

NOTES  
ON  
BURGH EAD:

ANCIENT AND MODERN,

WITH

AN APPENDIX,

CONTAINING

NOTICES OF FAMILIES CONNECTED WITH THE  
PLACE AT DIFFERENT PERIODS,

AND OTHER INFORMATION.

(FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION.)

*Rob. Young.*

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## P R E F A C E.

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THE author of these pages had certainly no intention of writing on the subject of Burghead, but having been requested by some respectable parties in Elgin, lately engaged in the laudable object of publishing a Guide-Book for the county of Moray, to write a few notes about the village and its history, he readily undertook to do so, being always willing to communicate any little information he may be possessed of. After spending a few evenings on the work, he found it grow into the dimensions of a small volume; and therefore it became unsuited for the original purpose intended, and had to be abridged by the publishers of the Guide-Book to a mere skeleton.

Being unwilling that his labours should be entirely lost, he has resolved, although with much hesitation, to print the small work—not for *publication*, but for *preservation*, thinking it might be interesting to a few friends and others attached to the place.

It may be matter of surprise that Richard of Cirencester should be quoted as an authority in favour of Burghead being a Roman station, recent writers being so divided as to the genuineness of that work. The author pronounces no decided opinion on the subject ; it will likely remain a disputed point, but he does not see that he could pass entirely over a writer who has taken so much notice of the place, and who has been supported as an authentic authority by many literary men of high standing and weight. General Roy's views as to the military works at Burghead being Roman are so decided, and are entitled to so much respect, that they must be viewed in a very different light from Richard. No writer had more experience than General Roy : he was a military man of high standing, an eminent engineer, and had examined the most of the Roman works in England and Scotland, as well as many on the Continent. No one of greater knowledge and experience is ever likely to visit Burghead, and he had the advantage of seeing the works entire ; his opinion, therefore, must be received as one of the highest value. The sub-

ject is an extremely interesting one, but doubtless it will never be entirely unravelled, and may continue a matter of dispute for many future years.

As to other matters treated of, the work is a mere compilation of facts gathered from books and documents printed and written, and from all authorities public and private to which access could be got. A good deal of what is stated came under the author's notice during his long connection with the place. He begs to acknowledge having received from Captain Dunbar Dunbar of Sea Park the account of the family of Dunbar of Hempriggs, and the valuable inventory of the furniture of James Lord Duffus; also, a bundle of papers relating to the village, commencing in 1713 and coming down as late as 1817, from which he has selected a few documents, principally referring to the fishermen, printed in the Appendix, Nos. 12 to 21; and he takes this opportunity of expressing his best thanks to Captain Dunbar Dunbar for his kindness and courtesy, both now and at all times. He also begs to acknowledge having received much valuable information from Mr Morrison,

Burghead, as to the present state of the Town and Harbour, and he has to thank various clergymen in the village and elsewhere for the trouble so kindly taken by them in sending him notes on ecclesiastical and educational subjects. The author trusts that his friends will excuse any errors they may find either in statement of facts or in the style and composition of this little work, which has been a source of amusement and recreation to himself.

ROBT. YOUNG.

MILLBANK, ELGIN, 1868.



## NOTES ON BURGHEAD.

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### *SITUATION.*

THE Village or Burgh of Barony of Burghsea or Burghead, anciently called the Burgh or Broch, is situated in the parish of Duffus, eight and a-half miles distant from Elgin and nine miles from Forres, and consists of a remarkable promontory of land rising from a sandy plain, by gradual ascent, to a rocky precipice of sixty feet in height, washed by the waves of the Moray Firth. It extends from south-east to north-west, about 810 yards in length, and has an average breadth of about 336 yards. It is bounded on the south by the estate of Roseisle, and on all other sides by the sea.

### *ANTIQUARIAN REMARKS.*

Burghead is of great antiquity. Of its origin and early history, very little is known. There has been great interest taken in the place, and much discussion

about it ; and after various controversies, and many learned works written, the subject is left much as before—clothed in great mystery. Last century, and in the beginning of the present one, learned writers were clearly of opinion that Burghead was the Ptoroton laid down on the maps of Ptolemy, and that it was in early ages a Roman fort or station. The fashion of the times has changed, and some writers of the present day, although with considerable hesitation, pronounce it not a Roman station. In a work like the present, we cannot enter into any discussion on the controversy ; but we may state, so far, that if the Romans ever entered the Moray Firth with their fleets—which there is little doubt they did—and formed stations, there was no place they would have more likely fixed on than this promontory, where there was a natural safe harbour, and shelter from all dangerous winds. It has been stated as an objection to this theory, that no Roman writers have taken notice of the place. It is extremely improbable they would have done so, for it was in those days an obscure spot—remote from the busy world, surrounded by a savage people, a far-off corner of a mighty empire. Richard of Cirencester refers to Burghead in various parts of his work “*De Situ Britanniae*.” At page 59, book 1st, chap. 6, sec. 47, the following statement occurs (we quote from the

English translation) :—" To the west of these, beyond  
 " the Grampian hills, lived the Vacomagi, who pos-  
 " sessed an extensive track of country. Their cities  
 " were Tuessis, Tamea, and Banatia—Ptoroton (Burg-  
 " head) situated at the mouth of the Varar (Moray  
 " Firth), on the coast, was at the same time a  
 " Roman station and the chief city of the province.  
 " The most remarkable rivers of this region, after  
 " the Varar, which formed the boundary, were the  
 " Tuessis and Celnus (the Spey and Deveron)."  
 Major-General William Roy, who surveyed the  
 Roman remains and military antiquities in North  
 Britain about the middle of last century, although  
 his splendid work was not published until 1793,  
 states as follows :—" The last place mentioned by  
 " Richard in his ninth Iter is Ptoroton, situated on  
 " the shore at the mouth of the Varar, being not only  
 " the chief town of the Vacomagi, but likewise a  
 " Roman station, enjoying the privileges and immuni-  
 " ties of Roman citizens. The Burghead on the south  
 " side, and Tarbatness on the north, form the mouth  
 " or entrance into the Firth of Moray. The general  
 " figure of the first of these remarkable promontories,  
 " with the nature of its intrenchments, will be best  
 " understood from the plans and sections of them  
 " exhibited in their due order. These old works are  
 " divided into two parts—a higher and lower ; there

“ being no fewer than four strong ramparts towards  
 “ the isthmus on which the village of Burgh, at  
 “ present inhabited by fishermen, is situated. . . .  
 “ It may be proper to remark that this place is  
 “ undoubtedly the Ptoroton and Alata Castra of  
 “ Ptolemy.”—(See General Roy’s work, pages 131  
 and 132, and the beautiful plates of Burghead,  
 numbers 33 and 34 in the Appendix of it.) If Gene-  
 ral Roy, who was a most competent judge of Roman  
 works, came to the conclusion in the middle of last  
 century that this was a Roman fort, what would he  
 have thought of the well which was discovered in  
 the year 1809, buried amidst the rubbish of ages?  
 We think that this interesting relic of antiquity, if  
 there was no other proof, exhibits the work of a  
 highly civilized people, and considerable skill in  
 engineering. If its proportions are not exactly  
 correct, they are very similar to Roman work, con-  
 taining the rounded angles in which that people  
 delighted. No native Caledonian, Dane, or Nor-  
 wegian of that period would have bestowed the  
 labour upon, or had the engineering skill for, so  
 elaborate a work. If the Romans occupied Burghead,  
 the period of occupation, perhaps, was not long; and  
 when they departed, the works left by them were  
 occupied by the native Caledonians, who were un-  
 doubtedly of the Pictish nation.

*DANISH OCCUPATION.*

As early as the year 850, the Danes or Norwegians appeared in the Moray Firth, took possession of Orkney and Caithness, and became a powerful people in the north of Scotland. They soon extended their ravages to the Morayshire coast, and, it is believed, to some extent held possession of, and colonised the country. Tradition states that Elgin was founded by a General of that nation. All historians agree that for some period, and perhaps for a prolonged one, they held possession of Burghead. They no doubt found there the old Roman works, with such additional strength as the natives had erected, all which they carefully fortified, and are stated to have dug a ditch or foss round the south end of the promontory. No remains of this ditch now exist ; but the place is so altered by the changes of time and the great sand-drift which has since taken place, that it is not to be wondered at that all traces of the ditch should be obliterated.\* The Norwegians continued on the Morayshire coast, and in the occupation of Burghead until the reign of Malcolm the Second, when, being

\* Mr James Macdonald, now Rector of the Ayr Academy, has written a most interesting Essay on Burghead, on which he bestowed the labour of years. It is published with illustrations among the transactions of the Society of Antiquaries, and although we may differ from some of his conclusions, we highly recommend its perusal to our readers.

defeated by that monarch in a decisive battle fought at Mortlach in the year 1010, and subsequently at various other places, particularly Cruden, in Buchan, they would seem to have embarked with the remnants of their people and families, and finally departed from the whole east coast of Scotland lying to the south of the Moray Firth, about the year 1012. Many, however, of these Northmen must have settled in Scotland, for they were great colonisers; and it is believed that much Danish blood still flows in the veins of Scottish families.

#### *CHARTER HISTORY.*

After the Danes left Burghead, it was no doubt garrisoned by the native population, but we hear nothing of the place for more than a century. In the reign of King David the First, who succeeded to the throne in the year 1124, we find the whole parish of Duffus, including Burghead, in possession of the great house of De Moravia. This powerful family seems to have started into public notice all of a sudden. Whether they were a native race, or a part of the stream of Norman or Flemish population who poured into Scotland from the time of Malcolm Canmore, is altogether unknown; but certainly they have held their grasp in Scotland better than any other family. After the lapse of seven centuries and a-half

they are represented by the Dukes of Sutherland and Athol, and all the numerous families of the name of Murray, as well as by the great race of Douglas, in the female line. At this time they held in property not only the estate of Duffus, but also large possessions in Banff, Inverness, Sutherland, and Caithness, and the port of Burghead must have been particularly valuable as a port of embarkation for their possessions on the north side of the Moray Firth. The estate of Duffus continued in the male line of De Moravia for five generations. They were—

1st, FRESKINUS, died before 1171.

2d, WILLIAM, flourished 1160—1204.

3d, HUGH, „ 1203—1226.

4th, WALTER, „ 1224—1262.

He married Euphemia, daughter  
of Ferchar, Earl of Ross.

5th, FRESKINUS,\* flourished 1248—1269.

He married Johanna, Lady of Strathnaver.

The last Freskinus died in the year 1269, leaving two daughters, *Mary*, † married in 1268 to Reginald

\* This Freskinus was interred in the chapel of St Lawrence, in Duffus, on his tomb the inscription is given in the chartulary of Moray as follows :—“Iste Friskinus sepultus est in capella Sancti Lawrentii, “de Duffus, quam ipse fundavit et dotavit de terris suis de Dawy “in Straspey, et Duffous, ut patet—Orate pro anima ejus.”

† Shaw calls the wife of Reginald de Cheyne *Helen*, but this is a mistake. In a charter dated at Kinneddar in the year 1269, she is called “Marie Sponsa Reginaldi le Chen Domini de Duffus, Filia “quondam Friskyni de Moravia.”—Chartulary of Moray, pages 139 and 140.



de Cheyne, and *Christian*, married to William de Fedderet, eldest son and heir of Magnus de Fedderet, both Aberdeenshire proprietors, and great Barons of Scotland—the ruins of their castles in Buchan still testify to their greatness. The estates of Duffus and Burghead, with the possessions in Sutherland and Caithness, were divided in the following proportions, viz., two-thirds to Reginald de Cheyne and Mary de Moravia, and one-third to William de Fedderet and Christian de Moravia. Troublous times followed; Alexander the Third, King of Scotland, was accidentally killed by a fall over a precipice at Kinghorn, in Fife, in the year 1285, and the whole country thrown into confusion. Reginald de Cheyne was present with his father in 1284 as one of the magnates of Scotland who engaged to accept the Princess Margaret for their Queen;—he was, along with his father, one of the Barons of Scotland who subscribed the famous letter to Edward the First of England at Brigham in 1289;—when King Edward endeavoured afterwards to conquer Scotland, he took part with the English, and swore fealty to Edward in 1296;—by him he was appointed Justiciary for the north in 1305;—when the tide of war turned against England, he seems to have made his peace with King Robert Bruce, and died prior to the 6th of November, 1313, being the year before the battle of Bannockburn. Of

Rymer's *Fœdera*  
Vol. II., p. 471.

Tytler's *History*  
of Scotland.  
Ed. 1841. Vol.  
I., p. 373.



William de Fedderet we know little, but it is believed he also took part with the English faction. The year of his death is not known. In the year 1294, he and his wife Christian de Moravia granted to Archibald, Bishop of Moray, a gift of the patronage of St Peter's Church at Duffus. If he and the Cheynes at first took the part of the English, it would seem they afterwards fairly changed sides, as appears by a charter of the lands of Strabrock, granted by Edward the Third in the year 1336, in favour of William de Mowbray, where it is stated, "*quæ fuerunt Reginaldi de Cheyne et Willielmi de Fedreth, Scotorum inimicorum nostrorum.*"

Reginald de Cheyne left a son by his wife Mary de Moravia, also called Reginald, a brave and gallant man, who stood fast by his country. He was one of the Scottish Barons who wrote the spirited letter to the Pope in 1320. He was at the battle of Halidon Hill in 1333, and was there taken prisoner by the English. He had not only two-thirds of Duffus, but also large estates in Aberdeenshire, Sutherland, and Caithness. In his latter days he lived mostly in Caithness, having been appointed in the year 1340 King's Commander of that county. He was a mighty hunter, and inhabited the almost inaccessible castle of Dilret, on the water of Thurso. He died in the year 1350, leaving two

*Haile's Annals of Scotland. Vol. III. Ed. 1797, p. 373.*

*History of Clan Mackay, pp. 41, 42, 43.*

daughters, *Mary*, married to Nicholas Sutherland, second son of Kenneth, Earl of Sutherland, and *Mariot*, married first to Sir John Douglas, by whom she had no issue, and second to John Keith, son of Edward Keith, Marischal of Scotland. The third part of Duffus and Burghead which belonged to William de Fedderet and his wife Christian de Moravia, fell to the Crown—whether by the failure of issue, or by forfeiture, is not known; from thenceforth it was called, down to our own times, the King's third of Duffus and Burghead. Thus was the estate of Duffus divided into three parts or thirds, viz., the King's third, Duffus third, and Marischal's third. The Sutherlands lived at the castle of Duffus. Marischal built a house or castle at the sea-side, and named it Inverugie, after his father's estate in Buchan. Of this castle some foundations are said still to exist. After some interval a family arrangement was made, by which Marischal conveyed his third of Duffus to the Sutherlands, and, in exchange, he received lands from them in Caithness. In that county the Keiths became very powerful, and were one of the greatest families there previous to the settlement of the Saint Clairs, now called Sinclairs, in the following century. Thus two-thirds of Duffus and Burghead fell to the Sutherlands, and continued in their family from the fourteenth century to the year 1705, when, being

Calder's History  
of Caithness.

History of Clan  
Mackay, p. 81.

Sir Robert Gordon's History  
of Earls of  
Sutherland, p.  
69.

in a decayed state, Lord Duffus sold the whole to Archibald Dunbar of Thunderton, great-great-grandfather of the present Sir Archibald Dunbar of Northfield. The King's third of Duffus and Burghead has more frequently changed hands. After the forfeiture or extinction of the family of Fedderet, it probably remained some time in the hands of the Crown. In the following century we find it in possession of the family of Douglas of Pittendrich, an ancient branch of the great house of Douglas, who either came to the North with Bricius, Bishop of Moray, in the thirteenth century, or with Douglas, Earl of Moray, in the fifteenth. We find at Gordons-town, among the titles there, a Crown charter by King James the Third, in favour of James Douglas of Pittendrich, of the King's third of Duffus, including the third of Burghead, dated at Edinburgh the 14th August, 1472. In 1603, Archibald Douglas of Pittendrich sold his part to Alexander Keith, Rector of Duffus, from whose descendants it passed, about 1638, to Sir Robert Gordon, the first baronet of Gordonstown, who had then recently purchased the lands of Ogstown and Plewland. In the year 1672 Sir Ludovick Gordon, the second baronet of Gordonstown, with consent of Robert Gordon, his eldest son, sold and disposed to Robert Sutherland in Burghsea the lands of Easter Inchkeil, called

the King's third of Inchkeil, the lands of Wester Inchkeil, "and in like manner the lands, houses, "larochs, and yards bigged and to be bigged, and "the harbour and seaport pertaining to them of "the town and seaport of Burghead, commonly called "the King's third of Burghead." From Robert Sutherland the property passed to his son, William Sutherland of Rosehaugh, and from him to Elspeth Sutherland, his daughter, wife of George Kay in Drainie, and thereafter to Lewis Kay, their son. Sir Robert Gordon, the fourth baronet of Gordonstown, who was very tyrannical to all his neighbours, endeavoured to recover these lands from Mr Kay, and brought an action of reduction of his titles ; but after a long process, the King's third of Burghead and other lands were confirmed to Lewis Kay, as representing Robert Sutherland, his great-grandfather, by decree of the Court of Session, dated 4th July and 7th August, 1767. The late Sir Archibald Dunbar of Northfield, having succeeded to the other two thirds of Burghead, as heir of his great-grandfather, Archibald Dunbar of Thunderton, also acquired the King's third of Burghead from Lewis Kay, by disposition dated 12th November, 1795. The property of Burghead was thus again re-united after an interval of upwards of 500 years ; and Sir Archibald Dunbar became sole proprietor, and on 5th July, 1799, ob-

tained a Crown charter in his own person over the whole.

During this long period of time, while we have gleaned something of the charter history of Burghead, we know absolutely nothing of the population which inhabited it—their mode of life, pursuits, and habits—all which are irretrievably lost.

In the year 1805, several of the leading proprietors of Morayshire were wishful to procure a suitable port for exports and imports easily accessible, and caused a survey of the coast to be made. The engineer fixed on Burghead as central, and as the safest and best site on the coast. Sir Archibald Dunbar readily entered into the business, and an agreement was made by him with Alexander Duke of Gordon, Colonel Francis William Grant of Grant, afterwards Earl of Seafield, John Brander of Pitgaveny, Joseph King of Newmill, George Forteath of Newton, William Young of Inverugie, and Thomas Sellar of Westfield, he himself taking a share with them, whereby, in consideration of a certain price, he agreed to dispoise to these eight parties the town and harbour of Burghead and its pertinents. Accordingly, they took possession, and commenced the necessary improvements, as will be afterwards detailed ; but the conveyance was not granted to them until the year 1808. These pro-

prietors continued to possess Burghead until the year 1819, when three of them—viz., Mr King, Mr Forteath, and Mr Sellar—having died, and their heirs not desiring to continue the speculation, it was resolved to sell the town and harbour, which was purchased by Mr William Young, one of their number, who determined to complete the improvements at his own risk. Mr Young accordingly obtained a conveyance from the other seven proprietors, and entered into possession ; and we shall have occasion hereafter to refer to the works executed by him. He died on 20th March, 1842, at an advanced age, and was succeeded by his nephew, Mr William Young, who is now proprietor of the town and harbour.

