Barclay, along with Major General Middleton, in May, 1646, dislodged Montrose, and relieved the town of Inverness, (then besieged by him) by the said Colonel Barclay’s crossing the river with his regiment of horse, above the town; and falling upon Montrose’s forces, routed both him

and Seaforth, and made both flee to the mountains, having killed a number of their men, and taken all their baggage, and two pieces of cannon. From thence they went to Chanrie of Ross, which they took, after four days siege, in which they got all Montrose's ammunition; after which they restored the Castle to the Lady Seaforth, whom they used very discreetly." Then, page 67, he tells, "Colonel David Barclay was made Governor of Strathbogie; and that at the same time General Middleton was made Governor of Bog of Gight, now Castle Gordon; it appearing that they were always upon one side, viz. that side which at least pretended to be for the King's interest, in which they were inseparable." He also, in page 71, takes particular notice, that "upon the 26th day of January, 1648, Colonel David Barclay, son to the laird of Mathers, in the Mearns, then Governor of Strathbogie, was married to Catharine Gordon, daughter to Sir Robert Gordon, of Gordonstoun, as is more at length mentioned in the Genealogy."

The same author takes notice, page 73, that “the Parliament, in order to raise and recruit their army, under the Duke of Hamilton, for relief of the King, then prisoner in the Isle of Wight, having divided the whole kingdom into several districts for that end, that Colonel David Barclay had assigned him for his division, Sutherland, Caithness, and part of Ross.” He also, in page 75, gives us an account, “that in July, 1648, for the King’s further service, and to keep the country peaceable, without disturbance from the disloyal party, during Duke Hamilton’s being in England, and to be a sufficient guard to the Prince of Wales’s person if he should land, of which there was some expectation at that time; the Parliament ordered a new levy of 1500 horse, which were divided among three commanders, 500 to each: the Earl of Lanerk, the Duke of Hamilton’s brother, who afterwards became Duke himself, was to have 500, Colonel David Barclay was to have 500, besides his own regiment of horse, and the laird of Gairthland to have 500. Colonel Barclay’s locality was to be

all benorth St. Johnston to Dingsbeyhead, which was all Scotland benorth the water of Tay." The same author also takes notice, that "the then situation of affairs having separated the Colonel and Middleton, the last being obliged to accompany Duke Hamilton, while the Colonel was at the same time obliged, with his 500 horse, to intend the peace of the country, all benorth St. Johnston; Middleton had the misfortune to be taken prisoner by the Duke, and had no doubt borne him company to the scaffold, had he not had the good fortune to make his escape upon the road. The defeat and imprisonment of Duke Hamilton, with his execution following thereupon, and Cromwell's coming to Scotland after the battle of Preston, gave a turn and new face to all the affairs of Scotland; for all those who gave assistance, or any manner of way favoured the engagement, were, by Oliver's advice and desire, turned out of all their posts, civil and military; and among others, Colonel David Barclay ran the same fate, having his regiment either broke or taken from him, and

was never after that engaged in the military, which gives me an opportunity of taking notice of, and contradicting, as notoriously false, a piece of low, ignorant, as well as impotent, malice, viz. a report that the Colonel served under Oliver Cromwell, against the King; whereas it was at Oliver's instance, for that very service, that he was turned out of his regiment; and never after served in the army; of which Gordon takes notice, and which is confirmed in a MS. all wrote with the Colonel's own hand, giving an account of his conduct, which is preserved in the family; wherein he gives account of having lost his post in the army for his loyalty in joining those who designed to free their distressed Sovereign. He also takes notice in his MS. that being rendered incapable of further service to his Prince; for the above reason, he retired to Gordonstoun, where he lived quietly for several years, during which time the Earl Marishal being taken prisoner at Eliot in Angus, by the English, under General Monk, and his estate forfeited, which they seized; together with the lands

of Urie, which the Colonel had purchased from him, pretending the Colonel's right from Marishal was not fully completed; upon which, by the Earl and his other friends' advice, he laid hold upon the interest he had by his wife's cousin-german, the Earl of Sutherland, and other relations there, and got himself elected Member of Parliament for that Shire, and in the next Parliament, by his own interest, for the Shires of Angus and Mearns, which was looked upon as the only method left to get possession of his own estate, as well as to do service to his country and friends, particularly the family of Marishal, for which he bore a great respect, and in which he was so successful, that he procured access to his own lands, and obtained large allowances from the Countess of Marishal, for whom he got an easy tack of the whole estate, and good provisions for the children, so that there was little, if any thing, made by that forfeiture to the then governing party: his full success in which, with his strenuous endeavours in behalf of the other forfeited nobility and gentry, not altogether,

without success, made him so popular in the country, that he was again, in the year 1656, elected Member of Parliament for these two Shires; where he vigorously opposed and voted against Cromwell's being made King. Upon his return, he had the public thanks of his constituents signified to him by letters, (still in the family's custody) subscribed by the principal gentlemen in both Shires: as the Viscount of Arbuthnot, the Lords Halkertoun, Edriel, Morphie, &c. thanking him for the great services he had done his country, as he had particular thanks of the Earl Marishal, as follows:

“COUSIN,

“I have received so many favours from you, especially the late evidence ye have given of your kindness and respects to me at this time, before your Committee at Leith, engages me to return my hearty acknowledgments for the same. And that I may in some measure express it, and make a difference of my respects to you and others, I have thought fit to signify that I shall be very willing to strengthen your conveyance by all that's in my power, as ye shall desire the same, with jovial heartiness. And I do intreat, that when any thing relating to me shall come before you, that ye will

own the same for my interest and good ; and in special I desire that the tack-duty of Boddain, which is but three pounds sterling, may not be disposed to any, it being a thing so much concerning me ; or, if it shall be assigned to a creditor, that I may know to whom it is; that I may know how to recover. Something I have desired Arbuthnot to write to you, which I desire ye will advert to ; and any letters ye send to me, send them still to my son, at Bervie. My wife remembers her service to you, and we both to your lady and little Robin.

“ I am,

“ Your faithful Friend and Servant,

“ Bervie, March 12, 1759.”

“ MARISHAL.”

*Directed for the  
Right Hon. Colonel David Barclay.*

A little after this he disentangled himself from all public affairs, living very private, sometimes at Edinburgh, and sometimes at Gordonstoun, with his mother-in-law, much to his ease and satisfaction, until the month of March, 1663, that he lost his excellent wife, Catharine Gordon, aged 43 years, whose last desire in time was, to bring home his eldest son (then at Paris) with his uncle, the Rector of the Scot's College there, which



he most religiously performed. She was buried at Gordonstoun, the burying place of the family, agreeable to the inscription upon her tomb. She was born at Salisbury, in her grandfather's house, by the mother's side, (he being Dean thereof) her mother's name being Lucy Gordon, a person of so many distinguishing virtues, that her memory, under the appellation of *Old Maa*, or *Old Mamma*, is in great veneration, to this day, among all her numerous descendants.

Much about this time, or shortly after, as an addition to the affliction he was under for the loss of his excellent wife, he was, at the instigation of some malicious persons, committed close prisoner to the Castle of Edinburgh, by order of the Government, to the surprise of every body; for he was not taxed with any crime that ever I could hear of. This treatment was the more unintelligible, when it was recent in all people's memory how he had suffered in King Charles the First's cause, by being not only put out of all his posts on that account, but also had his estate seized for several years; yet it was

suspected there was a design of forfeiting him, both of estate and life, had it not been for the strong interposition of his old and never-failing friend, General, and then Earl of Middleton, the King's Commissioner to the Parliament, by whose interest he was liberated without any thing laid to his charge, or reason given for commitment.

