

THE SUTHERLAND PAPERS

EDITED BY

DONALD MACLEOD, M.A.

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(*Illustrated.*)

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The Life of General Mackay of Scourie.

The Archæology of Sutherland.

The Endowments of Sutherland.

The Wadsetters of Sutherland.

&c. &c. &c.

BISHOP POCOCKE'S TOUR
IN
SUTHERLAND AND CAITHNESS.



The Right Rev. RICHARD POCKE,
Lord Bishop—of Ossory, 1756 to 1765—of Meath, 1765.

c^d

THE TOUR
OF.
DR RICHARD POCOCKE
LORD BISHOP OF OSSORY,
THROUGH
SUTHERLAND
AND
CAITHNESS
IN
1760,

WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

BY DANIEL WILLIAM KEMP,

Editor of

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Author of

"NOTES ON EARLY IRON-SMELTING IN SUTHERLAND," &c.

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THE MEMBERS OF

The Edinburgh Sutherland Association

THIS BOOKLET IS

DEDICATED

IN APPRECIATION OF THEIR LEAL-HEARTED

AND

UNWEARYING LABOURS—

Social, Educational, Political, and Literary—

FOR THE SAKE OF

SUTHERLAND

AND

HER SCATTERED SONS AND DAUGHTERS.



P R E F A C E.

IN the prefatory note to Pococke's complete "Tours in Scotland," issued last October, I stated, that—

"When the Scottish History Society was formed last year I was preparing for the press an inedited account of Bishop Pococke's tour in Sutherland, from a manuscript which I found in the Library of the British Museum.

"The Council of the Society, recognising in Dr Pococke's journal of his travels in Scotland an interesting contribution to our knowledge of the country during the eighteenth century, agreed to publish all the Scottish portion of the MS. under the auspices of the Society, and invited me to act as editor. I felt some misgivings in undertaking a work covering so wide a field of Scottish topography, to which I could only devote leisure hours at the close of a busy day. But my labours have been greatly facilitated by the assistance of a number of gentlemen who have kindly verified for me local questions, and supplied notes. To these I tender my best thanks. Their number must be my apology for not recording individually their many and valuable services.

"The text of the MS., in its orthography and diction, has been carefully adhered to; and the drawings, notwithstanding their frequent disregard of perspective and proportion, have been faithfully, if roughly, reproduced."

The foregoing remarks are equally applicable to this booklet, but I would specially acknowledge the generous assistance given me by members of the Sutherland Association.

This "Sutherland Paper" has been longer in hand than I anticipated, but the delay has been a distinct gain, the appendix having grown in consequence by the addition of numerous notes, some of which only recently came under my notice, and are now printed for the first time from original manuscripts.

D. WILLIAM KEMP.

TRINITY,
EDINBURGH, *September 1888.*

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INTRODUCTION.

THE Right Rev. Dr Pococke, Lord Bishop of Ossory, Ireland, is linked in an interesting way with the civil history of Sutherland, through having had conferred on him the freedom of its ancient capital—the cathedral city and royal burgh of Dornoch.

He belonged to a race of eminent ecclesiastics, and was probably born in 1702. He was the only son of the Rev. Richard Pococke of Southampton, but losing his father at an early age, his upbringing and education devolved on his maternal grandfather—the Rev. Isaac Milles, a highly cultured clergyman of the Church of England. At school and college he was a diligent student, and at the age of thirty-one received from his *Alma Mater*, Oxford, the degree of LL.D.

About 1733 he appears to have developed a fondness for travel, which remained a marked characteristic through life.

“ He had the passion, and the power to roam.”

From that year to 1736 he travelled through most of the Continental countries; but the great tour on which his fame as a traveller rests, extended from 1737 to 1742, when he journeyed through South-eastern Europe, Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Mesopotamia, Cyprus, Candia, &c., and published his antiquarian researches in three large folio volumes, which for half a century occupied the first place in that department of literature.

On his return from the East he visited Switzerland, when he explored the famous Mer de Glace in the picturesque Vale of Chamounix, accompanied by Lord Haddington and other young gentlemen from Geneva. He was thus the pioneer of that tourist tide, which has carried wealth to the highlands and glens of Savoy. The grateful Savoyards have engraved

“RICHARD POCOCKE 1741”

on a huge granite boulder,—a grand natural monument in memory of the intrepid traveller.

At intervals throughout life, he made systematic excursions through most of the counties of England, many parts of Ireland, and the greater part of Scotland, and as was his wont, carefully committed his observations to writing, sometimes making drawings of the more interesting objects. His MSS. are now preserved in the British Museum.

Soon after his return from foreign travel, he appears to have meditated a journey through Scotland ; for in a letter to that learned antiquary Dr Stukeley, he says,—“As I hope sometimes to come to England [from Ireland], so I have not laid aside my thoughts of a northern journey, which I shall undertake with greater satisfaction, as I am sure you will favour me with all the hints you can give ; and I shall not despise even Scotland and the Orkney Islands, where I expect to meet with something curious, at least in relation to their customs and manners.”

Some years later he got a copy of Richard of Cirencester's *De Situ Britanniae* (now admitted to be a literary forgery) by Bertram, who dedicated it to Dr Stukeley. Probably the book was presented by Dr Stukeley to him, in recollection of the foregoing

request, and we find him assiduously endeavouring to identify places in his journeyings with its fictitious map and Itinerary.

In 1745, through the influence of his maternal uncles, one of whom was Bishop of Waterford, the other two holding important clerical preferments, he was appointed by the Earl of Chesterfield to the Archdeaconry of Dublin.

This charge, together with the unsettled state of Scotland after the Rebellion, prevented him making his northern tour until 1747. On his journey thither, he stayed a night at Penrith, and there is a note in his diary that he "laid in the bed the Pretender lay in." He proceeded by way of Berwick and Dunbar to Edinburgh; thence by Stirling to Glasgow, where he received the freedom of the city, and afterwards left for Port-Patrick *en route* for Dublin.

During this journey, Mr Da Costa, Foreign Secretary to the Royal Society, wrote, praying for duplicates of objects of natural history which he might collect, adding, "Scotland is full of curious things, and as they have not been much searched into, doubt not but with the fund of knowledge and industry we know you possessed of, you will, if I may use the metaphor, be a Columbus in new discoveries of the fossil world, and other parts of natural history. The Western Islands I hear you intend to visit. Mr Martin, and he only, has given us an account of those islands, interspersed with some particulars of their natural history, by which I observe they abound in curious things of all kinds. I shall close this letter with my prayers to the Almighty Being, who preserved you hitherto in your travels through the Arabian and the deserts of Sin, and over the eastern parts of the world, to also preserve

your health and pleasure through the bleak northern parts you are now visiting."

In 1750 he again made an extensive tour through the northern counties of England, and just visited the borderland of Scotland.

He received in 1756 an important preferment, being appointed Bishop of Ossory; and henceforward his chief residence was the episcopal palace, Kilkenny. His memory is yet green in the diocese of Ossory, owing to his successful efforts in restoring its ancient Cathedral of St Canice, his encouragement of the linen industry, and the founding of "The Pococke College," Kilkenny, an institution which still flourishes.

His researches into the antiquities of Ireland led to the publication of *The Monasticon* by his chaplain, the Rev. Mervyn Archdall.

The Bishop's cherished tour through Scotland, including Orkney, was not realised until 1760, when, accompanied by his valet and groom, he landed at Port-Patrick in April of that year. Riding by easy stages he visited the chief places of interest in the south-west of Scotland, thence he travelled by way of Glasgow, Loch Lomond, Inverary, and Mull, to the sacred isle of St Columba. His description of the island, church, monuments, and inscriptions is most interesting, and his drawing of the ruined abbey is valuable, as probably the earliest sketch in existence.

From Iona he travelled through Lochaber and Badenoch, to Inverness, and visited the fatal field of Culloden, which he describes with thorough anti-Jacobite feeling.

Continuing northwards through Easter Ross he enters Sutherland by Rosehall, from which place our readers are invited to accompany him in his

TOUR THROUGH SUTHERLAND.

Hitherto Bishop Pococke's route was along tolerably good roads or ways; but now he was about to enter upon a trackless region—a *terra incognita* to the ordinary tourist. The only road—if so it could be called—which existed north of the Meikle Ferry, was the bridle path along the east coasts of Sutherland and Caithness, from Dornoch to Wick.

He rode along the slopes of Strathkyle to Ochto, where he crossed to Rosehall, and on this fine mid-summer day (21st June), evidently struck with the picturesque scenery of the partially wooded and cultivated slopes of Creich, the distant mountains of Assynt, and the broad Kyle at his feet, he writes—“Ascending a height we had a most delightful view of a very fine country, and of the winding of the river, which was then full after the rain and appeared most beautiful.” The Bishop so rarely indulged in descriptions of scenery, that this appreciative reference is all the more welcome. The beauties of this strath have been sweetly sung in an unpublished poem :—

“Far-spreading heather hills
Lie narrowing westward, 'til they meet at last;
Betwixt them—fed by many thousand rills—
The swelling stream flows fast.

“The hardy crofters' fields
Spread tartan on the slopes;—the conquering plough
Pushes its way, and lo!—the heather yields :—
Brave hands and sweating brow!”

At Rosehall he was entertained for a couple of days by Mr Baillie the proprietor, and was shown all the sights of the neighbourhood. He then proceeded to Mr Munro, Clynnall (near Loch Shin), which he writes

phonetically Clane Hall,—a not unnatural blunder, having just left *Rose Hall*. The day following, he visited by invitation the Rev. Thomas Mackay of Lairg.

The Bishop must have been an unusually early visitor, for on arriving at the manse, Mr Mackay inquired if he had breakfasted, and although assured that he had ; at once, with true Highland hospitality, “brought cakes and a bottle of wine,” when the courteous presbyter requested the prelate to “bless the entertainment.”

Bishop Forbes, to whom we are indebted for several interesting anecdotes of Bishop Pococke, tells in his *Journal* * (1762), a story of a “blessing” which also relates to a Sutherland clergyman. He had once occasion to accept the hospitality of the venerable Rev. Francis Robertson of Clyne, and says, “The old gentleman gave us a long grace, sitting upon breech, according to ordinary.” After Bishop Forbes had retired to rest, the worthy minister discovered from his other visitors who his guest was, when he cried—“Oh, gentlemen, you have made me guilty of the worst of manners, in not telling me this in due time. I am all affronted in not desiring the cheerful gentleman to say grace in my house. I must even go upstairs, and beg pardon at his bedside for my bad manners.”

Like one inured to travel, we find Dr Pococke uncomplainingly wending his way through the wilds and morasses of central Sutherland,—a way which Dr Kemp describes in 1796 as almost impassable.

* Journals of the Episcopal Visitations of the Right Rev. Robert Forbes, M.A., Bishop of Ross and Caithness, 1762 and 1770, edited by the Rev. J. B. Craven. Kirkwall, 1886.

This rough route to the north was doubtless selected for the express purpose of visiting the romantic

“Dun Dhornguil mac Dhuibhe
Air an taobh ris an ear do 'n t-srath.”

He had seen many ruined brochs, but not a well-preserved one, and remarks, “They are as common here as Rathes in Ireland, and probably there was one to every village.”

Gordon's reference to Dundornadilla in his *Itinerarium Septentrionale*, p. 168, probably induced him to make this interesting relic of the heroic age of the Vikings, the goal of his more arduous wanderings. Gordon, after describing and illustrating the brochs of Glenbeg, states,—“There are two or three in my Lord Ray's country, one of which goes by the name of King Dornadilla's Castle. This, if we may give credit to the Scottish chronologists, will help us in some measure to the antiquity of all the rest. Dornadilla is reckoned by Buchanan to have begun his reign 260 years before Christ, and to have reigned twenty-eight years, so that, admitting the traditional name, and Buchanan's chronology to be both true, they must have stood near two thousand years.”

We are glad our undaunted traveller succeeded in his object, and only regret that he was not a better draughtsman; still his sketches and descriptions are extremely interesting and valuable, because the earliest we have. Dundornadilla, although sadly ruined, is the best preserved broch now remaining on the mainland of Scotland.

Pressing onwards he traversed most of the Reay country, receiving valuable assistance of horses and guides, and “the greatest hospitality and politeness from Lord Reay's family.” He tells us “a herd lives

at Kerwick Bay;" this would not be remarkable, were it not from the suspicion that none other than Rob Donn is referred to. The Reay bard was at this time with the Earl of Sutherland's Highlanders, stationed at Aberdeen. Had he and the Bishop met, he would probably have immortalised him in his muse.

Dr Pococke associated with most of the ministers of Sutherland, and it is a curious circumstance that he makes no mention of those to whom he was indebted for much of his information, whilst he mentions those whose hospitality he enjoyed. Thus he was entertained by the Rev. Thomas Mackay, Lairg, to cake and wine; by the Rev. George Munro, Farr, to dinner; and the Rev. Robert MacCulloch gave him refreshments. The Rev. Murdo MacDonald, Durness, the Rev. Alexander Pope, Reay, and the Rev. Martin MacPherson, Golspie, all gave him information, and are never so much as mentioned.

Mr MacDonald acted as his guide for several days, and thus writes in his diary:—

“HOUP [HOPE], *Saturday, 5th July 1760.*

“Most of last week taken up with a conspicuous stranger, Dr Pococke, Lord Bishop of Ossory in Ireland, who after a course of travels through Europe and Asia came at length to Scotland, which he means to pervade thoroughly, and accordingly came to this north-west point of it and stayed with Lord Reay from Wednesday till Monday. He seems to be curious, ingenious, and judicious, and I hope our country may not be the worse of his visit,* which has

* The Bishop's Diary was only published for the first time last year by the Scottish History Society, but the worthy minister of Durness's Diary still lies entombed in manuscript. I am indebted to Mr Hew Morrison, F.S.A. Scot., for all the quotations from this diary. It consists of seven thick octavo volumes, and is in his possession.

probably rubbed off prejudices *hinc inde*. It was on Monday he came over the water [Loch Erriboll] in his way to the eastward, when I also came from home."

Mr Pope was doubtless stimulated to archæological and scientific researches through his communications with Dr Pococke, for when Pennant nine years later solicited information for his *Tours in Scotland* regarding Sutherland, he seems to have been ready at once to supply it. He says—"At the desire of the Bishop of Ossory, I measured several of them [brochs], and saw some quite demolished. There is one of them entire in the parish of Loth, which the Bishop of Ossory visited and examined, near the miln of Lothbeg." Of fossils, Mr Pope remarks—"The Bishop of Ossory employed men to hew out masses of the rock [near Brora], which he broke, and carried away a large quantity of shells." He also records that "near the Bridge of Brora there is a fine large cave, called Uai na Calman. The Bishop of Ossory admired it, and said there were such caves about Bethlehem in Palestine."

Mr MacPherson probably entertained Dr Pococke with the folk-lore of the county, for in a letter to his friend, Mr William Macleod * of Hamer, he writes:—

"GOLSPIE, February 1792.

"I am sorry you did not see the Bishop of Ossory in his travels through Scotland; that learned prelate, who has almost made the tour of Europe, Asia, and Africa, was particularly fond to inquire into everything that ascertained and threw light on the second

* Macleod published his *Treatise on Second Sight, &c.*, 1763, under the pseudonym of Theophilus Insulanus. See article "The Macleods of Hamer," in the *Scottish Highlander*, August 30, 1888.

sight, and I persuade myself, if you correspond with him, that he would give a round sum for your lucubrations, and give them to the world in the history of his travels through Scotland, which he is now writing out for the press. He is a famous man in the learned world, and was, on that account, sent, at the public's expense, to travel, long before the merit of his discoveries gained him the mitre ; and I must acknowledge, I should have much higher joy in seeing you transmitted to posterity, hand in hand with Dr Pococke, than in the way of publishing by subscription. You may easily correspond with the Bishop of Ossory by sending your letters to a friend at London, who will see them into the Irish bag, if his lordship happens not to be in London, where he is generally in the winter, or when he happens not to be immediately engaged in travelling."

We are again indebted to Bishop Forbes' entertaining Journal for the following story :—

"Mr James Murray of Pennyland, Surveyor of the Customs, told me he desired the Bishop of Ossory to visit the Clet, but he was in haste, and could not think of walking so far, as it is two long miles from Pennyland, where his lordship had dined and ate heartily of fried chicken, and liked it so well that he desired to have a receipt for dressing of it, as there is no such dish in England or Ireland. There was another dish, which he took to be enammelet, but it happened to be toasted ears. 'Toasted ears!' said he; 'what is that?' 'Why,' said Mr Murray, 'the ears of a calf toasted on bread.' He liked it much. But what surprised him most of all was the fine wheat-bread he ate here, of which he said he had not got any since he came into Strathnaver, through which he travelled in his way to

Caithness, and he begged to know how they came by it. When they told him it was baked in a pot, he was amazed, insomuch that it behoved them to assure him it was so before he could believe it; and he declared he had never ate better all his life; and so plentifully did he take of it, that Mr Murray jokingly said, ‘Stop, my lord, else your lordship will raise a famine in ye country,’ which pleased him so well that he called to his own servant, ‘John, pray, give me t’other cut of that fine loaf;’ and when he came to Wick he desired his servant to see if he could have a loaf baked in a pot to take along with them. He had two servants, viz., a valet and a groom.”

Bishop Forbes also records a conversation which Dr Pococke had with Mr William Sutherland of Wester; see App. p. 63.

Nowhere during his Scottish tours did he receive a more cordial welcome than in Sutherland, and nowhere else have we so many contemporary references to his pleasing visit. These are now useful to his biographer, for, singularly enough, material from which to estimate his character is extremely limited.

The appearance of Sutherland evidently agreeably surprised him, for in those “bleak northern parts” he saw “many spots of fine ground,” and here and there “a fine country” with “fine downs.” In one place he observed “several acres of the finest flax;” in gardens, “all sorts of fruit in great perfection,” and around certain houses “large plantations” of hard-wood.

It would have been interesting, especially in view of subsequent events, had he told us more of the social life and condition of the people, but in the absence of anything to the contrary, it is a fair inference that there was nothing peculiarly distressing in their general cir-

cumstances to excite his sympathy or commiseration. Probably only once, when at Mudale, did he spend a night in a humble dwelling ; his hosts were generally the resident upper and middle class (more numerous then than now), from whom he received the best of cheer ; thus he speaks of venison hashes, or minced collops, and Malaga wine. The tour, however, was not undertaken for pleasure, but for observation ; and the condition of the inhabitants would necessarily form a subject of inquiry.

Mr Munro, of Clynall, planned an opportunity for him to see Highland manners, in one of those old-fashioned long narrow houses, where the economy of home and farm was conducted under the same roof ; the family, cattle, and produce, being in adjoining apartments separated only by slight hurdle partitions. Here he witnessed the domestic arrangements of the making of " Frau," and the family eating it out of the pot ; but a piggin of cream was brought for his Lordship, which the mistress raised to her lips, pledging his health, and then respectfully handed to her visitor. On another day, near Klibreck, he experienced similar courtesies and hospitality, apparently unsolicited.