#### *MAPS OR PLANS OF THE TOWN.*

There are various plans or maps of the port of Burghead, but none of an ancient date. This is perhaps not much to be regretted, because for many centuries there was little or no change upon it. The oldest sketch we have seen is executed by William Anderson, and is dated in 1749. The next in date is the beautiful sketch of General Roy, above referred to, which may have been taken about the year 1755, although not published until after his death in the year 1793, when his splendid works were issued from the press by order and at the ex-

pense of the Society of Antiquaries of London. The third in date is one drawn by the Rev. Charles Cordiner, under the title of the "Brugh of Moray," contained in his work called "Antiquities and Scenery of the North of Scotland, in a series of letters to Thomas Pennant, Esq.," published by him at London in the year 1780. The fourth and last sketch is a map or plan bearing the following title : — "Plan of Burghead, the property of Sir Alexander Dunbar, Bart., and Lewis Kay, Esq. By John Home. December, 1789." There is a wonderful similarity in all the above sketches. The ancient works are shown full and entire. The town, as there delineated, consists of a few scattered cottages, without order, on the south-west corner of the property ; and the harbour is just a small stone jetty, near where the herring stations now stand, forming a protection from the northern blasts.

#### *ANTIQUITIES.*

The most of the remains of antiquity have been swept away by the levelling process to which the ground was subjected in the beginning of the present century, when the town was remodelled and laid out in streets. The old ramparts have been almost entirely removed except a few remnants, which still convey some notion of what the earthworks must



have been. It is fortunate that so accurate sketches of them have been preserved. During the time of levelling the ground, it is stated that many valuable articles of antiquity were found, such as coins, battle-axes, swords, and other articles, but they have almost entirely disappeared. The only articles of importance now remaining are—an ancient jug, in the possession of Mr Macleod of Dalvey; four very curious bulls carved in stone, have been found at different times, remarkably well executed. One of these is in the British Museum, another in possession of Mr George Anderson of Inverness, a third belongs to Mr Miln of Milnfield, Elgin; and a fourth, recently found, is in the harbour office, Burghead. Various carved stones of Caledonian and mediæval dates have been found among the ruins of the fort, of an interesting kind, which have been carefully preserved by the proprietor; of these, notices have been given by Mr Stuart in his late splendid work, “The Sculptured Stones of Scotland,” volume second, page 62, plate 108.

In ancient times there was a chapel at Burghead where the burying ground now stands. From tradition it would seem to have existed at a very early date; perhaps some ecclesiastical building was erected here in the eleventh century. There is no record of it, but there is a well near Burghead called St Ethan’s well; and the probability



is, that either St Ethernan or St Aidan, both of whom were doubtless followers of St Columba, had made a settlement near Burghead at a very early date. It was just such a retired spot as suited these recluses, who issued from their quiet retreats and preached the gospel to the surrounding country, visiting the people and impressing on their minds the pure and simple precepts of holy Scripture. The ruins of the chapel were in existence until the latter part of last century, when, with barbarous taste, the venerable remains were carried away to build a mill in the neighbourhood, the dressed stones being no doubt a temptation not to be resisted. But the greatest curiosity here is the well called the Roman Well. Whether it be Roman work or not, may be a matter of controversy, but it has the most wonderful resemblance to it; and, on comparing it with other works of undoubted Roman origin, the appearance is so similar and so striking as almost to be conclusive on the subject. This Well is situated on the north-east side of the town, very near the sea, and must have been embraced within the fortifications, and in the strongest part of them. It is a work which seems to have been very carefully and regularly executed, and shows considerable skill in engineering, and has no appearance of having been formed by a rude and uncultivated people. To ascertain that water

existed in such a spot, there must have been previous boring or sinking of a shaft. It is not probable that a barbarous people would have ever thought of trying to find a well in such a place. The work is unique, and we are not aware that anything of the kind exists in other parts of Scotland, or even in Britain. This Well had long lain buried under the rubbish of ages, and its existence totally forgotten. In the year 1809, when the proprietors were laying off the town into streets, a desire was expressed to have a well in some convenient spot. An old fisherman stated to the late Mr William Young, that if the ground was dug at a certain place, an old well would be found. His reason being asked for this assertion, he mentioned that his father had told him there was an ancient well there, and that the tradition had been handed down from father to son for many generations. Mr Young thought it was no great matter to make the attempt, and accordingly the ground was dug, and after removing quantities of rubbish, a stair appeared excavated from the solid rock, which, being pursued, the well or bath was found in a complete state, as originally formed, in regular shape, dug from the rock. When found, it made considerable excitement in the country at the time ; and having then been submitted to the examination of competent persons, they without hesi-

tation pronounced it Roman work, and for many years it was considered a decided point. It was reserved for the present period to throw doubts upon this, although no apparent reason has been given for it. The proprietors of Burghead have, successively, been most desirous to keep this interesting piece of antiquity in a cleanly and orderly state. The late Mr Young arched it over with a lofty Roman arch, and put a door on it, with a pump to raise the water. The pump was repeatedly broken, and then the door was forced open to get at the water. The present proprietor put up an iron fence, to keep parties from going round the well, and to prevent filth from accumulating. Notwithstanding all these efforts, from the untidy habits of the fishing population, the place is often in a disgusting state, and not fit for the inspection of strangers—a fact much to be regretted. A curious remnant of Pagan superstition exists here, not to be found in any other part of the country—viz., the Burning of the Clavie. This consists of filling a barrel with chips of wood and tar, with other combustibles, on the last day of the year, old style ; carrying it on men's shoulders from one end of the town to the other ; then placing the barrel on an eminence called the Durie, where it is allowed to burn for a certain time, when the burning embers are scattered,

eagerly gathered by the persons present, and carried home. It is supposed that on the successful carrying out of this fire, the prosperity of the town for the subsequent year depends. The superstition is wearing out. Formerly the fire-barrel used to be carried round the boats and ships in the harbour, that a blessing might rest on them also ; but this part of the ceremony is now given up. For full particulars of this remnant of ancient Paganism, we must refer our readers to Mr Macdonald's interesting Essay, pages 41 and 42, and Chambers' Book of Days, volume 2d, pages 789, 790, and 791. Some recent writers have supposed that this is a Scandinavian superstition ; but really it appears just to be a relic of the worship of Baal, or the god of fire, which prevailed very much in the North of Scotland so late as the middle of last century, and is nothing more wonderful than various ceremonies connected with fire worship, narrated by the Rev. Lachlan Shaw in his History of Moray, as prevailing in his time. Perhaps the superstition lingered longer here than in other parts of the country, for until the beginning of the present century Burghead was a very isolated spot, secluded from the world, and the fishing population, keeping much by themselves, retain many ancient customs.

*THE COAST LINE, &c.*

The coast of the Moray Firth in early ages must have presented a very different appearance to what it does now. It probably was composed of alluvial or clay soil and moss, and clothed with forests of oak and other trees. The parish of Duffus (Dub-huis or Black water), before the land was drained, was covered with pools of water and forests. It is probable that at Burghead there was an inlet of the sea, extending along the base of the hill of Roseisle, and joining with the Loch of Spynie. The lowlands of Moray, now forming a fertile plain, producing the finest crops, were then sea; and the land from the Hill of Roseisle to the Coularthill at the east, an island. It is not unlikely that the inlet of the sea existed at the time of the Danish invasion, and if so, the forming a trench across the Isthmus, and introducing salt water into the ditch, so as to make Burghead an island, would have been a comparatively easy matter. The coast is so changed here, even within the last 150 years, that it is now difficult to form an opinion of what its early appearance must have been. At what particular period the old coast line of the Moray Firth broke up, and the sand-drift commenced, there are no means of correctly ascertaining; for many centuries past the sand has been making progress on the coast.

Our old historians refer to inundations of the sea, accompanied with sand, which occurred about 1097—the year of the death of King Malcolm Canmore.

Buchanan. Aikman's Translation. Vol. I., p. 347.

Buchanan states—"Among the prodigies of these  
 "times, an inundation of the German Ocean is  
 "mentioned, so unusual that it not only overflowed  
 "the fields and covered them with sand, but swept  
 "away villages, cities, and castles." Hollinshead refers to the same subject, volume 1st, page 359, as follows :—"In the same year many uncouth things  
 "came to pass, and were seen in Albion. By the  
 "high spring tides which chanced in the Almaine  
 "seas, many towns, castells, and woodes were  
 "drowned, as well in Scotland as in England.  
 "Moreover, sundrie castels and townes in Murrey-  
 "land were overthroune by the sea tides." Boece and Fordun take notice of the same subject. It may therefore be presumed that some extraordinary inundation of water, accompanied with sand, occurred about this period which partly covered up the old alluvial coast line. We hear little more of the progress of the sand until the close of the 17th century, when the estate of Culbin was entirely destroyed, about the year 1695, and the sand drift was carried down the coast past Burghead, Gordonstown, and Lossiemouth, and to near the mouth of the Spey. It is probable that the most of the

Fordun. Ed. 1759. Vol. I., p. 431.

great sand hills on the coast, now partly covered with coarse grass and bent, were then formed. At this period there seems to have been much fresh water in the parish of Duffus, and several small lakes near Burghead, the outfall of which had sufficient water to drive two meal mills. The sand drift in a great measure choked up these lakes and rivulets, and there is now comparatively little fresh water; although in the links surrounding Burghead water is still to be found by piercing the sand, and a small rivulet discharges itself into the sea about a mile and a half to the westward of the village.\*

The sea has made great inroads upon the coast within the last century and a half. About the year 1700, or shortly after, the town of Findhorn was swept away by the gradual encroachment of the sea. The bay of Burghead was at that period of much smaller dimensions than it now is, a great part of it being a moss, and a person could have then walked directly across from Burghead to Findhorn. The Rev. Lachlan Shaw, writing about the year 1760,

\* In Robert Gordon of Straloch's map of Morayshire, dated 1640, there is a considerable lake delineated as then existing, called the Loch of Rosyll, with a stream of water issuing from it and running to the sea. It is marked as a little to the south-west of Burghead—it was no doubt choked up by the sand drift in the beginning of the last century.



states in reference to the bay—"About sixty years ago, or little more, it was a moss in which they digged up great roots of trees and abundance of peats, and now a 500-ton ship may ride at anchor in it; and when some years ago I viewed it, I found that if the sea shall encroach farther, and rise about four feet higher, it will overflow and drown all the plains of Duffus, Kinneddar, and Innes." A similar fear of the sea overflowing the land is expressed by the author of the old Statistical Account of the Parish of Duffus as follows :—"Should it ever rise four feet higher than it does at present, it must fall into the lower grounds to the eastward, and overflow a great proportion of the extensive plains of Duffus, Drainie, Leuchars, Spynie, and Innes. Yet this probability is so little regarded, that perhaps no one ever bought or sold the property of this district a farthing lower from this consideration. How far it is expedient or practicable to ward off so great an evil by erecting mounds and bulwarks on the shore, is left to those immediately concerned to determine." Since Shaw wrote, a century has passed away, and the old Statistical Account of Duffus was published in 1793, being seventy-four years ago. The sea is still rapidly gaining on the land, and the Bay of Burghead increasing in size, yet the land has not been overflowed, and there

Shaw's History.  
Ed. 1827, p.  
203.

Old Statistical  
Account, vol.  
VIII., p. 385.



is no appearance of its being so. The fears of the two reverend authors were therefore groundless, and their calculations quite incorrect.

*IMPROVEMENTS, &c.*

About the close of the last century, a great desire was expressed in the county for the erection of a harbour for exports and imports. The author of the old Statistical Account of Duffus expresses himself as follows regarding the capabilities of Burghead for this purpose:—"At the village of  
 "Burghead, upon the west side of the promontory,  
 "nature has pointed out a station for a deep, capacious, and safe harbour. The property belongs to  
 "Sir Archibald Dunbar, and this gentleman, as well  
 "as the country at large, would be much benefitted  
 "by such an erection. It could be made at a moderate expense, and with proper precaution success  
 "would be certain. When one considers that there  
 "is not along the whole south coast of the Moray  
 "Firth from Buchanness to Inverness (upwards of  
 "100 miles) one good or safe harbour, the propriety  
 "of this undertaking appears in a strong point of  
 "view. Most of our present harbours are at the  
 "mouths of rivers, which are constantly forming  
 "bars and shallows. At Burghead there is no river,

“ there is shelter from dangerous winds, a fine bottom,  
 “ and water of any necessary depth. Burghead is  
 “ nearly at an equal distance from Elgin and Forres,  
 “ and if it had a good harbour, would soon become  
 “ the port of both towns. Commerce and manufac-  
 “ tures would of consequence soon visit this part of  
 “ the country, and all the various advantages arising  
 “ from them to the public would quickly follow such  
 “ an important undertaking.” The same subject is  
 also urged and enforced by the Rev. John Grant and  
 the Rev. William Leslie in their Survey of the Pro-  
 vince of Moray, published in 1798, page 126.

We have stated before, that in the year 1805 Sir Archibald Dunbar sold the village of Burghead and the harbour, such as it was, to the Duke of Gordon and seven gentlemen connected with the county. It was then, as it had been for centuries before, a collection of a few fishermen’s huts all jumbled together without any order—no streets, hardly a lane among them, and a small jetty or landing pier; the revenue of the place did not exceed £20 sterling per annum, being composed of small feu-duties, and a trifle paid for shore-dues on boats and small sloops. The authors of the Survey of the Province of Moray describe it as follows :—“ The village of Burghead, on the coast,  
 “ the property of Sir Archibald Dunbar, contains  
 “ about 400 souls. A small number of the men are

“ quarriers and stone-cutters, but the greater number  
 “ follow a seafaring life ; seven large boats, with six  
 “ people on board, are hired for the western fishery ;  
 “ five of the same kind are employed in freighting  
 “ commodities along the coast ; two sloops, besides,  
 “ are employed in transporting grain to the south of  
 “ Scotland, and there are a few small boats employed  
 “ in fishing. Here at present there is only a fishery,  
 “ and but of small consideration. Cod, skate, ling,  
 “ are sold at 1d and 1½d per lb. There are also hali-  
 “ but, mackerel, saith, and whiting. Turbot are upon  
 “ the coast, but the people are not instructed in the  
 “ art of fishing for them. Haddocks have been for  
 “ years in fewer numbers and farther from the land  
 “ in deeper water than formerly ; they sell at 1d each  
 “ *six times dearer* than before.” The new proprietors  
 of Burghead entered on a difficult undertaking—to  
 sweep away an old village, build a new one, and erect  
 a harbour suitable for the wants of the country ; but  
 they embarked in it very zealously, they got a plan  
 for the projected village, swept away the old houses  
 almost entirely, and laid off the place in regular streets,  
 the best buildings being intended to be nearest the  
 harbour, for which the highest feu-duties were to be  
 demanded, and the streets, as they extended eastward  
 to be charged at a smaller rate, the east side being  
 intended for the fishermen. In the course of a few

years many good houses were erected, and the streets gradually filled up. The projected new harbour was commenced about the year 1807, and no expense spared to make it commodious and useful, according to the requirements of the time. A contractor was got from Aberdeenshire, who carried on the work actively and ably, and it was entirely finished by the year 1810 ; it was most substantially built, and has, with very little repairs, resisted the seas and weather for nearly sixty years. The projectors committed a great mistake that they did not get an Act of Parliament for enabling them to levy shore-dues and to regulate the harbour, before they commenced to build. The want of this hampered them much in their future proceedings, as in virtue of their Crown Charter of port and harbour, they could only charge dues on shipping and goods to a very moderate extent, and it never was so remunerating to them as it otherwise might have been. In the year 1819, as we have stated before, Mr William Young, one of the proprietors, purchased the other seven shares, and became sole owner of the place ; and with all the vigour and activity of his very energetic mind, proceeded to the further improvement of the place. The herring fishing was then only in its infancy, but he saw at once that it ought to be fostered and encouraged, and he proceeded to lay off a large range

of fishing stations, salt cellars, and other accommodation ; these were finished at great expense, and for convenience and arrangement no better curing stations have ever been erected at any port. He next encouraged curers to settle at the place ; and to enable them to carry on business, he in many cases made advances to them out of his own pocket. Some adventurers without capital settled at the port, and afterwards failed ; but, on the whole, matters prospered, and in time better men, with capital of their own, came in their places. About the year 1821 and 1822 Mr Young prevailed on various crews of fishermen to settle at Burghead from Campbeltown, Delnies, &c., and gave them due encouragement by building houses for them, and advancing money for other purposes. At intervals of time other crews have followed from the same district, and their descendants now form a little fishing population of hardy seamen. The old population of Burghead never employed themselves like the more recent settlers, entirely in fishing, but were partly sailors, partly fishermen, and therefore not so useful a class of men. Encouragement was also given to the London and Leith smacks trading from Inverness, and Burghead became a regular port of call to them, where they landed and received goods and passengers. Many other vessels traded to the port with coals, salt,

and other commodities, and much grain and other articles were exported. A considerable trade thus sprung up, and the proprietor spared no expense in adopting every improvement required by the changes of time. He assisted the curers in disposing of their fish to the best advantage, and when in difficulties they applied to him for advice.

About the year 1830 the Moray Firth began to have a regular trade in steamers from an Aberdeen Company, which soon increased and became very lucrative. The steamer came up the Firth once a-week from Leith, landing goods at various ports. Burghead was one of the ports where goods and passengers were landed; the steamer came into the bay, landed passengers and goods in boats, and then proceeded to Findhorn, Cromarty, and Inverness. It returned in a few days and received any goods and passengers going south in a similar manner. This trade soon increased and became a large one, and the old Leith smacks were soon driven out of the field. In 1832 Mr Young erected a projection to the north pier-head, composed of a strong foundation of stone work, with wooden piles of large size erected upon it, and a wooden platform above. This was built under the superintendence of Mr William Leslie, engineer, Aberdeen, and proved a great protection to the harbour. Shortly after this time a London steamer was

purchased for the Moray Firth, built in the Clyde. The subscribers were mostly connected with the north of Scotland. It cost a large sum of money, and was intended to carry goods, passengers, cattle, sheep, &c., from the Moray Firth to London. After some experience and trial, the vessel (called the *Duchess of Sutherland*) was found unsuited for the trade, and was sold, the subscribers losing a considerable proportion of their subscription money. In 1835 Mr Young entered into an arrangement with Messrs John Duffus & Company, of Aberdeen, whereby it was agreed upon that they should send a powerful steamer into the Moray Firth trade, and Mr Young also agreed to extend the harbour of Burghead from the north quay-head so as to make it a berth for this large steamer for receiving goods and cattle for London, and goods and commodities on the return voyage. The harbour was extended accordingly under charge of Mr Leslie of Aberdeen, by the same kind of work as the previous erection, and it has answered every purpose, and stood well, with occasional repairs, for upwards of thirty years. A long and successful trade was carried on by this steamer for many years, in goods, cattle, sheep, and other country produce, and would have been highly remunerative to the proprietor of Burghead had a fair rate of shore-dues been exacted, but from the



want of an Act of Parliament, the dues were really but nominal. The town and harbour, however, continued to prosper under the care of its spirited and enlightened proprietor, who died in the year 1842, at an advanced period of life, much and justly regretted as a benefactor to the north of Scotland, and who had done more for this part of the country than any person of his day and generation.