He had, in his time, underwent various fortunes; he had tasted of prosperity and adversity; he served in the military life with courage and conduct, and in the civil with prudence and benevolence, and in both with the approbation of all good men, having made a good use of his privacy and retirement from the world, which gave him a sight of its uncertainty and of himself, every day giving a fresh evidence of its instability in all conditions, from the King on the throne to the beggar upon the dung-hill. He observed, that in all conditions, neither justice nor innocency could protect, nor good offices done, secure a man from malice, envy, and persecution. In this perplexity he thought it was high time for him, that had spent

so much of his time (being now between fifty and sixty years of age) in the service of others, to bestow the remainder of his days wholly in the service of God, and by so doing more directly answer the great end of his creation. Under all which considerations he looked round him with the greatest anxiety and earnestness, to know, in midst of so many pretenders, what society of Christians to join with. One observation he had made upon all the different persuasions, that each of them laid claim to be the only true Christians, yet at the same time not only differed from, but as opportunity came into their hand, persecuted one another with the greatest violence, and that for that very reason which, according to the nature of things, rendered themselves the object of persecution, viz. because of their differing from others. His much conversation in the world, both abroad and at home, had given him large opportunities of making those observations in their practice; the reading of their several systems of divinity whilst in his retirement, gave him full insight into their several *credenda's*. Upon the whole,

he came to this certain conclusion, that the Christian religion must in itself be very good, and the only true religion; since all valued themselves upon laying claim to it; and then that it was impossible they could be all right, when they so widely differed amongst themselves and one another. Upon those considerations, to liberate himself from this perplexity, and come to a determinate choice, he took himself to the close reading of the New Testament, as the only certain way to know the Christian religion in its primitive purity, by which he came clearly to see the difference between what it was in itself; and the strange shape that several pretenders thereto had put it in; that in itself, it was love, peace, joy in the Holy Ghost; that it taught to be humble, patient, self-denied, to endure all things, to suffer all things; not to place our happiness or comfort in this world, or the things thereof; according to 1 Cor. xv. 19.—*If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.* Whilst under these considerations, he heard of a people called, in derision,

Quakers. Under great reproach for their great singularity and abstractedness from the world, that in great plainness and simplicity they bore a testimony, as well in practice as in words, against all the follies and vanities thereof: and thinks with himself, if they be really such as even their enemies are forced to acknowledge, there must be somewhat extraordinary about them: I will examine and see; and accordingly, with the greatest earnestness, set about it, (these, his private thoughts, and this his inquiry, he has upon several occasions communicated to his friends). Upon which he found, notwithstanding all the calumnies and reproach their enemies loaded them with, that they were a sober, plain, self-denied, religious people; that they never shunned sufferings or persecution for their testimony; that they gave up their all for the sake of their religion; that they had beat their swords into plough-shares, and their spears into pruning-hooks, and neither taught nor exercised war any more, the certain mark given by the Evangelic Prophet, Isai. ii. 4. of the Gospel times; that

they loved one another, the infallible character our blessed Saviour hath given; John xiii. 35. of their being his disciples; that their practice and principles were most agreeable to the primitive standard recorded in the New Testament: therefore came to a certain conclusion within himself, if Jesus Christ hath followers, disciples, or a visible church upon earth, these must be they; and so upon full conviction joined with them, and became eminent for his religious and exemplary life, as formerly for his bravery, resolving to suffer indignities and injuries for conscience sake: a virtue he was before equally unacquainted and unaccustomed with. This was in the year 1666, being the fifty-sixth year of his age, about which time the meeting was settled at Urie, where it hath continued, without interruption, (this being A. D. 1740) about seventy-four years.

These his resolutions, and practice agreeable thereto, with the generous and better sort, made him suffer nothing in their esteem; but had the contrary effect upon the meaner

sort of people, imagining his religion would secure them from the chastisements they once would have been sure of, in case of misdemeanours; and the laws at the same time being against all meetings for worship that were not according to the national standard, which were designed against the field-conventicles of armed men among the Presbyterians, in the south and west of Scotland, where none of the Quakers suffered: yet, in the North, malicious persons greedily laid hold of any occasion of disturbing these peaceable people, chiefly at Aberdeen, where they were often mobbed by the dregs of the town, set on by the clergy and other flaming bigots. It was remarked that none suffered those indignities with greater calmness than did the Colonel. One of his relations, upon an occasion of uncommon rudeness, lamenting that he should be now situated so differently from what he had formealy been, he answered, that he found more satisfaction, as well as honour, in being thus insulted for his religious principles than when some years ago it was usual, as he passed this city,

for the magistrates to meet him several miles, and conduct him to a public entertainment in their town-house, and then convey him so far out again, in order to gain his favour.

His humility and sincerity in his religion was most remarkable and exemplary in his whole conduct, particularly in the time of public prayer. He was a proper, tall, personage of a man, as could be seen among many thousands: his hair, white as the flax, but quite bald upon the top of his head, which obliged him to wear, commonly, a black sattin cap under his hat. It was observable, that he always kneeled in time of public prayer, pulled off his hat with one hand, and his cap with the other, and so continued during the whole time of prayers: I have often seen it, and it made such an awful impression upon me, that I shall never forget it.

He was, with many of his friends, taken out of a meeting at Aberdeen, March 21st, 1676, put into close prison, and indicted be-



fore a committee of the Privy Council, met there for that purpose, for going to worship contrary to law. The indictment being read against them in the open court, he made the following excellent answer, which I insert from the records: “that though it was usual for such as were under the circumstances it had pleased God to put them in, to entertain lawyers to plead for them, yet they having the one advocate with the Father, that could and would plead their innocency in the hearts of all their opposers, they might not employ any man to plead for them. And in respect none of them had followed the practice of the law, they desired no advantage might be taken against them on account of their ignorance of the intricacy of it; and therefore the rigour of the law ought not to be extended against them, if they were transgressors of it, which they hoped to make appear, to the judicious and impartial, none of them were, the maxim being *summum jus summa injuria*; and besides, several of them had been falsely indicted to have been at meetings in this place,

when it could be proven they were at the same time at other places, and some of them out of the kingdom."

Notwithstanding of the above reasonable defences, particularly the last, which is scarce ever denied to any subject, it was referred to the probation of such witnesses only as the Colonel had most reasonable objections against, as being mostly school-boys, and in the same meetings with them, therefore *socii criminis*; but all his objections were overruled, and the libel found proven; and those who had estates, were fined in a fourth part of their valued rents, according to an Act of Parliament made against conventicles, and such as had not, were fined above their abilities, although the said act was never designed against the Quakers, who were and are a peaceable people, under every government: for which reason none of them were disturbed in any place of the kingdom of Scotland, except in the North, as hath been observed, and so they were all remanded to prison until they should pay their several fines.