He pays the people the compliment of being " in general extremely hospitable, charitable, civil, polite, and sensible," that physically they were " mostly well-bodied men of great activity," that they " live very hardy, principally on milk, curds, whey, and a little oatmeal ; their best food is oat or barley cakes ; a porridge made of oatmeal, cale, and sometimes a piece of salt meat in it, is the top fare ; except that by the sea they have plenty of fish in summer, and yet they will hardly be at the pains of catching it but in very fine weather ;" " eels are eaten here only by the common

people ;” “ they are not yet come into the use of the potatoes, but are making a very small beginning ;” “ they breed much young cattle and sheep, but not so many, I think, as the ground would bear. At night they house the sheep all the year, and the poorer people shear in May and November, who have not grass for them abroad.”

On reaching Thurso, the Bishop crossed over to Orkney, where he spent a week, thence returned to the mainland by the post route, landing at Ratter. During the five days he stayed in Caithness, he was agreeably entertained by many of the leading gentlemen of the county, and conducted to most of the sights which lay in his route to the south. The Caithness chapters (vi. to viii.) are full of interesting details, and the two sketches of the imposing ruins of Castles Girnigoe and Sinclair, lend an additional charm to the account of them.

The last letter, chap. ix., is dated from Dunrobin, where he probably passed a night. His stay at the castle may have been shortened, owing to the absence of the Earl of Sutherland, “ the good colonel,” who was at this time with the Sutherland Highlanders, stationed at Aberdeen.

On arriving at Dornoch, whither his fame had preceded him, he appears to have been received with every mark of respect. The prelate had now come to the bishop’s seat of the ancient diocese of Caithness, which included Sutherland. We can easily fancy that as he wandered amidst the ruins of the venerable cathedral, bishop’s palace, and houses of the chapter—voiceless evidences of a departed glory—his imagination would picture a time when the little community—

a centre of light and culture—made all vocal with the sweet evangel—

On earth PEACE !

Goodwill toward men.

“It is difficult for a Scotchman now,” remarks Cosmo Innes (but not so difficult for our Irish Bishop), “to call up to his imagination the cathedral towns of old Scotland. The effect of such a society of learned churchmen, holding a high position for influence and example, cultivating letters, preaching peace, and (for the most part) practising it, must have been great and beneficial in any rural district ; but a glance at the past history of the district enables us in some degree, to appreciate the benefits conferred upon Dornoch by the establishment of its bishop, its cathedral, and its chapter.”

The Corporation of this quaint miniature city showed their appreciation of the distinguished Bishop, and the object of his tour, by presenting him with the freedom of their royal burgh (see App., p. 67). No roll of illustrious burgesses is known to exist, and perhaps the Bishop of Ossory was the first and only person on whom Dornoch conferred honorary citizenship. He may have felt somewhat like Alexander the Great, when the citizens of Magara offered him the freedom of their city; the offer excited a smile, but he received this tribute of their respect, on being informed that the honour had never been conferred on any one but Hercules and himself.

During his tours in Scotland,—Glasgow, Aberdeen, Perth, Lanark, Forres, and Nairn also honoured him with the freedom of their burghs ; Kirkwall and Tain offered it, but his time was too limited to wait the ceremonial. It is remarkable but quite characteristic

of town councils' records of the period, that of all the places mentioned only Aberdeen has recorded the freedom in their council minutes, written in Latin.

Crossing the Dornoch Firth, whose upper waters he had gone over on his way north just four weeks previously, he again entered Ross-shire, and continued by the east coast southwards. Little escaped his observant eye, and considering the shortness of his stay at any one place, the amount he wrote daily was marvellous.

But whilst thus enjoying his ecclesiological and antiquarian researches to the full, he was never forgetful of his higher mission. He esteemed it a privilege to be one—

“ That publisheth peace ;
That bringeth good tidings of good,
That publisheth salvation.”

He was the only Bishop of the Church of England since the Revolution who had preached and confirmed in Scotland. He did so in Elgin, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Edinburgh, and other places, and was on week days as well as on Sundays ever willing to perform divine service wherever there was a church.

After a week's stay in Edinburgh, he continued his journey by Berwick through the eastern counties of England, arriving in London on the 29th October 1760, having travelled continuously for six and a half months, and covered a distance pretty accurately estimated at 3,391 miles.

The Bishop's diary, in the first instance, took the form of letters which he regularly forwarded home to his sister. On his return to Ireland in 1761, he carefully collated and partially edited the letters and other

jottings, and had them copied into four thick quarto volumes, in which his sketches were also placed. This work must have occupied him a considerable time, in the intervals of other and more important duties. It must have been publicly known that he intended printing his Tour ; for we have seen from the letter of the Rev. Mr MacPherson, of Golspie, that he understood that the Bishop "was writing the history of his travels in Scotland for the press," and the Rev. Mr MacDonald, of Durness, hoped "our country might not be the worse of his visit ;" and yet, alas ! a century and a quarter elapsed before the Diary saw the light.

In July 1765, the Bishop of Ossory was translated to the bishopric of Meath. Two months later, when engaged in a parochial visitation of his new diocese, he was suddenly called to his rest—the busy hand was stilled.

An appropriate monument, sacred to his memory, was erected in the Cathedral of St Canice,—itself a monument, having been saved from irretrievable ruin by his exertions.

He bequeathed his numerous manuscripts to the British Museum, but for some reason unknown, the MS. of the Scottish Tour was not delivered with the others. It remained private property until 1843, when it was purchased for a good sum by the trustees, and placed among the literary treasures of the nation.

Some years ago I examined this MS., and finding it was little known and extremely entertaining, procured transcripts and drawings expressly for this booklet, intending to publish it as the first of the series of "Sutherland Papers." Meantime, I became occupied with the larger work—*Pococke's Tour in*

Scotland, 445 pages, which was published in October 1887 by the Scottish History Society. That being completed, it was with real pleasure I resumed this lesser work, which, with its Appendix, I now give as a small contribution to the literature of Sutherland.

D. WILLIAM KEMP.

September 1888.

“Talk with me
Of that our land, whose wilds and floods,
Barren and dark although they be,
Were dearer than these chestnut woods ;
Those heathy paths, that inland stream,
And the blue mountains, shapes which seem
Like wrecks of childhood's sunny dream.”

—SHELLEY.

Bishop Pococke's Tour in Sutherland and Caithness.



CHAPTER I.

DINGWALL IN ROSSHIRE,
20th June 1760.

ON the 21st we went three miles to Milcraig (Mr Cuthbert's), a fine situation at the foot of the hill, commanding a view of the river and the country below. Near it is a deep glyn in which there runs a mountain torrent. The banks of it are green and most beautifully adorned with woods. We saw three or four kerns as belonging anciently to the heads of the several villages, for their burial-places, but on seeing the Picts' houses since, I doubt whether they might not be the habitations of those people. In three miles from Milcraig, going over very disagreeable heathy mountains, we came to a rivulet, and continued on about two miles, passed another mountain torrent, and came into the fine country which is on the Frith of Dornock. I saw a small Druid temple with two or three stones in the middle near the rivulet, and a little further some remains of another. Here I observed grey granite in large spots of white and a darker colour.

We came to Ardmore, Mr Bailey's, near the river,

where we stayed two hours, the family being at Rose-hall. In these parts they find beds of shells at a little distance from the sea, but not petrified, and they are used for manure. We went westward and soon came to a large kern, the entrance to which about half-way up is visible with a large stone over it. If the entrances are not on a level with the ground I look on it as a mark that they were burial-places; if they are great ruins, that they were castles; and if covered over with green sod, that they were Picts' houses.

About a mile farther we came to Odonaliskey or Doniskaig [Dun-alishaig], a very curious Pictish round castle. The walls at the bottom with the passage between take up twelve feet and a half in thickness. Over the door, which is about three feet wide, is a stone in shape of a pyramid; what remains is about fifteen feet high. Eight feet and a half from the outside is an entrance on each side two feet broad; that to the right leads to a room which is a kind of oval, five feet wide in the broadest part, and sixteen feet long, to which there seems to have been another entrance at the other end, and from that a passage is continued round to the entrance opposite to the gateway, this passage is two feet broad. Opposite to this entrance, I observed on the outside, there had been a square hole, now filled up with stone, merely to give light; continuing round there is a passage three feet six inches wide, with four steps down to the middle on the other side, where there is another entrance from the court, and from this I suppose there was such an apartment as on the other side. The court is about thirty feet in diameter. The building sets in and lessens every tier on the outside, and it seemed to me to be strait up within. There is no mortar in the building,

but the stones are fine and laid so as to bind one another. The round castles at Bernera are of this kind, which are engraved in Gordon. We came in three miles to Kincaron, where there is a church, and passed the river called Spatts Carn, which was deep. There is a boat that carries over one horse, but we forded it. We passed several little torrents and had a very pleasant ride in sight of the river, which as far as the tyde goes they call a kyle, the hills in many parts being covered with wood; so that ascending a height we had a most delightful view of a very fine country, and of the winding of the river, which was then full after the rain, and appeared most beautiful.

We crossed over to Rosehall in Sutherland in a boat to Mr Bayley's, allied to Lord Reay's family, sending our horses to cross two rivers that meet here. These two rivers rise within eight computed miles of the western sea, that is about sixteen measured miles. They have no miles here different from the English in measure, but the acre is five perches more than the English. (I think the Highland miles are not above the proportion of 2 to 3 as in England.)

Rosehall is a pleasant situation about the place where the tyde ends. There are fine meadows on each side. I walked out from the most northern of the two rivers, and about half a mile from the mouth of it there is a fine waterfall after rain. The first fall is about ten feet, it then runs some way and tumbles down by several falls and declivities for forty or fifty feet in a large stream, and two smaller on one side of it. Over it is a burial-place, where probably was a church or chapel belonging to an oblong square castle near it, called Dun Agharn Eski (the castle of the field of the cascade), and near it is either a kern or Picts'

house or a ruined round castle. They catch salmon here by holding nets and driving in the salmon as described at Kilmare in Kerry. On the river is a castle or two of the kind described at Duniskaig, and one or two more to the south of the mountain ; one is at Glanmick on a morass on the river Cartigo, and two at Arsbroom and Douney, on the river Carran. There is a road to the south-west to Lough Broom, where there is another spinning school of the kind of that mentioned at Glanmorrison, and there is another at Lough Carran. About eight miles south of this place is the mountain called Scarre in Lappik, on the top of which are several sorts of shells, mostly of the welk kind, and not petrified ; there is also a white stone said to be almost transparent, which I conjecture to be the white flint. They have a different species of trout in most of the rivers here. At a place called Craighalian, at Coleray, by which we passed, the Earl of Montrose was defeated by Colonel Strahun, and escaping to the house of M'Cloud at Assunt to the south-west, he was sold for £1,000, on which account the family became infamous, dwindled to nothing, and are no more. This, they say, is the only instance of a Scotchman betraying one of his own country ; though, I believe, there is another that is more remarkable.

The Frith of Dornock, called by Horsley the Frith of Tayne, is supposed to be the old Vara Estuarium of Ptolemy ; but it is certainly the Loxa of the new map ; and here, when we crossed over, we came from the Caledonia to the east, and from the Sylva Caledonia to the west from Rosshire into Sutherland, the Cantæ of Ptolemy, having been in those countries ever since we came to Ardes, except that at Inverness we just entered into the country of the Vacomagi. In

the west, to the north of Mull were the Creones, falling in with the north part of Argyleshire and the west part of Rosshire; to the north of these again were the Carnonacæ, being the west part also of Rosshire; opposite to the two first is the isle of Skye, the ancient Dumna. Loch Ewe in Rosshire is supposed to be the river Itys of the Creones; Lough Broom is probably the Volsas between the Creones and the Carnonacæ, and Lough Ennard the river Nabaus, between the Carnonacæ and the Catina, who inhabited the north-west part of Scotland, now the north-west part of Sutherland.

CHAPTER II.

ROSEHALL, IN SUTHERLAND,
22d June 1760.

ON the 22d I went towards Lough Schin, eight miles distant, and in the way, at a rivulet, came to Dun Cor, another such stone fortress, but destroyed ; it was thirty feet in diameter within, and the walls six feet thick. We came at the end of Lough Schin to Mr Monroe's, having passed by a place a mile from it, where they say there was a battle in very ancient times ; and there are two or three small stones set up on end, which they say is the tomb of a great man who fell. I went on the lough to an island, where we saw the nests, eggs, and young of the gulls ; and one nest and eggs of a smaller sea-bird. This island is frequented by wild geese and ducks. We went about two miles on the lake, and came to such another stone fortress on a height. It is about thirty feet in diameter within ; the walls seemed to have been about eight feet thick, except in front, where they appear to have been twelve, and where there is such an oval room on each side as described,—nine feet long and four feet broad ; and on one side I could see some signs of a passage between the walls, there seemed to have been an outwork before the entrance. About a quarter of a mile to the south is another, rather smaller, and much ruin'd, the walls of which seemed to have been thicker at the entrance, but no sort of

sign of any rooms in it. Here we went into a Highland cabin, in which there were five apartments, one at the entrance seemed to be for the cows, another beyond it for the sheep, and a third, to which there was an entrance only at the end of the house, for other cattle ; to the left was the principal room, with a fire in the middle, and beyond that the bed-chamber, and a closet built to it for a pantry ; and at the end of the bed-chamber, and of the house, a round window to let out the smoak, there being no chimney. The partitions all of hurdle-work, so as one sees through the whole. A great pot of whey was over the fire, of which they were making Frau. They have a machine like that which they put into a churn, with stiff hairs round it, this they work round and up and down to raise a froth, which they eat out of the pot with spoons, and it had the taste of new milk ; then the family, servants and all, sat round it, and eat, the mistress looking on and waiting. She brought us a piggin of cream, and drank to me, and we drank of it round. The dairy is in a building apart. This was contrived that I might see the Highland manners. They have here a great number of foxes and hares, the skins of which are very fine ; the hares are of a light colour on the backs, and the bellies are quite white. I was told there are some all over white in the winter. A few swans come here every year in the hard weather ; and a great number came in the year 1738, when the winter was very cold, but it is difficult to shoot them. They have great plenty of red deer, and of the roe deer. Mr Monroe shot in the upper part of the Kyle of Dornock an extraordinary sea-bird, which dived very readily. It is as big as a goose, and much like it, except that the bill, about four inches long, is pointed ;

it is black with a spot of grey under its throat, and one on each side about the middle of the neck ; it is spotted down the back with a streak of brown on each side, there are larger spaces towards the wings, which are also spotted, except that the long feathers are black ; the belly is whitish, but with yellow streaks up round the broad part of the neck, it being all black on the back of the neck between these streaks ; the spots on the back are mostly of an oblong square figure, and of a dirty white, the grey of the neck being formed with such streaks. This is the only bird of the kind that had been seen. There are many spots of fine ground in this country, mostly on the side of rivers and streams, and some large ones up the sides of hills. They breed much young cattle and sheep, but not so many I think as the ground would bear. At night they house the sheep all the year, and the poorer people shear in May and November, who have not grass for them abroad. On this side of the Kyle of Dornock they have a whin stone and grey granite. I, this day, met an aged person, who had much the look of a gentlewoman. She had about her shoulders a striped blanket, and saluted us genteely. She was followed by a maid without a cap or fillet, with a bundle at her back ; this was a sort of decayed proprietor, who, I suppose, was going round a-visiting ; and as they are very hospitable to all, so they are not uncivil to such unfortunate persons. (A woman without any cap, but only a ribband round her hair, professes herself to be a maiden in the Highlands of Scotland.)

On the 24th, I set out and went near the south end of the lake, passed by one of the same ruined castles which they call Dunes, and saw another at a

distance to the south. They are as common here as Rathes in Ireland, and probably there was one to every village. I crossed the ferry over the river by which the lake empties itself into the kyle, and went half a mile to the house of one Mr Mackay, the minister of Larig, who has an extent of parishes thirty English miles in length on both sides of the lake, and only £50 a year, but the land is commonly let rather cheap to the minister. He had sent to invite me to his house; he brought cakes and a bottle of wine, and desired me to bless the entertainment. Having asked if we had breakfasted, as we had, he went on with me. We came to a large brook which falls from the north-east into the lough, we crossed it often, and went often into it to avoid the cutts made by the floods; from this river we ascended over the foot of Ben Clibrig, the Earl of Sutherland's forrest. Here it was like the month of November; we saw a breach that was made by a spring like a flood gushing out at the side of a mountain. We came to another rivulet and sat down in a sheltered place half a mile beyond some sheelings or huts, to which they come in the summer with their cattle. We asked about the accommodation, which as it did not please us, we went on as mentioned. We here took our repast; some boys came near with their cattle, and afterwards two others; we invited them to take share, and when we were going away, they said their mother was coming with some refreshments, and immediately she appeared at a good distance; she carried a piggin of cream, and her maid followed her with a small tub covered, which was warm whey. She drank to us, and we took it round and tasted of the whey; the minister conducted me across a hill to another rivulet where they joyn, and

running towards the mouth of it between deep rocks adorned with trees, it falls into Lough Naivern four miles lower ; I observed in the bottom of it and on each side fine flags lying a little sloping from the perpendicular ; I came to another rivulet which runs through fine marshes into this lough, to which the salmon come up. It falls by a river into the North Sea at the Bay of Farr ; we came to Mowdale. The mountains here abound much in red deer ; the roe deer frequent more where there are woods, and always bring two fawns, as I was told, but doubt of it. The males of the red deer are distinguished by different names in Eirshe and English according to their ages. The first year a fawn ; second, Procha (Pritchett) ; third, Kiligavir, that is two branches ; fourth, Ostoun ; fifth, Dougolag, that is two at top. I was told they were not further distinguished by name, tho' an antler is added every year till the twelfth, when they are called in Eirshe . . . , in English, Harts. When I came to Durness, I observed besides the shells common to most shores, that large shells of Echini are thrown ashore, small Trochi, a large cockle, bright red, yellow, and white chamey, and a large white one about five inches long which are very rare, and the limpet called the fool's cap, some with the point at one side, others nearer the middle, the former are very rare. There are also on the coast fine small pebbles of different colours. They find also, drove ashore here, a tender sponge in branches somewhat resembling the ends of stags' horns, and I have seen other sponges since that time in these shapes, which show in what manner the sponge grows, and in other seas to greater perfection. They often see large whales not far from the shoar.

They have great plenty of venison of red deer in

this country, so it is commonly brought to table in most houses, and even when it is not fat, is excellent food minced and dressed like a hash, which they call minced collop. It is said that there are no rats in Sutherland, except in some places near the sea, where they have been brought by ships.

CHAPTER III.

DURNES, 26th June 1760.