We cannot here resist the opportunity of alluding briefly to the life and labours of the late Mr Young of Burghead ; and when we consider that for a period of upwards of half a century he was the foremost man of progress in the north of Scotland, that he devoted himself to the improvement of the country, and when we see the marks he left in Morayshire and other northern counties, particularly in the county of Sutherland, the extensive correspondence he carried on till the close of his long life with most men of standing in the north, his hospitality and liberality, his kindness to strangers, his desire to promote the interests of young men, and to advance them in the world—his name and memory well deserve a passing remark and memorial, and to remain enshrined in the recollection of all acquainted with his character and worth.

After the death of the late Mr Young, everything at Burghead remained for some years much as he



left it ; the coasting trade of smacks had died away, and was succeeded by steamers, but a time was approaching when a new element was to be introduced. In the year 1846, an Act of Parliament was obtained for making a railway between Aberdeen and Inverness, with branches to Burghead and other ports. This was perhaps the best line ever devised for the north of Scotland, and had it been carried out in its integrity, would probably have superseded all other lines, and been a most profitable concern ; but a time of depression and scarcity of money succeeded, and the great crisis of 1848 put a stop for some time to all thoughts of making railway lines ; and this projected line, called the “ Great North of Scotland Railway,” only gradually crept northward, and eventually stopped at Keith. Meantime the people of Inverness had not been inattentive spectators of what was going on, and they were anxious to make a beginning for themselves, and in 1855 they procured an Act for making a railway from Inverness eastward to Nairn. In the year 1846, some enterprising individuals in Elgin and its vicinity obtained an Act of Parliament for making a line of railway from Elgin to Lossiemouth, which was completed, and thus brought Elgin and Lossiemouth into close connection. In 1856 an Act was procured to continue the line of railway eastward from Nairn to

Keith, under the name of the "Inverness and Aberdeen Junction Railway," and which was completed in 1858. A branch line was also made by private subscription between the port of Findhorn and the Kinloss Station of the Inverness and Aberdeen Junction Railway, thus connecting Findhorn with that line. Of the three principal ports of Morayshire, two had thus railway communication, while Burghead, notwithstanding the most anxious exertions to procure similar accommodation, still stood isolated and alone.

In 1858 Mr Young, the present proprietor, applied for an Act of Parliament for improving the harbour of Burghead, which obtained the Royal assent on the 14th June of that year. By that Act the harbour was deepened and improved, and a new jetty built, whereby the accommodation for shipping was largely increased; this, including the cost of the Act of Parliament, could not have amounted to less than £5000. At last, on the 17th May, 1861, the Inverness and Aberdeen Junction Railway Company obtained the Royal assent to an act "to construct a branch railway "from their Alves Station to the town and harbour "of Burghead," and which, being actively carried on, was completed the following year, and opened for traffic. To encourage the undertaking, the Duke of Sutherland took £10,000 of stock in the Inver-

ness and Aberdeen Junction Railway Company, and Mr Young, the present proprietor of Burghead, took £5000. Railway accommodation having thus been obtained at last, the steamers to London and Leith, and latterly even the steam accommodation between the coast of Burghead and Sutherland, have died away. It may be doubted, however, whether railways have contributed to the progress of district harbours; on the contrary, they have tended to the destruction of the coasting trade—all light goods, and even grain, cattle, fish, and other products, being carried by rail, to the diminution and even annihilation of many branches of harbour trade. The obtaining of railway connection with Burghead was a matter of absolute necessity for the port, and it is hoped the spirited exertions of the proprietor to effect this may meet with a commensurate return by increased harbour dues and other advantages. There can be no doubt that since the completion of the railway, many new houses have been built, granaries and stores erected, and the place has assumed an air of bustle and activity, forming a great contrast to its previous comparative isolated state. If no extension of railway takes place to Caithness, the running of a powerful steamer between the port of Wick and the southern coast of the Moray Firth might tend to the mutual advantages of both sides, would increase

trade, and in the summer time would enable the inhabitants of Wick to reach Edinburgh in one day.

The depth of high water at the harbour of Burghhead is as follows :—

At the end of wooden pier, neap tides,... 17 feet.

„ „ Spring tides, 21 feet.

Between north and south quay-

heads, neap tides,..... 9 to 10 feet.

„ „ Spring tides, 12 to 14 feet.

New jetty at head of harbour, neap

tides,..... 8 to 9 feet.

„ „ Spring tides, 11 to 13 feet.

The average number of ships entering the harbour to discharge or load during each of the last three years was 220. The average number of herring boats fishing at this station during each of the last three years was 100—each boat having a crew of five persons, men and boys. The average yearly take of herrings during each of these years was 10,500 barrels. There are 23 boats engaged in the white fishing, average crew of each boat being six persons, men and boys—the average yearly quantity of white fish caught being 400 tons, worth £3200. The value of fish caught at this port alone exceeds the total land rent of the parish of Duffus, showing

what wealth comes out of the sea. There is also a salmon fishing both in the west bay and on the east side of the village, which yields a considerable produce. The salmon and fresh fish, so far as exported, are put in ice, and sent per rail to London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow, and other markets—the salmon almost entirely to London. Part of the white fish is carried to the Elgin and Forres markets. By the increased means of transport, the price of fish is tripled at least, beyond what it was twenty years ago. The cured herrings are principally shipped for the markets in the Baltic, part going no doubt to our large commercial towns. The principal export trade consists of grain, potatoes, fish, and timber; the import trade, of manures, coals, grain, timber, &c., &c. From its central situation, easy access, and entire safety, Burghead presents every facility for an extensive trade; and at comparatively little expense the accommodation for shipping might be indefinitely increased, and the harbour made accessible at all times of tide. Immediately to the north of the promontory on which Burghead stands, the depth at high water is from 16 to 20 feet, which by excavation might be greatly increased; it rapidly deepens beyond this, until at 250 yards from the shore the depth at high water is about 40 feet.

The population of the village is about 1300, and

appears to be rapidly increasing, as new houses are being constantly built, particularly since the railway was formed. If gas and water supply were introduced, it would add much to the comfort of the inhabitants, and it is hoped at no distant period this may be carried out.

#### *ECCLESIASTICAL.*

We have already adverted to the old chapel which stood among the ancient ramparts. The date when it was built, and its subsequent history, are altogether involved in darkness. The site chosen for it was peculiar; it seems to have been dug out of the fortifications, and part of the ground there levelled for its erection. The reason for this is very obvious; it was the most sheltered spot in the place, having the ancient ramparts on both sides to break the force of the winds. The chapel was, no doubt, abandoned at the Reformation. Up to a late date many of the fishermen were Episcopalians, which may be accounted for by the fact that the Episcopal Chapel at Keam of Duffus was more conveniently situated, and much nearer than the Parish Church, which latter is in the east end of the parish.

Until a period within the recollection of many

yet living, Burghead had no place of worship, and the inhabitants were destitute of all the advantages of regular church-going. The Parish Church was four miles distant, and very few attempted such a long walk; the Sabbath day was therefore spent in idleness, except when a chance preacher came the way. The Dissenters did something for the neglected place, and we must particularly mention with honour the names of the late Rev. Thomas Stark of Forres, and the Rev. David Crawford of Elgin, both members of the Associate Presbytery of Elgin, who occasionally preached themselves, and induced others of their brethren also to do so. In the year 1821, an application to the late Mr Young was given in by many of the inhabitants for a site to erect a church upon, in connection with the Associate Synod, which he, with his usual liberality, granted at once, and also gave them a donation of twenty pounds to show his good-will to the cause. We find that on the 27th August of that year, commissioners appeared before the Associate Presbytery of Elgin for aid in building a place of worship, and which application was unanimously agreed to, and the church was completed. For a time the most of the population attended the church, but other places of worship have since been built, and the attendance

Records of Associate Presbytery of Elgin.



is much divided. The congregation, however, with varying success, has kept its ground. The original site was most inconveniently chosen, and in 1864 the church was abandoned, and a handsome new one, with a spire, erected near the entrance of the town, and which is a great ornament to the place. A manse had previously been erected. The ministers of this church have been as follows :—

The Rev. David Carmichael—ordained 29th August, 1825 ; retired 6th February, 1827.

The Rev. Robert Scott—ordained 2d April, 1828 ; died 14th December, 1828.

The Rev. John Robertson—ordained 23d May, 1832 ; resigned his charge 13th August, 1834.

The Rev. Alexander Tillie—ordained 14th October, 1835 ; resigned his charge 16th March, 1852 ; demission accepted 20th April, 1852.

The Rev. James Muckersie Erskine—ordained 30th March, 1854.

The Presbytery of the Established Church being naturally wishful to support their own influence in Burghead, and hearing of the progress of the Dissenters, had the matter of erecting a chapel there brought under their notice on 7th April, 1821. On 28th November, 1822, the Rev. John Gordon, minister of the parish of Duffus, reported to the Presbytery that a place of worship had been erected in



connection with the Establishment, and that Mr David Simpson had been elected minister, and had commenced his labours on 3d of same month; he was afterwards ordained in Elgin, on 2d July, 1823. On 6th August, 1825, the Rev. David Waters was elected successor to Mr Simpson (who was then translated to the Trinity Church, Aberdeen). Mr Waters was ordained at Spynie on 31st July, 1826, and his ministry was a very successful one, having had a very crowded attendance until the melancholy Disruption of the Church of Scotland took place in 1843, when he joined the Free Church, in which he has since continued. His successors have been as follows :—

Rev. Alexander Whyte—ordained 26th December 1844; translated to Canisbay 1846.

Rev. Alexander Leslie—ordained 14th May, 1846; resigned 1866.

Rev. John Garioch—ordained 27th December, 1866.

In Mr Waters' time a very comfortable manse was erected, and a large garden made out, enclosed with a stone wall. In 1867 Burghead was erected by the Court of Teinds into a *quoad sacra* parish—the portion of the parish of Duffus to the west of the village of Hopeman being attached to it. The cost of endowment was £2887 sterling, of which sum the Church Endowment Committee have contributed

£2150, and the Rev. Dr Alexander Brander, minister of the parish, the very handsome sum of £400; Mr Young, the proprietor of Burghead, also giving a liberal donation. The manse has been much improved, having had another storey added to it, and made suitable for the residence of a parish minister; and it is to be hoped in time other sums may flow in from liberal individuals to increase his comfort, which the change of times and increased expense of living render necessary.

We have stated before that in 1843 the Rev. David Waters joined the Free Church of Scotland, and a large church and school, with a commodious manse, were erected for him—the proprietor having, with his wonted liberality, given a site gratis; and it may here be remarked that all the three churches and manses in Burghead pay only a nominal feuduty of one shilling per annum each, which is probably equal to a donation of £20 per annum from the proprietor to their funds. An example so commendable, and so free of sectarian feeling, has been unfortunately followed by few other proprietors.

Mr Waters has kept together a large congregation for upwards of forty years, and has had a long and useful ministry.

*EDUCATION.*

As early as the year 1808 the proprietors of Burghhead, among other improvements, had it in view to erect a school for the village, the Parish School being at least three miles distant. The present commodious school was erected in 1810, and has since been generally well attended. The teacher is appointed by the committee of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and has an allowance from them and from Government, the proprietor giving a gratuity of £10 per annum. The present teacher is Mr Robert Phin Robertson. The branches taught are reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, grammar, Latin, navigation, and history ; and Mrs Robertson teaches sewing and knitting. The present attendance is 43 boys and 63 girls.

In 1844 a Free Church school was erected, which has also prospered. The present teacher is Mr James Adam, assisted by a pupil teacher and a female sewing teacher. In addition to the ordinary branches of education there are also taught Latin, Greek, mathematics, French, and music, sewing, knitting, and fancy needlework. The present attendance is 88 boys and 64 girls—total, 152. The teachers are appointed by the committee of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland, and are partly paid by the church

and partly by Government. The proprietor of Burg-head has for some years given a gratuity of five pounds to the school.

There is also a female school in the village, taught by Mrs Ogilvie. She has at present in attendance 38 girls and 3 boys. The branches taught are reading, writing, sewing, and knitting. The proprietor gives an annual gratuity of four pounds to the teacher, and also one pound to help to pay school rent.

*MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION AND CONCLUDING  
REMARKS.*

In the year 1864, Messrs Ross, Hutton, and Company established a manufactory for preparation of artificial manures, asphalte, &c. The work is erected on the west side of the railway line, and close to the sea, adjoining the march of the lands of Roseisle. It is most conveniently situated for the railway. It employs a good many hands, appears to be making progress, and will be useful for the town and harbour. The manures prepared here are artificial guano, herring garbage, turnip, grain, and grass manures, superphosphate of lime and dissolved bones. The other articles manufactured are asphalte, coal-pitch, coal tar (refined), black varnish, Torch oil, and naptha. It is stated that the company intend also to

manufacture vitriol, which will cause a farther extension of their works.

Burghead has long been in repute for sea-bathing quarters, and much frequented for that purpose in the summer season. The air is very pure and healthy, and bracing for invalids, and the sea water, from the absence of any river or rivulet, of any size in the neighbourhood, is particularly strong and invigorating. The lodgings and accommodation for visitors are good and convenient. For casual visitors there is an excellent inn, and abundance of the best fare. The inn has long been kept by Mr Lewis Grant, and good salmon and fish of all kinds, as well as more substantial fare, can always be had on the shortest notice. There are also various minor well kept inns in the town.

In a summer evening, with a smooth sea and a gentle breeze playing on the waters, no more pleasant seat can be had than on the top of the "*Broch Bailies*" (by which name the high ground above the harbour is designated), and the outlook on the clear blue sea, with the mountains of Ross, Sutherland, and Caithness in the distance, and the magnificent entrance to the bay of Cromarty, lighted up with the rays of the setting sun.

In 1867 a branch of the Caledonian Banking Company was established in the village, which

gives a promise of being remunerative to the parent establishment, and will be a great accommodation to the fishcurers, shopkeepers, and traders connected with the place.



Having now pursued the history of Burghead for many centuries, we bring this record to a close with the year 1867, which has been one of unexampled prosperity. The erection of the village and surrounding district into a parish, the establishment of a bank, and a successful herring fishing, are all events of great importance; and we fervently trust that trade and commerce may long thrive in the place, and that it may continue to make progress in wealth, population, industry, morality, and religion for many a year to come.

## APPENDIX.

### I.—DANISH INVASIONS.

The several Danish invasions on the northern coasts of Scotland, which took place in the closing years of the tenth, and opening years of the eleventh centuries, are usually connected with the name of Sueno or Svend, King of Denmark. Sueno ascended the throne in the year 991, and was one of the most enterprising of the Danish Kings; but while he no doubt planned the expeditions, it is very doubtful if ever he was in Scotland himself. His own life was mostly spent in England, which he vowed either to conquer or perish in the attempt, an achievement which if he did not absolutely accomplish, he rendered an easy task for his son. He died, or was assassinated, at Gainsborough. The words of the Saxon chronicle are—“A.D. 1014. This year King Sweyne ended his days “at Candlemas, the third day before the nones of “February.” There can be no doubt, however, that his son, Canute the Great, was in Scotland with the Danish fleet, and probably may have been at the stronghold of Burghead. The last expedition of the Danes to Scotland in the year 1012 was conducted by Canute, who led the army at the battle of Cruden, which was a most sanguinary one. Although the Scots gained the victory, it was dearly bought, and they were unable to pursue the Danes, both armies being quite exhausted. A treaty was entered into by which, among other stipulations, it was agreed—

1st, That the Danes and Norwegians should withdraw their persons and effects from Scotland, and

\* “Buchan. By the Rev. John B. Pratt.” We have had occasion to refer to this very interesting work more than once. It is a most valuable local history, and will well repay a careful perusal.

Crichton and  
Wheaton's His-  
tory of Scandi-  
navia, vol. i.,  
pp. 113 & 128.

Saxon Chronicle,  
page 102—In-  
gram's transla-  
tion.

Abercromby's  
Martial Achieve-  
ments of Scot-  
tish Nation.  
Edition 1711,  
vol. 1., pp. 208,  
209.

Pratt's History  
of Buchan, pp.  
35, 36, 37.\*

Worsae's Danes in  
Scotland, page  
216, referred to  
by Mr Pratt.



within a set time evacuate those places they had in Moray and Buchan.

2d, That during the lives of both Kings, Malcolm and Sueno, neither of the nations should attempt hostility against the other, nor be assisting to such as would.

Malcolm and Canute swore to the observation of these articles, and both performed their respective obligations. Canute, with all his countrymen, thereupon left Scotland.

## II.—FAMILY OF DE MORAVIA.

It was the practice among the old chroniclers to carry back their writings to a very early period of the world's history. A similar practice has prevailed among the writers of family genealogies. Sir Thomas Urquhart has composed an account of the Urquharts of Cromarty from the creation of the world to the middle of the seventeenth century. Following the good old fashion, Sir Robert Gordon of Gordonstown, in his genealogy of the Earls of Sutherland, brings the family of Moravia, or Moray, from Germany, about the time of, or shortly after, the beginning of the Christian era ; he states regarding them as follows :—“ In the raigne  
“ of Corbred the First, nyntenth King of Scotland, the  
“ yeir of the world four thowsand twentie-fyve, the  
“ thriescor and third yeir of Christ—thrie hundreth  
“ fourscore and thirteen yeirs after that Fergus the first  
“ had obtained the crown of Scotland, Nero being Em-  
“ peror of Rome, ther came out of Germanie a certaine  
“ people called MORRAYES, with their captain, Roderick,  
“ expelled out of their native cuntrey ; and being in-  
“ hibited to land in France, they arryved in the River  
“ of Forth, between Lothian and Fyff.” After various  
battles, in which these Morays joined the Scots and  
Picts against the Romans, Sir Robert continues his  
narrative :—“ King Corbred, in recompense of their  
“ good service, did give to the Morrayes a great pairt  
“ of the cuntrey of Vararis, wher they seated them-  
“ selves, and mareid Scottish wyves. This Vararis did  
“ conteyn all the region lying benorth the river of  
“ Spey, evin to the great ocean ; and that pairt of it

Sir Robert Gordon,  
don, pp. 13 &  
14.



“ which lyes between Spey and Nesse was then from  
 “ this people called Morrayland, and doth yit reteyn  
 “ that name unto this day.” Sir Robert does not give  
 us any authority for this statement in bringing the  
 Morays from Moravia in Germany, and he likely  
 founds it upon some of those legends or traditions  
 which so much prevailed in his time. His story will,  
 therefore, be taken for what it is worth. We have no  
 reliable account of the family of De Moravia for a space  
 of nearly 1100 years after the period stated by Sir  
 Robert, and the next time we hear of them is in the  
 twelfth century—proprieters of the estate of Duffus  
 and its ancient Castle, and of many other broad lands  
 in Sutherland, Caithness, and other parts of Scotland.  
 Whether they were native Caledonians, Flemings, or  
 Normans, no one can tell; but they have been called  
 all the three. Nothing more is known of them, with  
 certainty, than what is stated in the Chartulary of  
 Moray,\* and very concisely related in Shaw’s History  
 of Moray, pages 99 and 100. Of this family were  
 Gilbert, Bishop of Caithness, commonly called St.  
 Gilbert; Andrew, Bishop of Moray, the founder of  
 the Elgin Cathedral; Sir Andrew Moray, the friend  
 of Wallace and Regent of Scotland in the reign of  
 King David Bruce, the unwearied defender of the  
 liberties of his country. Sir Andrew had not only  
 large estates in the North, but was proprietor of Both-  
 well in the west of Scotland. He died in 1338, at his  
 Castle of Avoch, of which the foundations still exist.†

\* The Chartulary of Moray has so many references to this family,  
 that it would be endless to make quotations from it.