His eldest son being then in England, and beginning to have some interest at court, seconded by the Princess Elizabeth of the Rhine, daughter to the King and Queen of Bohemia, (to whom his mother was third cousin, and stood in the same relation to King Charles I, which I should scarce have mentioned, had it not been taken notice of, upwards of forty years ago, by a foreigner, Gerard Croise, in his History of the Quakers, in Latin, printed in Holland, wherein he says Robert Barclay was related to the royal family) procured the Colonel's liberation, in spite of his enemies, who, vexed that they could not have access to his person at that time, procured a warrant to distrain his goods; which they executed much beyond its own bounds, contrary to all law: for the warrant authorised them only to distrain within the Shire of Aberdeen, whereas the Colonel's estate and goods were distrained in the Shire of Mearns, which he protested against by a public notary: then they distrained not only his cows, but also all his labouring oxen, in the season of their work, contrary

to an express Act of Parliament; the whole value much exceeding their claim: but he chose rather to suffer than to sue them for the illegality: all which was given to the poor beggarly students of divinity, for being the tools of the Clergy in opposing the Quakers. He was afterwards imprisoned at Aberdeen; as also his eldest son, being taken at a meeting there, the 5th of June, 1677, but soon liberated again; as I have heard from good hands, by an express order from court, with a severe reprimand for meddling with either of them, considering their relation and alliance.

His son procured also his other friends liberation; who were detained after them; and so the good old man met with no further trouble that way to the end of his days. He went once after this to London, accompanied with his old friend and acquaintance, John Swinton; of Swinton, chiefly to visit his friends; and sometimes to Edinburgh; upon that account, particularly in April, 1683, being accompanied with his friend, An-

drew Jaffray, of Kingswells, his eldest son and his wife, and their eldest son, whom they were carrying to a boarding-school at Theobalds, within twelve miles of London: but for the most part he staid at his own house at Urie, enjoying great satisfaction in a country life, being much respected by gentry and nobility wherever he was known: in which situation he continued until the latter end of September, 1686. Being past the seventy-sixth year of his age, he took a fever, which kept him about a fortnight, and then carried him off. Upon the 12th of October he was buried in a new burying-place upon his own ground, appointed by himself, upon a rising eminency near a mile to the north-west of Urie; having, when in perfect health, some time before his death, by a writing under his hand, ordered the manner of his interment: the religious and edifying departure he made at his end, is so affecting that it cannot be too often read; which being so well related in his eldest son's testimony concerning him, printed at the end of his works, and the account of his children he left be-

hind him so full in the foregoing Genealogy, also printed in the Appendix to Nisbet's Heraldry, that I shall add nothing further of this brave, sincere, and religious man.

Whose eldest son, Robert Barclay, of Urie, was born at Gordonstoun, in the Shire of Murray, according to Gordon's, of Sal-lach, M. S. page 77, December the 23d, 1648, and not at Edinburgh, as William Penn and Collier have written by misinfor-mation. He was but very young when he had the appearance of a promising genius, which was early observed and foretold by his grand-mother. After he had gone through the best schools suitable to his age, at home, he was sent by his father to Paris, to the Scots' College there, where he was under in-spection of his Uncle, the Rector thereof, who caused him to be instructed both in his learning and other gentlemanly accomplish-ments, which he went through with great vivacity, and became early noticed for his quickness at their public disputations, as some books he got as premiums from the

Masters of the College, attest by their subscriptions.

His Uncle was very fond of him, designing and offering to have made him his heir to all his fortune, which was very considerable, if he would stay with him; but his father and mother being strict Protestants, were afraid their son might be seduced into the Popish religion, and, therefore, his father, according to his wife's last request to him, as is already mentioned, went over for him, about the 17th year of his age. His Uncle much endeavoured to dissuade him from returning, by promising, if he would stay with him, he would immediately purchase, and give to him, a greater estate than his father's; to whom his repeated answer was, "He is my father, and ought, and must, be obeyed," and accordingly returned to Scotland with him; which so disoblinded his Uncle, that he bequeathed all his wealth in legacies to the College, and other religious houses in France. Although he thus lost a good fortune, in refusing to be a Papist, yet

it did not hinder malicious tongues from saying he was one, as some, perhaps ignorantly, as well as falsely, do to this day, for no other reason, but because he had a part of his education among them, as many others have had, without any such imputation: such an assertion being the more impudent, that his whole life, as well as his writings, were diametrically opposite to Popery. Yet such is the force of ranting enthusiasm, that I know a R. R——d (who for the personal regard I bear him shall be nameless) who sets up for a greater share of learning and knowledge than his brethren, declared to me, not many years ago, that he believed he lived and died a Papist; a man so far gone in a distemper is commonly out of reach of physic, yet I found, that his refusing his Uncle's friendship and estate, rather than be a Papist, far less a Jesuit, when he left a wife and seven children, stunned and shook this wise father's credulity to that degree, that ere we parted, he confessed he knew not what to say.





But to proceed, some time after his return home, his father, as is already observed, joined to the society of people called Quakers; but I have heard from good hands, used no endeavours with him that way, being rather desirous his son should have his religion from conviction than from imitation, which soon proved to be the case: for having gone through the whole country to visit all his friends and relations, of whatever profession of religion, particularly those of the Roman persuasion, and having strictly examined both their principles and practices, he found himself upon the same conviction, as had his father, constrained to embrace that despised people, in whose defence he wrote several books, the best known being his Apology, dedicated to King Charles the II<sup>d</sup>, published in six languages, viz. in Latin, English, Low Dutch, High Dutch, Spanish, and French, there being already six editions of the English. This book being in the libraries of the learned throughout Europe: I shall say no more of it here, my design being to shun

repetitions of what is already made public, and to collect what is relative to him or his father, that hath escaped the observation of others; and that for the information and use of the curious among their posterity: This being my chief design, I shall refer those who have a desire to have a full account of all his writings, to the general preface to all his works, wrote by his intimate friend William Penn, son to Admiral Penn, and proprietor of Pennsylvania; and to Bayle, in his large Dictionary, who largely treats of them.

He not only defended his principles by his writing, but laid himself out to procure ease for his suffering friends. Voltaire says, it was surprising how his Apology, wrote only by a private gentleman, should have such an effect as to procure almost a general release to the whole sect, from the sufferings they then underwent.

In February, 1669-70, he was married to Christian Mollison, daughter to Gilbert

Mollison, Merchant in Aberdeen, eldest son to Thomas Mollison, of Lashintully; a woman most eminent for virtue and piety, of which she gave uncommon evidence in the management of the family; and religious education of her children during 33 years she lived a widow after her husband's death: all which time, over and besides the peculiar care of the family, she laid herself out in acts of charity and benevolence to the poor, the indigent, and such people, in a wonderful and successful manner; which hath endeared her memory, not only to her posterity, but all who knew her or received benefit by her. And as she lived an exemplary life, so she made an happy end; whereof I, among many others, was a witness; dying in great peace and serenity of mind, upon the 14th of February, 1723-4, and was buried in her husband's grave.

But to return to him: upon his marriage he settled with his father, at Urie; yet, as if he had had a view of the shortness of his time in this world, he posted through all the affairs

of life he thought incumbent upon him ; spending and bestowing his service, and for the benefit of all he could be helpful to, especially the Church of Christ : to visit which, in those parts, A. D. 1676, he went, by the way of London, to Holland and Germany, and came back the same way : where hearing of his father and friends' imprisonment at Aberdeen, he presented the following Address, in their behalf, to King Charles the II d :—

*The State of the Case of the People called  
QUAKERS, in Scotland, presented unto the  
King's consideration.*

“ The Council of Scotland having, about three months ago, emitted a declaration to reinforce former Acts of Parliament against Conventicles, and recommended the execution of them, because of the abuse several persons had made of the King's indulgence, as the said declaration intimates.