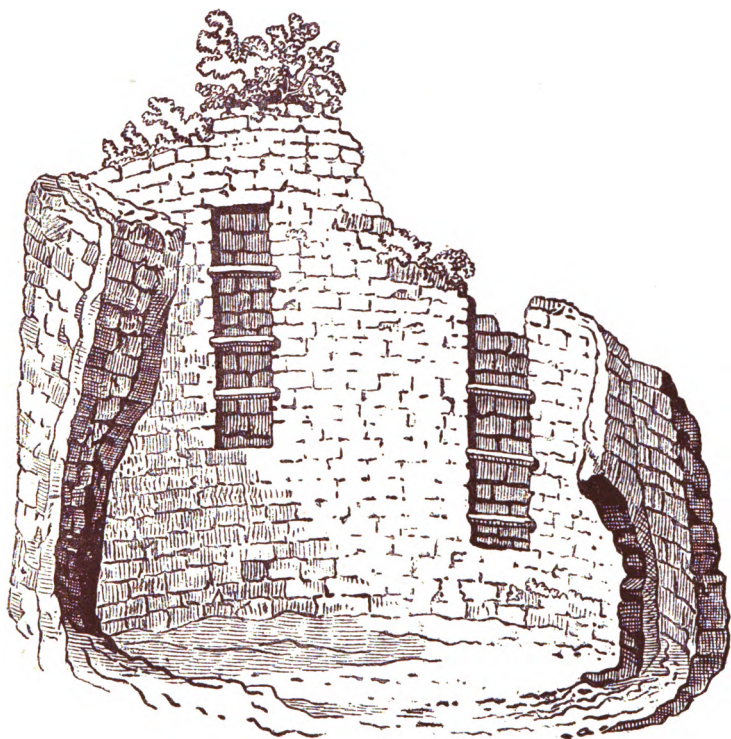
ON the 25th I set forward, and soon came to a lough which seems to be Lough Culset in the map, which they call four miles long ; there are about a dozen islands in it, and it winds and appears like a beautiful river, and if I mistake not falls into Lough Loyal ; the distance between this and Strathmore and Mowdale seems to be made too great in the map. After travelling near the east of this lake, we came soon to the ascent over the hill which leads to the river Strathmore, to which we descended. The river Strathmore rises out of Mount Coarness, where it forms a large sort of a theatre some way up the hill there ; and here the late Lord Reay used to have a grand hunt every August. They compute a thousand red deer in that country, and that four or five hundred of them have been drove into this part by about a hundred men who drive the mountains, and they have shot sixty of them in a day. The river Strathmore rises to the west, and after it comes out of this glyn it turns to the north, where a stream falls in from the Glyn Bellachnamerlach (the Glyn of the Lough of Thieves). From this it is not above eight of the computed miles (that is, sixteen English) to Lough Schin ; and here is the line that seems most convenient for a road through the kingdom to go south by Rosehall, then to Lough Broom, to which there is a tolerable road now. The way afterwards seems to be most easy by Lough Yrine, Lough Tanide, by the river to Lough Clair, to Lough Contin up that river, and to cross the mountains to Bernis Water to Lough Glasletir, to get to



DUN-DORNADILLA (A.)

the river that falls out of Lough Assarig, from that to a small stream that falls into Lough Cluny, which crosses the road from Glenmorrison to Bernera, opposite to y^e Isle of Skye, to go down Lough Cluny river to that which comes to Lough Loyne, and so by that into the road to Fort Augustus from Bernera, and then there are roads to Fort Augustus and Fort William ; which line would be of infinite advantage to the kingdom, as they would make roads into it from many parts, both from the east and west ; and the most eastern parts would go to the road which is tolerable all along the eastern coast. We stopped at Strathmore, and travelled by that river to Doundor, called in the map, Dundor Nadilla ; it is the most entire round castle I have seen, seeming to be perfect in one part about thirty feet high. Every tier of stone sets in on the outside about an inch. The top is crowned with long even stones ; it consists of two walls. There is a set-off within of one foot three inches, where the inner wall is three feet six inches thick ; the outer wall four feet three inches at bottom, but both of them lessen to two feet five inches ; and the space between the walls is two feet five inches ; the court within is twenty-six feet six inches in diameter. It is divided by the stones laid across into three stories, and opposite to the entrance, it is open for about two feet and a half in breadth, divided in three parts by the floor. In the middle on the left hand it is the same, as it was probably in the right, which is now ruined. These seem to have been below as entrances, and above to give light ; and being divided in this manner into four parts to each story, there might be twelve separate places for twelve families for lodgings in time of danger, and they

might have some light doors to them. However, it seems not to have been very strong except at the bottom, and now the support of the circle being lost, as it is ruinous, it is in a very tottering condition. It is built on an eminence over the river, on which side the foundation is ten or twelve feet lower than in the other part, as it is laid near the bottom of the hillock. (See plates.) The hill we crossed to Strathmore is a foot of Benhope. Under the foot of this mountain we travell'd, which is a fine natural slope, with perpendicular rocks over it resembling ruined buildings. This continues on all under the mountain itself with a sort of terrace on it, from which the mountain rises most beautifully, being divided by several pyramidal risings with little hillocks between them to the number of above twenty, in which little cascades of water fall down after rain in a very beautiful manner. And before we came to this part we saw a sheet of water falling down into a hollow about a hundred feet, and 'tis said falls fifty more out of sight. All the cascades after the morning showers appeared very beautifull. A little lower, Strathmore falls into Lough Hope, which is fresh water, and empties itself by a river into Lough Eribol, to which we crossed over a foot of a mountain. I here sent my horses back to Strathmore, and so round about to Tongue to avoid the bog of the Moan, and so to Thyrso. Over that Lough Eribol we ferried, and Lord Reay's horses met me, and I rid three miles to Durness, Lord Reay's house, which is situated at the south-east end of Durness Bay, where there is a fine strand bounded to the north by Farout Head, the end of which is in the degree of 58.45. To the west of this head are two little points which appear to have been fortified.



DUN-DORNADILLA (B).

CHAPTER IV.

TONGUE, IN SUTHERLAND,
1st July 1760.

I CROSSED the bay from Durness to a strand to the west, in order to go to Cape Wrath. Above this strand, to the south, is the Kyle of Durness, into which the river Durness falls, having formed near its rise the Lake of Dinart on the other side of the mountain out of which Strathmore rises. On the north side of this strand are fine cliffs and a beautiful head of marble with white streaks in it, and red spots, it seems to be black. Here the herd's boys were fishing for *Cudines* of a beautiful mixed brown colour, about eight inches long, and eat like trouts. We went on to the west, and soon came to hills of bright red granite in large spots, we passed by a little stream where we found a fawn of the red deer about a week old, that had been killed by an eagle; probably two of them shared in the prey, for there were two great holes in one side of it. The herd moved it from the place, and covered it with heath, in order to come and take it for the use of his house, and they say it is excellent food; it was as big as a calf, and the skin streaked with yellow. The hinde on this occasion runs about and stamps with her foot and cries terribly. But the eagles will, they say, kill a hart by seizing them about the neck and fluttering their wings in their eyes. There are two kinds of eagles, the large which keep in the cliffs and feed mostly on fish, and the small black eagle which lives in the rocks of

mountains, and preys on fawns, lambs, hares, &c. We passed by some lakes, and saw stags feeding at a distance. After travelling three computed miles, we came to Kerwich Bay, a small strand with rocks to the east, which are a sort of composition of very small pebbles, and some of it looks like the granite of the Statues of Memnon. On the other side the rocks are of a bright red granite, and so all the way to Cape Wrath, to which we went, passing by two lakes in which there is no kind of fish visible, no stream running into them; we ascended two or three heights before we came to Cape Wrath, which consists of two points, that to the north-west is the lower; before the other are two high rocks of red granite, encompassed with water, where there is an airy of eagles, and we saw the two eagles which belong to it flying over the point and very near the ground; they sometimes fight for fish on the strands and kill one another. I saw from this head a great part of the Isle of Lewis, and the Isle of Ronon, which is about three leagues off. I was told that there are about seven families on it, and that a minister from the Isle of Lewis visits them sometimes once a year. Six leagues to the north of White Head, which is the head of the Moan, is a very small rocky island called Sealisker, which island is in no other map but Buchanan's; to it the people of Orkney go once a year to catch seals, of which they make oyl, and they come all along the coast. In this island the solan geese breed, which is the same as the gannet I saw in Kerry. A herd lives at Kerwich Bay to take care of the sheep and horses, and another near the bay where we landed. To this head and peninsula of Cape Wrath they have sometimes drove the red deer in order to shoot. They have a great

number of the adder kind here ; and I was told in the middle parts of Scotland that goats do actually kill and eat them, which I could not believe until it was confirmed to me here in such a manner that I could not withhold my belief of it, and, 'tis added, that they make a great noise when they kill them. It is mentioned in some books that the red deer do kill them, but of the truth of this I could not be informed, but they say swine certainly do kill and eat them.

Another day we went eastward to the Cave of Smoo. It is very beautiful, with high rocks on each side. Into this cave a stream falls, and runs through it. The cave is forty yards broad and fifty long, and it may be forty feet high. From one side of it a water comes from under the rock, which is open for some way above. A boat was sometime agoe put in, and a small lake was found underground, formed by a cascade of water a few yards to the south, which falls down in a sheet from a rivulet, it may be thirty feet, and runs along the rock into this lough ; and the light from that part at noon, when the sun shines on it, has a very extraordinary effect. There is a long opening over the cave, as for an oval cupola, and altogether it is a most singular curiosity. I went another time to the west, where there is a deep hole, into which the sea comes underground for about a hundred yards, like those to the south of Waterford in Ireland, and it must be sixty feet deep. The sand here has covered a great quantity of good ground, and is gaining on a lake near adjoining ; for there are many lakes in this tract which have communication one with another, and that partly underground ; and in a valley near one of them I observed rocks on

each side, with a harder kind of marble between the strata, which remained proof against the weather, for about two inches in thickness, and is of a black colour, whilst the stone above and below was worn by the weather. I rid up by the Kyle of Durness, which in one part appears like a large triangular lake.

The people here live very hardy, principally on milk, curds, whey, and a little oatmeal, especially when they are at the sheales in the mountain, y^t is, the cabins or hutts in which they live when they go to the mountains with their cattle during y^e months of June, July, and August. Their best food is oat or barley cakes. A porridge made of oatmeal, cale, and sometimes a piece of salt meat in it, is the top fare. Except that by the sea, they have plenty of fish in summer, and yet they will hardly be at the pains of catching it but in very fine weather. They are mostly well-bodied men, of great activity, and go the Highland trot with wonderfull expedition. The post travels on foot in four days and back again to Dornock, sixty computed miles, which cannot be less than a hundred English, that is fifty miles a day, and seem to make nothing of it. A boy ten years old goes post from Ratter to Thyrsø, eight computed miles, and back again by eleven in the morning. When they were in vassalage they paid their rent in cattle to the landlord for the land they held, and for the cattle's sustenance he gave them what corn they wanted, and they were obliged to work whenever he required them. Of grain they have only barley and oats, with both of which they make cakes. They are not yet come into the use of potatoes, but are making a very small beginning; in the middle and south parts of Scotland

they are in plenty. The people are in general extremely hospitable, charitable, civil, polite, and sensible. In the north-west part I met with the greatest hospitality and politeness in Lord Reay's family. The ancestor of this house in the time of Charles the First was going to Gustavus Adolphus with a regiment of Scotch. Just as he was embarking with a recruit of a thousand men he received an account of the death of that monarch, with whom he had been for some time. He had spent and mortgaged great part of his estate (to Lord Sutherland's family) in military expeditions, having a strong passion for military glory. On his return home he offered himself to the Swedes, and not being accepted he went into the service of Denmark, where he soon died. This is one of the loyal clans, the head of which has a pension from the Crown of £300 a year.

CHAPTER V.

TONGUE, IN SUTHERLAND, *1st July 1760.*

ON the 30th we set out by the way we came, and cross'd the bay of Eribol to a place about a mile lower, where Mr Mackay had sent horses for me, to whose house we went, two miles, crossing over Inverhope, where there is a large salmon wear of Lord Reay's; and we had a fine view of Lough Hope. But y^e mountain Benhope did not appear so beautifull with its pointed top as when it was covered with a cloud. We took some refreshments at this gentleman's house, and were met by Mr Forbes, who conducted me six miles to his house over the Moan, a morassy country, impassible except to their little bog horses. Coming to the bay of Tongue, we had a more pleasant country in view, in which there are many fine spots of ground, and especially Lord Reay's estate of Tongue. Here I was shown the place where a Frenchman had been buried who fell in an engagement in 1746, when the Sheerness man-of-war "Captain Obrian" had chased the "Hazard" sloop, which had on board 150 men and £13,000 for the Pretender about three weeks before the battle of Culloden, the want of which lessened their army, as it deprived them of purchasing provisions. After they had run ashore accidentally on the point they fought for a short time. Mr Forbes attacked them with about eight men, and led them up the mountain, now and then giving them a volley, till the country and part of a regiment of regular troops cantooned at no great distance came in, to

whom he had sent for aid ; and then they immediately laid down their arms, and were carried off on board the man-of-war.

The ground we had passed was the foot of Benhope, at the several heads between the rivers stretched out from the mountains which lye to the south.

On the 1st of July, Mr Forbes and Mr Gordon, a student of Aberdeen, set out with me, and we passed by a kern of circular stones, and in a mile and a half came to Tongue, a seat of Lord Reay's, calling by y^e way on Mr Ross the minister, who came with us to that place, where the late lord had made a handsome terrace and bowling green between the house and the bay, and a kitchen garden behind the house planted with all kinds of fruit except peaches, apricocks, and plumbs. Cherries and apples are planted against the walls ; and in the middle of the kitchen garden is a pillar entirely covered with dials. The Master of Reay, the lord's eldest son, usually lives here. There are large plantations of wichelm, ash, sycamore, and some quicken or mountain ash. On the opposite side on a height saw Dunbar Castle, where the Mackay family did formerly sometimes reside. We went on and soon came to the foundation of a round castle on an eminence now entirely destroyed. To the south is a fine craggy long mountain called Ben Loyal, on the other side of which is Lough Loyal, near which we had passed in the way to Strathmore from Moudale. So we were here on the foot of Mount Loyal which makes Torrisdale Head. A little before we came to the Bay of Farr we stopped at the house of Captain Mackay, a half-pay officer of Holland, and met with his brother there, who was actually in that service.

We were entertained with cake and a glass of Malaga, and came on to Farr Bay, to which some fine rocks extend in perpendicular veins of a black slaty stone, and whitish granite with some mixture of very pale red. This bay near a mile over consists of soft sand on which we rid, not without some apprehensions to a stranger, tho' all was safe. Here we crossed the water which comes from Loch Nevern, near which we travell'd about Moudale, and from this lake and river the whole country to Caithness is called Stranevern. We came round the hill to Farr Church, where on a stone about three feet wide and six high, a short cross is cut in a circle in bas relief, and many ornaments of lines round about it so as to cover that side, which the common people imagine to be inscriptions. Hear the sea at some distance. In a strong situation is the ruined castle of Farr, the ancient residence of Lord Reay's family, who were called lairds of Farr, being made peers in the time of Charles the First, when the lord I have mentioned mortgaged all this eastern part of the estate, which was afterwards sold to the Earl of Sutherland. At Tongue near the house is a vein of sparr, which being examined by a miner he said it was tin ore, but so small a vein that it is not worth the working. We here dined with Mr Monroe the minister, who heard of our coming. We proceeded on bad stony roads, and passed by several little loughs, in which there are trouts and eels. The last are eaten here only by the common people. We saw two kerns near Farr, and soon found ourselves in a boggy country, and crossed the river Armisdale. We then came on the land which makes Strathy Head, supposed to be Virvebrum Promontoricum, which seems to extend

from Ben Maddy, that is near the Loughs Strathy and Buy, which are to the east of Lough Nevern.

The new map makes this point as stretching out to due north, so as at first view to appear like the north-east point, but then was call'd Dumna, and the Mainland of the Orkneys, call'd Thule Ult. Ins., lye pretty well to it, whereas the Orcades stretch out towards *Epidium Promontorium*, now Cape Wrath. Torridale Head seems to be Orcas Promontorium of that map, unless Strathy Head should rather be Orcas and Virvebrum the head, to the east of Thurso. But in this case Virubrium the north-east point is too far from it in that map.

This part we went over is the worst of all, consisting of many guts, over which the horses must leap, and sometimes so near one another that we continued in a gallop over them ; whereas Moan is soft and shaking, tho' dangerous only to very heavy horses, but my horses, I was told, leaped over this part very well. We came to a most charming vale between the bogs called Strathy Bay on Avon Strathy. It belongs to Captain Mackay, now in the Sutherland regiment and laird of Strathy, being an apenage from the lairds of Farr before they were enobled. There is a good house and offices, and I was received with great politeness by Lady Strathy. This is a fine country situated between a foil of black bogs that hang over it, but between the house and the sea there are beautifull hills which have fine downs on their summits.

We set out on the 2d, and came about four miles over another course of bogs, under which is a yellow freestone, and crossed the Avon Hollowdale, which rises to the south out of the Paps and Ben Grim, and

passed by Bighouse, another apenage of the house of Reay that descended to the present lord's half-brother by his marriage of the sole heiress. This is a beautiful vale of considerable extent. Ascending such another tract, we came to a flaggstone set up on end, some say, in memory of a victory obtained here, tho' probably it is an ancient sepulchre.

We crossed a stream on the top of this hill into Caithness. Sutherland seems to have been inhabited by the Caroni to the west, by the Mortie to the east, by part of the Conavii to the north, and part of the Cantie to the south. Caithness was inhabited to the east by these two people, and by the Logi between them. We soon came down near to a large bay, and to Sandside, Mr Innys, near the west hill of it, and a little to the west of Reay, from which the family take their title, and where the first lord built a small house. Here we saw a fine country, a good house, and every thing in great order and elegance. Here I also viewed the remains of a Picts' house and part of the outer wall of the gallery round the cells, which seemed to have been supported on the outside by earth. They have here freestone, limestone, and thin flags, used as slating for their buildings, and there are rocks of grey granite. Over the bay in the middle of the sands are two kerns, in which they have found bones.

CHAPTER VI.

July 1760.

ON the 3rd I set out; the laird of Sandside, Mr Innys, sending a gentleman with me. We went a mile to the south of Thyrso to see a Pict's house at Giese, in which I discovered only an entrance about four feet wide, and a segment of a circle that might be about twenty-five feet in diameter, and probably a wall was built within this to make a circular passage, which led to the small apartments in the middle, about eight feet long and four wide, which answers to the description of them. From this I came to Mr Murray's, near Thyrso, and embarked at that town for the Orkneys. Thyrso is pleasantly situated on a bay and a river of the same name, which rises out of several loughs to the south-east towards Dunbeath. It is but indifferently built, and is chiefly supported by the salmon fishery. They also export some corn, and have an import for the use of the gentlemen of the country. About half a mile to the west are ruins of a castle which belonged to the bishops of Cathness, whose see was at Dornock, and it contained this county and Sutherland. Helburn Head, to the west of this, is esteemed a very fine head of land. On the 3rd, about seven in the evening, we took boat for the isle of Walls, one of the Orkneys.

[Dr Pococke crossed over to the Orkneys, on the 3rd July, and returned to the mainland on the 11th July. See Itinerary.]

CHAPTER VII.

DUNBEATH, IN CAITHNESS,
16th July 1760.

ON the 11th we crossed over in two hours to Ratter in Scotland, to Mr Sinclair's. We rid in the afternoon to the east, and in a mile came to Sir James Sinclair's (a branch of the same family), pleasantly situated opposite to the middle of a bay. In all this coast the rocks consist of a fine flagstone, dipping from south-west to north-east. It being a fine evening, we saw a great number of boats fishing. We passed by the Parish Church of [Canisby], and towards Dungsby Head (the *virubrium promontorium* of the new map), we came to "Johnny Grott's House," which is in ruins, and from a quondam inhabitant of that name gives the appellation to this angle of Scotland. There are on this strand a great number of the small striated Buccinum shells, and some of the very small shells, striated likewise, of that kind which are called the porcelain shell, and are here named "Johnny Grott's Buckeys," probably from some confusion of the name of the other shells. We ascended a height at the Head to view the Eastern sea, and, returning, the dairyman's daughter brought us a bowl of milk by way of refreshment.