† Wyntoun, in his Metrical Chronicle of Scotland, refers to the  
 death of Sir Andrew Moray thus—

“ Oure the Mounth than passit he  
 Till Awawch, in his awyne cuntrie,  
 And thare than endyt he his dayis.

In the Kyrk Cathedryale of Rosmarkyne  
 That noble knycht was enteride syne.”

The Castle of Avoch stood on the Ormond Hill, and commanded an  
 extensive view both of land and sea, particularly of the upper reach  
 of the Moray Firth, and of the counties of Moray, Nairn, and Inver-  
 ness. It now forms a part of the estate of Rosehaugh, belonging to  
 James Fletcher, Esq., who, among his other extensive and varied

and was succeeded by his sons, John and Thomas, successively. Thomas died in 1361, and left an only child, Jane, or Joan, his sole heiress, who married Archibald the Grim, Lord of Galloway, and third Earl of Douglas, and so carried the lands of Bothwell into the Douglas family, who, we believe, possess them to the present day ; so we presume the Douglasses descend in the female line from the House of De Moravia. It is very strange that while we have no landed men of note of the name of Moray or Murray in the North, they abound in the midland and southern counties of Scotland, and almost all claim descent from the ancient family of De Moravia.

improvements, as well agricultural as ornamental, has lately planted the hill, and formed a carriage drive round it. Some of the foundations still exist, and it would seem that the building had been an extensive one. Sir Andrew Moray was married to Christian Bruce, sister of King Robert Bruce, and being appointed Regent of Scotland during the early part of the reign of David Bruce, he took a most prominent and successful part in the defence of the kingdom at that very perilous period of its history. Next to Bruce and Wallace (and not even excepting Douglas and Randolph), we owe the independence of Scotland (under Providence) more to Sir Andrew Moray than any other man. The Castle of Avoch should therefore be esteemed a hallowed spot of ground by every true-hearted Scotsman. The Ormond Hill is said to have given the title of Earl of Ormond to Hugh Douglas, brother of the Earl of Douglas, who was raised to that rank about the middle of the 15th century. He only enjoyed it for a few years ; having joined in his brother's, the Earl of Douglas, rebellion against his sovereign, he was justly forfeited. It is probable from this circumstance, that the Douglasses, as successors of the family of De Moravia, had for some time possession of the Castle of Avoch and adjoining lands. The reverend author of the new Statistical Account of the parish of Avoch, in his very interesting sketch, is of opinion that the stones of the Castle of Avoch were carried away by Oliver Cromwell to assist in the erection of the citadel at Inverness, called Oliver's Fort. This is extremely probable, as stones were taken for that purpose wherever they could be found, without any scruple ; as for instance, the case of the Abbey of Kinloss, where the extensive buildings were almost razed to the ground.

### III.—FAMILY OF CHEYNE.\*

The family of Cheyne is very ancient in Scotland, but their origin, like that of the de Moravias, is involved in obscurity. They were connected with the Cumins by marriage, and hence their leanings to that family in the disputes between the Bruce and Cumin factions. Reginald de Cheyne, father and son, were of high standing among the great Barons of Scotland. Both subscribed the letter addressed by the community of Scotland to Edward the First of England, from Brigham, in 1289 ; their signatures are in the Norman French of that day—

Renaud le Chen le Pere,  
Renaud le Chen le Fitz.

The father died a very old man, towards the close of the 13th century. The son, who married Mary de Moravia, lived, as we stated in the text, until the year 1313. He was placed in peculiar circumstances between Bruce and Cumin, and therefore had a difficult game to play, in trying times ; but he managed to keep his immense estates. The Cheynes were proprietors of the estate and parish of St Fergus in Buchan, and hereditary sheriffs of the county of Banff, which accounts for St Fergus parish being still in the county of Banff, although located in the heart of Aberdeenshire. Of this family was Henry Cheyne, Bishop of Aberdeen from 1281 to 1329—having held the See of Aberdeen for the long period of forty-eight years, and in the most eventful period of Scottish history. He was settled prior to the death of King Alexander the Third, and died the same year as Robert Bruce. Bishop Keith states that he was of the Cheynes of Duffus. He was the builder of the

\* For notices of this family we refer to the Chartulary of Aberdeen, vol. I., pages 34, 135, 141, 142, 143, 153, 225.—vol. II., 277 ; Chartulary of Moray, pages 139, 140, 285, 341. Also to Robertson's Index of Ancient Charters ; Pratt's History of Buchan ; Robert Mackay's History of Clan Mackay ; Collections for a History of the Shires of Aberdeen and Banff, pages 420, 421 ; Antiquities of Shires of Aberdeen and Banff, vol. IV., pages 72, 73, 74.



old Bridge of Don. Being nearly connected with the Cumin family, he swore fealty to Edward the First of England in 1296, but in his latter days came into favour with Bruce. He seems to have been a prelate of eminent abilities.\*

#### IV.—FAMILY OF FEDDERET.

The family of Fedderet is more obscure than the other two mentioned above. The first notice we find of them is in a charter by Fergus, Earl of Buchan, to John, the son of Uthred, in the year 1214. By that document it would seem the family had possessed lands in Slaines and Cruden, and made an excambion for Fedderet. We shall give a short excerpt from the charter, as follows :—"Omnibus hanc Cartam visuris  
" vel auditoris, Fergus Comes de Buchan, salutem in  
" Domino,—Sciant presentes et futuri me dedisse et  
" concecisse et hac carta confirmasse Johanni, filio  
" Uthredi et heredibus suis et assignatis, pro excambio  
" terrarum de Slainys, et de Cruden, tres davatas de  
" FEDRETH, scilicet Estir Auhioch, Auhetherb, Auhet-  
" has et Conwilletes integritur et sine diminutione tam  
" in longitudine quam in latitudine," &c., &c. This John, the son of Uthred, was undoubtedly the father of Magnus de Fedderet and the grandfather of William de Fedderet who married Christian de Moravia, and by her succeeded to one-third of the estate of Duffus, and one-third of the extensive lands in Caithness, belonging to the great family of De Moravia. Magnus de Fetherith, the father of William, was one of the great barons of the realm who met at Brigham, in the year 1289, to give their consent to the marriage of the young Queen of Scots with Prince Edward of England. William de Fedreth appears in the years 1286 and 1294 as the husband of Christian de Moravia, one of the heiresses of Duffus in Morayland. He swore

\* Keith's Bishops—Russell's edition—page 109; Collections of the Shires of Aberdeen and Banff, page 304; Kennedy's Annals of Aberdeen, volume II., page 336; Chartulary of Aberdeen, vol. I., pages 26, 27, 28.

fealty to Edward the First in the year 1296. (Ragman Rolls, page 172.) In 1314 William of Fedreth, the son and heir of the deceased Sir Magnus Fedreth, Knight, becomes bound to the Abbot and Convent of Deer in service, counsel, help, and maintenance in all their causes and affairs. In the rolls of missing charters by King David the Second are, "Carta given by William Feddereffe of that ilk to William Cumming and Helen Feddereffe of the lands of Fedreffe.\* In the Chartulary of Moray there is the following charter by William de Fedreth and Christian de Moravia, anno 1294 :—

" Omnibus hanc Cartam visuris Willielmus de Fedreth et Christina de Moravia uxor sua salutem. Noverit Universitas vestra. Nos dedisse Deo et beatæ Marie Virgini et omnibus Sanctis et Sanctæ Trinitati de Elgyn, et Domino Archibaldo, Dei gratia Episcopo Moraviensi et omnibus Successoribus Suis omne jus advocacionis presentationis seu patronatus, quod nos habemus in Ecclesia Sancti Petri de Duffus, seu in vicaria vel capellis ejusdem. In cujus rei testimonium sigilla nostra præsentî cartæ sunt appensa. Datum apud Kinedor, in Moravia, die Martis proximo, ante festum Apostolorum Symonis et Jude, anno Domini, Millesimo, ducentesimo, Nonagesimo quarto." It is quite certain that William de Fedderet was alive in the reign of King David the Second; but what became of him and his wife, Christian de Moravia, and their family, if they had any, is, so far as we are informed, totally unknown.

Abridged from  
Chartulary of  
Moray, p. 144.

The Castle and lands of Fedderet are situated in the parish of New Deer, and county of Aberdeen. In the new Statistical Account of Scotland, volume 12, page 177, the Castle is described thus :—"Two miles north of the village stands the old Castle of Fedderate, now a complete ruin. Nearly all the best stones have been taken away by the farmers for building. It appears to have been once a place of considerable strength. It stands now in the middle of a field. A morass, now drained and improved, surrounded it, and the only access to it was by a causeway and

\* It is quite possible that this Helen de Feddereffe was the daughter and heiress of William de Fedderet.



“ drawbridge. Water, it seems, had been conveyed to  
 “ it by means of pipes, for pieces of them have at dif-  
 “ ferent times been torn up by the plough. There is  
 “ no tradition as to when it was built. The floors are  
 “ all arched with stone. It is said to have been one  
 “ of the last strongholds of James the Second’s parti-  
 “ zans, who, after the battle of Killiecrankie, possessed  
 “ themselves of Fyvie Castle, and being obliged to  
 “ abandon it, took refuge in Fedderate ; but were pur-  
 “ sued and expelled from thence by King William’s  
 “ troops.”

In the 15th and 16th centuries the lands and Castle of Fedderet belonged to the family of Crawford. I find Crown charters to them in 1519, 1528, and other dates. In 1573 there is a charter of sale by William Crawford of Federate, to Alexander Irvine of Drum, “ which proceeds as follows :—“ *Willielmus Crawford de Fedderet, eternam in Domino salutem, Noveritis me vendidisse honorabili viro Alexandro Irwyne de Drum, heredibus suis et assignatis quibuscunque Totam et integram Baroniam meam de Fedderat, videlicet, maneriem de Fedderat cum turre et fortallis ejusdem, molendinum granium de Fedderat, terras molendinarias astrictas multuras dicti molendini,*” &c., &c. This charter of alienation is dated at Aberdeen, in the above year. The estate would seem to have continued in the ancient family of Irvine of Drum for at least 150 years. In the year 1721 it belonged to Forbes of Ballogie ; a few years later to the Earl of Aberdeen. It was sold by Lord Aberdeen about twenty-five or thirty years ago to Mr Dingwall of Brucklaw, and now belongs to his successor, Mr Dingwall Fordyce, present Member of Parliament for the county of Aberdeen.

## V.—DOUGLAS OF PITTENDRIECH.

This family seem to have been proprietors of one-third of Duffus and Burghead, and other lands in the county of Elgin, for a long period : they certainly had part of Duffus and Burghead for two centuries, and it may be longer. There are few traces of this family left ; I have made a diligent search to find out something about them, but with small measure of success. The name of Douglas has never been common in the North ; and although they promised, when the earldom of Moray fell to them in the middle of the fifteenth century, to take root and flourish, by their own act and deed they were in a few years extirpated from the land. The first Douglas we have any account of settling in the North of Scotland is BRICIUS, Bishop of Moray. He was a son of the chief of the Douglas family ; he had previously been Prior of Lesmahagow, a cell in Clydesdale belonging to the Abbey of Kelso. He probably owed his position in the Church to his connection with the great family of De Moravia, his mother being a sister to *Freskinus de Kerdal* on Speyside, as appears by a charter granted by the Bishop and the Church of Deveth—"Ad instantiam et petitionem Friskini de Kerdal avunculi nostri." He became Bishop of Moray in 1203, and died in 1222. He fixed the Cathedral at Spynie, and founded the College of Canons, eight in number. He appears to have attended a council at Rome in 1215, and was a prelate of considerable talents. He had five brothers—Henry, Alexander, Archibald, Hugh, and Freskin de Douglas. Four of these brothers accompanied the Bishop to the North. Henry and Hugh were Canons of the Cathedral ; Alexander was Sheriff of the county of Elgin ; and Archibald, after lingering long in the North, is supposed to have returned to the South of Scotland, and became founder of the great House of Douglas. According to Crawford, he was the great-grandfather of the good Sir James Douglas, the friend and trusty follower of King Robert Bruce. It is probable that Alexander may have acquired lands about Elgin, and became the founder of the Pittendriech branch of the

Keith's Bishops,  
Russell's Edition, p. 137.

Crawford's Peerage,  
edition 1716, p. 94.

Douglasses ; but this is all uncertainty. The learned editor of the Chartulary of Moray writes as follows :—

“ There were considerable lands in the neighbourhood of Elgin anciently and long possessed by Douglasses, whose origin cannot be at all traced, unless they are to be deduced from the lay brothers of Bishop Bricius.” He also adds that “ Alexander Douglas’ name appears ten times in the older Chartulary with the designation Vic de Elgyn, twice as Vicee de Elgyn, and once Alex Vicecomii de Elgyn.” We can find no more trace of the Douglasses in the North until the year 1446, when Archibald, brother of William, Earl of Douglas, was, in right of his wife, Lady Mary Dunbar, youngest daughter of James Dunbar, Earl of Moray, advanced to the Earldom, to the prejudice of the rightful heir, the son of the Earl, by his first marriage. This unjust succession did not prosper, for in 1453, having joined in a rebellion against the King, he was forfeited, and in two years thereafter he was killed in battle in Annandale, along with his brother, the Earl of Ormond, the Earldom falling to the Crown. The first authentic account of the Douglasses of Pittendriech is the charter at Gordonstown House in 1472, in favour of James Douglas, to which I have referred in the text. This document is a beautifully written deed, one of the finest specimens of penmanship I have ever seen, and remarkably distinct. With other valuable papers, I was kindly allowed to have it in my possession for a considerable time, but it was carefully returned, and I have not now ready access to it, otherwise permission might have been granted to insert a copy of it. It proves that the family had then a Crown grant to one-third of the estate of Duffus, as well as being proprietors of Pittendriech. The next notice we have of this family is, that Sir George Douglas, second son of George, Master of Angus, and grandson of Archibald, Earl of Angus, commonly called the Great Earl, married Elizabeth Douglas, daughter and sole heir of David Douglas of Pittendriech, by whom he had two sons, David, afterwards Earl of Angus, and James, afterwards Earl of Morton, Regent of Scotland in the minority of King James the Sixth. David succeeded

Preface to Chartulary, p. 46.

Crawford's Peerage, pages 102 and 103.



his uncle, Archibald, as Earl of Angus, in the year 1557, but he died the following year, leaving by his wife Margaret, daughter of Sir John Hamilton of Clydesdale, a son, Archibald, and two daughters—Margaret, married first to Sir Walter Scott of Buccleuch, and second to Francis Stuart, Earl of Bothwell; and Elizabeth, married to John Lord Maxwell. Archibald succeeded his father as Earl of Angus. He is stated to have been of high character and ability. He was three times married, but had no family surviving him. I find this Earl was served heir to his grandfather, George Douglas of Pittendriech, in the third part of the lands of Duffus, the lands of Pittendriech, Cauldcotts, Darkland, Levingshaugh, and the half of Sheriffston, in the shire of Elgin, on 8th July, 1573.\* He was the last Earl of Angus, of the family of Douglas of Pittendriech. Having no issue, the estates and titles of Angus descended to the family of Glenbervie. The Estate of Pittendriech and other lands in Morayshire fell to a collateral branch, for in 1603 Archibald Douglas of Pittendriech sold his third part of Duffus to Alexander Keith, Rector of Duffus.

Abreviatio Retornatarum, vol. I., head Elgin & Forres

We find that on 17th May, 1625, James Douglas was served heir to James Douglas of Bogside, his father, in the town and lands of Mains of Pittendriech, the pendicles called Broomhills, and two kilncruiks, and the town and lands of Bogside, within the parish of Elgin;† and that Margaret Douglas, wife of John Ross of Leyis, was served heir to her brother, James

Abreviatio Retornatarum, vol. I., head Elgin & Forres

\* We give the following extract from the volume of *Abreviatio Retornatarum*:—"July 8th, 1573. Archibaldus Comes Angusianus Dominus Douglas et Abernethie, &c., hæres Georgii Douglas de Pittendriech, militis avi in tertia parte terrarum de Duffus, terris de Pittendriech, Caldcoittis, Darklie, Levingshaugh, dimidietate de Sureston infra Vicecomitatum de Elgyn."

† Maii 17th, 1625.—Jacobus Douglas, hæres Jacobi Douglas de Bogsyd, patris in villa et terris lie Maynes de Petendreich, pendiculis lie seattis vocatis Broomhills, et 2 kilncruikis cum molendino de Petendreich, infra parochiam de Elgyne, villa et terris de Boigsyd, cum molendino, infra parochiam de Elgyne.

Minute Book of  
Particular Re-  
gister of Sa-  
sines for Shire  
of Elgin.

Douglas, in the same lands on 8th September, 1640.\* The family would appear to have been for some time in a declining state, and verging to ruin. On 9th June, 1671, Margaret Douglas, lady of Pittendriech, and her husband, John Ross, granted a heavy mortgage over the remainder of the property, in favour of James Calder, merchant in Elgin (probably Sir James Calder of Muirton.) This debt, it appears, they were never able to pay, nor to redeem the lands; and on 13th September, 1680, they sold the right of redemption to Alexander, Earl of Moray, Lord Doune, and Abernethy.

Minute Book of  
Particular Re-  
gister of Sa-  
sines for Shire  
of Elgin.

After executing this deed, of course their interest in the estate ceased, and the Earl of Moray had the right of redemption from the Calders. His Lordship did redeem the lands, and entered into possession; and on 16th March, 1683, obtained a charter of resignation and confirmation from the superiors in favour of himself in liferent, and Sir Charles Stuart, his second lawful son (afterwards Earl of Moray) in fee. The infestment following on this charter is dated 23d April, and recorded in the Particular Register of Sasines for the Shire of Elgin, 1st May, 1683. The Earl of Moray, or some of his sons, have since possessed the estate, and it now belongs to Archibald, the present Earl of Moray; a more compact property of its kind and size is rarely to be met with. There is a traditional story in the country that the family of Douglas, after selling the estate, were in the most pitiable state of poverty, and almost dependent on public charity. No trace of them is now existing on the estate, except a few venerable ash and plane trees of large size, which still continue to flourish, and the ancient dove-cot, well stocked with pigeons, on which, if we mistake not, the Douglas arms, although much obscured by time and copious coverings of white-wash, may still be seen.

\* Sept. 8, 1640.—Margareta Douglas, sponsa Magistri Joannis Ros de Leyis, hæres Jacobi Douglas de Pittendreiche, fratris in villa et terris vocatis lie Maynes de Pittendreiche, cum pendiculis et specialiter twa seattis callit the Broomhillis, and twa teill cruikis cum molendinis de Pittendreiche, infra parochiam de Elgin.