“ Some inferior Magistrates have taken occasion thereby to imprison many of them ; and some Deputies of the Council have stretched the laws against Con-

venticles to the highest pitch of severity, by heavy fines and tedious imprisonments; although their practices and principles never gave ground for such procedure.

“ It is therefore, on the behalf of the said suffering people, with all sincere respect desired, that it would please the King, favourably to recommend their case to the Council of Scotland, that a difference of character may be put upon them, who have ever lived and behaved themselves peaceably under the present Government, from such that are said to have abused the indulgence; with some present relief to those harmless sufferers, to prevent that utter ruin, which in all probability will attend so many of them that live by their labour and trade.

(Signed) “ R. BARCLAY.”

He delivered this into the King's own hand, who caused his Secretary, the Duke of Lauderdale, to underwrite this favourable reference thereto, in these words:—

“ His Majesty is graciously pleased to refer this Paper to the Right Honourable the Lords of his Majesty's Privy Council of Scotland.

(Signed) “ LAUDERDALE.”  
*Whitehall, Aug. 7, 1676.*”

Upon this they were all liberated: but so far were their enemies from being discouraged in their malice, that he being come home, and at the meeting in Aberdeen, was, with Andrew Jaffray, of Kingswells, John Forbes, of Aquorthes, and several others, committed upon the old pretence; and notwithstanding they were in knowledge of his interest at Court, all the favour he obtained was to be put with his father into a better prison than the others: but the Council afterwards sent them a liberation, upon condition not to travel three miles from their dwellings, nor to keep meetings. Their answer was, "that they accepted of their liberty; but as to going to meetings, they would act as their consciences directed them." Whilst he remained in prison this last time, understanding that the Archbishop of St. Andrews was a great instrument of the Quakers persecution, he wrote to him the following Letter:—

To JAMES SHARPE, *Archbishop of St. Andrews,*  
*(so called.)*

“ My being personally unknown to thee, hath hindered me to give way to that pressure of mind, whereby I have felt myself oftentimes moved to write to thee; because I was loth to trouble thee; but since there is an Address intended; to be presented to the Council, at the first sitting, in behalf of me and my friends, I could no longer forbear upon this occasion, to signify unto thee what hath been upon my mind for some time towards thee. The Address itself will inform thee, how we have been upwards of a year imprisoned, and the goods of many poor people miserably spoiled; of which thou art said to be the chief and principal author; and that the attempting to persecute us, as well as the prosecution of it, doth proceed from thy influence, as being done either at thy express desire, or by some others, in hopes thereby to gratify thee. How far thou art truly guilty thereof, thine own conscience can best tell. Surely such practices (if thou has, either directly or indirectly, had a hand in them) will neither commend thee to God or good men. I presume thou looks upon it as thy chief honour, to be reputed a Christian Bishop, deriving thy authority from Christ and his Apostles: but they

never gave warrant for any such doings, being preachers and practisers of patience and suffering, but never of persecuting, or causing rob any of their goods or liberties, for their conscience sake. And long after, even several centuries, the Primitive Bishops adhorred and detested such proceedings. Hence the excellent and zealous Athanasius, that 'it is the Devil's work, and not God's, to force mens' consciences; affirming, that the blasphemous Arians (who were the first bearing the name of Christians that used that practice) have learned so to do, not of God, but the Devil and his angels.' Considerable are the testimonies, Tertullian, Hæsius, Hilarius, Jerom, and others, have given to the same truth; so that Ambrose declares, that going into France, 'he refused all communication with such Bishops that had any fellowship with those that sought to destroy even such as were departed from the faith.' I confess the Bloody Bishop of Rome gave large precedents of such actions; but I suppose thou art not ambitious to be ranked among them, or to be an imitator of them in that respect. How far thou art justifiable in thy concurring with, or advising the persecution of the Presbyterian Dissenters, is not my business to determine: but I am confident thou art willing it should be judged, that thy so doing against them, is not meerly for their conscience, but because their principles do naturally, or necessarily, imply an innovation in the State, and thy personal ruin; believing not only military resistance just to protect them-



selves against authority, but also an offensive endeavour to turn out their superiors, and establish themselves in their overthrow, both lawful and laudable, as their practice hath sufficiently demonstrated: but should thou be found a positive persecutor of such, against whom nothing of that kind, neither from principle nor practice can be alleged, but only the simple exercise of their consciences; would not that give plentiful occasion for such a desire to represent thy other actions with the worst aspect, to show, whatever thou pretends of the State's security; yet thou art a persecutor of pure conscience; since thou shows thyself such against those, against whom the former reasons do not hold? And surely it would seem that the more our peaceable principle takes place among other Dissenters, thy interest will be the more secure, which is a consideration not unworthy of thy notice, as deserving thy favourable aspect towards us. Perhaps the violence of several of the Preachers, as some Magistrates here, from whom our sufferings originally do flow, may at first view seem acceptable to thee, as faithful friends as well to the public as to thy interest; and no doubt they judge with themselves, that they ingratiate themselves with thee, in so doing: yet did thou know them as well as some of us do, thou might think it no great absurdity to conclude, as well from their practices as principles, that they would be no less ready to give thee this same treatment, had they but opportunity of doing it, and rejoice more in it, as a great service both

to God and the Kirk of Scotland: however, that is now out of their reach, they make what use of the law they can, both to execute their malice on us, and flatter thee, at this juncture. In short, we have more than reason to believe, that if thou oppose thyself to this our Address, it will not be granted, and if thou shew thyself moderate and flexible, it will not be denied, as no mean persons have hinted to us: so as the one will be an evidence of thy moderation, the other will be a testimony of thy inclinations to persecute. I wish then, for thy sake as well as ours, that this occurrence rather commend thee, than discommend thee: and thou may assure thyself, that the utmost rigour that can be used to us shall never be able to make us depart from that living precious truth, that God in his mercy hath revealed unto us, and by us is embraced, nor yet fright us from the public profession of it, yea, though we should be pursued to death itself, which, by the grace of God, we hope cheerfully to undergo for the same; and we doubt not, but God would out of our ashes raise witnesses who should outlive all the violence and cruelty of man. And albeit thou thyself should be most inexorable and violent towards us, thou mayest assure thyself, not to receive any evil from us therefore, who, by the grace of God, have learned to suffer patiently, and with our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, to pray for and love our enemies: yet as thy so doing to an innocent and inoffensive people, would be an irreparable loss to thy reputation, so to the God of

Truth, whom we serve with our spirits, in the Gospel of his Son; and to whom vengeance belongs, we leave it, who will certainly, in his own time and way, revenge our quarrel; whose dreadful judgments should be more terrible to thee, and much more justly to be feared, than the violent assaults or secret assassinations of thy other antagonists. That thou may prevent both the one and the other, by a Christian moderation, suitable to the office thou lays claim to, is the desire of,

“Thy soul’s well-wisher,

“R. BARCLAY.”