They bring to this place limestone from Stroma, the direct passage to which is not above a mile; and it is about as much more from that to [Swona] isle. In the latter are about a dozen families, and it lets for about fifteen pounds sterling a year, being a mile round. Stroma is two or three miles round. There

are about thirty families in it, and it lets for a hundred pounds a year. On the east point of it is a small building over a burial-place, where the bodies remain entire, and the skin does not corrupt, owing to the nitre in the air, which preserves equally with salt when applied to animal bodies.

Part of our way led us over what appeared to be fine green sod, like a down, but when we came upon it the horses sunk into it, and we were obliged to trot on fast, and it was very disagreeable. In wet weather it must be almost impassible.

I walked out from Mr Sinclair's house half a mile to the west, to see a Pict's house in a mount on the sea cliff. I found two cells, three yards apart, and the mouth about a yard wide. The passage to one is destroyed, and, as I apprehended, two yards of the other. It is three yards into a bend, and then two yards more. The cell within is two yards wide and five yards long in a sort of an oval, and at the entrance is a set in of three quarters of a yard, and on the other side it forms the narrow end of the oval, the sides are straight for a yard high, and set in for another yard to three quarters of a yard in width at top, which is covered with flags. There are two or three small holes as convenient recesses. The other cell is only a yard and a half high. At the end is a hole, half a yard above the floor, about two feet six inches high, three feet long, and three feet broad, lessening by a set in of three quarters of a yard, and this was probably a chimney, as there seemed to have been an opening to the top. Both the cells and passages have without doubt been in some degree filled with earth, for it is with difficulty any one can

get in by the passages, which are about a yard high. From the supposed end of the entrance I measured ten yards to a wall, which is the segment of a circle, so that I imagine this was a way all round, from which they entered to the cells, and it being about eighty yards round, allowing four yards to each cell, and the space between, there might be twenty cells for so many sleeping places, or whatever other use they were put to. Part of such circular passages I found in other Picts' houses, and they have all a terrace round them, where probably these circular passages of communication were; and as they might be used as places of defence as well as mansion houses, when the enemy intended to destroy them as lurking places, they might do it by breaking down these circular passages, and so formed these terraces; and this confirms the opinion that the passages were high enough for proper entrances, as they must have been as low as the bottom of the circular passages. As this gallery was thirty feet wide, it is to be doubted whether it was covered. Into this gallery round the cells they might drive their cattle for security as well as shelter.

CHAPTER VIII.

21st July 1760.

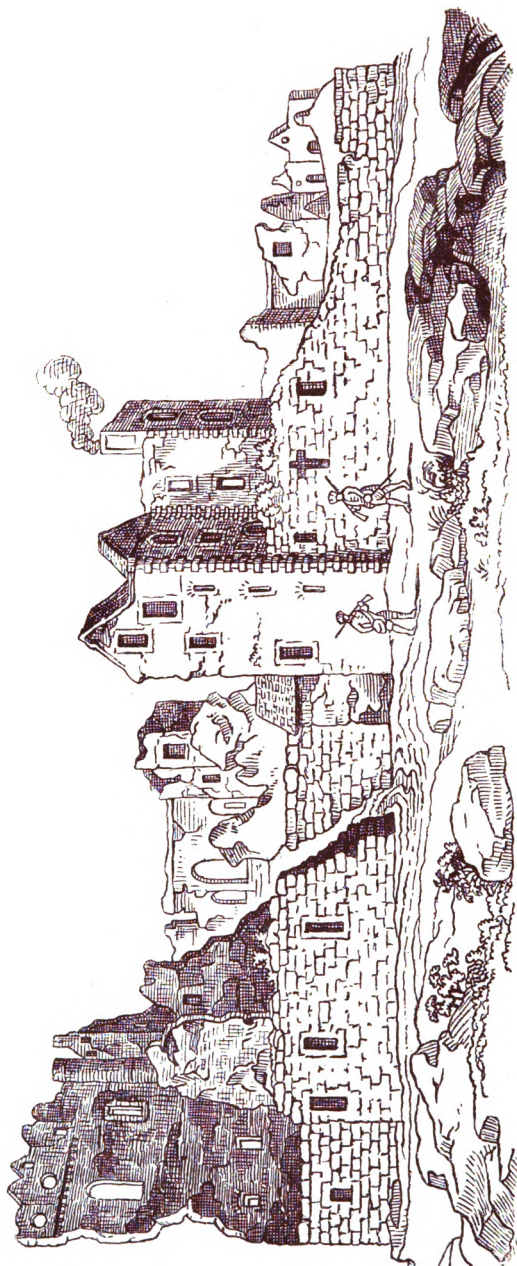
ON the 12th I proceeded on my journey, and came six miles west to the Earl of Cathness's house of Myrtle, situated on the sea-side in a very fine corn country, and in the afternoon went four miles to the south-east to Sir Patrick Dunbar's, situated near two loughs made by the rivers which fall in at Wick, and rise a little above the western lake, on each side of which there is marl, and there is also limestone in most parts of this country. In the nearest lake is an island, in which the sea-gulls breed. The water runs in half a mile to another larger lake. There are trouts and eels in both of them. There are but nine parishes in Cathness. Five of the churches are on the northern coast, and the three eastern parishes talk English and no Eirshe, and also two others in this part. One would suppose them originally to be a colony either of Danes or Norwegians, or from the Orkneys. The Sinclairs are certainly from Orkney, and in the Orkneys many of the families are descendants of governors of the Isles, either Danish or Scotch. But the SinClairs or St Clairs were originally either Normans or French, as were the Frasers, Boswells, Mowbrys, Montgomerys, Campbells, Boises, Betons, Tabziours, and Bothwells. The fugitives who were received by Malcolm in the time of William the Conqueror were the Lindsays, Towers, Ramsays, Prestons, Sandilands, Bissets, Wardlaws, Maxwells, Fowlis, and Lovetts; and about the same time several came from Hungary at the request of Queen Margaret. These were the Creightons, Fotheringhams, Bothwicks,

Giffards, Melvils, unless the two last may be rather thought to be Normans. (D. Scot's *History*, p. 141.)

I saw two more churches in the neighbourhood, not above three miles from the North Sea. Wyck is the eighth, and that in which Dunbeath is situated is the ninth. Cathness is thirty miles long from north to south, and twenty miles broad from east to west, but the breadth must be much more in measured miles. When we came to the summit over Sir Patrick Dunbar's house, we had a most uncommon prospect of the broad vale in which his house stands; of another separated by low hills or eminences, with a great number of gentlemen's seats, and two churches in view, two large lakes, the fine mountains of the Paps, and that ridge which bounds the county, and the ground rising gently on all sides; but what is most singular, spots of corn all over the county contrasted with such a mixture either of heath or pasturage as rendered the face of this northern country very agreeable.

They have here, and, as I was told, in the Orkneys also, a very uncommon way of preserving barley, which they must thresh in order to have straw to fodder their cattle. They make a foundation of loose stones five feet in diameter, lay chaff on it, and add a heap of corn in the middle, then they sett up straw on end all round the stones, and put in more corn, and as it fills they bind it round with straw ropes, and so continue raising the straw untill it is about eight feet high, and they finish it in the shape of a cone, covering the top well with straw, and bind it round with such ropes of straw as they lay over their thatched houses. They have also a neat way of dressing their thatched houses in the roof within—I mean people of





CASTLE CARNIGO [GIRNIGOE].

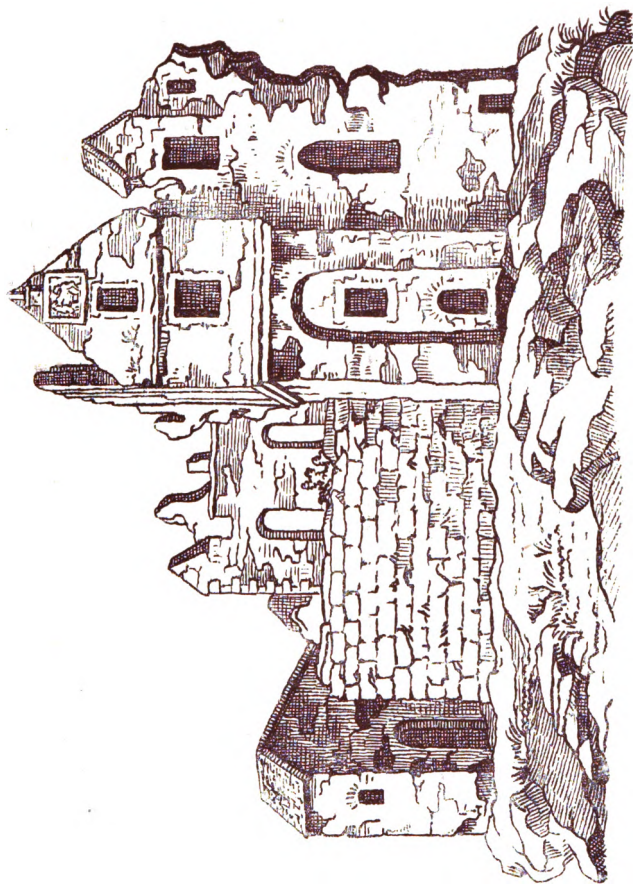
some condition. For about four feet of the lower part they lay flags, then on to the top ropes of straw close together and drawn tight. On others they lay the sods and then the thatch. There are two ways of laying straw—either regular, as they thatch in England ; or laid loose, and kept down with straw ropes, in which last case it is renewed every year. They make near the sea a compost of sods, seaweed, and dung, move it once, and then shred it off very thin to lay on the lands.

This is the country of the Sinclairs, under their antient head the Earl of Cathness ; and there are but three or four other names in the county, two of which are the Dunbars and Murrays.

On the 14th I travelled eight miles, mostly near the river, to Ackergill, Sir William Dunbarr's, situated close to the sea by a fine old castle. I went to see the Castles of Carnigo and Sinclair, the first situated on a rock over the sea, and separated from the land by a deep fosse, over which there was a drawbridge. A view is here seen of it. The other is close to it, built for an elder son. In both of them are several apartments, and beyond the first are several little courts on the rocks. Sinclair was built in the time of King Charles the Second, and the King's arms are on it. A view of it is seen next page. This Sinclair was the last Earl of that line. From this place I went to see the Slate Quarry, which produces a large blew slate, but rather thick and heavy.

On the 15th I came two miles to Wyck, a small borough town pleasantly situated on a little bay which is no harbour. They have an export of corn, salt beef, salmon, hydes, butter, and tallow ; but, on the whole, it has but small trade. In the church they show a

tomb under a nich which they call St [Fergus], to whom the church is dedicated. The hands are joined as in a praying posture. It was probably the founder, restorer, or improver of the church. This is the only borough in Cathness. Passing two or three miles further, we called at the house of Mr Sinclair the Provost, where I took leave of Mr William Dunbarr ; and then the Provost and another gentleman went with me five or six miles to Mr Sinclair's of [Lybster], where I dined ; and the master of the house and one Mr Sinclair desired to meet me. They accompanied me allmost to Dunbeath, Mr Sinclair's, the Sheriff's Deputy of Cathness and Sutherland, the former returning. This place is sixteen miles from Wyck, the country for the most part heathy, with patches of corn about it, and particularly near the rivulets. The Castle of Dunbeath was built by one of the branches of the family of the Earl of Cathness. It is on a rock which projects into the sea, but there was no draw-bridge to it. The rock continues for a hundred yards behind the house, having a narrow fosse to the south above thirty fathoms deep, with perpendicular rocks on each side, and the sea to the north. In the cliffs are several strata of different kinds of stone, among which are freestone and limestone ; and there are patches of limestone all over this country, some of the strata coming near the surface, though it has not been found out twenty years. The Marquis of Montrose in the Civil War spent twenty-six days in besieging this castle, where there was deposited a considerable sum of money ; and part of his followers thinking he was gone by sea, did not meet him on the Kyle of Dornoch, which was the cause of his defeat.



CASTLE SINCLAIR.



CHAPTER IX.

DUNROBIN, 18th July 1760.

ON the 16th the Sheriff and Mr Sinclair accompanied me, and we travelled to the south, mostly over heaths, diversified here and there with several spots of corn. We passed by the remains of a Picts' house in which part of the circular wall remains, and in it an entrance stopped up. We came to a beautiful romantic vale, through which a rivulet runs that is formed a little higher by two branches which pass through such vales. They are called Berrydale; and this river seems to be the Ila of the new map, which was the bounds between the Carnabii and the Logi. We soon reached the foot of those hills, out of which all the rivers rise that run to the east, north, and west. This famous pass is called the Ord; and Berrydale river is difficult to pass in winter, when the torrent has brought down great stones, which are moved away in the summer to make an easy passage across that stream. The ascent to the Ord is steep, and the road over the steep hill is frightful to those who have not been used to such kind of roads; but is not in the least difficult, only it is more pleasant to walk rather than ride over some parts of it. It seems to be the Ripa Alta of the new map. Having passed the principal heights we came to a rivulet called Navidale, which is the bounds between Cathness and Sutherland. We soon after got to Hemsdale, where there is a salmon fishery. Here the tyde being in, we crossed in a coble in the shape of a boat cut in two, and our horses forded over half a mile higher. By this dale

there is a pretty good road towards Mowdale, which we passed in the way to Durness.

We soon came into the beautifull country of Loth. It is not easy to determine whether it had its name from the ancient Logi, situated here, or from some loughs that have been drained, one part being called Lothmore (the great lough), another part Lothbeg (the little lough). A rivulet runs through it, formed by two streams which unite a little higher up. It is a fine narrow strip of arable ground, with several beautifull hillocks near the foot of the hills, and the supposed banks of the loughs are visible. Loughmore was situated towards the sea; Loughbeg is to the south-west. We took some refreshment at the house of Mr M'Culloch, the minister at Lothkirk. He went with us to Lothbeg, where the banks of the lake are very plain, as well as the outlet that was made at the rocks towards the sea. We here ascended to a Picts' house covered with stones. In two or three parts of which are stones set up on end to denote the entrances, which might be closed on some occasions. One cell is open. We went about nine feet in the passage. Then one passage is about eighteen inches lower, and nine feet more brought us into the oval apartment, seven feet and a half long and high, and six feet broad. We saw the light through the top, where some stones had probably been taken away, and at the end is a little hole as for a convenient recess. There is a great stone over the inner entrance, and another at the end. To the north of the entrance of this cell is a broad stone set up on end, and just before it a small circle of stones set close together, and in the middle of it the mouth *as of an entrance* made with flat stones, and to the north of it a small

square sort of a foundation. There are two more in Glyn Loth, which are called Uagbeg and Uagmore. From this place we return'd to the road, and struck out of it again near the house of Clyne to the south-west, to a ridge of very low hills, where there are small quarries of a loose slaty limestone, in which there are petrified large oyster shells, the small Cornu Ammonis, the Gryphites, and cockles, also the pecten, of most of which I brought away some specimens. From this place we descended to the Brora, where to the west of the bridge is a beautifull natural cave opening to the river. We then went a little way to the south-west, to what is called the Dals, which is a most beautifull bason of a lake that has been drained, with an island in the middle of it. The flat is entirely covered with corn. From that place we came to the sea-cliff, and descending, we afterwards ascended about fifty feet up a steep way to a grotto in the rock, where art has been used in cutting a bench or two, and about three feet higher is an inner appartment, which is worked out in a rough manner, with a large short kind of pillar between the two entrances, and opposite to the northern entrance is a part of it in which one may stand upright. As brambles and weeds grow upon the mouth of the outer cave, they have a beautifull effect, and the view of the fine strips of corn below and of the sea is most delightfull. This was probably the retreat of some hermit. Coming along the coast near a mile to Dunrobin, Lord Sutherland's castle and house, we were surprized at seeing half-a-dozen families forming so many groups—viz., the man, his wife, and children, each under a coverlit, and reposing on the shoar, in order to wait for y^e tyde to go a-fishing.

We arrived at Dunrobin, twenty miles from Dunbeath. This castle is finely situated on the end of a hill, which is cut off by a deep fosse, so that it appears on the south side, and next to the sea, like an old Celtic mount. Between it and the sea is a very good garden. The castle did consist of two square towers and a gateway. One tower only remains now, to which the house is built. There are good apartments in it, tho' some have been destroyed by fire. The present earl has begun to plant the hanging ground from the house, and proposes to carry it on, which will make it exceeding fine. This castle was built by the first Earl of Sutherland. A small mile to the north-west is a part called the old town and y^e remains of a Pictish castle, which must have been the residence of the Thanes of Sutherland, under which name they have been famous in history, and more especially in the time of Macbeth. The court of this castle is about thirty feet in diameter. There was a terrace on the outside twenty-one feet broad, and round that are the foundations of a wall six feet thick. This also is a mount cut of from the hill. On each side at the entrance was a sort of cell; that to the right small and something of an oval, being six feet long and a yard and a half broad; the other is of the same breadth at y^e entrance, and only a yard broad at the other end, and the passage from it half a yard, as I conjecture, to the opening on that side. The outer wall is seven feet thick, and the inner three feet. From this we went half a mile further, to the ruins of a much larger castle on a mount which may be thirty feet high, into which mount cells seem to have been made, and there are two stories of terraces in different parts, according to the shape of the hill; that at the

top going all round, the lower terrace being only a segment of a circle to the east and west. From the latter there is an ascent to this fortress, which is in ruins, as the other was, untill the present earl cleared away a great part of the rubbish. The first I suppose was the winter fortress; the other, as the stronger, was for the summer, being the time of most danger, and as it is in a higher and cooler situation, and nearer the hills, which are more practicable in that season. In the rivulet below, which is a mountain torrent, is a pretty waterfall (as I was inform'd) after rain. We came on towards Dornock, and observed a spot of ground very much resembling a Roman road, with entrenchments and outworks; but it is nothing more than the different beaches which were formed by the sea as it lost ground, which it has done very visibly in these parts. We crossed the ferry at the river [Fleet], which rises towards Lough Schin, and they say it is most part of the way a fruitfull vale, and so it appeared as far as we could see. We travelled over a sandy head of land, and came to the cross set up there in memory of the defeat of the Danes (when they landed here in 1263) by William, Earl of Sutherland, and Gilbert Murray, Bishop of Cathness. On the north part are the Sutherland arms; on the south were the bishop's, which are worn out. On the top of y^e stone is a circle with a cross cut through it, which is the arms of the See of Cathness. A stone is said to be near the cross, which I did not observe, under which it is reported the Danish general, slain in the battle, was burried. We came to Dornock, which is pleasantly situated on the head of land not far from the river of that name, called the Kyle of Dornock, near which I went to Rosehall in my way to Lord Reay's.