## VI.—FAMILY OF KEITH.

When I wrote the body of this small work, my impression was that the connection of the Keiths with the parish of Duffus had ceased at a very early date ; I find, however, I was mistaken. The Keith family were proprietors of the third of Duffus in 1398, and they had a connection with it and the mill of Sheriffmill as late as the year 1570, as appears by a charter granted by the Bishop of Moray, at the Palace of Spynie, on 6th April that year, for infefting William, Master of Marischal, as heir to his grandfather, William Keith, late of Inverugie. William, Earl Marischal, retained a third vice in the patronage of the Church of Duffus until the seventeenth century. The presentation to the Rev. Alexander Symmer is stated as follows :—" Be it kend, me, James Sutherland, tutor of " Duffus, heretable proprietor of one third of the " baronie of Duffus, as undoubted patron of the third " vice of the Kirk of Duffus, some time belonging to " William, Earl of Marischal, and disposed by him to " me, to have presented," &c. John Keith was minister of Duffus in 1570, 1574, and 1579 ; and Alexander Keith was minister in 1586, died about 1609. Both, no doubt, were connected with the Marischal family, and Alexander Keith was the purchaser of the third part of Duffus from the Douglasses of Pittendrieck, as stated before. The Marischal family were among the most famous in Scotland, not only as warriors and statesmen, but as promoters of science, philosophy, and literature ; we shall only instance the foundation and endowment of Marischal College, Aberdeen, which will remain a perpetual monument of their munificence. There is a melancholy interest in the close of this family, which had a sad, though brilliant, sunset. George, the last Earl Marischal, was born in 1687 ; he had one brother, James Keith, born 1696. Both of them joined the rebellion in 1715, and hardly escaped with their lives ; the large estates of the family were forfeited. Both brothers went abroad, first to Spain, and after being there for some time, the Earl went to Italy, and James entered the Russian service, where, by his great military talents, he soon

Chartulary of  
Moray, pages  
327, 471.

Shaw's History  
of Moray, p.  
382.

rose to the rank of Lieutenant-General. It is said he might have married the Empress Elizabeth of Russia ; but he withdrew from the dangerous honour, and entered the service of Frederick the Great of Prussia, who soon promoted him to the rank of Field-Marshal. After a brilliant military career in Prussia, he was killed at the battle of Hochkirchen, in the year 1758. His body was removed to Berlin, where a noble statue was erected to his memory by the King of Prussia ; a monument was also erected to him in the Church-yard of Hochkirchen, by Sir Robert Murray Keith. The Earl continued to live at Berlin (where he had joined his brother the Marshal), on the most intimate footing with Frederick the Great, by whom he was appointed ambassador to France, and afterwards to Spain with other honours. He was permitted to return to England, and a pardon given to him in 1759, and his honours restored ; but his property had been sold, and could not be got back. Through the assistance of friends, and by the aid of a Government grant for good services done in Spain, he was enabled to purchase the Buchan Estate. He returned to Scotland in the year 1764, but found his Castle of Inverugie in ruins, and the air of Buchan very raw and cold to a person of a very advanced age, and who had spent the summer of his days in southern climates. He might, however, have remained at home, but his friend Frederick the Great could not want his society, and wrote him pressingly to return to Berlin, which he was persuaded to do, and he lived there in great honour till the close of his long life. He died at Potsdam on the 25th May, 1778, and must have been then about the age of 90.\* He was the last heir male of the Keith family, and with him the title and family expired. A considerable part of the Buchan Estates now belong to Mr Ferguson of Pitfour.

Memoirs of Field  
Marshal Keith  
and George  
Earl Maris-  
chal.

Crawford's Peer-  
age, page 323.

Scottish Nation,  
vol. 3d, pages  
107 and 108.

There is a  
likeness of  
Marshal Keith  
given in the  
Scottish Na-  
tion, vol. II.,  
page 591.

\* Authorities differ as to the time of the birth of George Earl Marischal. I have followed what is stated in the Memoirs of Field Marshal Keith.

## VII.—SUTHERLANDS OF DUFFUS.

When Mary de Cheyne married Nicholas, the son of Kenneth, Earl of Sutherland, the estate of Duffus just returned to the family of De Moravia, from whom Nicholas was a lineal descendant. At that time the Earls of Sutherland had not finally given up the ancient name. William, Earl of Sutherland, brother of Nicholas, still called himself De Moravia or De Murref, and his eldest son, during his father's life, was called William de Murrif. This Earl, William, died at Dunrobin so late as the year 1370. He was married to Margaret Bruce, daughter of King Robert Bruce, and through that alliance at one period expected that his eldest son would have succeeded to the throne of Scotland; but it was otherwise ordered. Nicholas Sutherland, who married Mary de Cheyne as above stated, was succeeded by his son, Henry Sutherland of Duffus, who was succeeded by his son Alexander, who obtained a charter of the lands of Torboll from John, then Earl of Sutherland, dated the 12th July, 1444. He added much to the wealth of the family by his marriage with the heir female of Chisholm of that ilk, then proprietor of Quarrellwood, and thereupon assumed into the centre of his coat of arms a boar's head coupe. Alexander Sutherland of Duffus, his successor, died without male issue in the reign of King James the Fourth, leaving an only daughter, who married William Oliphant of Berridale. A dispute arose as to the succession, which eventually was found to fall to the heir male of the family, William Sutherland of Quarrellwood. He was killed by the clan Gunn in a tumult in the town of Thurso in 1529, and left issue by Janet Innes, his wife, daughter of Alexander Innes of that ilk, William, his successor, and Alexander, Dean of Caithness. After this period, and for nearly a century, we hear little of the Duffus family, except an occasional glimpse in the genealogy of Sir Robert Gordon. We find that in the year 1626 Sir Robert records as follows:—"The laird of Duffus died in the moneth of October, 1626 yeirs, leaveing his eldest sone, Alexander, of the aige of four yeirs

Preface to Char-  
tulary of  
Moray, page  
34, and Rotuli  
Scotiae, there-  
in referred to.

Sir Robert Gor-  
don's Genea-  
logy, page 54.

Crawford's Peer-  
age, page 109.  
Carta in Rotu-  
lis Jacobi IV.,  
therein refer-  
red to.

Sir Robert Gor-  
don, page 102.



“and ten moneths, whereby his lands in Sutherland  
 “did ward to his superiour, the Earle of Sutherland,  
 “his hands for the space of sixtene yeirs and a-half.”  
 James Sutherland, the minor’s uncle, became tutor at  
 law and manager of the estate. This Alexander  
 Sutherland is said to have been the tenth laird of  
 Duffus ; he was one of the Committee of Estates 20th  
 March, 1647, and one of the Colonels for arming the  
 kingdom in 1649. By King Charles the Second he  
 was created a peer of Scotland 8th December, 1650,  
 under the title of Lord Duffus ; in 1654 he was fined  
 by Cromwell in £1500. He died 31st August, 1674.  
 He married, first, Jane, daughter of Colin, Lord Kintail,  
 widow of William, Lord Berridale ; second, a daughter  
 of Sir Robert Innes of Innes ; and third, Margaret,  
 daughter of James, Earl of Moray, by whom he had  
 James, his successor, and Henrietta, a daughter married  
 to George, Earl of Linlithgow. By this marriage with  
 the Earl of Moray’s daughter, Lord Duffus acquired the  
 lands of Ardgay, Legat, Kintrae, and others, and the great  
 lodging in Elgin, which while in his family was called  
 Duffus House, and now Thunderton House. At this time  
 the family estate was large, consisting of one-third of  
 Duffus, Quarrywood, Ardgay, Legat, Kintrae and other  
 lands in the county of Moray, and Skelbo, Torboll,  
 Pronsies, and probably a considerable part of Strath-  
 fleet, in the county of Sutherland. They had a castle  
 at Skelbo resembling Duffus, and perhaps copied from  
 it. His successor, James, second Lord Duffus, was  
 admitted a member of the Privy Council, 4th May,  
 1686. In 1688 he killed Ross of Kindeace in a sudden  
 quarrel, in which he had received great provocation.  
 and had for some time to leave the country in conse-  
 quence. He died in 1705. By his wife, Lady Mar-  
 garet Mackenzie, eldest daughter of the third Earl of  
 Seaforth, he had one daughter and four sons,—viz.,  
 Kenneth third Lord Duffus ; the Honourable James  
 Sutherland, who married Elizabeth, daughter and  
 heiress of Sir William Dunbar of Hempriggs, on which  
 he changed his name to Dunbar, and was created a  
 baronet 10th December 1706 ; the Honourable William  
 Sutherland of Roscommon, who married a daughter of  
 William Duff of Braco—he joined the rebellion in

1715, and was forfeited ;—and the Honourable John. Although the family had extensive estates, they had long been in a declining state. They were bigoted Jacobites, warmly attached to the House of Stuart, and constantly took the unpopular side of affairs ; they must have lost much money by the civil wars and other causes, and by the year 1704 the estate was approaching ruin. The second Lord Duffus, before his death in 1705, feeling himself deeply embarrassed, sold his estate to his son, James Sutherland, as a temporary arrangement. James Sutherland borrowed the money to pay the price from Archibald Dunbar of Thunderton, under condition of repayment or of conveying the estate to him. He found himself unable to repay the money to Mr Dunbar, and therefore in 1708 disposed the estates to him absolutely. Thereafter the Sutherlands had no landed estate in Morayshire, and it is believed they had previously disposed of their lands in the county of Sutherland.

Kenneth the third Lord Duffus took the oaths to government and his seat in Parliament in 1706. In the following year he voted for the union with England. He was a captain in the Royal Navy and a distinguished officer. He had the misfortune, through strong Jacobite family principles, to join the rebellion in 1715, and was attainted. He married Charlotte Christina, daughter of Eric de Sioblade, governor of Gottenburgh, and having gone abroad after the rebellion, he was arrested at Hamburgh, sent to London and confined for some time in the Tower, but was set at liberty in 1717. He then entered the Russian service, in which he was a flag officer, and died about 1734.

Eric, only son of the third Lord, born 1710, claimed the title ; but the family being attainted, his claim was rejected by the House of Lords. He was in the army, and died at Skibo in Sutherland, 28th August, 1768. He married Elizabeth, third daughter of Sir James Dunbar of Hempriggs, his own cousin, and had two sons—James, his heir, and Axley, who died unmarried. Elizabeth, the eldest daughter, married *first*, a Mr St Clair ; *second*, the Reverend James Rudd, a clergyman in England, and had two sons, the Reverend Eric Rudd, who claimed the title of Lord Duffus, as

heir in general of James, 6th Lord, and James Sutherland Rudd. Charlotte, second daughter, married Sir John Sinclair of Mey, and was mother of the 12th Earl of Caithness; and Anne, the youngest, was married to the Honourable George Mackay of Skibo, and was mother of Eric, seventh Lord Reay.

James, the eldest son of Eric, born 1747, was an officer in the army. The title was restored to him by Act of Parliament, in 1826, but he died the following year. It was then assumed by his cousin, Sir Benjamin Dunbar of Hempriggs, as heir male, but was disputed by Mr Rudd, as heir general of the last Lord.

Sir George Sutherland Dunbar, Bart., born 1799, succeeded his father, Sir Benjamin, in 1843. He is the undoubted heir male of this ancient family, but the title of Lord Duffus being disputed, is now dormant. Sir George has large and valuable estates in Caithness, and resides at Ackergill Castle in that county.

#### VIII.—SUTHERLANDS OF ROSEHAUGH.

The Sutherlands of Rosehaugh had possession of the King's third of Burghead for more than a century. They are certainly one of the numerous cadent branches of the house of Duffus, but I have no materials for any notice of them beyond what is narrated in the text.

There is an old monument of the Sutherlands of Rosehaugh, in the Church-yard of the parish of Duffus, on which is the following inscription:—

“This monument is erected by William Sutherland  
“ of Rosehaugh, in memory of Robert Sutherland of  
“ Rosehaugh, his father, who died 23d July, 1685, and  
“ of Elizabeth Innes, his mother, who died 4th October, 1691; and of Jean Cumming, spouse to the  
“ said William, who died 14th October, 1690.”



## IX.—GORDONS OF GORDONSTOWN.

The Gordons of Gordonstown were proprietors of the King's third of Burghead for a period of not more than half a century, as narrated in the body of this work, but they were men of high intellect and of commanding position in the north, and having materials for an authentic account of the family, I cannot resist recording it in these pages.

The *First* Sir Robert Gordon was the fourth son of Alexander Earl of Sutherland, and was born in the year 1580. His mother, Lady Jane Gordon, was the daughter of George Earl of Huntly, who was killed at the battle of Corrichie. She was first married to James Earl of Bothwell, and at the early age of 20 years was divorced by that abandoned nobleman, to make way for his marriage with Queen Mary, which caused his own total ruin. Lady Jane was a most excellent virtuous woman, and after being so ill treated by her first husband, conducted herself with the utmost propriety, and to the admiration of the whole nobility. In 1573 she was married to the Earl of Sutherland, and had by him five sons and two daughters, whom she trained well, and proved an excellent wife and mother. The Earl died in early life, and the Countess married for her third husband Alexander Ogilvie of Boyne, whom she also survived, and died herself in the year 1629 at Dunrobin, at the advanced age of 84. Although a Roman Catholic, she brought up her children as Protestants. Sir Robert having been deprived of his father at an early age, was educated partly at the University of St Andrews, and then travelled in France. He was a most accomplished scholar. Having returned from the Continent he went to Court, and became a favourite with King James the Sixth, who appointed him one of the Gentlemen of the Bed Chamber, and in 1609 he was knighted. In 1625 he was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia, by patent to him and his heirs male whomsoever, and is the first on the roll. He had previously married Louisa, daughter of John Gordon, Dean of Salisbury

and Lord of Glenluce, by whom he had Sir Ludovick his heir, and a large family. Between the years 1630 and 1640, he acquired the lands of Ogstown and Plewland from the Marquis of Huntly, the lands of Drainie from the old family of Innes of Drainie, the lands of Salterhill and others, and had them erected by Crown Charter into a Barony, called the Barony of Gordonstown. Sir Robert after a long residence at Court, finding the times very trying and troublesome, retired to the north, and lived much at Gordonstown and in Sutherland, having been appointed tutor-at-law to his nephew, John Earl of Sutherland, where he had much to do in protecting the interests of the Sutherland family, and contending with the wild clans of Mac-kays, Sinclairs, and others, with whom there were constant feuds. He was a man of varied accomplishments, fitted to shine at Court, or among the nobility, or to contend and keep in order the unruly inhabitants of the North Highlands. During his leisure he composed that curious work, "The Genealogy of the Earls of Sutherland." Although very partial, it contains most curious details of the state of the country and of the times, and is well worth a careful perusal. The book was published by Elizabeth Marchioness of Stafford, afterwards Duchess Countess of Sutherland, in the year 1813, but has now become very scarce. Sir Robert had a daughter, Katharine, married to Colonel David Barclay of Mathers, and of that marriage was born Robert Barclay of Ury, the famous author of "The Apology for the Quakers." Sir Robert, after a prosperous and useful life, died in the year 1656, aged 76.

He was succeeded by the *Second Baronet*, Sir Ludovick Gordon, his eldest surviving son, who lived much at Gordonstown, and attended to his estates. He acquired from Robert Cumming of Altyre the barony of Dallas, and made considerable additions to his estate by purchase in the parish of Duffus and otherwise. He married first a daughter of Sir Robert Farquhar of Mounie, Provost of Aberdeen, by whom he had a large family. Sir Robert Farquhar was a great Covenanter, and acted as Commissary-General to the forces of the Scotch Parliament in the north.

His accounts are extremely minute and careful, and there are volumes of them at Gordonstown; he seems to have been a very accurate man of business, and did good service by settling disputes all over the north of Scotland. After the death of his first wife, Sir Ludovick married Jean Stewart, a widow, daughter of John Stewart of Ladywell. Besides his heir, Robert (afterwards Sir Robert Gordon), he had a large family of sons and daughters. His son, Sir John Gordon of Durno, was an eminent advocate at the Scotch bar. Another son, Lewis, married; his male issue is extinct, but his female descendants are numerous, some of them resident in Elgin at this present time. A daughter, Lucy, married, 1666, Robert Cumming of Altyre, and after the lapse of 130 years, carried the Gordonstown and Dallas estates into the Altyre family. Sir Ludovick died in 1688, in the 63d year of his age.

Sir Robert Gordon, the *Third Baronet*, was undoubtedly the wizard of famous renown, although some persons have supposed his son, the fourth Baronet, to have been that wonderful individual. He was born in the year 1645, and appears to have had his education abroad, and probably studied at some of the Italian Universities, where the occult sciences were then much cultivated; chemistry, astrology, and even necromancy, with the Philosopher's Stone, were greatly in vogue in the 17th century. That Sir Robert was a learned man there can be no doubt. Sir Robert Douglas writes of him as follows:—"He travelled much into foreign countries for his improvement, and was a man of extensive learning and knowledge. He was particularly skilled in mechanics and chemistry, and corresponded with the celebrated philosopher, Mr Boyle." There must have been something very peculiar in his actings and mode of life, which made a great impression on the country people, who universally believed that he had a knowledge of the "black art." The story of losing his shadow is probably derived from an older source—Sir Walter Scott applies it to a necromancer of the 15th century (see "*Lay of the Last Minstrel*," canto 1st), as follows:—

"He learned the art that none may name  
In Padua, far beyond the sea;  
Men said he changed his mortal frame  
By feat of magic mystery :

For when in studious mood he paced  
 St Andrew's cloistered hall,  
 His form no darkening shadow traced  
 Upon the sunny wall."

The story of Sir Robert's crossing the Loch of Spynie in a coach with four horses, after one night's frost, under charge of his Satanic Majesty, is well known. It is very likely he encouraged a belief in his own marvellous powers, as it gave him a control over the people. There is an anecdote told of his having sent a man-servant from Italy, when he was resident there. The servant arrived at his own house of Drainie under the cloud of night, and lay beside a stack until the morning. His wife came out and wakened him up, and having done so, he rubbed his eyes and said, "Where am I?" The answer was, "At your own house in Drainie." "Wonderful!" he said, in reply, "for I was in Italy with my master last night!"—thus conveying the impression that Sir Robert had sent him through the air by a magic feat. The fires in the laboratory at night must also have alarmed the neighbourhood in that superstitious age; in short, he must have made a marvellous impression, for until a late date the neighbourhood of Gordonstown, and all around the Michael Kirk, was supposed to be haunted by evil spirits, whom it was dangerous to meet after dusk. With all his labours in the invisible world, he attended well to matters of a temporal kind, and was a good manager of his private fortune. He purchased from the ancient family of Cumming of Earnside the lands of Garbity, Inchberry, and Ely, and the valuable fishings in the Spey thereto belonging, which continued in his successors' possession until 1812, when they were excambed with the Duke of Gordon for part of the lands of Roseisle. Sir Robert was twice married, first to Margaret, daughter of William 11th Lord Forbes, widow of Alexander Lord Duffus, by whom he had one daughter, married to John Forbes of Culloden; second, to Elizabeth, only daughter of Sir William Dunbar of Hempriggs, by whom he had three sons and four daughters. His daughter Lucy married David Scott of Scotstarvet, from whom the Duke of Portland, the late John Earl of Moray, and the late Viscount

Canning are descended. Sir Robert died in 1701, aged 56, and the Mausoleum of *the* Michael Kirk was erected over his remains in 1705.