“*From the Chapel Prison  
of Aberdeen, the 26th of  
the 1677.*”

I heard of no effect this letter had, though vengeance came soon upon him; he being barbarously murdered in about two years thereafter, viz. upon the 3d of May, 1679, as he was travelling home from Edinburgh in his coach. It being very remarkable, that some few days before the murder, Robert Barclay being upon journey to the yearly meeting at Edinburgh, in company with his

wife's sister, and they being early on horse-back, at the East Ferry, as they passed by the Kirk, (which belonged to the Archbishop) close by the end of the town, they heard a most terrifying howling noise, which was astonishing; upon which they sent the servant to look into it, through the windows, (who) could then perceive nothing, but no sooner returned to them than the noise began again, and continued till they rode out of hearing. This account both he and his sister gave immediately after; and she, in my hearing, repeated the same, but a few years ago, to a company visiting her at her own house in Newcastle, consisting of Quakers and others. This I mention as matter of fact, without any other reflection.

As I have already observed, that the Princess Elizabeth had a hand in procuring his father's liberty, I think it not amiss to take notice of the great friendship she had for him and all the Quakers. He, with William Penn, having visited their friends in Holland, and some parts of Germany, came to Her-

waerden, the Princess's residence, who received them both with much kindness, which began a correspondence that lasted to the end of their days. As William Penn's Journal gives a particular account of all their travels, I shall refer thereto. But among the many letters, still preserved in the family, that passed between them, I shall only transcribe one or two of them, to show the disposition of that worthy religious woman, they being all wrote and subscribed with her own hand.

*First Letter from ELIZABETH, Princess Palatine of the Rhine, to ROBERT BARCLAY.*

“MY DEAR FRIEND IN OUR SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST,

“I have received your Letter, dated the 24th of June, this day, and since I am pressed to take this opportunity to make a certain address unto your brother, Benjamin Firly, I must give you this abrupt answer. Your memory is dear to me, so are you lines, and your exhortations very necessary. I confess myself still, spiritually, very poor and naked, and all my

happiness is, that I do know that I am so, and that whatsoever I have studied and learned heretofore, is but dust in comparison to the true knowledge of Christ. I confess also my infidelity to this light heretofore, by suffering myself to be conducted by false politic lights: now that I have sometimes a small glimpse of the true light, I do not attend it as I should, being drawn away by the works of my calling, which must be done; and (as your swift English hounds) I often over-run my scent, being called back when it is too late. Let not this make you less earnest in prayers for me: you see I need them. Your letters will always be welcome to me; so will your friends, if any please to visit me, I should admire God's providence. If my brother could be a mean of releasing your father and forty more in Scotland, having promised to do his best, I know he will perform it: he has been ever true to his word: and you shall find me, with the grace of our Lord,

“ A true Friend,

“ ELIZABETH.

“ The Countess of Horn sends you her hearty commendations.”

*From the above Princess to her Brother*  
*Prince RUPERT.*

“ DEAR BROTHER, *Hereford, Dec. 19, 1676.*”

“ I have written to you some months ago, by Robert Barclay, who passed this way, and hearing I was your sister, desired to speak with me. I knew him to be a Quaker by his hat, and took occasion to inform myself of all their opinions; and finding they were to submit to Magistrates in real things, omitting the ceremonial, I wished in my heart the King might have many such subjects: and since I have heard that notwithstanding his Majesty's most gracious letters in his behalf to the Council of Scotland, he has been clapt up in prison with the rest of his friends, and they threaten to hang them, at least those they call preachers among them, unless they subscribe their own banishment; and this upon a law made against other sects, that appeared armed for the maintainance of their heresy, which goes directly against the principles of those which are ready to suffer all that can be inflicted, and still love and pray for their enemies.

“ Therefore, dear Brother, if you can do any thing to prevent their destruction, I doubt not but you will do an action, acceptable to God Almighty, and conducive to the service of your Royal Master: for the

Presbyterians are their main enemies, to whom they are an eye-sore, as being witnesses against all their violent ways. I care not though his Majesty see my letter: it is written out of no less an humble affection for him, than most sensible compassion of the innocent sufferers. You will act herein according to your own discretion; and I beseech you still consider me as,

“Your’s,  
 “ELIZABETH.”  
 “*A Monr. Monr. le Prince  
 Rupert à Londres.*”

“From ROBERT BARCLAY to Princess  
 ELIZABETH.

*Theobalds, near London,*  
 “DEAR FRIEND, 12 7mi, 1677.”

“By my letter of the last of the month past, I understand of the friends being with thee; and was refreshed by the account they gave me of thy kind and Christian entertainment of them, (they having overtaken me in Holland.) God will not be a-wanting to reward thy love, as well as to increase the same. Finding no ready passage straight to Scotland, I came



over here: and albeit I had no great expectation of success, I resolved once more to try thy cousin the Duke of York. So I told him, that I understand from Scotland, that, notwithstanding Lauderdale was there, and had promised, ere he went, to do some thing, yet our friends bonds were rather increased; and that now there was only one thing to be done, which I desired of him, and that was, to write effectually to the Duke of Lauderdale, in that stile whtrein Lauderdale might understand, that he was serious in the business, and did really intend the thing he did write concerning should take effect; which I knew he might do, and I supposed the other might answer, which if he would do, I must acknowlege as a great kindness; but if he did write, and not in that manner, so that the other might not suppose him to be serious, I would rather he would excuse himself the trouble; desiring withal to excuse my plain manner of dealing, as being different from the Court way of soliciting: all which he seemed to take in good part, and said he would so write, as I desired, for my father and me, but not for the general; so he hath given me a letter: whether it may prove effectual or not, I cannot determine, but of this thou may hear hereafter. I am now entered into my journey, and intend to pass by the way of Ragly. What thou writes of the Counsellor of the Elector, and the other Preachers, is very acceptable to me to hear, whose joy it is, to understand that the eyes of any are opened to see the truth as it is in

this day revealed; as it should be much more, to hear that any came into that universal obedience which the life and power thereof leads to: which life and power, as it is felt in the inward part, is more than all the words can be spoken; of which I know thou hast, at some times, not been insensible; and therefore my soul's desire for thee is, that thou may more and more come out of all that which cumpers, to feel this virtue of truth to operate in and redeem thy soul from all the difficulties that do or may attend thee, which in the nature of it, it is powerful to do, albeit thy temptations were both greater and more numerous than they are, if received by thee in the love of it, and with a heart fully resigned to obey it, in all its requirings, without consulting with flesh and blood, or turning by the plain and simple leadings thereof by wise and fleshly reasonings, which will never admit of the government and rule of the cross of Christ; as thou well knows and will not refuse to acknowledge, and therefore are the more concerned to watch against it in thy own particular, as I hope in measure thou does, and my heart's desire is.

“ Thou may make mention of my dear and tender love to Anna, whose servant, as also the French woman, I forget not. To Anna I thought to have written apart, but must now leave it until another opportunity. If thou seest meet to salute that

Counsellor of the Elector in my name, thou may do it.  
I shall add no more at present, but that I am,

“ Thy real and unfeigned Friend,

“ R. BARCLAY.”

*The Eighth Letter from Princess ELIZABETH  
to ROBERT BARCLAY.*

“ DEAR FRIEND, *Rudden, Nov. 25, 1677.*

“ I have now a true account touching Colonel Mollison's children; he left two sons, of which the youngest died a few days after him, of the same disease. I am also informed that the said Colonel made his will, before he went to the army; and that Colonel Melvil, a Scotsman, that is Governor of Zell, in Lunenburgh, hath a particular knowledge of it, to whom your father-in-law may address himself. I hope that you are still in freedom, and that the Duke of York's interest hath been effectual for you and your father. I also recommend to your prayers

“ Your loving Friend,

“ ELIZABETH.”