There is very little trade in this town, and no manufacture but spinning of linnen yarn. The church here is the body of the old cathedral which belonged to the Bishop of Cathness. It seems to be pretty near a Greek cross, tho' in the eastern part, now uncovered, there are four arches on each side supported by round pillars, with a kind of a Gothic Doric capital. In the body or nave are only three plain Gothic windows on each side; but what is most remarkable is a round tower within *jiynning* to the south-west angle of the middle part. It is built for a staircase, and is about ten feet in diameter, with geometrical stairs. The bishop's house is a solid high building, consisting of four floors above the arched offices on which it was built. They show also the dean's house, and it is probable several other houses now standing near the church did belong to the members of the chapter. These were granted with other parts of the church estate to the Earl of Sutherland. This is a royal burgh, of which they made me a burgess.

In two miles we passed by Siderhall, a fine situation, now belonging to Lord Sutherland, but was an apenage from the family. Here a gentleman carries on a manufacture of flax in order to prepare for spinning; gives it out, and sells the yarn. A mile more brought us to Skibo, the seat of Mr Mackay, half-brother to Lord Reay, and member of Parliament. It was a castle and country seat of the bishops of Cathness, very pleasantly situated over a hanging ground, which was improved into a very good garden, and remains to this day much in the same state, except that there are walls built, which produce all sorts of fruit in great perfection, and I believe not more than six weeks later than about London.

On the 18th I went in the afternoon over the river into Ross-shire, and came soon to Innerchasley, the seat of Mr Ross, situated on an eminence at a little distance from the river, with some fine plantations of firs behind it. Under Siderhall I saw on this side several acres of the finest flax for the manufactory I ever beheld. From Innerchasley there is a beautifull view both up the river and down to the sea, as well as of the towns of Dornock and Taine.

ITINERARY.

				Computed Miles.	Measured Miles.
1760.					
June	21.	To Ardmore, ... ..	...	10	15
"		To Rose Hall, ... ..	...	16	24
"	23.	To Clane Hall, ¹ ... ..	...	6	8
"	24.	To Mowdel, ² ... ..	...	24	36
"	25.	To Durness, ... ..	...	24	36
"		To Cape Wrath and back, ...	...	24	32
"		To Smoo and back, ... ..	...	4	6
"		To the Kyle and back, ... ..	...	4	6
"		To the Glebe and back, ... ..	...	1	1
"	30.	To Kintail, ... ..	...	18	28
July	1.	To Tongue, ... ..	...	2	3
"		To Strathy, ... ..	...	18	28
"	2.	To Bighouse, ... ..	...	5	7
"		To Sanside, ³ ... ..	...	3	5
"	3.	To Thyurso, ⁴ ... ..	...	10	14
"		To Orkneys, ... ..	...	18	18
"	4.	To Dwarfie Stone and Stromness, ...	...	28	28
"	5.	To Kirkwall, ... ..	...	16	24
"	7.	To Captain Moodie's, ... ..	...	20	30
"	11.	To Ratter, ... ..	...	9	9
"		To Picts' House and back, ...	...	2	2
"		To Johnny Grott's House and back,	...	8	12
"	12.	To Lord Cathness at Myrtle, ⁵ ...	...	7	10
"		To Sir Patrick Dunbar's, ... ..	...	4	6
"	14.	To Sir William Dunbar's, ... ..	...	8	12
"	15.	To Wick, ... ..	...	2	2
"		To Dunbeath, ... ..	...	16	24
"	16.	To Dunrobin, ... ..	...	20	30
"	17.	To Dornock, ⁶ ... ..	...	6	9
"		To Skibo, ... ..	...	3	4
"	18.	To Innerchasley, ⁷ ... ..	...	4	6

¹ Clynnall, or Claonel (*Ord. Sur.*).

² Mudale.

³ Sandside.

⁴ Thurso.

⁵ Earl of Caithness, Murkle.

⁶ Dornoch.

⁷ (?) Tarlogie.

APPENDIX.

NOTES TO CHAPTER I.

Odonaliskey or Doniskaig, page 2.

The name of this broch is variously written—Dun Agglesag, Dun-alishaig, Done-Alliscaig, &c. See Maitland's *Hist. Scot.*, 1757, vol. i., p. 145; *Ancient Monuments and Forts in Highlands*, by James Anderson; *Archæologia* (Lond.), vol. v., p. 248; *Antiq. North of Scot.*, by Cordiner, 1780, p. 118; *Scot. in Pagan Times*, by Dr Joseph Anderson, 1883, p. 185. Not a vestige now remains, even the site is not known to the ordinary inhabitants.

River called Spatts Carn, page 3.

Probably mis-written for river called Strath Charrain, *i.e.*, the Strath-carron river. For many years subsequent to 1760 there was a ferry-boat on the river Carron, a mile above the Dornoch Firth.

Kincaron, where there is a church, page 3.

Kincardine Church “continues [1792] to be only thatched with heather, but is well seated, and has a large and well-toned bell, which was captured in a French man-of-war, and presented to the parish by the late Admiral Sir John Lockhart Ross” (*Old Stat. Ac. Scot.*, vol. iii., p. 513).

As far as the tyde goes they call a kyle, . . . delightfull view of a very fine country, page 3.

The Kyle of Sutherland is tidal to the confluence of the two rivers Oyckell and Cassley. Dr Pococke must have passed near Kilmachalmuag, and the remains of the broch at Birchfield, Strathkyle. The inside wall of this broch is still standing from five to six feet high; the outside diameter was about sixty-five feet.

The Bishop's tribute to the “delightfull view” from Strathkyle “of a very fine country,” and his appreciation of the “pleasant situation” of Rosehall, is well merited, for few straths excel it in varied and picturesque scenery; hill and dale, mountain and river, wood and meadow, cultivated croft and immense tracts of moorland, all combine to make a scene, especially in summer, of surpassing beauty.

For derivation of the word *kyle*, see *Celtic Magazine*, 1877, vol. ii., p. 190.

Mr Bayley allied to Lord Reay's family, page 3.

Mr Baillie of Ardmore and Rosehall was married to Janet, eldest daughter of Colonel Hugh Mackay of Bighouse. Colonel Hugh was the second son of George, Lord Reay, and came to the estate of Bighouse by marrying Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of George Mackay of Bighouse.

Writing in his diary on the 9th January 1759, the Rev. Murdo MacDonald says of this marriage:—"The family of Bighouse left Tongue about the very days I entered that parish [18th December 1758]. The famous match made up by that man 'twixt the young chieftain and his daughter is far from answering his expectation; for whereas he was big with hopes of becoming absolute sovereign in this country by that alliance, he seems to be losing ground every day, and was obliged to leave the seat of government [Tongue] much sooner than he would have it, by the dislike taken at his family and management [as factor for Lord Reay] by the little superior, of whom I never yet could frame a character, as he is of as singular a disposition of mind as is the make of his body" (*MS. Diary by Rev. Murdo MacDonald, Minister of Durness, 7 vols.*, in the private library of Mr Hew Morrison, F.S.A. Scot., Edinburgh).

Two rivers that meet here [Rosehall], page 3.

Rivers Oykell and Cassley. The Cassley rises within three miles of Loch Glencoul, at the head of Edderachylis Bay; and the Oykell within six miles of the same loch, and another branch of it within five miles of Loch Broom.

Highland acres and miles, page 3.

The Scots acre is to the English acre as 1.261183 to 1; or the Scots acre=202 English poles, the English acre=160 poles. The Scots mile=1976 (nearly) imperial yards, or 10 Scots miles=11¼ imperial miles (nearly).

Rosehall . . . fine meadows, page 3.

The mansion-house which the Bishop visited was destroyed by fire about 1812. The present mansion was erected on the same site in 1822 by Lord Ashburton, on the rising ground above the extensive meadows. The estate of Rosehall then extended several miles east and west of the house. It has changed proprietors several times during the century, and is now owned by five larger and several smaller proprietors—the latter being feuars.

Fine waterfall . . . church or chapel . . . Picts' house, page 3.

The Falls of Cassley, near Rosehall House, and close to the burying-ground. "There were burying grounds and apparently chapels at Knockan (or Crockan) and Achness, at the first of which (1726) they bury for ordinary" (*Macfarlane's Geog. Collect.*, MS. maps in Adv. Lib., and *Orig. Paroch.*, Creich, p. 685.) About five miles up Glen Cassley are the lands of Baddintagart [the priest's lands] which appear to have been thickly tenanted. The Achness Chapel may have been an oratory or only used in connection with burials.

The broch is known as Dun Achadh, or Ach'-an-Eas, Achness. It is now a mound of stones, much overgrown with grass, and surrounded by a circular clump of trees.

Scarre in Lappik, page 4.

Scurr na Lapaich, south of Loch Monar ; height, 3,773 feet.

Craighalian, at Coleray, page 4.

Craigchonichan, or Creag-a-chaoinidh, the Rock of Lamentation or Mourning, west from Culrain. "The ground, where the battle was fought, took its present name from the event of that memorable day ; it may be translated the *rock of lamentation*. Its antient name is still [1792] well known, though rarely used" [? Creag Chailliun, Rock of Woods] (*Old Stat. Ac.*, vol. iii., p. 512).

M'Cloud at Assunt . . . dwindled to nothing, page 4.

"In June 1650 . . . the laird of Assint went then south to the parliament, to crave his reward for the apprehending of James Graham, which he received from the estates. Twentie thousand pound Scots was secured to him, some whereof was given him in the hand: he was also made captain of the garrison of Strathnaver, with the consent of the Earl of Southerland, who, before James Graham his coming out of Orkney, had made the Laird of Assint his shriff-depute in Assint."—*Earldom of Sutherland*, by Gilbert Gordon, 1656, p. 557.

Wishart and Napier, in their respective memoirs of the Marquis of Montrose, comment strongly on Macleod's conduct. See also Sharpe's notes to Kirkton's *History of the Church of Scotland*, p. 123.

Napier says—Montrose "gave himself up to Macleod of Assint, a former adherent, from whom he had reason to expect assistance in consideration of that circumstance, and indeed from the dictates of honourable feeling and common humanity. As the Argyle faction had sold the king, so this Highlander rendered his own name infamous by selling the hero to the Covenanters, for which 'duty to the public' he was rewarded with four hundred bolls of meal (*Macleod's Indictment, Criminal Records, 1674*). He was tried for that treachery, but saved by means of bribery, and the interest of Lauderdale, the enemy of Montrose. Ian Lom, the bard of Keppoch, wrote a beautiful lament for the fallen hero, in which he does not spare Assint."—Napier's *Life of Montrose*.

"Marbh-Phaisg ort a dhi-mhies,	(Death-shroud on thee—unworthy,
Nach ole a reic th'um firean,	Ill hast thou sold the righteous,
Airson na mine Litich,	For the Leith meal,
A's da trian di gort."— <i>Ian Lom</i> .	And two-thirds of it mouldy.)

The Rev. Andrew Gallie, minister of Kincardine, writing in 1792, gives a very different account:—"The Marquis of Montrose . . . swam the Kyle, and lay for some time concealed in Assint; but being discovered and apprehended, he was sent prisoner to Inverness. Attempts were made to throw the odium of betraying this truly great man on M'Leod of Assint, who was a royalist, and the friend of Montrose. He went to Caithness to meet him, but Montrose moving southward, by a rout different from what Assint had taken, the Marquiss's misfortunes (his death was none of them) had their full completion before the Laird of Assint returned to his own country. His family suffered at that time; but when at the lowest ebb of fortune, it revived again, and now consists of two branches, Geanies and Cadboll, which rank among the most respectable in the counties of Ross and Cromarty" (*Old Stat. Ac.*, vol. iii., p. 512).

The following documents relative to Macleod of Assint—Act of Parliament and Acts of Privy Council* (the latter have not been previously published)—tend to disprove, negatively, the charge of his betrayal of Montrose and the receiving of a reward.

I. —REFERENCE IN THE ACTS OF PARLIAMENT.

MOST SACRED SOVERAIGN

Letter to the King's Majesty anent Neill McLeod of Assint.	THER being a criminall processe depending befor yor Parliament at the instance of yor Maiesties Advocat with the concurrence of the Marques of Montrose as his informer against Neill McLeod of Assint for his alledged betraying & giving vp of the late Marques of Montrose to those who murdered him and for taking a sum of money from them in recompence of that treacherous act And he being brought to the bar and the dittay with his ansuer thervnto, the reply made be your Advocat & his duplys being at lenth red & considered Wee find he denyes
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* Kindly furnished by Mr Hew Morrison, F.S.A. Scot., from notes made from the original Records in the Register House.

the mater of fact alledged against him Bot supposing the same wer true he grounds his defence vpon the indemnity granted be yor Maiestie to your Scots subiects in the treatie at Breda in the yeer 1650 and the ratifications of the same past be your Maiestie at your being in this Kingdom in the yeer 1650 & 1651 Tho it was instantly offered to be proven vnder his hand that he had receaved the money above mentioned, and that this treatie could be no securitie to him it not being produced, and being (if any such thing be) before the deeds quarrelled And Wee considering that in all former processes durieng this Parliament it wes yor Maiesties expresse pleasure and accordingly all those crymes which wer lybelled against any persone as done before that treatie & these assureances Or which had any ground of defence from them wer layd aside and not insisted on Have conceived it suteable to our duetie and your Maiesties commands to forbear further procedor in this particular till your Maiestie wer acquainted therewith That your Maiestie vpon consideration of the bussines may be pleased to give order either for the further prosecution therof before your Justice or for sisting of all further proceeding Or for any other course therein Which your Maiestie in your Royall judgement shall think fittest for your honour & service This is in name and be warrant of your Parliament signed be

Your Maiesties most humble most obedient
and most faithfull Subject and Servant

—*Acta Parliamentorum Caroli II.*, A.D. 1663, vol. vii., p. 500.

II.—REGISTER OF PRIVY COUNCIL: ACTA DECRETA.

APUD EDINBURGH, *primo Decembris* 1663.

Sederunt—Chancellor, Tweeddale, Halcartoun, Pres. of Sess., Justice Clerk,
Lie, Haltoun, Nidry, Sr Robt Murray.

Anent a petition presented be Neill M'Loud of Assint mentioning that he had been prisoner within the Tolbooth of Edr more than three years upon groundless allegations of his accession to the betraying of the late Marquis of Montrose by which imprisonment &c. he is redacted to that condition by sickness that it is impossible to him to escape death if he remain any longer in that place. And therefore craving libertie upon sufficient security for his appearance whenever he shall be called, and to have the liberty of the city of Edr and some friends about it for recovering his health. Which petition together with certificat under the hand of doctors Cunyngham and Hay being heard and considered: The Lords of his Maties. Privy Councill did upon the twenty-fourth of Nover. last appoint Sr Robert Murray to visit his condition and to report who having accordingly this day made his report to the sds. Lords and they having considered the same with the sds. doctors testificats of the dangerousness of the supplicants disease have ordeinit and hereby ordaines the Magistrates of Edr as keepers of the Tolbooth thereof to sett the supplicant to liberty furth the same upon sufficient caution acted in the books of the Privy Councill to reenter his person in prison in the sd. Tolbooth whenever he shall be requyred. And that in the meantyme he shall confyn himself within the city of Edr under the paine of Twenty thousand pds. Scotts.

III.—REGISTER OF PRIVY COUNCIL: ACTA CAUT.

EDINBURGH, *primo Deceri*, 1663.

The whilk day compeared personalie before the Lords of Privie Councill, Patrik Fraser, advocat as pr^r for the prin^l and cautioner undrewritten and gave in the band eftersett desyryng, &c., wherof the tenour followes.

Be it kend to all men by these presents McNeill McLeod of Assint as prin^l and with me Colin Mackenzie younger of Logie and Captane William Hardie as cau-

tioners for me to the effect underwritten :—fforasmeikle as the Lords of Privie Council have favourablie pleased be their Act of the first December instant renewed upon the twenty five of the sd moneth in respect of my great distemper of bodie to enlarge me furth of the Tolbuith of Edinr and to grant me the freedome of the city therof for recovering my health upon my finding caution to the effect underwritten :—

Wherefore I as prin^l and with me the sd Colin Mackenzie younger of Logie and Captane Wm Hardie as cautioners for me Bind and obleidge us conjunctlie and severallie our aires and succōres that the said Neill McLeod shall re-enter my persone in prisone within the said tolbuith of Edinburgh whenever I shall be requyred be the sds Lords of Council. And that in the meantime I shall confine myself within the cite of Edinburgh and that under the payne of 20,000 pounds Scots in case of failzie.

And I the sd Neill McLeod obleidges me to warrand and remove my caurs premisses and of all coast and expenses they shall happen to sustaine or incurr ther throw in any sort. And for the more suretie we are content these presents be registrat in the books of Privie Council to have the strenth of ane decreit that letter and Exch^{ts} be direct upon six days only and constitute Patrik Fraser advocat our prof.

In witnes whereof (written be Hew Stevenson, servitor to Sir Patrick Wedderburn of Gosfurde, Knight, clerk to his maties Privie Council) we have subsd these presents at Edinburgh the first day of December, sixteen hundred and 63 years before these witnesses Mr Hew Monro, writer in Edr and the sd Hew Stevenson.

Sic Scribr.

NEIL MCLEOD.
COLIN MCKENZIE.
WILLIAM HARDIE.

HEW MONRO, Witness.
HEW STEVENSON, Witness.

IV.—REGISTER OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

The Letter underwritten direct by the King's maty. to his Commissioner was by him read, whereof the tenor follows—Sic scribitur.

CHARLES R.

Right trusty and right inteirly cousin and Counsellor. Wee grete you weill. fforasmuch as be ane letter dated at Edr the eight of October 1663 sent to us be our parliament we were informed that y^e criminall process depending at y^e instance of our advocat for the tyme with the concurse of the Marquis of Montrose against Neill Macleod of Assint for the alledged betraying of y^e late Marquis of Montrose and for taking a sum of money in recompence of that treacherous act. Which sd Neill did deny the said cryme alledgit against him, bot yet supposing the samen were true he did defend himself under y^e indemnity alledged granted be us at breda in the year 1650 and the ratification of the samen be us at our being in Scotland in the year 1650 & 1651 and that our parliament *ceased* doing that in all form or process during that parliament. It was our expres pleasure that all those crymes which had any ground of defence from the treaties and assurances fsd should be laid asyd and not insisted in which was accordingly done in severall other crymes against severall other persons and that the parliament conceived it their deuty and suteable to our commands to forbear further procedure in this particular till we upon consideration of the busines might be pleased to give order either for further prosecution thereof before our justice or for sisting of all further proceedings as in our royall judgment we should think fitt.

And we considering also that be y^e public indemnity made in y^e second session of our first parliament there is no exception of the sd Neill Macleod bot that he is included within our first generall pardon and indemnity whereby all maner of treasons, murders and offences done be any person be virtue of any power or warrand

from any pretendit parliament, Councill, Committees, commanders of armies or oyers pretending authority under whatsoever title name or designation since jany 1637 until September 1660 or by any their abettors and assisters are pardoned and discharged. And it being also represented to us that notwithstanding all the forsaide acts of indemnity and sure pardon and the sisting of proceedings against him before the parliament as is mentioned in the ^{sd} letter yet the said criminall process was of new again intended before the justice, and the said Marquis of Montrose with concurrence of our advocat insisting therein.