Sir Robert, the *Fourth Baronet*, succeeded his father when a mere child. When quite a young man he joined the Earl of Mar in the rebellion of 1715, and was present with the rebels at some skirmishes with the King's troops, but he soon tired of it. He then came north to his estate, and put himself under the protection of his cousin, John Earl of Sutherland, the King's Lieutenant for the northern counties, and fortunately, through his influence, he got himself cleared with the Government. He, however, made a narrow escape, never forgot the lesson, and kept himself away from such exploits during the remainder of his life. We have no evidence that this Sir Robert was a man of learning and science. He was a gloomy, austere man, and kept himself very retired from the world; probably in consequence of these circumstances he also acquired the character of having a connection with the *invisible* world, and being of the same name as his father, they have come to be blended together. He had the character of being a very bad domestic man, a hard and oppressive landlord, and a most unpleasant neighbour. His principal employments seem to have been litigation with neighbouring proprietors and correspondence with his law agents, keeping his tenants in great order, and transacting business in the way of disposing of his farm barley and meal, the rents being then payable in grain. For many years he sold his grain to Provost Hossack and Bailie Mackintosh of Inverness. It was shipped at Covesea or Burghead in large boats and transported thence to Inverness. It was a good deal a business of barter, Sir Robert receiving goods in return in the shape of wines, spirits, groceries, hardware, clothing, &c. Money was a scarce commodity in those days. Sir Robert had powerful neighbours to contend with in his litigations, such as Mr Dunbar of Duffus, William Lord Braco, the Duke of Gordon, &c., and in these he met his match; but when he had a little laird to deal with, he almost overwhelmed him. It is stated that a worthy man, Mr Cumming of Craigmill, his neighbour in Dallas, was so



annoyed that he left the county entirely, became Commissioner to the Duke of Perth, and was involved with the Duke in the rising of 1745, and so ruined. Many of the inhabitants of Elgin will remember Mr Cuming's daughters, fine old ladies of the Jacobite school, living there. Sir Robert did not involve himself in another rebellion, but the rebels stole some of his horses, others he concealed in the rocks of Covesea ; there is one cave still called the Gordonstown stable, with a door built up in the rock. In the year 1766, William Earl of Sutherland died at Bath, of a short attack of fever, leaving an only daughter, Lady Elizabeth Sutherland—quite an infant. Sir Robert immediately claimed the peerage as heir male of the family, which he certainly was, and at first with great prospect of success ; but after a tedious discussion in the House of Lords, and long and able cases being mutually prepared, and most learned arguments on both sides, it was determined that the Sutherland peerage descended to females, and Lady Elizabeth Sutherland's title was preferred to that of Sir Robert. Fortunately, the estate and peerage were not disjoined. Her ladyship's case, it is understood, was prepared by the celebrated Lord Hailes, and is considered one of the most able papers ever composed on such a subject.

Sir Robert married in 1734 Agnes Maxwell, daughter of Sir William Maxwell of Calderwood. Of this marriage there were born four sons and one daughter ; the two eldest sons, Robert and William, were the fifth and sixth Baronets, but died without lawful issue. Sir Robert himself died about the year 1772, having been proprietor of the estates for the long period of seventy-one years. Lady Gordon, his wife, was a very eccentric person. She outlived her husband and all her family, and died about the first years of the present century at a very advanced age. During her latter years she lived in Lossiemouth, in that house in the principal street, long occupied by the late Captain Tod. She carted a deal of fine clay soil from Gordonstown to it, and made an excellent garden. Some of the aged inhabitants of Lossiemouth may still remember her ladyship. There is a story told of her being much alarmed at the idea of an invasion of the

French ; and to protect herself she had her garden walls coped with broken glass imbedded in strong lime as a sure defence against the expected formidable invaders. Her gold-headed walking-cane was long in possession of a respected gentleman in Elgin, lately dead.

Sir Robert, the *Fifth Baronet*, was a most promising, accomplished gentleman, had travelled much abroad, and gave indication of being a very useful county gentleman. He had begun to make extensive improvements at Gordonstown, when he was cut off in the midst of his days, having only outlived his father two or three years. He left a very curious cash-book, which is still preserved, and is so minute in its entries as to resemble a diary of his life, and is extremely interesting.

Sir William, the second son, succeeded as *Sixth Baronet*. He was a gloomy, eccentric, retired man—like his father, rather given to litigation, had no associates, and shunned society. His brother's improvements were stopped, and he lived in a wing of the House of Gordonstown. He was a strict economist, however, and gave great attention to his private affairs. He executed a deed of entail of his estates on the Altyre family, and died about the year 1796. He left his personal property, consisting of a large sum of money, furniture, plate, books, and farm-stocking, to his natural son, William Gordon, a most respectable gentleman, who subsequently purchased an estate in the south of Scotland, where his descendants still reside ; and no doubt many of the old Gordonstown pictures and other curiosities are still to be found there. The valuable and exceedingly rare library, collected by various lairds, was carried to Edinburgh, and after lying there for many years, was sold about the year 1816, the books bringing large prices.\*

\* Referring to the sale of the valuable library at Gordonstown, a recent writer has expressed himself as follows :—"Of the great book sales that have been commemorated, it is curious to observe how seldom they embrace ancestral libraries accumulated in old houses from generation to generation, and how generally they mark the short-lived duration of the accumulations of some collector freshly



It need scarcely be added that since the death of Sir William Gordon his estates have been possessed by four generations in succession of the family of Altyre, who in consequence of the deeds of entail under which they succeeded, have added the surname of Gordon to their own family name of Cumming, and carry the Gordonstown arms in the centre of their shield.

“deposited. One remarkable exception to this was in the Gordons-  
 “town library, sold in 1816. It was begun by Sir Robert Gordon,  
 “a Morayshire laird of the time of the great civil wars of the seven-  
 “teenth century. He was the author of the history of the Earldom  
 “of Sutherland, and a man of great political, as well as literary,  
 “account. He laid by heaps of the pamphlets, placards, and other  
 “documents of his stormy period, and thus many a valuable morsel,  
 “which had otherwise disappeared from the world, left a representa-  
 “tive in the Gordonstown collection. It was increased by a later  
 “Sir Robert, who had the reputation of being a wizard. He be-  
 “longed to one of those terrible clubs from which Satan is entitled  
 “to take a victim annually; but when Gordon’s turn came, he  
 “managed to get off with merely the loss of his shadow, and many  
 “a Morayshire peasant has testified to having seen him riding forth  
 “on a sunny day, the shadow of his horse visible, with those of his  
 “spurs and his whip, but his body offering no impediment to the  
 “rays of the sun. He enriched the library with books on necro-  
 “mancy, demonology, and alchemy.”\*

\* Burton’s Book Hunter, second edition, 1863, pages 95 and 96.

## X.—DUNBARS OF NEWTON, THUNDERTON, AND DUFFUS.

The Dunbars of Newton, Thunderton, and Duffus, were connected with Burghead for a century. They are descended from the Dunbars of Kilbuiak, who sprang from Alexander Dunbar, third son of Sir Alexander Dunbar, first of Westfield, by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Sutherland of Duffus. Sir Alexander Dunbar was the only son of James Dunbar, fifth Earl of Moray of that name, and was unjustly deprived of the earldom by the Douglasses. (Archibald Douglas, brother to the Earl of Douglas, having married Sir Alexander's half-sister, claimed, and through family influence deprived his brother-in-law of the title and estate.) The family of Dunbar of Duffus is connected with the Randolphs and the Royal House of Stuart through their descent from the Earls of March and Moray.

In the middle of the 17th century we find Archibald Dunbar proprietor of the estate of Newton in the parish of Alves; of Thundertoun in the parish of Lonmay and county of Aberdeen; and of Auchmadies in the parish of Boharm and county of Banff—rather a scattered property. He married Elizabeth, third daughter and co-heiress of Walter Hakat of Mayen, in the county of Banff; their contract of marriage is dated 12th May, 1666. He again married on the 28th April, 1681, at Spynie, Katharine Innes, said to be a daughter of Innes of Maisley. He died 3d May, 1689, leaving by his marriage with Elizabeth Hakat, two sons—viz., Robert of Newton, and Archibald, afterwards of Thunderton and Duffus, whom we shall have occasion to mention hereafter.

Robert Dunbar, the elder son, succeeded his father, and married on the 27th November, 1690, Margaret, daughter of Colin Mackenzie of Pluscarden (who was the eldest son of the Honourable Thomas Mackenzie, immediate younger brother of George Earl of Seaforth.) By this marriage he had Archibald, his heir; William, a captain in the 43d Regiment; Katharine, married to Major John Dunbar, of Strathnaver's Regiment; and Rebecca, married to Archibald Innes, a younger son of the Laird of Dunkinty. He disposed

the lands of Thunderton, in Aberdeenshire, on the 15th December, 1697, to his brother, Archibald Dunbar, who thereafter was designed of Thunderton. Robert Dunbar, in April, 1733, succeeded to the estate of Duffus as heir male to his deceased brother, the Laird of Thunderton, and disposed it on the 16th June the same year to his eldest son Archibald Dunbar, younger of Newton. He died in September 1742, and was buried at Alves on the 29th of same month.\*

Archibald Dunbar of Newton, Thunderton, and Duffus, succeeded his father, Robert Dunbar. He married his cousin-german Helen Dunbar, younger daughter and co-heiress of Archibald Dunbar of Thunderton, by whom he had Archibald, a captain in the 89th Regiment, who died in India; Robert who, after a voyage to America, died at Duffus; Alexander, his eventual heir; and Helen, who married James Brander of Pitgaveny. Mrs Dunbar was born 7th July, 1706, and died April, 1748. Mr Dunbar married a second time, and had two sons, William, who settled in America, Thomas, who became a Major-General, and a daughter Margaret. He died in London, 13th January, 1769, and was buried in one of the vaults of St Ann's Church, Soho, on the 23d of the same month.

Alexander Dunbar, the eldest surviving son, born 12th January, 1742, succeeded his father. He married 21st April, 1769, the Honourable Margaret Arbuthnott, younger daughter of John, sixth Viscount of Arbuthnott, by whom he had Archibald, his heir; John, an officer in the army; Jean, who married James Coull of Ashgrove; and Helen, who died young. He was on 8th October, 1776 served heir male to Sir Patrick Dunbar, and in consequence became Sir Alexander Dunbar of Northfield, Baronet. He died on the 20th December, 1791, and was buried at Duffus.

\* Robert Dunbar of Newton, Esq., and Sir Thomas Calder of Muirton, Knight Baronet, as two Justices of Peace, in the year 1710 "declared" the market prices of meat, &c., in the town of Elgin.

Robert Dunbar of Newton, and Archibald Dunbar, younger of Newton, were mentioned in an Act of Parliament, 6th June, 1729, as Commissioners of Supply.

Sir Archibald Dunbar of Northfield, Baronet, succeeded his father, and married 6th November, 1794, first, Helen Penuel Cumming, second daughter of Sir Alexander Penrose Gordon Cumming of Altyre and Gordonstown, Baronet, by his wife Helen, daughter of Sir Ludovick Grant of Grant, and grand-daughter of James Earl of Findlater and Seafield, by whom he had sixteen children—viz., nine sons and seven daughters, of whom there are only now surviving Sir Archibald Dunbar the present Baronet, Captain Edward Dunbar Dunbar of Sea-Park \* (author of "Social Life in Former Days," and well known for his extensive information on the subject of the Antiquities of the North of Scotland), and two daughters. Lady Dunbar died on 16th March, 1819. Sir Archibald married again on 26th September 1822, Mary, daughter of John Brander, Esq. of Pitgaveny, by whom he had three children, two sons and a daughter. Of these, two survive—viz., James Brander Dunbar, a captain in the Scots Greys (cavalry regiment), and Margaret Alicia, married to William Alexander Stables, Esq. Mary Lady Dunbar succeeded her brother, the late Colonel James Brander, in the estate of Pitgaveny, and thereupon assumed the additional surname of Brander. Sir Archibald was Convener of the county of Elgin, and Lieutenant-Colonel of the Local Militia. He died 29th March, 1847, and was interred in the family tomb at Duffus.

Sir Archibald Dunbar, Baronet, the present respected representative of the family, is Convener of the county of Elgin, having been unanimously elected to that honourable office at his father's death. He married, first, in 1827, Keith Alicia, daughter of George Ramsay, Esq., of Barnton, by whom he had

\* Captain Dunbar entered the army in 1837, and embarked in 1841, with the 22d Regiment, for India, where he served upwards of seven years. He afterwards exchanged into the 21st Fusiliers, in which regiment he also served a considerable time. He married Phoebe, youngest daughter of the late Duncan Dunbar, Esq., of London, and sister and heiress of John Dunbar, Esq. of Sea-Park, on 17th October, 1848, and by authority of the Court of Session he added his wife's name to his own.

two sons and two daughters, and who died in 1836 ; and second, on 5th November, 1840, Sophia, \* youngest daughter of the late George Orred, Esq. of Aigburth, Lancaster, and of Trannmere, Cheshire, and by her Ladyship has had three sons.

We now return to Archibald Dunbar, second son of Archibald Dunbar of Newton, first mentioned. He was a man of great talents and scholarly attainments. He was for some years principal tacksman of the excise for Scotland, and acquired a considerable fortune. He purchased the lands of Thunderton in Aberdeenshire from his brother Robert Dunbar of Newton, on the 15th December, 1697, and the lands of Duffus about the year 1704. He sold Thunderton on 17th September, 1712, to Charles Gordon of Buthlaw ; but he still continued to be designed of Thunderton, and his grandson many years after actually got the name of the Barony of Duffus changed for the purpose of keeping up the designation.† He married, first, Rebecca, only daughter of the Rev. James Adamson, by whom he had four daughters. The marriage contract is dated 9th August, 1703. He married, second, Phillas Walker about the year 1718, but had no issue by her. Mr Dunbar being a man of great abilities, for several years held the honourable position of Sheriff of Moray, Deputy-Lieutenant of the County, and Provost of Elgin. He died at Edinburgh on the 16th April, 1733, and was buried in the Greyfriars Churchyard there. He was succeeded in the Duffus Estate by his elder brother Robert Dunbar of Newton as heir male. His personal property went to his two surviving daughters, Rebecca, who first married Robert Gordon of Haughs, grandson of Sir Ludovick Gordon of Gordonstown, and second,

\* Lady Dunbar is the author of an interesting work called "A Family Tour round the Coasts of Spain and Portugal during the winter of 1860-61." Her Ladyship has also a great taste for literature and the fine arts, being herself a very accomplished artist.

† The Crown Charter of the Estate is now expressed as follows :—  
 "Totas et Integras Terras et Baroniam de Thunderton, antea vocat,  
 " terras et Baroniam de Duffus.



Alexander Anderson of Arradoul;\* and Helen, who married her cousin, Archibald Dunbar of Newton and Duffus, as before mentioned.

Mr Dunbar purchased the whole Duffus estate from the Sutherlands, but on 26th July, 1729, he sold to the Duke of Gordon the lands of Kintrae, Leggat, Ardgay, Starwood, Standing Stone, Longhillock, Kirkhill, Outlets, Roseisle, and Inchkeil, being parts and portions of his estate lying in the parishes of Duffus, Alves, and Spynie. The lands of Ardgay, Kintrae, &c., originally belonged to the Earl of Moray, and were disposed by Alexander Earl of Moray, along with the Earl's house in Elgin, afterwards called Thunderton House, to Alexander Lord Duffus in 1653. Since Mr Dunbar sold them to the Duke of Gordon, they have frequently changed hands, and now belong to various proprietors.

Mr Dunbar purchased from Alexander Duke of Gordon on 23d August, 1723, the heritable right to the Bailiary of the Regality of Spynie, a hereditary office then of considerable importance.

The matriculation of the arms of Dunbar of Newton, as recorded at the Lyon Office in Edinburgh in the year 1734, is as follows :—

“ Archibald Dunbar of Newton, descended of Kilbuiack, a third son of the family of Westfield, bears two coats quarterly, 1st and 4th, *Gules*, a lion rampant *argent*, within a border of the last, charged with eight roses of the first for DUNBAR, 2d and 3d, *or*, three cushions within a double tressure flower'd and counterflower'd with fleurs de lis *gules* for RAN-  
“ DOLPH, all within a border quartered *azure* and of  
“ first, and in centre a deer's head *cabossed* for differ-  
“ ence. Crest, a dexter hand *apaumé* reaching at an  
“ astral crown, *proper*. Motto, ‘Spem vigilantia firmat.’”

\* Mrs Anderson, who was invariably called “Lady Arradoul,” was a great Jacobite. When Prince Charles Stuart visited Elgin in the spring of 1746, she entertained him for several days in Thunderton House, where she then resided. So much was she attached to the Prince, that she carefully preserved the sheets in which he slept, and directed her own body to be wrapped in them at her death—a request which her family seem to have faithfully carried out.

Subjoined are copies of the commissions of Sheriffship, by James Dunbar of Westfield, to Mr Dunbar of Thunderton, as Sheriff of Elgin and Forres, in 1720, and of Deputy-Lieutenancy, by John Earl of Sutherland, in 1722, both of which are curious :—

#### COMMISSION, 1720.

JAMES DUNBAR of Westfield, to ARCHIBALD DUNBAR of Thunderton.

I, James Dunbar of Westfield, heritable Sheriff of Elgin and Forres, do hereby nominate, create, constitute, and ordain Mr Archibald Dunbar of Thunderton as Sheriff within the bounds of the said Shyre of Elgin & Forres, for deciding, cognosing, & determining by himself or such persons as he shall depute (for whom he shall be answerable), in all cases, civil and criminal, as accords of the Law, with full powers to him to hold and affix courts, name, appoint, & constitute Deputes, Clarks, & Fiscalls, Officers, and other members of Court; To give & pronounce acts, deeds, and others, Criminal & others; To judge, condemn, & amerciate, and the Amerciaments exact, and other emoluments & profits of court to uplift, ingather, and apply to his own proper use and behoofe; And generally to do, use, and exerce all & sundry other matters, rights and privileges of jurisdiction, which to the said office of Sheriff Ship by the law is known to appertain and belong; All former Commissions being by thir presents recall'd, and this present to continue untill recalled by a Writ under my hand; And for the more security I consent thir presents be registered in the Books of Elgin & Forres, or others competent, therein to remain for conservation, & for that effect constitute

My prors.; In witness whereof, written by Colin Menzies, Merchant in Forres, I have subscribed thir presents at Duffus, this 5th day of May, 1720, before these witnesses, Archibald Dunbar, Merchant in Elgin, and the said Colin Menzies, writer hereof. This to continue during Thunderton's life.

JAMES DUNBAR.

Archibald Dunbar, Witness.

Colin Menzies, Witness.

#### COMMISSION, 1722.

JOHN EARL OF SUTHERLAND, to ARCHIBALD DUNBAR of Thunderton.

I, John Earl of Sutherland, Lord Strathnaver, &c., Heretable Sheriff, Lord of Regality, and Crouner of the County of Sutherland, Heretable Admiral of the Counties of Sutherland and Caithness, Vice Admiral of the Stewartry of Orkney and Zetland, Lord-Lieutenant of the Counties of Elgin, Nairn, Inverness, Ross, Cromertie, Sutherland, and



Caithness, and of the Stewartry of Orkney and Zetland, President of the Court of Police in Scotland, Lieutenant-General of his Majesty's Forces, and Knight of the most antient and most noble Order of the Thistle; By these Presents nominate, constitute, and appoint Mr Archibald Dunbar of Thunderton, To be one of the Deputy-Lieutenants in and for the said County of Elgin. To have and enjoy all Powers, Authorities, and privileges, which by Law do now, or may hereafter appertain to the said office or Trust of Deputy Lieutenant, and generally to execute and perform all and every the matters and things, which on the part of the Deputy-Lieutenants respectively by Law may or ought to be done, acted, executed, and performed. And I do hereby recal and declare null all Deputations of any Deputy Lieutenants of the said County, granted by me preceding the Date hereof. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal, at London the sixteenth day of february One thousand seven hundred and twenty two years, according to the Scots style, before these witnesses, Alexander Gordon of Ardoch, Esq., and Alexander Ross, writer to the Signet, filler up of the Blanks.