There are many more of the said Princess's letters, with copies of his answers, preserved in the family, to which I refer the curious, and shall proceed with observing, that so keen were they for persecution, that upon the 9th of November, 1679, he with several of his friends were taken out of a Meeting at Aberdeen, and detained only about three hours, the Magistrates both considering and fearing his interest at Court, from which he procured effectual orders, that they should not be troubled any more. Which accordingly happened:

Whilst they were in prison they received sympathising letters from several of their friends in England, as George Fox, William Penn, Isaac Pennington; &c. still extant; and now being at full liberty, he employed himself much in assisting his poor friends, for whom he contributed liberally, as he had done for purchasing a Meeting-house, at Aberdeen, about the year 1672, it being mostly bought by his money, and some by his means obtained from the Lady Conna-way, one of the same persuasion in England,

as the Meeting Records testify, as doth his own diary, or pocket-book, all wrote with his own hand and preserved in the family; wherein he gives a véry exact and particular account of many transactions of his life until some weeks of his death, which hath been much assistánce to me in writing this account.

About the year 1679, he got a Charter, under the great seal, from King Charles II. erecting his lands of Urie into a free barony, with a civil and criminal jurisdiction to him and his heirs for ever; which Charter was afterwards ratified by Act of Parliament, by King James VII. of Scotland, and II. of England, and that, as the Charter in the family's custody expresses it, "for the many faithful services done by Colonel David Barclay and his son, the said Robert Barclay, to the King and his most royal progenitors in times past."

This year he travelled to London, and from thence to Holland, upon account of visiting his friends; where from Rotterdam

he wrote to the Princess Elizabeth excusing himself for not seeing her at that time.— After his return home, it appears that some law plea, or private concerns, carried him to Edinburgh, A.D. 1680, as I find by a letter to him, by the then Duke of York, afterwards King James, wrote by his own hand, and two letters from the Earl of Perth, the originals being still in the family's custody, and are as follows:—

*From the Duke of YORK to ROBERT BARCLAY,  
of Urie.*

“ Windsor, June 27, 1680.

“ I send you here inclosed a letter to the Lord Advocate, as you desired. I chose to write to him because I had spoke to him of it, when in Scotland. You see I do my part, and I make no doubt but he will do his, and then you will have no further trouble in that affair.

“ JAMES.”

“ Directed for Mr. Barclay.”

*From the Earl of PERTH to ROBERT BARCLAY,  
of Urie.*

SIR, *Edinburgh, Oct. 12, 1680.*

“ I had one indeed from you two weeks ago, but had so little leisure since, that I ventured upon your goodness, and took some moments to myself, which should have been yours, could I have wrote as easily, as my heart was full of the sense of your kindness.

“ This goes by Mr. Falconer, an occasion I would not let go without telling you, that your friend here is still mindful of you and your concerns, nor wants he any solicitations to do you all the kindness I could prompt him to, for he was as zealous that way as I can be, but no occasion has offered since, and Sir William Purvis is considered as interested in all his proposals: but of this more afterwards. I shall this evening speak to the Duke, of that affair of Calder's, and if I cannot get a distinct answer now by the Aberdeen post, you shall have it shortly. Viscount of Arbutnot shall not be forgot, but you will believe I have some reason to delay it, when I tell you I have, though I dare not let you know what it is at present: he's well in the Duke's esteem, so the thing will be easy. I am glad to hear from you, and should be much more so to do you any service: I hope you believe better things of

me, than that I would be much disappointed with the instability of an human condition. I do not look upon any thing here as so fixed as worthy of too much concern, or capable to bear weight. I will resolve to be what God pleases, a plowman or courtier, or what else may be most for his honour. I know this is much too long a letter: forgive me, and believe you have not a faithfuller friend than

“ Your affectionate Servant,

“ *Twelve at Night.*”

“ PERTH.

“ P. S.—The Duke speaks wonderfully kind of you.”

*From the Earl of PERTH to ROBERT BARCLAY,  
of Urie.*

“ SIR, Edinburgh, Nov. 7, 1680.

“ Last night I had yours of the 17th of last month. It was so slow of coming to me, because I was called out of town to see my wife. I am glad we shall so soon see you. I wish you a good journey to us. I give you my hearty thanks for your good advice, to every part of which I do entirely agree; and I hope



my carriage shall be an argument I do so, whatever happen.

“ I am glad you will come so fully prepared to advise the Duke in that matter, your journey North seems to have some relation to, and that you are of my mind as to trust the register with it. I could tell you news, if every body else did not: but I know you will have all here from other friends. You see I am so void of ceremony, that you could not wish me more so: expect then no more formal concluding of letters from

“ Your affectionate Servant and Cousin,

“ PERTH.”

In 1682, he went to Edinburgh, to receive some money due to his father upon the estate of Seaforth; which being effected, he went to London, where, in the month of September, the Earls of Perth and Melfort, with the other proprietors, elected him Governor of East Jersey, and to induce him to accept thereof, they gifted him a propriety, with five thousand acres more, for him to

bestow as he should think fit, the government being confirmed to him, during life, by King Charles II. The account of this, with the other transactions concerning that Province, being in a book of records, in the family's custody; his commission bearing, that "such is his known fidelity and capacity, that he has the government during life; but that no other Governor, after him, shall have it longer than for three years." He likewise had the power of appointing a Deputy Governor, with a salary of 400*l.* sterling a-year. Accordingly he constituted Gawen Laurie, a Merchant in London, his Deputy Governor. After which he came home: but after a short stay went to Edinburgh, to assist his friend, the Laird of Swinton, one of his own persuasion, who, having been formerly one of the Lords of Session, was, upon the Restoration, turned out of his estate by forfeitry; to whom he was very kind, both by his interest and purse, of which there are several authentic proofs in the family. After finishing what he went about, he returned home.

April 30, 1683, he took journey with his father, wife, and son, to Edinburgh; the old man returning home after a short while: but he with the others went forward to London, (being to settle his son at a boarding-school at Theobalds, as already observed) where having passed most of the summer, visiting his friends, he took journey homewards with his wife, her brother Gilbert Mollison, and intimate friend Aaron Sonemans, who had been an eminent Merchant in Holland, but now settled in Scotland, and one of the proprietors of East Jersey. They had the misfortune upon their journey, in Stonegate Hole, between Huntingdon and Stilton, to be attacked by highwaymen. One of them presenting a pistol to him, he took him by the arm, very calmly asking him, how he came to be so rude, for he knew his business: the fellow trembling dropt the pistol out of his hand upon the ground, in great surprise, and did not so much as search or demand any thing from him: but his brother-in-law was riffled and rudely used, and poor Sonemans, it was thought more by accident

than design, was shot in the thigh, who being with some difficulty brought to Stilton, died in a few days of the wound. I had the above account from his widow, who was present. She also told me, that she observed her husband that morning more pensive than usual; and that he told her, it was his opinion, that some unusual trial or exercise was to befall them that day; but when the affair happened, he enjoyed a remarkable serenity. After having seen Sonemans decently buried, he returned home, where he arrived the fifth of September, after (as he calls it in his pocket-book) a long and tedious journey.