And having considered the ^{sd} letter from our parliament and the said generall act of indemnity and being most tender and careful that the public security and free pardon which we have so graciously indulged to our subjects for liberating them of their myndes and composing their myndes to a cheerful affection for our royall person and government should be violat, broken or impeacht in any case wherein there may be any ground of defence from ye said Act of Indemnity granted in ye second Session of the first Parliament or from any pretendit act of indemnity granted at breda or in Scotland in ye yeares 1650 and 1651.

Wherefore it is our will and pleasure that the ^{sd} process against the ^{sd} McLeod for ye alledgit betraying of ye late Marquis of Montrose, and taking of ye ^{sd} recompence yrfore should be sisted and no further proceeded in before our justice. And that our judges civil and criminall should be discharged to meddl or proceed in ye ^{sd} matter.

And that ye ^{sd} act of indemnity ought and should free and liberat the ^{sd} Neill from any for ye deede ^{sd}.

And that this our will and order be intimat by you our Commissioner and lorde of our Councill to our justices and the ^{sd} justices accordingly discharged to proceed and that no be thereafter intended or moved against the ^{sd} Neill McLeod before whatsoever judges for the ^{sd} crimes and deeds. for sisting and discharging these Thir presents shall be a sufficient warrand which you shall communicat to ye lords and others of our Privy Councill.

And so we bid you heartily farewell.

Given at our Court at Whitehall
the 20 day of Febry 1666 and of
our reigne ye 18 year.

Sub Scribitur sic by his
Maties command
LAUDERDALE.

The ^{sds} Lords of Councill having heard and considered the ^{sd} letter ordaine the same to be recorded in ye bookes and to be intimat and the judges therein mentioned dischargeid in maner therein appointed.

—*Acts of Privy Council, 1666–7, p. 546.*

New map, page 4.

The Map and Itinerary of Richard of Cirencester, published by Bertram in 1755. It is now universally admitted to be a base literary forgery. See Pococke's *Tours in Scotland*, p. 26, n. 4, edited by D. W. Kemp, 1887.

NOTES TO CHAPTER II.

Dun Cor, another such stone fortress, page 6.

The broch, Doir-a-Chatha, or Dürcha, north of Rosehall, below Cnoc-a-Choire, now only a mound of stones; but the older inhabitants of the district remember when many feet of it was standing, and whence hundreds of loads of stone were taken to build the dyke which now encloses the Invernauld Wood.

Mr Monroe, page 6.

Mr Munro of Clane Hall [Clynall]. See Itinerary, p. 40.

A battle in very ancient times, page 6.

Probably the battle of 1522, when Alexander Gordon, eldest son of Adam, Earl of Sutherland, defeated John Mackay of Strathnaver at Lairg. See *Conflicts of the Clans*.

An island, where we saw . . . gulls, page 6.

Eilean Donuil, or Donald's Island—Loch Shin. Mr Harvie-Brown identifies the gulls as the great black-backed gull, *Larus marinus*, L., and the wild geese, as the grey lag goose, *Anser cinereus* (Meyer). See *A Vertebrate Fauna of Sutherland*, by J. A. Harvie-Brown and T. E. Buckley, 1887, pp. 183, 233.

Pot of whey, . . . making Frau, page 7.

Fro' or Froth. Omhan—whisked cream, made generally in winter. As a substitute, whey is sometimes used, but must be partaken of sparingly.

A machine, . . . with stiff hairs round it, page 7.

Whisk of horse-hair—*lòinid*.

A few swans. An extraordinary sea-bird, page 7.

The whooper or wild swan, *Cygnus musicus*, L., and the black-throated diver, *Colymbus arcticus*. See Harvie-Brown's *Vert. Fauna Sutherland*, pp. 187, 244.

A ribband round her hair, page 8.

Stiom, snood or fillet for maidens; *breid* or coif, for married women. Touchingly referred to in an old anonymous ballad, entitled "Fause Jamie"—

"An' O put by that maiden snood,
Whar nane may evir see;
For Jamie's ta'en a richer joe,
An' left but shame to me."

Sir Walter Scott in *The Lady of the Lake* (Canto i., stanza 19), adorns Ellen of Loch Katrine with the silken ribband—

"A chieftain's daughter seem'd the maid;
Her satin snood, her silken plaid,
Her golden brooch, such birth betray'd.
And seldom was a snood amid
Such wild luxuriant ringlets hid."

(Canto iii., stanza 5.)

"—She said, no shepherd sought her side,
No hunter's hand her snood untied,
Yet ne'er again to braid her hair
The virgin snood did Alice wear."

*Mr Mackay, the minister of Lairg . . . the land is commonly
let cheap to the minister, page 9.*

In the memoir of John Mackay of Rockfield (the author of the life of Lieutenant-General Hugh Mackay of Scouray) there are several references to his father, the Rev. Thomas Mackay, Lairg, the entertainer of Dr Pococke. The following extract is interesting, as showing that there was a "rough plenty" in the manse, and also in the homes of the parishioners:—

"On the 27th of December 1774, his [the minister's] cow-house was consumed by fire. . . . It was almost daybreak. . . . The roof had fallen in, burying in its ruins thirty-five head of fine cattle, all our stock. The whole were consumed, and the flame was ascending to the skies with terrific grandeur. All the neighbours soon flocked to the spot. . . . [One said] 'Come, neighbours, we must build another byre for the honest man, and stock it as fast as we can;' and his pledge was redeemed: and it is a curious fact, taking into view the humble state of our fortunes then, that the kindness shown to our father at this time has been repaid by his descendants to the families of all the contributors. We except, of course, the families of Sutherland and Reay, who each sent gifts of fine cattle. Our father was from home the night of the fire, and did not return till the forenoon after. His prayer at night made a deep impression on us all; but what I remember best is that, when we sat down to our supper of porridge and milk, he observed what an abundant supply of milk was on the table, sent in by the neighbours. Then, for the first time, his fortitude gave way, and we all burst into tears. Never before, or after perhaps, were we so amply supplied with dairy produce as during winter. The cow-house was soon rebuilt and stocked."

We crossed it [river Terry] often, and went often into it to avoid the cutts made by the floods. . . . Here it was like the month of November, page 9.

The Rev. Dr Kemp, describing the route, thirty-six years later, between Lairg and the north coast, wrote :—

"In summer 1796 I . . . set out upon a journey to Lord Reay's country. . . . This journey I found the most fatiguing and unpleasant of any I had made. The weather proved to be uncommonly bad for that season of the year; for twelve weeks in succession there was not one day without rain in that part of Sutherland; and that country, totally destitute of roads, and at all times boggy, except on its numerous rocks and hills, was then in great measure a marsh. Having travelled by the way of Fort-George and Tain, and crossed the two ferries at the head of the Firth of Dornoch, and experienced the hospitality of the worthy proprietor of Skebo,—George Dempster, Esq. of Dunnichen,—where deluges of rain detained me for some days, I travelled to Lairg, in the heights of Sutherland. There, in the house of the venerable Mr Mackay, minister of the parish, I was met, according to appointment, by Major Mackay, tacksman of Eriboll, who not only undertook to be my guide, but brought me horses fit for travelling through the country, which my own were not, and were therefore left behind. Even with these horses, however well accustomed to the country, the progress through it was not a little difficult. The course (for roads there were none, not even a path marked out by footsteps) lay either over rocks amidst large loose stones, or over the tough surface of moss, in some places ten or twelve feet deep, or in the beds of rivulets, which had washed away the moss, and thus furnished a firm bottom. In pursuing this course, the traveller, in order to keep somewhat in a straight line, is obliged to ride very much in water. A gentleman who accompanied me, and who had been at pains to count, remarked that we had crossed one rivulet no less than four-and-twenty times in the space of an hour. But when we entered upon the wide and pathless morasses, Major Mackay, to whom the whole country is perfectly known, had the goodness to ride considerably ahead of the company, and carefully to explore the course which we could in safety pursue. After twelve hours' riding through such ways, and under almost continued rain, late at night we reached the hospitable dwelling of our conductor, where everything comfortable was furnished to me."—*Report to the Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge, by their Secretary, the Rev. John Kemp, D.D.*

Red deer . . . distinguished by different names in Eirshe, page 10.

We are indebted to Bishop Pococke for having preserved to our Gaelic vocabulary the distinguishing names for deer, two or three of which are obsolete, if not altogether forgotten. His spelling is, as usual, phonetic.

(2.) *Procha*.—"Procach—Damh féidh òg: a year-old stag."—*Rob Donn's Poems*, Glossary, p. 357.

Also in the hunting song, "Soraidh na Fridhe":—

"Thèid sinne gu socrach
Air ionnsuidh nam Procach,
'S o neamhnuid ar 'n acfuinn,
Bithidh 'n asnaichean dearg."—*Rob Donn*, p. 17.

(3.) *Kiligavir*.—Probably Gille da mheur, Gille da bhior, the two-fingered one.

(4.) *Ostoun*.—Probably Osdoun, the dun stag. “Os” occurs in the old unpublished hunting songs of Sutherland; also in Ossian’s poems—

“Lean-sa ‘n os bhallach air Cromla.”—*Fionnghal*, D. 1, line 137.

(5.) *Dougolag*, or Dongolag.—Probably Donn da lub, the double-looped dun one; or Don gobhlach, the forked one.

(6.) *Blank in the MS.*—Cabrach, or Udlach. See *Rob Donn*, Glossary, p. 360.

The following are the modern designations:—

<i>Procach</i>	.	.	One-year-old stag.
<i>Dha mhear-ach</i>	.	.	Two-pointed stag.
<i>Tri mhear-ach</i>	.	.	Three-pointed stag.
<i>Ceithir mhear-ach</i>	.	.	Four-pointed stag.
<i>Lan Damh</i>	.	.	Full-grown stag.

They often see large whales, page 10.

Two specimens of whales are preserved in the Dunrobin museum, a white whale, or Beluga, and a pilot-whale. See *Vertebrate Fauna of Sutherland*, by Harvie-Brown and Buckley, 1887, pp. 83-86.

There are no rats in Sutherland, page 11.

“Ther is not a ratt in Sutherland; and if they doe come thither in shippis from other pairts (which often happeneth), they die presentlie, how soone they doe smel of the aire of that cuntrey. And (which is strange) their is a great store and abundance of them in Catteynes [Caithness], the verie nixt adjacent province, divyded onlie by a litle strype or brook from Southerland. Ther are manie wild cattis in Southerland, which the inhabitants doe hunt among the rocks and mountanes.”—*The Earldom of Sutherland*, by Sir Robert Gordon, p. 7 (written 1630, first published 1813).

There are said to be no mice or rats in Island Roan, Tongue. See also Franck’s *Northern Memoirs*, 1658, Edinburgh ed. 1821, pp. 217, 218; Captain Burt’s *Letters from Scotland*, 1728, vol. i., letter 3; *Old Stat. Ac. of Scot.*, vol. iv., p. 76, vol. x., p. 269.

NOTES TO CHAPTER III.

Lough which seems to be Lough Culset, page 12.

Dr Pococke here describes Loch Meadie, which was directly in his route from Mudale to Strathmore, and not Loch Culset [Coulside], which falls into Loch Loaghal.

Mount Coarness . . . a thousand red deer, page 12.

Coir-an-essie, or Coir nan eas (Coirean easach of the Ordnance Survey).

Since 1760 the red deer have greatly deteriorated in number and size. Their inferiority appears to date from the introduction of sheep. See *Lays of the Deer Forest*, vol. ii., p. 146. In 1880 it was reported that 284 stags and 32 hinds were killed in Sutherland. See *Vertebrate Fauna of Sutherland*, by Harvie-Brown and Buckley, pp. 87-89.

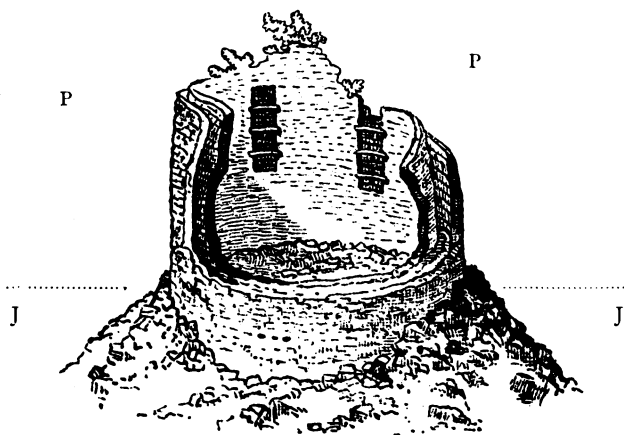
Doundor called in the map Dundor Nadilla, page 13.

The Bishop's drawings of Dun-Dornadilla, or Dun-Dornigil, are particularly interesting, as they are the earliest known sketches of this broch. We can only regret that he was not a better drawer, or more accurate in the details. For other views see *Archæologia* (Lond.), vol. v., p. 216; Cordiner's *Antiq. of North of Scot.*, 1780, p. 105; Forsyth's *Beauties of Scotland*, 1808, vol. v., frontispiece; Henderson's *Agric. of Sutherland*, 1812, App., p. 172; Logan's *Scottish Gael*, 1831, vol. ii., p. 26; Sir Arthur Mitchell's *Buildings for Defence*, Proc. Soc. of Antiq. Scot., 1880-81, p. 313; Dr Anderson's *Scot. in Pagan Times*, 1883, p. 185. See also Pope of Reay's account in Pennant's *Tours Scot.*, 1769, p. 341; Pennant's *Tours Scot.*, 1772, p. 393; *Archæologia Scotica*, 1883, vol. v., part i., "Sutherland Brochs," by Rev. Dr Joass, pp. 95-118.

Dr Joass has kindly supplied the following notes and sketch in elucidation of Bishop Pococke's drawing and description. The Bishop, in making his hurried sketch, appears to have stood on the wall at the breach, and made that the ground, regardless of any underbuilding, the quantity of debris, and the general situation.

The part above the lines, and lettered P P, is a rough copy of the Bishop's sketch, which represents the divided wall as extending to the ground (doubtless from having been copied at home, after a long interval, from the pocket sketch-book). Under this, as represented below the

lines, and lettered J J, there is a height of not less than nine feet of solid wall, part of which the Bishop must certainly have seen in 1760, although then, as now, part may have been concealed by the debris, which slopes against it, and has now filled up the interior almost to the point where the solid wall passes upwards into the usual two concentric walls. These double walls are covered at intervals of about five feet by level courses of flags, forming the floors and roofs of the galleries, which, traversed by a stair at an angle of about twenty degrees, are carried to the top. The Bishop's sketch does not show the edges of these gallery-floors and roofs, unless it be at the windows which look into the court, and the divisions between which do not always coincide with the said courses of flags, but are more numerous.



Dun-Dornadilla, as it probably was when Bishop Pococke visited it.

In the view (A) taken from outside the door, and looking in the opposite direction from that in which the first-named sketch (B) was taken, the same mistake occurs—*i.e.*, the ground is made to rise to the point where the walls divide, or almost to that point, and to extend on each side level from it; whilst there must have been a slope of loose stones, lying at the angle of rest for such materials, leaning against the outer wall, and covering it to a height, at the door, of not less than four feet, judging from the position of the aperture shown. The debris was higher when I saw it, but it was still possible to squeeze into the passage and reach the entrance of the chamber opening into it on the right.—*Notes by Rev. J. M. Joass, LL.D., Golspie.*

NOTES TO CHAPTER IV.

The Eagles will, they say, kill a hart, page 15.

Such rencontres have occasionally been witnessed. See *Sport in the Highlands*, by T. Speedy; and "The Eagles of Loch Treig" in *Scot. Church Magazine*, January 1886, by "Nether Lochaber," the Rev. Dr Alex. Stewart. An account of a desperate struggle between an eagle and a stag was graphically described in the *Scotsman* (1884). and although it did not occur in Sutherland, it is worth reproducing in illustration of this note :—

"A few days ago (says a Strathglass correspondent), a singular struggle was witnessed on the lower portion of Corrie-Mor, at a short distance above Glassburn House, between a large and powerful eagle and a finely antlered stag. The king of birds was watched for some time as he hovered about on high above a herd of deer, which appeared to possess particular attractions for him. The noble bird was slowly descending as he majestically sailed around in his aerial circles, and by degrees getting near to his coveted quarry. At last reaching striking distance, he suddenly came to a halt in mid-air, and, poising himself on outspread wings, he seemed for a few seconds perfectly motionless. Then, like a bullet from a rifle, he swooped down, and in an instant his powerful talons were firmly fixed in the back of a fine stag. The monarch of the glen plunged about in the wildest possible manner, evidently in great terror and pain, the eagle holding on grimly, belabouring the stag's sides all the while with heavy blows from its wings, and when opportunity offered, making desperate darts with his beak at the eyes of the frightened deer. By this time the poor stag's sides were red and gory, and notwithstanding his frantic efforts he could not disengage himself from his strong and cruel foe. At last, seeming to discover that his antlers could reach his savage enemy, he commenced raking fore and aft with them in the most vigorous manner until he managed to send the eagle sprawling in the heather. The stag had gallantly freed himself, but he had not bounded far when his fierce assailant, recovering from his discomfiture, was again on the wing, and in full chase, and in a few seconds down he came again, and firmly fixed his powerful claws in the deer's haunches, so far back as to be out of reach of the antlers. Again the struggle was renewed; the eagle meanwhile tearing at the victim's flesh with his strong bill, and burying his talons still deeper into his haunches. The poor stag was now much exhausted, and was evidently getting the worst of it, as he could not touch the eagle with his antlers. At this juncture, as if in despair, the stag commenced to tumble about, throwing himself on the ground, and rolling over down the hill, but still the eagle seemed incapable of letting go its tenacious grip. The stag then put his head down between his fore-legs, throwing himself clean over, heels over head, several times. It was indeed a wild, a wonderful, and a most unusual sight. The stag's efforts were at last successful, and getting clear of his murderous enemy, he galloped off. The eagle was, however, speedily up again and in full chase, but his intended victim made his escape sure by rushing full speed down the hill to the Glassburn Woods. The eagle, rather ruffled in his plumage, and no doubt much ruffled in his temper, soared aloft to look for his dinner elsewhere. It was a hard and well fought battle, worthy of being delineated by the pencil of a Landseer. The eagle was a splendid specimen of its kind, and of unusual size. He appeared to be much larger than the Glenstrathfarrar eagles, and is supposed to be a poacher from the north or west. His plumage was dark brown, with some white or grey on the surface of the tail feathers, the crown of the head was tawny, the legs and beak yellow, and the claws black."—*The Scotsman* of 11th December 1884.

Isle of Ronon . . . island called Sealisker, page 16.

The islands Rona, or Roney, and Soulisgeir, or Sula Sgeir. The natural history and other characteristics of these islands are referred to in articles by Mr Swinburne in vol. viii., pp. 51-67, and Mr Harvie-Brown in vol. ix., pp. 284-299, *Proc. Roy. Phys. Soc.*, 1883-86.

A herd lives at Kerwick Bay, page 16.

The herd referred to, in all probability, was *Rob Donn*, the Sutherland bard, or, more correctly, the Reay country bard. He was at one period Lord Reay's herd at Kearvaig, or Kerwick.

Goats do actually kill and eat adders, page 17.