SUTHERLAND.

All. Gordon, witness.

Alexr. Ross, witness.

The Dunbars of Hempriggs and the Dunbars of Duffus are from the same parent stock—Kilbuiak, and as the latter eventually succeeded to the Baronetcy of the former, it seems proper to insert here a short notice of the Hempriggs family, who latterly, in the male line, were designed as of “Northfield.” I am indebted to Captain Dunbar Dunbar of Sea-Park for the following particulars :—

William Dunbar of Struthers was seised on six parts of Hempriggs in the year 1587, and became “of Hempriggs.”

John Dunbar of Hempriggs, son of the above William.

John Dunbar, younger of Hempriggs, son of the above John, married Anna, eldest daughter of “Andro Fraser, Commissr. of Inverness,” and in the marriage contract, dated 26th September, 1634, it is stipulated that his father is to

make over to him the lauds of Hempriggs so soon as the marriage takes place.

This John Dunbar, younger, sold Hempriggs on the 20th June, 1643, to Robert Dunbar of Burgie, and took up his abode in Caithness, still retaining the designation "of Hempriggs." He died in the year 1666.

William Dunbar, son of the above John, bought large estates in Caithness, 12th August, 1691, from the Earl of Breadalbane, got them erected into a Barony called Hempriggs, and was created a Baronet, with remainder to his heirs-male *in perpetuum*. He married Margaret, daughter of Alex. Sinclair of Lathron, and died in the year 1711, leaving his estate to his only child, Elizabeth.

Mr Robert Dunbar of Myreland, brother of the above Sir William, succeeded to the Baronetcy, and then assumed the designation "of Northfield." He married Mary, daughter of Patrick Sinclair of Ulbster, and died in the year 1747.

Patrick Dunbar of Bowermadden, succeeded his father, the above Sir Robert, and was thereafter designed "of Northfield." He married, first, a daughter of Sir W. Sinclair of Dunbeath; and second, Catherine, daughter of Joseph Brodie of Milnton, and sister of Alexander Brodie of Windiehills. He died on the 5th May, 1763, aged 86, leaving no son. He was succeeded in his title by Alexander Dunbar of Thunderton and Duffus, as before mentioned.

The arms of Dunbar of Hempriggs, as matriculated at the Lyon Office, Edinburgh, about the year 1670, are as follows:—

"William Dunbar of Hemprigs, descended of ye family  
 "of Killboyack, who was ye eldest cadet of the house of  
 "Westfield, Sheriff of Murray, bears two coats quarterlie,  
 "first, GULES, a Lyon rampant within a bordur ARGENT be the  
 "name of DUNBAR, second, OR, three cousheans within a  
 "double tressure counterflowered gules be the name of Ran-  
 "dolph; third as the second; the fourth as the first, all within  
 "a bordur verrie gules. And, on ane helmet befitting his de-  
 "gree, with a mantle gules, doubled argent, next is placed  
 "for his crest a Lyon, issuant out of the torse from the loyns,  
 "Argent, and holding in the dexter paw a rose, slipped gules,  
 "leaved and barbed vert. The motto, in ane Escroll, 'Ornat  
 "fortem prudentia.'

XI.—INVENTORY OF FURNITURE, &c., OF JAMES  
LORD DUFFUS.

Captain Dunbar Dunbar has very kindly sent me a valuable inventory of the furniture, plate, and effects, which belonged to James second Lord Duffus, at the period of his death, in the year 1705, in his houses at Elgin and Duffus. The furnishings appear very extravagant for that time, and it may be supposed the extreme poverty of the family at the period of Lord Duffus' death was owing as much to expensive living as to losses sustained in the civil wars.\*

Captain Dunbar Dunbar remarks as follows :—" His Lordship died deep in debt, leaving his second son, Mr James Sutherland, advocate (afterwards Sir James Dunbar of Hempriggs, who married the widow of the third Baronet of Gordonstown) 'universal intruder' with his effects. Complaints having been made by the creditors that the 'universal intruder' had not properly accounted for the value of the effects, commissioners were appointed to investigate the matter judicially, which they accordingly did in the Elgin Court-House, in September, 1710. The inventory I now send is the evidence of Robert Sutherland, who had been long a servant to Lord Duffus, corroborated by Mr John Stewart, minister of the gospel, chaplain to his Lordship. The reverend gentleman, however, differed as to the value of a few of the less important articles.

" Sir James Dunbar had, soon after his marriage, sold the effects at a public sale, held for several days at Gordonston."

I give the inventory almost entire; and I may observe that a pound Scots in the year 1710 is nearly equal in value to a pound sterling of the present day.

\* Captain Burt, in his "Letters from the North of Scotland," written about the year 1730, gives an account of the wretched manner in which the landed proprietors of those days lived and entertained their guests, and of the miserable state of the furnishing of their houses. Perhaps the Captain, who was rather satirical, has overdrawn the picture. He had evidently in his eye the celebrated Simon Lord Lovat, the then leading man in Inverness-shire. If Captain Burt's remarks are correct, Lord Duffus' style of living and furnishings of his houses were far before his time, and would do no discredit to the present luxurious age. —See Burt's Letters, Jamieson's Edition, vol. I., pages 150 to 154.

## IN THE LODGEING ATT ELGIN.

## HALL.

*Scots Money*

Ane sute of strypped stuff hangings. A Rushy-leather resting seat. A fine wainscot table, with ane carpat on it. One dozen chairs, whereof the one half Rushey leather, and the other half of timber. A couler and font for washing. A large map of the world. All the above valued at . . . . .	£40	0	0
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## DYNING ROOM.

Aras-hangings of the finest work, on the walls, worth	£180	0	0
A large scrine, worth . . . . .	18	0	0
Eighteen fine carved chairs, worth . . . . .	36	0	0
Six gilded sconces, worth . . . . .	9	0	0
Three wainscot tables, worth . . . . .	24	0	0
A couler, worth . . . . .	14	0	0
Four brass candlesticks, worth . . . . .	12	0	0
Ane iron chimney, worth . . . . .	10	0	0
A pair of tongs, a shovel, a purring iron, and brush, and a pair of bellows, worth, in heal, . . . . .	5	4	0
A fine cage for birds, value wherof not known.			
Three pair of window curtains, worth . . . . .	27	0	0

## DRAWING ROOM.

A peice of aras, value whereof not known.			
Seven kain chairs, worth . . . . .	28	0	0
Seven cushions of silver-stuff, worth . . . . .	28	0	0
A large looking-glass, worth . . . . .	24	0	0
One table and stands, indented, worth . . . . .	36	0	0
A pendulum-clock, with a fine caise, worth . . . . .	72	0	0
Three gilded sconces, worth . . . . .	9	0	0
Five pictures of the friends of the family, all worth . . . . .	108	0	0
One pair of tongs, one scrine, one shovel, and one brush, worth, in heal, . . . . .	38	8	0

## MOY-HAIR ROOM.

Three peice of rich aras, worth . . . . .	600	0	0
One table, one looking-glass, stands, and a cabinate, all finely jappanned, worth . . . . .	180	0	0
Eight chairs of moy-hair, worth . . . . .	32	0	0
A fine moy-hair bed, lyned with blew sestnet, with a cult, value whereof not known.			
A large carpat wheron the bed stood, &c., worth . . . . .	12	0	0
Within the bed, two feather beds, with fine plaids and blankats, bolster and pillows conform, worth . . . . .	60	0	0
Some China work, value wherof not known.			
In the closet of said room:—A peice of rich aras, with which the said closet is hung, worth . . . . .	120	0	0
A table and stands, indented, worth . . . . .	36	0	0
Two kain chairs, and two velvet cushions, worth . . . . .	20	0	0
Window hangings of the said room and closet, being silk damask, worth . . . . .	48	0	0

## MY LADY'S ROOM.

Aras-hangings of finest work, value wherof not known.			
Ane aras scrine, value wherof not known.			

*My Lady's Room—Continued.**Scots Money.*

Ane bed with fine prinella hangings, lyned with ane yellow sestnet, and cult conform, with a rich gilded bolster peice, worth . . . . .	£100	0	0
A cabinate, a looking-glass, a table, two stands, a dressing-box, and a comb-box, all of fine olive-wood, all worth . . . . .	180	0	0
A pair of tongs, brush, bellows, and shovel, worth . . . . .	5	14	0
The bedding (consisting of plaids, blankats, feather-beds, bolster and pillows), worth . . . . .	48	0	0

## BACK ROOM.

Ane fine large Dutch press, worth . . . . .	120	0	0
A large cabinate, indented with ibony, worth . . . . .	30	0	0
A large wainscot chist, worth . . . . .	12	0	0

## GREEN ROOM.

Ane glass, table, and stands, of Princes-wood, worth . . . . .	84	0	0
Ane feather-bed, bolster, pillows, plaids, and blankats of the bed, worth . . . . .	40	0	0
Ane half-dozen kain chairs, worth . . . . .	24	0	0
In the two closets belonging to the said room :—A bed hung with green cloath, worth . . . . .	24	0	0
The caligo with which the said closet is hung, worth . . . . .	36	0	0
The stamped leather with which the other closet is hung, . . . . .	30	0	0

## LAIGH OR EAST ROOM.

A table, worth . . . . .	9	0	0
Ane carpat, worth . . . . .	12	0	0
A feather-bed, a bolster, and two pillows, worth . . . . .	18	0	0

## BLEW ROOM.

A bed mounted with blew-cloath hangings, nicely shewed and lyned with a yellow sestnet, worth . . . . .	48	0	0
The hangings of the said room, being blew cloath, worth . . . . .	36	0	0
A large trunk, worth . . . . .	12	0	0

## ORATRY CHAMBER.

Two chairs, worth sixteen shillings Scots the peice, . . . . .	1	12	0
A table, worth . . . . .	3	0	0
A bed, hung with ane gold-coloured stuff with silk fringes, worth . . . . .	36	0	0

## ORATRY.

A large peice of aras-hangings, worth . . . . .	48	0	0
Four gilded-leather chairs, worth . . . . .	8	0	0

## SECOND TABLE ROOM.

Stuff hangings wherewith the said room is hung, being stuff of a black and gold colour, worth . . . . .	20	0	0
Ane wainscot press, with six chairs, old and new, worth . . . . .	11	0	0

## DRESSING ROOM.

A large table, worth . . . . .	10	0	0
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## BREWHOUSE.

A large brewing fatt, worth . . . . .	6	0	0
A bakeing-table, worth . . . . .	6	0	0
A large latter-meat-table, with seats round, worth . . . . .	6	0	0
A bed, wherin the cook did lye, worth . . . . .	8	0	0
Ane brass pan, worth . . . . .	2	0	0
Ane new girnall, with two rooms, worth . . . . .	14	0	0
Ane wainscot chest, with iron girds, worth . . . . .	12	0	0



## IN THE LODGEING ATT DUFFUS.\*

LOW PARLOUR.		Scots Money.
Eighteen Rushea-leather chairs, worth . . . . .	£81	0 0
Two wainscot tables, worth . . . . .	15	0 0
A large couler, but may be one of the two mentioned as being in the Lodging at Elgin.		
Ane pair of tongs, a shovel, and brush, worth . . . . .	2	14 0
PARLOUR CHAMBER.		
A bed mounted with blew stripped hangings, worth . . . . .	18	0 0
The feather-bed, bolster, and cods, worth . . . . .	18	0 0
A shewed covering, worth . . . . .	12	0 0
The plaids and blankats belonging to the said bed, worth . . . . .	12	0 0
Three Rushea-leather chairs, worth . . . . .	7	4 0
Three timber chairs, worth . . . . .	3	0 0

\* It has generally been supposed that the Lords of Duffus, up to the period of the sale of their estates, lived in the old Castle of Duffus. This is evidently a mistake. In lawless times they no doubt occupied this stronghold, but it never could have been a comfortable residence. When the Loch of Spynie was an arm of the sea, the mount on which the Castle was situated was probably an island washed by the waves. When the lake became fresh water, the Castle was surrounded on three sides by it, and had a deep ditch or moat on the land side; the court-yard was large, as appears by the circular wall still remaining, and had probably accommodation sufficient for a large body of retainers, with ample stabling; but the keep, or internal dwelling for the proprietor, must have been small and confined within its thick walls. It was no doubt, however, an impregnable refuge in troublous times, and the great and the noble dwelt within its strong walls for ages. Mr Cosmo Innes, in his small but interesting publication called "Antiquities of Moray," writes as follows about the old lords of Duffus:—"Of domestic comfort they had not dreamt. Their Castle of Duffus had no chimneys, nor any window glass. When the winter winds blew fiercely across the fen, they shut their stout window boards—outside window shutters—and crowded round a fire of peats in the middle of the hall, while the smoke found its way out as it could, and was welcome as communicating some feeling of heat to the upper chambers." It may be supposed that some improvement was eventually made in this state of matters, that glass was at a future period put into the small windows, and at least what is called in Morayshire a "lum," made for the escape of the smoke. When quieter and more civilised times came, the lairds of Duffus would be glad to escape from this confined, and perhaps unhealthy residence (for from being surrounded with water, the place was liable to fever and ague.) We have no data, however, to guide us when the Castle was abandoned; perhaps it was only gradually so, but it may be conjectured that it ceased to be inhabited shortly after the year 1600. Alexander, the first Lord Duffus (who was long a minor) purchased the great Lodging in Elgin (afterwards called Thunderton House) from the Earl of Moray in 1653, improved and embellished it much, and made it his town residence. It was the same lord no doubt who built the Lodging at Duffus, on the warm and dry site of the mansion-house of Sir Archibald Dunbar. His Lordship was probably happy to escape from the watery element which surrounded the Castle of Duffus, and to live in a more comfortable and airy dwelling. This is the Lodging at Duffus referred to in the above inventory, as occupied by James Lord Duffus, and afterwards by Archibald Dunbar of Thunderton. Captain Dunbar Dunbar states that the old house was pulled down by his grandfather, Sir Alexander Dunbar, "who built part of the present house on the same spot."

	<i>Scots Money.</i>		
A table, worth . . . . .	4	0	0
A tongs and shovel, worth . . . . .	2	2	0
Two brazen candlesticks, worth . . . . .	6	0	0
A course bed for a servant, in the closet of the said room, with the blankats, covering, and feather-bed, worth . . . . .	18	0	0
A large press in the said closet, worth . . . . .	30	0	0
Two Rushea-leather chairs, worth . . . . .	5	16	0
A large looking-glass in the said closet, worth . . . . .	12	0	0

## MY LADY'S ROOM.

Half ane dozen cane chairs, two wherof armed chairs, worth . . . . .	30	0	0
A table-cloak, worth . . . . .	120	0	0
A chest of drawers, with a table, stands, and looking- glass, worth . . . . .	120	0	0
A table-glass, worth . . . . .	12	0	0
Two peice of fine aras-hangings, worth . . . . .	240	0	0
A furnished bed, newly mounted, worth . . . . .	144	0	0
Two foot-stools, worth . . . . .	8	0	0
A strong dressing-box, richly gilded and jappanned, worth . . . . .	72	0	0

## SECOND TABLE ROOM.

Six timber chairs, worth . . . . .	6	0	0
Ane large table, worth . . . . .	9	0	0
A bigg press with shelves, worth . . . . .	24	0	0

In the closet of the said room :—

Two furnished beds, worth . . . . .	60	0	0
A large chest, worth . . . . .	12	0	0

## DYNING ROOM.

Fyne gilded-leather hingings, worth . . . . .	144	0	0
Eighteen cane chairs, worth . . . . .	72	0	0
Two tables, worth . . . . .	18	0	0
Ane pendulum-cloak and caise, worth . . . . .	120	0	0
Ane large looking-glasse, worth . . . . .	48	0	0
A large couler (but may be one of the two mentioned as being in the Lodgeing at Elgin,) worth . . . . .	14	0	0
Ane pair of tongs, shovel, and chimney-brush, worth . . . . .	3	6	0
Ane pair of playing-tables, mounted with ibon and ivory, worth . . . . .	24	0	0
Ane pair of courser playing-tables, worth . . . . .	12	0	0
A large map of Paris, illuminat, worth . . . . .	3	0	0
Two coats of arms, nicely done on glass, and the word Duffus cifered betwixt them, worth . . . . .	12	0	0

## MY LORD'S CLOSET.

Three cabينات, all fyne English work, worth . . . . .	360	0	0
Ane buff coat, richly mounted, worth . . . . .	72	0	0

## MY LADY'S CLOSET.

A canope resting-bed, richly mounted, worth, including the bed-mantle, . . . . .	72	0	0
A cabinate, worth . . . . .	24	0	0
Ane table, worth . . . . .	9	0	0
Three cane chairs, worth . . . . .	12	0	0
Ane large Dutch hamper, worth . . . . .	9	0	0

## EAST ROOM.

Six cane chairs, worth . . . . .	24	0	0
Ane looking-glasse, table, and stands, worth . . . . .	72	0	0



A bed hung with tartan stuff (the room being hung with the same stuff), with the feather-bed, bolster, pillows, plaids, and blankats, worth . . .	150	0	0
Ane pair of tongs, a shovel, and a brush, worth . . .	2	14	0

In the Closet of the said room, which was hung with stripped cloath :—

A bed mounted with stuff, and furnished with a feather-bed, bolster, and pillows, plaids, blankats, covering, &c., with a table, three chairs, &c., all worth, . . .	120	0	0
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#### NURCERY ROOM.

Two furnished beds, wherof one hung with ane gold-coloured stuff, with silk fringes, which was carried from the Oratry Room of My Lord's Lodgings att Elgin, and sett up in this Nurcery, is worth, as formerly stated, . . . . .	36	0	0
And the other furnished bed, hung with lead-coloured hings, is worth . . . . .	48	0	0
A pair of tongs and brush, worth . . . . .	1	16	0
Two brass candlesticks and snuffers for My Lady's Room, worth . . . . .	7	4	0
Two other candlesticks for the Nurcery, of Princes-mettal, old-fashioned, worth . . . . .	9	0	0
Ane chest of drawers, worth . . . . .	14	0	0
Two little tables, wherof one a Firr table, worth . . . . .	10	0	0
Two rubbers, one mat, brush, and broom, for dressing of My Lady's Room, worth . . . . .	9	0	0
Ane laich bed, with the furniture, worth . . . . .	8	0	0

#### GENTLEMAN'S ROOM.

Two furnished beds, worth . . . . .	72	0	0
Ane table, with a drawer under it, worth . . . . .	3	12	0
Three timber chairs, worth . . . . .	3	0	0
Two baggade trunks, worth . . . . .	12	0	0
A large trunk worth . . . . .	8	0	0

#### LIGGATTEER ROOM.

Ane furnished bed, with liggatteer hangings, together with liggatteer hangings for the room itself, worth . . . . .	180	0	0
A table-glasse and stands of black ibony, worth . . . . .	60	0	0
Six cane chairs, worth . . . . .	24	0	0
A pair of tongs and shovel, worth . . . . .	2	2	0
My Lord kept his papers and books in the Closet of the said Liggatteer Room, and they were worth . . . . .	600	0	0

#### GREEN CLOSET.

A bed hung with green cloath, worth . . . . .	24	0	0
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#### PAINTED ROOM.