In winter he went to Edinburgh, about private affairs, where having received an old debt, due to his father by the Earl of Mar, the half of which he generously gave to George Keith, then a preacher among the Quakers, but who afterwards apostatised from them. About this time he much employed himself, and was at much pains, in shipping servants and provisions at Aberdeen, for East Jersey; about which I find

him more assiduous than most of his concerns.

In the beginning of 1685, he went to Edinburgh, in order to attend his sister, Jean Barclay, on her marriage with Sir Ewen Cameron of Locheill: after which, accompanied by his cousin, John Barclay of Johnston, and Drummond of Bohady, he went to York, and from thence by post to London, where he employed himself in doing many acts of friendship, both to his friends and others; his interest being very considerable at Court, having frequent access to the King, who honoured him with great friendship. Designing home, he came the length of Edinburgh, but was hastily called back about several affairs of moment: yet at last getting away, he returned to Urie, the thirteenth of February, 1685-6, where he received the unwelcome news of his youngest brother David's death, in his voyage to East Jersey, where he intended to have settled. He was a young man of great hopes, upon which account his death was

much lamented by his eldest brother and all his relations, but especially by his aged father. His other brother, John Barclay, settled in East Jersey, where he died only in the year 1731, leaving, as I am informed, two sons.

Upon the 12th of October 1686, died his father, Colonel David Barclay, as hath been already observed; and in December following, died his sister Lucy, at her uncle's house at Cluny, in the Shire of Aberdeen, where she was buried, aged 33 years. The April following, 1687, he went to Edinburgh, in company with the Viscount of Arbuthnot, and his lady, daughter to the Earl of Sutherland, and so his second cousin; and with them from thence to London. This journey he undertook chiefly to answer the earnest desire of his friend George Fox, and his other friends, to use his interest with the King in their behalf, for which they had pressingly solicited him, for some months, as may be seen by the following Letters:

*From GEORGE FOX to ROBERT BARCLAY.*

“DEAR FRIEND, *Edmonton, 19th 5ti, 1686.*”

“Robert Barclay, with my love to thee, and thy wife and father, and the rest of the friends, in the holy seed of life, that reigns over all; in whom ye have life and salvation, and peace with God.

“Now the occasion of my writing to thee at this time is, that friends were very sensible of the great service thou had concerning the truth, with the King and all the Court, and that thou had their ear more than any friend when here, and freedom and liberty on friends and truth’s behalf. And now, dear Robert, we understanding that the occasion of thy sudden return, concerning the condition thy wife was in, being now over by her being delivered; I desire thee, and it is desired of several other friends, that whilst the door is open, and the way so plain; that thou wouldest be pleased to come to London with speed, or as soon as may be; for there is a great service in it, thou having such free access: and when thou art here, friends may let thee know their mind further. And so, dear Robert, there is a great service in thy coming, upon several accounts, more than I shall mention at this time: and so I hope the Lord will incline thine

heart to weigh and consider thy service in it, and so  
once more, with my love, &c.

“GEORGE FOX.”

From JOHN OSGOOD and FRANCIS CAMFIELD  
to ROBERT BARCLAY,

“DEAR ROBERT, London, 22. 5ti, 1686.

“The within desire of George Fox, is also the  
desire of us, and; we think, of all the friends here:  
we therefore hope thou will do the needful therein.—  
We are,

“Thy real Friends,

“JOHN OSGOOD.”

“FRANCIS CAMFIELD.

As his often travelling from home was  
more in behalf of others than himself, so it  
appeared at this time: for at the earnest en-  
treaties of his friends in Scotland, particularly  
from the General Meeting at Aberdeen;



1687, he drew up and presented to the King their sincere acknowledgements and thanks for his Proclamation and Liberty of Conscience. Having finished his business at that time at London, he took journey homeward in August, 1687, by the way of Chester, where the King then was, upon a progress, where he and William Penn had a large meeting in the Tennis-court. Coming home, by the way of Lancashire, he came to Swarthmore, formerly the house of Judge Fell, to see George Fox, who then lived there; and so on to Edinburgh: from thence he went to see the Earl of Perth, at Drummond Castle, and so home to Urie, where he staid a very short while, being called to Edinburgh upon some emergency, from which he quickly returned home, and in March, 1688, taking his eldest son along with him, he took journey to London, being accompanied by his brother-in-law, Sir Ewen Cameron, and his eldest son, by the way of Perth, Dumblane, and Stirling, as far as Edinburgh, and arrived at London April 13: the great motive of his going at that time,

being to assist in composing a difference between the Duke of Gordon and Sir Ewen, which by the King's interposition was got done. He stayed the whole summer, visiting and serving his friends to the utmost of his power. In October he sent home his son with John, afterwards Sir John, Swinton.

At this time he took his last leave of the King, for whose apparent misfortunes he was much concerned; having had, as his widow informed me, several serious discourses with him upon the then posture of affairs, about settling the differences like to arise, and sometimes agreeable resolutions were taken, but one way or other prevented from being executed.

At their last parting, standing alone with the King in a window, who looking out, said, "The wind was now fair for the Prince of Orange his coming over:" upon which Robert Barclay took occasion to say, "It was hard that no expedient could be found out

to satisfy the people;" to which the King replied, that "he would do any thing becoming a gentleman, except to part with liberty of conscience, which he never would, while he lived."

Immediately after that, he took journey homeward with James, afterwards Sir James, Stewart, and Lord Advocate for Scotland, one for whom he had done singular kindnesses, which he indeed ever acknowledged. They came post to Edinburgh, where parting, he came home to Urie in December. This was his last journey: for after this he lived retired near two years at home, enjoying himself in visiting, and being visited by his friends and neighbours, until about the end of September, 1690, when in return from a meeting at Aberdeen he immediately sickened; James Dickinson, of Cumberland, at the time visiting friends in this country, and being with him: he often expressed his love for all his friends in England, particularly George Fox, with whom he had great intimacy, as the many letters from George

Fox to him, preserved in the family, do testify. His sickness, though short, was very severe, being a violent fever; whereof he died the 3d of October, 1690, to the irreparable loss of his family, being, as William Penn calls him, that worthy young man of God, not fully out forty-two years of age, about thirty-four years short of his father's; and was buried in his father's burial place, upon the sixth of the same month, being attended to his grave by several of the nobility, and numbers of the gentry, and greatly lamented by all who knew him.

For brevity's sake I shall refer his character, not only to the testimonies of George Fox, William Penn, and others, printed by order of his friends the Quakers, at the beginning of his works, both in folio, and also in a second impression in three volumes in octavo, but also to the learned among such as differed from him in some things, in their sentiments of religion.

The learned Norris, a Clergyman of the Church of England, says, "that the general

exultation and triumph that is among the Quakers at the publication of Mr. Barclay's works in folio, is what he can easily forgive, and knows not well how to blame: for he knows no religion so rich in reputation for great men, but might be glad of the accession of such a writer; much more the Quakers, who have been so barren of productions of this kind. Now their scattered notions are reduced into order and method, and appear under the form of a regular and artificial system." In another place he asserts "that Mr. Barclay is a very great man, and were it not for the common prejudice that lies against him as a Quaker, he would be sure not to miss being preferred to the greatest wits the age hath produced." And in another place, that "he had rather engage with an hundred Bellarmines, Hardings, and Staplétons, than with one Barclay." Collier, in his Universal Dictionary, gives him much the same character as doth William Penn: but Bayle in his works, (as hath been already observed) gives him the greatest encomiums, and more largely treats of him

and his works. A Scotch poet, writing of the two famous Barclays, William and John, the father and son, that were renowned through Europe for their learning, concludes with these verses upon him :

But, lo! a third appears, with serious air ;  
 His Prince's darling and his country's care.  
 See his religion, which so late before  
 Was like a jumbled mass of dross and ore,  
 Refined by him, and burnish'd o'er with art ;  
 Awakes the spirits and attracts the hearts.