This was well known in the Highlands. Hence the saying, "Itheadh na gabhair air an nathair,—ga h-ith' 's ga caineadh." See also Sheriff Nicolson's *Collection of Gaelic Proverbs and Familiar Phrases*, 1881, pp. 294-295:—

" 'Itheadh na goibhre air an nathair.'

The goat's eating of the serpent.

"It is believed in some parts of the Highlands that goats eat serpents, and that they eat them tail foremost, first stamping on the head. It is said that while the goat is thus engaged it utters a querulous noise, not liking the wriggling of the adder. A verse in reference to this is—

'Cleas na goibhre 'g ith' na nathrach,

'G a sior-itheadh, 's a' sior-thalach.'

The goats' trick with the serpent,

Eating away, and still complaining.

"Be this as it may, it is positively affirmed by persons of experience that serpents disappear where goats pasture."

Cave of Smoo, page 17.

Sir Walter Scott, in his *Diary of a Cruise in the Pharos*, in 1814, describes most graphically, but perhaps too imaginatively, his visit to the eerie caves of Smoo. See Lockhart's *Life of Scott*, ed. 1837; *Uamh Smowe*, vol. iii., pp. 209-216; *Two Months in the Highlands, Orcadia, and Skye*, by C. R. Weld, 1860, p. 225; *Guide to Sutherland and Caithness*, by Hew Morrison, 1883, pp. 107-109.

Lord Reay's family . . . pension . . . of £300 a year, page 19.

This pension appears to have been regularly paid, but in varying amounts, to various branches of the Reay family from 1707 to 1831. The last Lord Reay in receipt of it was Lord Erick.

NOTES TO CHAPTER V.

"*Sheerness*" man-of-war . . . chased the "*Hazard*" sloop, page 20.

Bishop Pococke doubtless had the narrative of this engagement communicated to him by the Rev. Murdo M'Donald, the minister of Durness. The following are extracts from his unpublished diary :—

"Wednesday night, 26th March 1746.—Yesternight we heard in the evening throng cannonading to the eastward. Some thought the noise too loud to be far off, and too low to be near; but this afternoon we are told it was an engagement between a French ship and one of our men-of-war, which happen'd about Tongue, where the French vessel was driven ashore below Melness. Out of her landed some hundreds of men, who were met by our Flying Company on the frontiers of this parish, and some of them killed, and the rest taken prisoners and delivered to the man-of-war. There may be several different accounts of this matter hereafter; but as it is critical, perhaps the Divine Providence may be seen in it conspicuously yet."

"Sabbath evening, 30th March 1746.— . . . The ship from France of which mention was made already, in which was 150 or 160 men, who with their treasure, consisting of, as we hear, £13,000 ster., were taken with no loss to our men. This ship, I say, is like to prove a bone of contention between some of our stranger Dons, in a sort of exile with us at present, and our own great folks, who dispute the prize with them, and are like to cast out about the division thereof. And this on account of the absence of our native officers, who, being on a post of defence in the skirts of this parish, could not be got time enough to the little skirmish in which the French were taken at Druim-na-Cub, about three miles to the south of Tongue, which made the strangers appear at the head of the few scattered men that could first be apprized in the neighbourhood. Such is the account we have of this matter, which threatens, among other things, the enemy's coming upon us and snatching away the contenders with their prey, while they are differing among themselves about it."—*M'Donald's MS. Diary, vol. iii., pp. 125-127, in the library of Mr Hew Morrison, F.S.A. Scot., Edinburgh.*

"The *Hazard* sloop, taken by the rebels in November last [1745] and called the *Prince Charles Stuart*, which has been of great use to them, is retaken. She was drove ashore at Ostend by two English privateers, and thought to be destroyed; but being afterwards repaired, she sailed, and being an excellent sailer, escaped the vigilance and pursuit of six or seven English ships that were cruising off that port to watch her. On the 24th of March [1746], she was descried by four English ships at anchor off Troup head. On sight of them she bore away. Thereupon the *Sheerness*, Captain Obrian, cutter, gave her chase quite through Pentland frith, about fifty leagues, kept a running fight for five hours, and at last ran her aground in Tongue bay. Here they landed their men late in the evening of the 25th, and came to a gentleman's house opposite to Tongue. Lord Rea's militia, and about 100 men of Loucon's regiment, with the Captains, Alexander Mackay, Sir Henry Munro, young Macleod, and Lord Charles Gordon, two subalterns, and the Surgeon, all left by Lord Loudon in Sutherland when he went to Skye, were at this time not far from Tongue. Lord Rea, on notice of the landing of the men, sent a boat with proper

persons to get intelligence of their numbers, &c. On whose return, it was concerted by his lordship and the officers, immediately to convene as many of the men as lay nearest, and to run expresses to such as were at a greater distance, with orders to join them with all possible speed. About fifty of Loudon's men, and the like number of Rea's, marched by break of day, and in two hours came up with the French, who had forced a guide to lead them off in the night. The French drew up, and being attacked, made several fires; but the highlanders, after discharging their firelocks, attacked them sword-in-hand. Thereupon the French, having five or six men killed, and as many wounded, and seeing Captain George Mackay coming up with a reinforcement of fresh men, surrendered. They were carried prisoners to Tongue, and the same night put on board the *Sheerness*. One highlander was wounded. There were in whole of the French 20 officers, and 120 soldiers and sailors, of which upwards of 30 were killed, and a good many wounded by the *Sheerness* before they landed. A good deal of arms and ammunition, with £13,000 sterling, all English gold, except 1000 French guineas, was found on board. The officers taken are:—Col. Brown, of Berwick's regiment; Capts. Macmahon and Rogers; Lieuts. Edw. and Will. Barnavals, Nugent, and Maurice, of Hainault; Capt. Macmahon, of Clare's; Lieuts. Obrian, Brimingham, and Osborne, of the Royal Scots in France; Lieuts. Barnaval and Weyard, of the French Gens d'Armes; M. Shabillard. In the Spanish service:—Capts. Macpherson, Sinclair, and Hay; a Spanish engineer, M. Faro; and M. Salbold, captain of the *Hazard*.—*Scots Mag.*, March 1746, p. 146.

The *Hazard* in charge of the *Sheerness* was taken to Leith. It may be worth mentioning, to prevent mistakes, that another French privateer called *Le Hazard*, of six carriage-guns, eight swivels, and forty-eight men, was captured in 1747 betwixt Tain and Dornoch, by the *Experiment*, Captain Farmer, and also taken to Leith.

Mr Gordon, a student of Aberdeen, page 21.

The Rev. M. McDonald, minister of Durness, makes the following reference to him, writing of a Presbytery meeting held at Tongue, 21st June 1763:—

“Another young man was entered on probationary trials—viz., Mr George Gordon, not many years of age above twenty, yet considerably ripened in abilities, natural and acquired, which seem to give the agreeable prospect of his being useful, but he is of a tender and delicate constitution which threatens a short life, the less matter if he be in the number of those children who die an hundred years old. He is a native of Farr parish, and there is already interest made for a good settlement to him, which is one reason why we see meet to dispatch his trials with all proper expedition.”—*M' Donald's MS. Diary*, vol. vii.

George Gordon was an orphan, and spent all his patrimony on his education, and while at college in 1759 was unanimously recommended by the Presbytery of Tongue to the ensuing Synod for supply, licensed by that Presbytery in 1763, and presented by the Earl of Sutherland in November after, and ordained 10th April 1764. He got the church of Clyne built in 1770 on the old site of one dedicated to a saint locally styled Saint Aloyne, and died 2nd September 1770, thus fulfilling Mr M' Donald's prediction of a short life.—*Fasti Eccles. Scot.* v., p. 332, and *Orig. Paroch. Scot.*, ii. 723.

Mr Forbes . . . and we passed by a kern of circular stones, page 21.

Daniel Forbes, Esq., writer, and tacksman of Kinloch and Ribigill. Close to the door leading to Lord Reay's aisle in Tongue church lies his tombstone, bearing his arms in high relief and name incised. The lettering is becoming illegible. Some family inscriptions have been recently cut on it, and with a curious disregard to the style of the antique stone, have been made to read upside down.

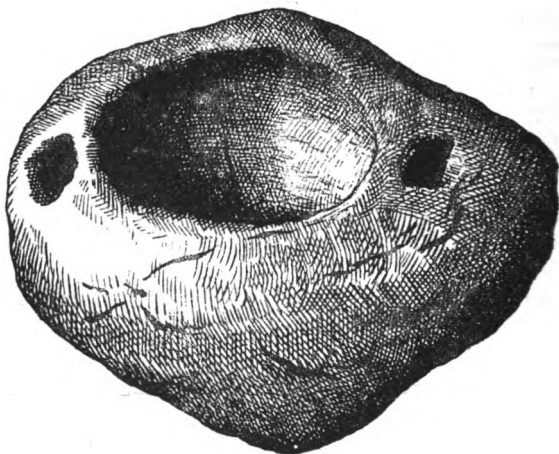
The broch, *Dun Mai*, is a little above old Kinloch House. In company with Mr Hew Morrison (Edinburgh) I visited it on 18th July 1888, and crawled into one of the chambers. About eight feet of the walls are standing, and the circular shape is almost entire.—D. W. K.

A pillar entirely covered with dials, page 21.

A description of the pillar can only convey an imperfect impression of it. Its peculiarity consists in the large number of strangely shaped facets all over the obelisk, in each of which a dial had evidently been originally placed, though many are now defaced. The whole was made of a red sandstone, too soft to resist the action of time and storm, so very few of the old dials are now decipherable. Its total height is seven and a half feet, the pillar and main dial stone being five feet, with an obelisk of same stone, but of much newer appearance, standing on the top of it, two and a half feet high. It is covered with dials from top to bottom, except on the north side of the pillar, which bears the remains of an earl's coronet, with escutcheon underneath, now blank, below that a heart cut in the stone, then 1714, with a double letter R below, and farther down a cross or star.

Farr Church, page 22.

The church, at the date of Dr Pococke's visit, was a very small and primitive one, with a thatched roof, and tradition says that many of the stones for it were carried in wicker baskets on the shoulders of men and women from the ruined church of Skail, a distance of about thirteen miles. As there is abundance of building stone procurable on the spot, it surely must have been from the uses and associations of those stones that led the people to carry the consecrated material so far. They, however, did not remove the ancient font of this Roman Catholic oratory, but left it to be discovered by Mr Hew Morrison, F.S.A. Scot., Edinburgh, in whose possession it now is. The present building dates from 1774.



Stone Font, from Skail Church.

Farr Church cross, page 22.

This cross is described and figured in Stuart's *Sculp. Stones of Scot.*, Pl. xxxv., p. 12. It is stated, "the stone is very hard, and differs entirely from any of the rocks in the district." This is a mistake; a careful observer would see at once that it is a local stone, and corresponds with pieces lying close at hand.

Mr Monroe, the minister, page 22.

Rev. George Munro, minister from 1754 to 1779. He was the paternal grand-uncle of the Rev. Gustavus Aird, D.D., Free Church, Creich.

Captain Mackay . . . laird of Strathay, page 23.

There is an old painting of the Laird in the regimentals of the Sutherland Fencibles, in Keoldale House. The captain was the grandfather of the venerable Mr and the Misses Scobie, of Keoldale.

The Sutherland regiment, page 23.

The references to the Sutherland regiment in the newspapers of the time (1760) are worth reproducing, especially in connection with Dr Pococke's observation (p. 18)—"they are mostly well-bodied men, of great activity, and go the Highland trot with wonderfull expedition."

"The following is a paragraph in a letter from Aberdeen dated 30th May[1760]:—
" 'Lord Sutherland's Highland battalion marched in here in two divisions on the 19th and 22nd curt. I have not seen a finer body of men, as to their size, order, or discipline. In replacing the troops succeeded, relieving and posting centres, &c., they seemed equally knowing and regular as any old regiment in the service. I have seen them once and again at exercise on the links, preparing for their review, and they went thro' their manual and platoon exercise, evolutions, and different firings with an exactness, order, and regularity which does great honour to their officers and commanders.'—*Edinburgh Evening Courant*, June 14, 1760.

"The Earl of Sutherland's regiment of Highlanders are come to Aberdeen, where they are to continue for the summer. They make a very fine appearance, are surprisingly expert in their exercise, considering the short time they have been in the service."

"The following anecdote with regard to the Earl of Sutherland's regiment of Highlanders (now arrived from the northern counties to Aberdeen) we copy from the *Aberdeen Journal* of last post:—'On arrival of the first division on the western bank of Spey, the ferry-boat was not just ready; and that way of passing the river seeming very dilatory, they took immediately into the water (tho' considerably increased by rains in the Highlands), and above sixty of them actually passed it without the least disorder or concern; and the whole would have followed, had they not been restrained by their officers, upon the inhabitants representing that the river was still rising—a notable instance of the natural temerity and hardness of our yet brave and ineffectuated countrymen.'—*From the "Edinburgh Evening Courant,"* Wednesday, May 28, 1760.

"On the gallant behaviour of the right honourable the Earl of Sutherland's regiment, when reviewed on the Links of Aberdeen, July 17th, 1760.

"See *Scotia's* genuine sons in armour drest!
While native courage glows in ev'ry breast.
Hark! how the *Bagpipe* animates the whole,
And kindles ardour up in ev'ry soul!
See clouds of smoke in dusky columns rise,
While closest volleys thunder thro' the skies?
With what exactness ev'ry motion's done,
As if perform'd by some automaton!

See myriads round, with admiration gaze,
 And approbation smile in ev'ry face!
 Children, when grey with age, will tell they've seen
 The SUTHERLANDS review'd at Aberdeen.
 (Continue, Heav'n, to aid our conqu'ring arms,
 And guard our happy isle from Gallic harms.)
 Where e'er they come, let Frenchmen be afraid,
 And tremble at the PHILIBEG and PLAID."

Aberdeen Journal, 21st July 1760.

A letter from a gentleman in Inveraray to a gentleman in Edinburgh, dated Aug. 4th, 1760, has the following paragraph:—"On Friday last arrived here in the way to the Roads, eight miles from this place [Inveraray], too sturdy fellows of Lord Sutherland's highlanders, commanded by Lieutenant James Mackay of Skerray; though after a fatiguing march, they made as fine an appearance as any troops I ever beheld, and though they are but a young corps, there is scarce a regiment in his Majesty's service better disciplined."—*Caledonian Mercury*, Aug. 13, 1760.

NOTES TO CHAPTER VI.

Mr Innys, sending a gentleman with me, page 25.

Mr Sinclair thinks this gentleman was Mr Hog. "Factor Nog or Hog was tutor in the family of Major Innes's father in 1760, for Bishop Pococke, the great traveller, says he was accompanied by him from Sandside to Thurso. In his MS. 'Tour of Great Britain,' he speaks of that Mr William Innes as making great improvements on his estate."—*Celtic Mag.*, June 1888, page 348, "A Highland Estate," 1792-1800, by Thos. Sinclair, M.A.

The Rev. M. M'Donald, Durness, has numerous references to Mr Innes in his MS. diary, and many of them are not of a very complimentary character.

Picts' house at Giese, page 25.

For details of Caithness brochs, see articles by Dr Joseph Anderson in *Archæologia Scotica*, vol. v., part i., 1883, pp. 131-178.

Mr Murray's, near Thyrsø, page 25.

Mr James Murray, of Pennyland House, near Thurso; he was surveyor of customs. See Introduction.

NOTES TO CHAPTER VII.

Johnny Grot's House, page 26.

We have direct information as to the origin of the name "John o' Grot's house," in a charter dated Wick, 19th of October 1523, and delivered by "John o' Grot, of Duncansby, baillie to the Earl [of Caithness], in these parts."—*Merchant and Craft Guilds*. by Ebenezer Bain, p. 153, and *Northern Notes and Queries*, vol. ii., p. 190.

Stroma . . . a burial-place, . . . bodies remain entire, page 27.

Isle "Stroma, famous for its natural mummies."—Pennant's *Tours Scot.*, 1769, p. 197. "The mummies are now destroyed, and the chapel is unroofed and mouldering into ruin."—*Old Stat. Ac. Scot.*, 1793, vol. viii., p. 165. Bishop Forbes in his 1762 *Journal*, tells some almost incredible stories regarding these mummies.

Picts' house in a mount, page 27.

The Caithness letters appeared in the *Northern Ensign*, having been communicated with notes by "Alpha," Mr Thomas Sinclair, M.A., author of *Humanities*, &c. His notes are so interesting that we quote them in full.

"Bishop Pococke has drawn carefully in Indian ink, 'The Plan of a Picts' House,' the building which he describes so fully in the above letter. He gives 'A Scale of Seventy-five Foot' with it, of the most accurate measurement, the seventy-five feet being about four inches on the plan. There is first an enclosing wall 410 feet in circumference, or 127 feet in diameter. Within this is the supposed open gallery, 30 feet in breadth all the way round. The central building is 64 feet in diameter or 201 feet in circumference. The system of cells and passages can be understood at once by imagining a cart-wheel laid on the ground, having no felloes, the openings between the spokes being the passages; and the spokes, which are proportionally much wider at the extremities than those of a wheel, held the cells. The outer end of each spoke is 9 feet wide, while the open passage between each couple of radii is only 3 feet. The length of each passage from the outer end of the spokes to the nave, which is proportionally small, is 15 feet. At 9 feet 6 inches from the entrances comes the set in of each spoke, and turning to the left you find the door of each cell. The 4 feet 6 inches to the nave is exactly of the proportions of the spokes of a cart-wheel, the 9 feet 6 inches suggesting the sails of a windmill in some degree, or the blades of some wheels in machinery. There are sixteen spokes or radii, and, of course, as many cells and passages. It would be interesting to have present details of a building which caused so close attention to the learned prelate and world-wide traveller of the eighteenth century."—*Alpha* (Thomas Sinclair, M.A.), *Northern Ensign*, July 1886.

NOTES TO CHAPTER VIII.

Earl of Caithness's house of Myrtle, page 29.

"This means Murkle Castle, and almost suggests that Lord Hemer in 1760 sometimes resided at it as a change from his usual residence of Hemer Castle, two miles from Thurso."—*Alpha*.

Went . . . to Sir Patrick Dunbar's, page 29.

"This was Bowermadden mansion, and Sir Patrick, who was learned in law, represented the oldest branch of Dunbars in Caithness, now extinct."—*Alpha*.

Castles of Carnigo and Sinclair, page 31.

Girnigoe.--"This is the largest Indian ink drawing among the Bishop's MSS., being twice doubled to fit it to the quarto volume, and only representing the Girnigoe portion of the double castle. There is also a quarto drawing of the other part, which he entitled 'Castle Sinclair.' Both drawings are well executed. Above the door and three windows of the latter is arms, probably the Sinclairs' griffins, though it may have been, as he said, the royal arms. The griffins of the Caithness earldom might easily have been mistaken, with the wear of time and also from the height, in his mind for the lion and the unicorn."—*Alpha*.

"I cannot help observing here that Castle-Sinclair appears to me like a Guard or Centry-post upon the Entry to Castle-Girnigo; for it has upon the Front of it, near to the Top of the Wall, the Royal Arms at large, with these letters, K. C. II.; and as some of the gilding still remains, you see the Coat Armorial some time before you come close up to the Castle."—Bishop Forbes's *Journal*, 1762, ed. by the Rev. J. B. Craven, 1886, p. 212.