After his decease, many were so charitable as to condole his widow for her loss, by several letters extant, too tedious to put down, yet I cannot well forbear giving two of them ; one from the Countess of Errol, one of the most religious, as well as wise and learned, ladies of her time, the other from George Fox.

From **GEORGE FOX** to **CHRISTIAN BARCLAY**,  
*Widow* to **ROBERT BARCLAY**; *being one of*  
*the last he ever wrote, the 28th of Decem-*  
*ber, 1690.*

“ **DEAR FRIEND,**

“ With my love to thee and thy children, and all the rest of friends in the holy seed Christ Jesus, that reigns over all, in whom ye have all life and salvation, and rest and peace with God.

“ Now, dear friend, though the Lord hath taken thy dear husband from thee his wife, and his children, the Lord will be a husband to thee, and a father to thy children: therefore cast thy care upon the Lord, and trust in him: let him be thy confidence, and let thy eye be upon him at all times, who is the great ruler and orderer of all, both in heaven and earth, and hath the breath and souls of all in his eternal infinite hand; and all the creation is upheld by his word and power, by which they were made, so that a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his will and pleasure; and his sons and servants in his image are in greater value in his eye than many sparrows: therefore thou and thy family rejoice, that thou had such an offering to offer up unto the Lord, as thy dear husband, whom I know

is well in the Lord, in whom he died, and is at rest from his labour, and his works follow him.

“ And now, dear friend, do thy diligence in thy family, in training up thy children in the fear of the Lord, and in his new covenant of life, that thou may present them to God as his children, and all thy servants and tenants in the wisdom of God: thou must answer the truth in them all, in truth, holiness, righteousness, and justice, and walking humbly before God, thou will always feel his presence to assist thee, and enable thee to perform whatever he requires of thee; so that whatever thou dost do, it may be to the glory and honour of God, and not look at the outward presence of thy husband, but look at the Lord, and serve him with a joyful heart, mind, soul, and spirit, all the days thou livest upon the earth.

“ From him who had a great respect for thy dear husband, for his work and service in the Lord; who is content in the will of God in all things that he doth; and so must thou be: and so the Lord God Almighty settle and establish thee and thine upon the heavenly rock and foundation, and as thy children grow in years, they may grow in grace, and so in the favour of the Lord. Amen.

“ GEORGE FOX.”

“ P.S. I know thy husband left a good savour behind him, so I desire that all you may do the same.”



*From ANNE, Countess of ERROL, to CHRISTIAN BARCLAY.*

**MUCH HONOURED,**

“As there was none had a greater esteem of the merit of your worthy husband, when alive, than I, so there’s none can value his memory more than I shall always do; and this remembrance of him, which you have been pleased to send me, shall, on that account, be as carefully kept, as I preserve any thing; which I accept of with very sincere gratitude to yourself and all the rest of his family, who I cannot fail to have a kindness for, by reason of the relation to one I considered as so deserving a friend both to myself and to my brothers: for I have often been very well pleased to hear him mention them very affectionately, even at a time when most of the world had a vanity in railing at them: but I cannot deny him the justice to own, that I found his friendship for them rather increase than diminish, as their misfortunes grew upon them; and I am sure they are both very sensible of their loss, by being deprived of so worthy and so distinguishing a friend, as he proved on all occasions. *△* But besides all the obligations I owe you on his account, either for my relations or myself, for minding to bestow one of his books on me, though I cannot but value the favour you do me, in believing me one that had a real esteem

of his virtues, more than is possible for me to express : and by the little time I had the satisfaction to see your son, I was very well pleased to see so good appearances in him of supplying the place of so deserving a father ; and it shall be a very acceptable satisfaction to me, to see any of your family at this place, for I am affectionately at your service.

“ ANNE ERROL.”

“ *Slains, Feb. 27, 1692-3.*”

This being the 3d of October, 1740, it is this day exactly fifty years since he died, his seven children (all he left behind him) being still alive : there being at this time between fifty and sixty grand-children and great-grand-children, so that he hath in all at this time, between sixty and seventy descendants.



## CONTINUATION

## THE ACCOUNT OF

## BARCLAYS OF URIE.

Having thus prepared himself for the great design he had been meditating, about the year 1708 he began to apply the knowledge he

**T**HE late Robert Barclay, Esq. of Urie, the twenty-first in lineal descent from Theobald de Berkeley, the founder of the family, was born at Urie, in the year 1731-2, as is recorded in page 25 of the re-printed Genealogical Account. He received the first rudiments of learning, under the guidance of a private tutor, at his father's house, and finished his education at the University of Aberdeen. Having very early become attached to agriculture, soon after his

father's death in 1760, he commenced a series of tours, and in the course of his perambulations visited every county in Scotland and England, for the purposes of enlarging his knowledge of rural affairs, by comparing the different modes of husbandry prevalent in different places. These journeys were always performed on foot, a servant following him on horseback with his portmanteau.

Having thus prepared himself for the great design he had been meditating, about the year 1768 he began to apply the knowledge he had acquired, to the improvement of his own estate, for which purpose he took the greatest part of the lands of Urie into his own hands. After twenty years of persevering industry, that seldom has been surpassed, he brought his paternal acres into such a state of cultivation as to enable him to re-let them for double or treble their former rent.\* The

\* The celebrated Lord Monbodo, who to his metaphysical and forensic pursuits added a taste for agriculture, speaking of the improvements introduced by

barren mountains were likewise clothed with extensive plantations of fir and other forest trees, which he left in a most thriving condition.

The estate of Allardice, that came to him by marriage, being at too great a distance to be under his own immediate management, was let on moderate terms; and Mr. Barclay not only instructed the tenants in the most beneficial methods of agriculture, but advanced the money required for putting into execution the improvement which he pointed out to them.

The effect of his labours might appear almost incredible, even after making every allowance for the rapid depreciation of the circulating medium; for I have been informed that the family estates, and two others which

Mr. Barclay always called him *Our Great Master*.

Mr. Barclay, however, seems not to have written much on his favourite science. At least the only article from his pen which I have been able to trace, is a treatise "On Labourers in Husbandry Renting Lands."

he acquired by purchase, yielded in the year 1788 only £2200; but are now, on a moderate calculation, worth £7000 per annum.

In the Summer of 1788, Mr. Barclay was, without opposition, returned to serve as Member of Parliament for Kincardine, which county he continued to represent till the time of his death, in the year 1797, occasioned by the consequences of a cold, caught by sleeping in a damp bed, when returning home from London. In a pamphlet, lately published, it is stated, that he walked from his own house, in Scotland, every Session of Parliament: this, however, is erroneous, for he had not during the last twenty years of his life undertaken such long journeys on foot.

He was succeeded by his son Robert Barclay Allardice, who is the representative of two families of distinction; his mother Sarah Ann Allardice, being sole heiress to the late James Allardice, Esq. of Allardice, in the county of Kincardine, and heiress of line to the Earls of Airth and Monteith.