An interesting "Legend of Girnigoe" appeared in the *Celtic Magazine*, 1883, vol. ix., p. 13.

For the most recent views, plans, and description of these castles, see Messrs Macgibbon and Ross's *Castellated Architecture of Scotland*, 1887, vol. ii., pp. 307-313.

The house of Mr Sinclair the provost, page 32.

Mr Sinclair, of Thrumster House, the Provost of Wick, "was the uncle of Sir John Sinclair, Bart. of Ulbster, the agriculturist, and was usually called 'Harpsdale,' of which place he was laird, but he had his residence at Thrumster House. The Ulbster family held the provostship hereditarily from 1725, when John Sinclair of Ulbster, by agreement with the town, and for payment of a sum of money and guaranteeing of privileges of the people, acquired the office. 'Harpsdale,' or James Sinclair, had for his chamberlain James Sinclair, of the Assery and Isauld family (the only living legitimate representatives of the Murkle earls), a near relation to Harpsdale's third wife, Helen Sinclair of Lybster. On her critical illness at one time she specially asked that none but her relation, her chamberlain, should go to Thurso for Dr Torrence, and among his documents it is still told that his love for her made him choose to walk as the speediest way, then over the moors, of getting her medical assistance. His physical strength and handsome build was a tradition, one of his feats being to lift a full barrel of herrings clear up in his hands; and his speed of walking was made famous by this successful journey for the provost's wife in her distress. He was also a learned man, having what was then rare a library of books, some of which have remained among his people till of late years. His son John, farmer of Little Thrumster, linen manufacturer, employing many spinners (which industry machinery took from the county), and fishcurer at the early period of the herring industry, had several of his books, more especially such works on Calvinistic and Arminian Methodism as Fletcher of Madeley's. 'Alpha' in early youth had the benefit of two or three of them, which had been given to his father by his grandfather the above John. The peculiarity of one volume was the amount of parallel showing on the same pages of the good and evil of the respective Methodisms. Sir William Sinclair of Keiss, through the Haldanes' influence, had made Methodism [Baptists] familiar in the county during the latter decades of last century."—*Alpha*.

*The Provost and another gentleman . . . accompanied me
almost to Dunbeath, page 32.*

The gentleman referred to was "Mr William Sutherland of Wester . . . a gentleman of reading, and had been bred to the sea, whereby he had visited many foreign countries, particularly he was once nigh to the city of Jerusalem, but some incident or other had prevented his seeing it. These particulars made his conversation extremely acceptable to the Bishop of Ossory, for they compared notes together as to the places they had both been in, and their accounts of them tallied exactly. Wester gave him the convoy till he came near to the Castle of Dunbeath."—Bishop Forbes's *Journal*, 1762, ed. by the Rev. J. B. Craven, 1886, p. 209.

NOTES TO CHAPTER IX.

The Ripa Alta of the new map, page 33.

"This was the name of a ruined or buried town in the north, and Alta is probably an adjective describing it as lofty. It is not impossible that Pope's buried Reay may have been the origin of this very wandering site—in the maps and Latin writers. Certainly the Ord cannot have been the situation of the mysterious town."—*Alpha*.

Hemdsdale, page 33.

Helmsdale, often written in the older maps Hemdsdale.

Mr M'Culloch, the minister at Lothkirk, page 34.

The Rev. Robert M'Culloch, in addition to his charge of the parish of Loth, held the chaplaincy of the 2nd or Sutherland Fencibles.

Picts' house covered with stones, page 34.

Dr Pococke must have seen, or been in correspondence with, the Rev. Alex. Pope, minister of Reay, for the latter, writing to Thomas Pennant, the traveller, says, "There is one of them [a Picts' house] entire in the parish of Loth, which the Bishop of Ossory visited and examined. . . . At the desire of the Bishop of Ossory, I measured several of them, and saw some quite demolished."—Pennant's *Tours Scot.* 1769, p. 337. "Near the miln of Lothbeg is the entire Picts' house, which the Bishop of Ossory entered."—*Ibid.*, p. 359.

Uagbeg and Uagmore, page 35.

These were probably sepulchral mounds or chambered cairns. The names, too, are suggestive—Uagbeg, the small tomb; Uagmore, the large tomb, from the Gaelic *uaigh*, a grave or tomb. The Rev. A. Pope, of Reay, says—"In Glen Loth are three [cairns], and are called by the country people *Uags*."—Pennant's *Tours Scot.*, 1769, p. 338.

Petrified shells . . . of which I brought away specimens, page 35.

The Rev. Alex. Pope of Reay corroborates this—"On the top of a small hill, near the house of Clyne, is a limestone quarry, and in the heart of the stone all sorts of sea-shells known in these parts are found. They are fresh and entire, and the limestone within the shell resembles the fish. The Bishop of Ossory employed men to hew out masses of the rock, which he broke, and carried away a large quantity of shells!"—Pennant's *Tours Scot.*, 1769, p. 357. Those Oolitic fossils are from the strip of Jurassic rocks on the shore between Golspie and Helmsdale. See "Sutherland Papers"—*The Geology of Sutherland*, by H. M. Cadell, B.Sc., 1866.

A beautiful natural cave, page 35.

The Rev. Alex. Pope of Reay tells us the name of this cave. "Near the Bridge of Brora there is a fine large cave, called *Uai na Calman*. The Bishop of *Ossory* admired it, and said there were such caves about Bethlehem in Palestine."—Pennant's *Tours Scot.*, 1769, p. 357.

Pictish castle . . . the residence of the Thanes of Sutherland,
page 36.

The older part of Dunrobin Castle is said to be built on the site of a large house, castle, or broch, which in all probability was the residence of the Thane of Sutherland. The other brochs mentioned are probably those known as the Woods and Backies brochs. See account of several Sutherland brochs in *Archæologia Scotica*, vol. v., pp. 95-118, by the Rev. J. M. Joass, LL.D., Golspie.

The cross . . . in memory of the defeat of the Danes, page 37.

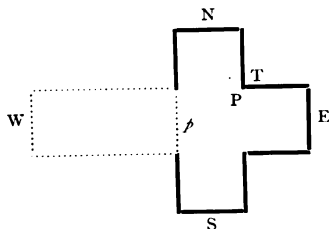
"The cross at Embo, which no longer exists, was traditionally ascribed to the thirteenth century, and said to commemorate a battle between William, Earl of Sutherland, and the Danes, in which the king of the Danes was slain. The cross or obelisk near Dornoch, evidently of a much later date, bears on each side a shield with three stars, and is still called the Thane's Cross, but is frequently confounded with that which stood at Embo. It is so confounded by Pennant."—*Origines Parochiales*, vol. iii., pp. 188, 361.

The old cathedral [of Dornoch], page 38.

The cathedral, as probably seen by Bishop Pococke, is engraved in Henderson's *Agriculture of Sutherland*, 1812. The imprint describes it:—"East end of Dornoch Cathedral, erected by St Bar, Bishop of Caithness, in the eleventh century, and enlarged by Gilbert Murray, Bishop of Caithness, in 1280; burnt by John Sinclair, Master of Caithness, in 1570; and repaired by Sir Robert Gordon, tutor of Sutherland, anno 1630. The west end was since repaired, and is now the parish church, anno 1808." Captain Henderson's drawing shows the south side of the nave or western part; Sir Robert Gordon quaintly ascribes the destruction of the north side to Satanic agencies, thus:—"The fyfth day of November 1605 yeirs . . . the same verie night [as Gunpowder Plot] . . . all the inner stone pillars of the north syd of the body of the cathedral church at Dornogh (laiking the roof befor) were blown from the verie roots and foundation, quyt and clein over the outer walls of the church; which walles did remane nevertheless standing, to the great astonishment of all such as hath sein the same. These great winds did evin then prognosticat and foreshew some great

treasone to be at hand ; and as the divell wes busie then to truble the ayre, so wes he bussie, by these his fyrebrands, to truble the estate of Great Britane.”—*Earldom of Sutherland* (written 1630, printed 1813).

“ That night, a child might understand,
The deil had business on his hand.”—*Burns*.



Bishop Pococke describes “the eastern part” as “uncovered.” It should have been *western*. He also says, there “is a round tower within *jiyning* to the south-west angle;” he should have written *north-east*. The errors in direction may be accounted for in the fact that at that date the pulpit was placed at *p* (as shown in the above ground plan), and to place the pulpit in any other part than the east would not be consonant with the bishop’s idea of ecclesiastical architecture, hence the mistake, which explains the other also. The nave, shown dotted in the diagram, was then in ruins, but after the restoration the pulpit was placed at P, north-east corner. The circular staircase is at T, north-east angle.

In 1775 repairs were found necessary on the cathedral, and a petition for a grant of money was presented to the Crown by the guardians of the Countess of Sutherland. In the minute books of the Exchequer there are three brief minutes bearing on the petition, and report of repairs. Then follows this minute :—“ [Edinburgh,] 29th June 1775.—Cathedral of Caithness.—Read His Majesty’s Royal Sign Manual, dated the 23rd of Feby. last, granting the sum of £300 st^r for repairing the Church of Dornoch, which was the Cathedral Church of the Bishoprick of Caithness, out of any money in the hands of Rec^r Gen^l arising from the Rents of the said Bishoprick. Ordered the Receiver Gen^l to pay to David Stewart Moncreiffe, Soll^r of Court, the said sum of £300, to be by him paid over to the artificers and workmen who shall be employed in repairing the said Church upon their producing to him proper vouchers and certificates from two of the Guardians of the Countess of Sutherland, and any two of the heritors of the said parish of Dornoch, that

the work is done by their directions, and to their satisfaction.”—*MS. Minutes of the Exchequer of the Barons of Scotland*, vol. viii., page 283.

(It would be interesting to see the tenor of the petition, and the report on the repairs, and they are doubtless still in existence in the Exchequer buildings; but like all the documents upon which the older minutes are founded, they are in chaos, totally unfit for literary research. The Secretary for Scotland would be doing a service to Scottish historical literature by getting them chronologically arranged, classified, bound into volumes, and indexed.)

The bishop's house is a solid high building, page 38.

“I visited the Bishop's Palace, which has been a stately and strong Edifice, vaulted below, and of five high Stories, including the vaulted one; but the Stair, which is a very easy one, is six Stories high. The Walls of only a part of it are standing. A Blacksmith has his Forge in one of the Vaults, and was working at it when I was there.

Lux mea, tende manus, contra tibi tendo catenas;
Has nisi qui vinxit solvere nemo potest.”

—Bishop Forbes's *Journal*, 1762, ed. by Rev. J. B. Craven, 1886, p. 177.

For views of the Palace, now called Castle of Dornoch, see MacGibbon and Ross's *Castel. Arch. of Scot.*, 1887.

Dornoch is a royal burgh, of which they made me a burghess, page 38.

It is to be regretted that we cannot find any local record confirmatory of the conferring of the freedom of the ancient city and royal burgh of Dornoch on our distinguished traveller and bishop. Mr Donald Taylor, town clerk, has been unable to find any burghess roll; and the Council minutes, which date from 1729, contain no reference to such matters.

It is very likely the bishop's burghess ticket would be sealed with the burgh's seal, and as it has not previously been engraved, I have had it cut expressly for these “Notes:”—



The design is most unheraldic and mixed. It is unfortunate that the Arms of the burgh were not registered in the books of the Lyon King at Arms.

The following minute of Council for 1760 has been kindly copied for these "Notes" by Mr Hugh F. Campbell, M.A., Dornoch and Aberdeen. It is interesting as a specimen of the burgh's records, showing the constituency which elected the member of Parliament for the Northern Burghs, and the Council which made Bishop Pococke an honorary Burgess :—

"At Dornoch, the thirtieth day of September, one thousand seven hundred and sixty years: This being the day for electing the Magistrates and Town Council for the ensuing year: convened in Council—

WILLIAM SUTHERLAND, Younger of Sciberscross,*	} Baillies.
KENNETH SUTHERLAND, Junior,	
DONALD ROSS, Dean of Guild.	
PATRICK DUNBAR, Treasurer.	
JAMES MACLEAN, of Capernoch,†	} Councillors.
DUGALD GILCHRIST, Factor to the Earl of Sutherland,	
JAMES SUTHERLAND, of Clyne,	

And they being qualified according to law: and taking to consideration that by the annual custom of this Burgh, four members of the standing Council fall to be changed according to the ancient usage of the Burgh: they in consequence, thereof, Ensign Kenneth Sutherland, senior, and David Sutherland, of Cambusavie, Baillies, being dead, do set aside and put off Capt. George Sutherland, at Midgarty, and William Murray, Tacksman of Orleton: and elect in their place Robert Gordon, Esquire, younger of Gordonstown; John Mackay, of Tordarroch; William Sutherland, of Little Torboll, and Charles Gordon, of Skelpick. Thereafter, the question being put, it was resolved, determined, and agreed, as it is hereby resolved, voted, agreed, and unanimously declared that the Magistrates and Council for the ensuing year and to Michaelmas one thousand seven hundred and sixty-one, be and continue in their different stations as follows, viz. :—

The Right Hon. WILLIAM, EARL OF SUTHERLAND, Provost.	
WM. SUTHERLAND, Younger of Sciberscross,*	} Baillies.
KENNETH SUTHERLAND,	
JAMES M'LEAN, of Capernoch,†	
JAMES SUTHERLAND, of Clyne,	
DONALD ROSS, Dean of Guild.	
PATRICK DUNBAR, Treasurer.	

* Wadsetter of Sciberscross, and grandfather of the present venerable Provost, William Sutherland Fraser, Esq.

† "It must be extremely agreeable to every lover of his country to hear that all the letters from Gaudaloupe are full of encomiums on our Scots Highlanders. Some

Lieut.-Colonel JOHN SCOTT,	} Councillors.
ROBT. GORDON, Esq., Yr. of Gordonstown,	
Capt. JOHN SUTHERLAND, of Forse,	
DUGALD GILCHRIST, Factor to the Earl of Sutherland,	
Lieut. JOHN CLUNES,	
JOHN MACKAY, of Tordarroch,	
WILLIAM SUTHERLAND, of Little Torboll,	
Lieut. CHARLES GORDON, of Skelpick,	

And the members present being qualified in terms of law : they appoint and declare the above roll to be the fixed roll of Magistrates and Council for managing the affairs of the Burgh for this ensuing year, and they appoint John Dempster, Fiscall, and James MacLeod and Alexander Sutherland, Officers : and also appoint the tenth day of October next for the Head Court of the Burgh, and assign the day of for the absent members to qualify.

(Signed)

DUGALD GILCHRIST, C.
CHAS. GORDON, C.
J. CLUNES.

WILL. SUTHERLAND, *Baillie*.
KENNETH SUTHERLAND.
JAS. M'LEAN, *B*.
JAMES SUTHERLAND, *B*.
DONALD ROSS, *D. G*.
PA. DUNBAR, *Treas.*"

We passed by Siderhall, page 38.

Now always written Cyderhall, — a good example of Sassenach orthography. The former names were Siddera, Sytheraw, from Siward's Hoch (Sigurd's haug). These have some historical basis and meaning, but *Cyder* has none.

say that their undaunted behaviour and uncommon method of fighting intimidated the French in such a manner that they deserted entrenchments which might have been defended against 1000 men, at the approach of scarce two companies. All their officers behaved like heroes. Mr Gilchrist, an officer there, writes thus of a young gentleman of the name of M'Lean :—"Never did young fellow acquit himself with more general applause than he did. In short he has rendered himself famous by this gallant and truly heroic spirit, and M'Lean of the Highlanders is mentioned as a sort of prodigy in our little army." This young officer is a son of Mr M'Lean, of Cappernoch, in Sutherland, lieutenant in the second battalion of the Royal Highlanders. He had the misfortune at an attack of one of the French posts to have his left arm so shattered by a shot, that it was necessary to have it cut off. On his recovery, in consideration of his gallant behaviour, General Barrington proposed to send him to England, with recommendation due to his merits, which offer of the General's generously declined, saying he would not leave the island whilst he could be of any use, or his Majesty's service required his attendance."—*Cal. Mercury*, 25th June 1759.

Mr Mackay, half-brother to Lord Reay, and Member of Parliament,
page 38.

George Mackay of Skibo, advocate. He represented Sutherlandshire in Parliament from 1747 to 1754, and from 1754 to 1761. In 1756 he was Master of the Mint in Scotland. He married at Embo, in 1766, Anne, third daughter of Eric Sutherland, only son of the attainted Lord Duffus, and his son Eric succeeded as seventh Lord Reay.

There were parliamentary contests in those days, and Lord Reay's lady (who was of the Sutherland family) made a special journey to Sutherland to work on behalf of Mr Mackay. Previously to this the clan Mackay did not look favourably on the alliance of their chief with the house of Sutherland, but Lady Reay's action, and ultimate success in securing the return to Parliament of his lordship's brother, completely changed public opinion in her favour. Rob Donn refers to this in—

ORAN DO BHAN-MHORAIR MHIC-AOIDH.

“ Am bràthair leis am b'aill a bhi
Am Pàrlamaid an rìgh,
Chaidh dhearbhadh le do chàirdeas,
Nì nach fàiling air a chaoidh ;
Cia mar air bith a phàighear dhuit
Am fabhor s' le Mac-Aoidh,
Bha gnìomh 's an uair sin dèanta leat,
Nach b' àbhaist bhi le mnaoi.”

—*Rob Donn*, p. 194.

(The brother who fain would be
In the Parliament of the king.
It was proved by thy friendship,
What ne'er he shall forget,
In whate'er way this favour,
May be paid thee by Mackay,
An act at that time was wrought by thee,
That is seldom done by woman.)

“ The qualification of fortune required of the elector and elected to a seat in Parliament for a county is four hundred pounds Scots, or thirty-three pounds six shillings and eight-pence sterling per annum, according to the old rent, or as they stand rated on the king's books. These are called barons; and none others vote for the shires, except some few in the county of Sutherland, where several of the old voters, refusing to pay their quota of £6. 13s. 4d. Scots, or 11s. 1½d. sterling per diem for the maintenance of their representative in time of the session, others were willing to be taxed in their stead, provided they

might have the privilege of voting, which they obtained thereby to the exclusion of the former. The Magistrates and Town Council elect members to represent the burghs or corporation towns; and there is neither land nor money qualification required either of the candidate or electors."

Came to Innerchasley. . . . From Innerchasley there is a beautiful view . . . of the towns of Dornock and Taine, page 39.

There must be some mistake here. The bishop appears to have crossed the Meikle ferry from Sutherland into Ross, and Invercassley (as it is now written) is about twenty miles west of the ferry, from which the towns of Dornoch and Tain cannot possibly be seen. The bishop must have surely gone to Tarlogie, which belonged to the same proprietor as Invercassley, and hence the confusion of place-names. Bishop Pococke's journey southwards must have been known in Tain, for he tells us that he was met at the entrance of the town by the magistrates and minister, who wished to present him with the freedom of the burgh, but he could not be induced to stay.

The magistrates and minister of Tain in 1760 were David Ross, advocate, younger of Inverchasly, provost; Hugh Ross, Donald Munro, David Ross, bailies; John Reid, dean of guild; George Miller, treasurer; the Rev. John Sutherland.

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INSTITUTED 1866.

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