A sute of very fine aras-hangings, worth . . . . .	200	0	0
A jappanned cabinate, with table, stand, and glass, all gilded, worth . . . . .	200	0	0
A little table-glass, worth . . . . .	12	0	0
A bed hung with fyne green cloath, nicely shewed and embroidered, with the heal furniture, worth . . . . .	388	0	0
Six fyne cane chairs, wherof two armed, worth . . . . .	36	0	0
Tongs, shovel, and brush, &c., worth . . . . .	4	16	0

In the Closet of the said room, which was hung with fyne stripped stuff :—

Ane bed, furnished, worth . . . . .	120	0	0
Two chairs, &c., worth . . . . .	12	0	0

## THE ORATRY.

Two fyne Bibles belonging to My Lady, one wherof bound in crimpson-velvet, and the other finely bound in read gilded leather, with the cuts in it. My Lord's Bible, bound in black Turkey-leather, with the Book of Common Prayer and Apocrophia in it. Three large Bibles. All the above worth .	67	4	0
Two Service-Books, one wherof belonged to My Lord and the other to My Lady, both worth . . . .	12	0	0

## FYRE CLOSET.

A hung furnished bed, &c., tongs and table, worth, in heal, . . . . .	8	0	0
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## WOMAN-HOUSE.

A feather-bed and bolster, with blankats and plaids, worth	12	0	0
A malt-girnall, worth . . . . .	12	0	0
A meal-girnall, worth . . . . .	6	0	0
Two lint-wheels, worth . . . . .	6	0	0
A check-rell, worth . . . . .	2	0	0
A strong tongs, with a brass pan, worth . . . .	2	12	0

## STABLES.

Two beds, with their furniture, worth . . . .	12	0	0
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## GARDEN CHAMBER.

A bed and furniture, with a table and two chairs, worth	14	0	0
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## PLATE, &amp;c.

Ane large silver bason, with a silver laver, for the table.			
A silver bason for sheaving of My Lord.			
A silver bason for My Lady's washing.			
Eighteen silver spoons.			
Two large silver ladles.			
Eighteen silver-hefted knives.			
Eighteen silver forks.			
A silver spoon in the Butter-house.			
Eight silver salts.			
Four silver salvars.			
A large silver box for holding powdered sугgar.			
A silver sугgar box.			
A mustard silver box.			
A mustard silver spoon.			
A spice silver box for the table.			
Four large silver tumblers, and two little ones.			
A large silver ring for the table.			
A large silver possete-cann, with cover and stroup.			
A large silver porrenger-dish, with two luggs.			
Ane old silver cup, with stalk and cover, commonly called the Feiry (Fairy) cup.*			

\* The "FAIRY CUP," mentioned in the above inventory, brings to my recollection a legendary tale which forty years ago and upwards used to be told at the firesides in the winter evenings in this part of the country, but is now totally forgotten. It refers to one of the old lairds of Duffus having been carried away by the fairies. At what period this occurred, or to what laird it happened, is unknown. Sir Walter Scott, who had an ear for all legendary tales, and a wonderful skill in collecting them, narrates the story, and I shall give it in his words:—"A tradition existed during the seventeenth century concerning an ancestor of the noble family of Duffus, who walking abroad in the

Ane large silver flacket, with ane drinking dish on the bottom.  
 Two silver cups called campyne cups, with spoons, salts, forks, and knife-hefts.  
 Two pair large silver candlesticks, with snuffers and dishes conform.  
 Ane silver orange, with ten boxes in it.  
 A blood-stone sett in silver, over gilt in gold.  
 A rich jewel belonging to the family, consisting of a great many diamond stones sett in silver, and which divided into three parts.  
 A gold pic-tooth case, with a seal on the one end therof.  
 Two pair of golden buttons for My Lord's shirt sleeves.  
 A large silver snuff box.  
 A pair of large silver buckills, plain, and ane other pair sett with stones.  
 Ane aquavite-pott of copper.  
 Ane copper oven, with two copper stills, with two copper leads for brewing.  
 Ane rich crimpson crying-chair embroidered with gold, worth £48 Scots.  
 Ane fyne cradle, mounted with point diangliter silk.  
 Ane rich velvet mort-cloath and velvet peal.

## HORSES, &amp;c.

	<i>Scots Money.</i>		
Ane white horse, worth . . . . .	£18	0	0
Ane black gailden, worth . . . . .	120	0	0
Ane brown gailden, worth . . . . .	84	0	0
Two coach horses, worth . . . . .	288	0	0
Ane chariot and furniture, conform.			
Ane blew velvet saddle, embroidered with silver and gold thread, worth . . . . .	48	0	0
Other saddles for My Lord and servants, with furniture, worth . . . . .	48	0	0
Ane point diangliter carpat.			
Three caise of pistols, for My Lord and servants, worth, in heal, . . . . .	60	0	0

" fields near to his own house, was suddenly carried away, and found the next day at Paris, in the French King's cellar, with a silver cup in his hand. Being brought into the King's presence, and questioned by him who he was, and how he came thither, he told his name, his country, and the place of his residence; and that on such a day of the month (which proved to be the day immediately preceding), being in the fields, he heard the noise of a whirlwind and of voices, crying, 'Horse and Hattock!' (this is the word which the fairies are said to use when they remove from any place) whereupon he cried "Horse and Hattock' also, and was immediately caught up and transported through the air by the fairies to that place where, after he had drunk heartily, he fell fast asleep, and before he awoke the rest of the company were gone, and had left him in the posture wherein he was found. It is said the King gave him the cup which was found in his hand, and dismissed him." The narrator affirms that the cup was still preserved and known by the name of the "Fairly Cup."—"Scott's Border Minstrelsy," Ed., 1821, vol. II., pp. 177 and 178.

It is not stated whether the fairies carried him back from Paris to Duffus again; if not, in those days the laird would have found it rather a difficult matter to find his way home. It would appear from the inventory that the "Fairly Cup" was in good preservation up to the period of the death of James Lord Duffus, in 1705; and it would be curious to enquire whether this interesting relic is still in existence among any of his Lordship's numerous descendants.

KITCHIN AND FYRE VESSEL.		<i>Scots Money.</i>	
Four potts, wherof two bigg and two lesser, worth . . . . .		11	13 4
Four spitts, worth . . . . .		2	13 4
Ane other spitt for hinging of pots about the raxes, worth . . . . .		1	0 0
A new copper strainer, worth . . . . .		9	0 0
Ane stewing copper dish, with a table, worth . . . . .		5	0 0
Ane iron ladle and tongs, worth . . . . .		1	4 0
Ane chapping knife, worth . . . . .		1	0 0
Ane mortar of run-mettal with pestol, worth . . . . .		3	0 0
Ane brander, ane frying pan, a dropping pan, and a pair of pot bowls, worth . . . . .		5	12 0
Two fish-heaters of brass, worth . . . . .		6	0 0

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It may here be observed that all the families who have possessed Burghead in property from the beginning of the 12th century up to the year 1805, have been descended from, or collaterally connected with the House of de Moravia.

The principal proprietors of the parish of Duffus at the present time are Sir Archibald Dunbar of Northfield, Baronet; Sir William Gordon Gordon Cumming of Altyre and Gordonstown, Baronet;\* and Charles Lennox Cumming Bruce, Esquire of Roseisle, &c., Member of Parliament for the County of Elgin. These hold in property at least five-sixths of the parish; and it is a very remarkable fact, that they are all lineally descended from the House of de Moravia, showing how little change there has been in Duffus during the last 750 years.

\* In the House of Gordonstown there is a vast collection of valuable papers. From these Captain Dunbar selected documents for his second series of "Social Life in Former Days." There are still materials for several volumes. The papers were long deposited in the Stone Charter Room, and from the cold and damp were going fast to decay. Lady Gordon Cumming, who has much taste for antiquarian pursuits, has now got them all placed in dry wooden presses within the Charter Room; and many of them have been carefully arranged, and where torn or decayed, her Ladyship has as far as possible had them repaired, and they form a rare and valuable collection.

XII.—LETTER FISHERMEN AT BURGHEAD TO  
FISHERMEN AT FINDHORN.

Att Brough, the 30 of January, 1713.

Kynd freinds, this is to let you know that Thunder-ton and Roshaugh was in this toune this day, and is to cleire with us for our fish one the last day of this instant, and desired us to wreit wast to you what you got for your fish, and how manie you gaive to the hunder. Wreit East ane positive account, and oblige your freinds and weill wishers in this toune, young and old. Pray you doe not feall to wreit to us, and this is all att prntt, with all haiving ther service to you all.

WILLIAM GEDDES.  
JOHN PROT.

For Thomas Findlay, Skipper in  
Findhorn, or to anieother Skipper  
in the toune in his absence.

Thes are.

(*Reply to the above.*)

ffindhorn, January the 30th, 1713.

We receaved your leter, and in answer therto we hav goton but en paret of our mony, and as for the pryce we ar informed by Andrew Adam that our prise is not to be brokon of what we got formirly, whish wass nintin pound Scots the hunder, and we pay twelve Shiling Scots for ye peck of salt, and we giv six scor and twelve for evry hunder. This is all we can show you as to that Mater, this being ye nedful from your freinds and well wishers.

GILBERT THOM.  
JOHN MARNOCH.

For William Geddes and  
John Prot, Skippers in  
Brugh Sea. These.

XIII.—LETTER MR DUNBAR OF THUNDERTON TO  
FISHERMEN AT BURGHEAD.

For Robert Steel, William Brown,  
and William Geddes, Skippers  
in Burghead.

DUFFUS, 22d March, 1718.

LOVING FRIENDS,—I have your letter this morning, and thank you for your advice. I was resolved to have seen you this afternoon, but some accident has happened that hinders; my health being such, as I was obliged to lett blood, and so I am unfitt for travelling this night. Let none of you lose by me in salting your cod-fish, for you may be assured I will doe you all justice; and if I cannot satisfy you that the price is just I shall quit the salt. Meantyme call at Andrew Sutherland, who will give you what all you may want, and let him send me word by this bearer, when I shall send him more salt. How soon I am able to travel, I shall, God willing, be with you: so expecting all of you will comply with this letter, I continue

Your assured friend,

ARCH. DUNBAR.

If you goe not to sea Monday, if I cannot travel, you maye come hither.

*(Reply to the above.)*

SIR,—We have read this your honor's letter to our men, at which they are verie well pleased with, as well as we at your honor's kindness, but they will not take anie of your salt till you come to the toune, and make bargaen with them, for they will not take the last year's price, nor yet will they take the Findhorn men's price; therefor we advise your honour for your profit, that you may come to the toune on Munday, or if you think yourself not in condition to come, send word to toune from the Church, and we will come to you, for if you come not you need not expect butt they will still putt some away, and that makes them to come to ane small behoof to your honor; and the verie price



that they are at is 20 pound for each six score and the salt frie, for they say that they will get that and mor from others ; yet still we bear respect for your honour, that you will have the first offer, and this is all, from, Sir, your honor's most obliged and obedient servants and weill wishers,

ROBERT SHAW.  
WILLIAM GEDDES.  
WILLIAM BROWN.

To Mr Archbold Dunbar  
of Thunderton.  
Thes are.

*XIV.—OLIGEMENT, DERBY KING TO THUNDERTOWN  
AND ROSEHAUGH, 1719.*

I, Derby King, fisher, presentlie Living at Lossiemouth, Do Herby become bound & obliged to Mr Archibald Dunbar of Thundertoun and William Sutherland of Rosehaugh, to serv them as an SpLitr, Saltr, & Curer of Cod-fish at the Burghsea, for the whole Season of Cod-fishing of yis present year Mvjje and fourteen, and longer if they please to imploy & keep me ; and I bind and oblige me to reside at the Town of Burghsea immediately, and faithfullie, honostlie, & trulie to serv ye said Mr Archibald Dunbar and William Sutherland in Splitting, curing, Salting, & drying All their Cod-fish of thys present year, and yrafter if yey please, & cherfully to obey all thyr orders & perform my Leibur gineralie as they shall inform me, for whych Leibor I am to reciev frae them Twelv Shilings Sterling monthlie, & two pecks of meall, so long as they imploy me ; and I bind & oblige me to perform ye premises under penaltie of Twentie pound Sterling by & attour performance, consenting to ye registration hereof in ye books of Council and Session, or oys competent that all execution needfull pass heron as effeirs and thereto constitut

My prors, &c., In witness wherof I haiv Subscribd thir prtts (written be James Anderson, Commy



Clerk of Murray), wyth my hand att Elgin ye Twentie eight day of Januarie, Sevynteen hundred & fourteen years Befor thir witnes Keneth M'Kenzie, ane of ye Baillies of Elgin, Alexr. Smith, writer, yr., & ye said James Anderson.

Att command of the above named & desygned Derby King, who cannot wryte himselfe, as he affirmes, his hand touching the pen, I James Wiseman, no<sup>r</sup> public have subd thir prnts for him.

JA. WISEMAN, N.P.

Al. Smith, Witnes.

Kenneth Mackenzie, Witnes.

James Anderson, Witnes.\*

*XV.—OBLIGATIONE: JAMES JAFFRAY AND OTHERS TO THE LAIRD OF THUNDERTOWN, 1719.*

The under-written obligation is a very curious one, as showing that the fishermen bound themselves for life service.

Be It Kent to all men, me, James Jafray, son to John Jafray, elder in Burgh Sea, a ffisher in the sed toune, to Be Bound and oblidge Lyk as Be the tennor herof, I Bind and oblidge me and myn what sumever as Principall, and with and ffor me Nickoll Steel, carpenter in Burgh sea ; Wiliam Broun, skipper ther ; John Jafrey, younger ffisher ther ; and William Jafrey, ffisher ther, as Caitioners with and for me : that I the sd James Jaffray shall remain and abide as a ffisher, and work as such in ane ore oether of the Boats of Brugh sae, as I shall Be Apoynted thereto By Mr Arshbald Dunbar of Thundertoune, heritable

\* The above deed is in the hand writing of James Anderson of Linkwood, Provost of Elgin, and Commissary Clerk of Moray, and the Notary is James Wiseman, writer in Elgin, both famous men of business in their day.

proprietor therof, and that During *all the Days off my Lyfe*; and wherein If I ffaile, all off us, The Above named persons, James Jafray, Nickoll Steell, Wiliam Broun, John Jafray, and Wiliam Jaffray, Bind and oblidge us and ours whatsumever, Conjunctly and sevrelay to Content and pay to the sed Mr Arshbald Dunbar of Thundertoune, ore his whatsumever, all, and heall, the sum off ffyve hunred Marks, Scots monie, By and atour performance with annual rent and Expenss, after a Charge to mak payment of the sd ffyve hunder marks Given By the sd Mr Archibald Dunbar, ore his above named; and wee Consent to the Registratiōe herof In the Books off Consell and Sesson, ore othrs Compitent, that all Executiōe nesar pass herupon one A Simple Charge off Six Days, and to that Effect Constetute

Our prors, in witness whereof, wretten By James Chalmers, Bailie in Kintrae, wee hav subd these presents at Duffus, this twantey Day off Apryle, Mvij and nynteen years Befor these witnesses, William Rhind in Rosile, John Grant, servitor to The sd Mr Archibald Dunbar and James Chalmers wretter fforsd on stampt peper.

JEAMES JAFRAY.  
NICOLL STEILL.  
WILLIAM BROWN.  
JOHN JAFRAY.  
WILLIAM JAFFRAY.

William Rind, Wittness.  
John Grant, Witteness.  
Ja. Chalmers, Witness.

*XVI.—DISPOSITION: WILLIAM SUTHERLAND OF  
ROSEHAUGH TO WILLIAM GEDDES, 1733.*

Be it known to all men by thir presents, me, William Sutherland of Rosehaugh, ffor a certain sum of money presently payd and advanced to me by William Geddes, seaman in Burgh Sea. Therefore wit ye me with the special advice, consent, and assent of Margaret Hunter, my spouse, and both of us with one consent to have

sold and dispoſed, Likeas, we for ourſelves, our heirs, and ſucceſſors ſell, analzie, and diſpone from us and our forſds, All and haill the three fiſhing Boats in the Town of Burgh Sea belonging to me, the sd William Sutherland, with anchors, tows, cables, ropes, ſails, and all other pertinents pertaining and belonging to the sds Boats, with the haill furniſhing belonging thereto To and in Favours of the sd William Geddes and Margaret Geddes his ſpouſe in liferent, and John Geddes, their eldeſt lawful ſon, in fee, Turning and Transferring the haill Right and property of the sds Boats from us and our forſds To and in ſpeciall favours of the sd William Geddes and his forſds, whom we hereby ſurrogate and ſubſtitute in our full Right, Vice, and place of the premises, with full power to him and his forſds To medle and intromit with the sds Boats and to uſe and Diſpoſe thereof at their pleaſure in time coming; and I, the ſaid William Sutherland, hereby Bind and oblige me and my forſds to warrant, maintain, and Defend this preſent Right to the sds Boats at all hands and agt all mortall as Law will, Conſenting to the Registration hereof in the Books of Council and Session, or oys competent, therein to remain *ad futuram rei memoriam*, and if need bees that Execution paſs on ye claue of War-randice above yten and Hereto Conſtitute Our prors, &c., In witnes whereof thir preſents (writen upon ſtampt paper) by William Craig, ſon to James Craig, writer in Elgin,\* are ſubſcribed by us at Roſe Isle the Sixteenth day of October Jajvij and thirty three years, before theſe witneſſes, James Anderson, ſert to ye sd Wm. Sutherland and ye sd William Craig.

W. SUTHERLAND.  
MARGARET HUNTER.

Will. Craig, Witneſs.  
James Anderson, Witneſs.

\* Mr James Craig, writer in Elgin, who prepared this deed, was a practitioner of conſiderable ſtanding in his day. He married Agnes King, daughter of William King of Newmill, Provost of Elgin.

This paper is curious, as showing the Names of the Crews at Burghead, in the year 1732.

XVII.—A LIST OF THE SEAMEN OF BURGHESE, AS THEY WERE PAIRED JUNE THE 15th, 1732, Viz. :—

| James Jaffray, skipper. | And. Prot, skipper. | Will. Geddes, skipper. | Will. Brown, skipper. | All. Thompson, skipper. |
|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 2 Will. Flett.          | 2 Rob. Shaw.        | 2 John Baren.          | 2 John Jaffray.       | 2 Will. Gedes, yor.     |
| 3 Ja. Findlay.          | 3 Dond. Ross.       | 3 Jas. Neilson.        | 3 John Taylor.        | 3 Jo. Ross.             |
| 4 Allr. Findlay.        | 4 Jo. Farquar, yor. | 4 Will. Edward.        | 4 Allr. Farquar.      | 4 Allr. Geddes.         |
| 5 Aler. Ross.           | 5 W. Reid.          | 5 Jo. Farquar, elder.  | 5 Jo. Hesben.         | 5 Wm. Plewman.          |
| 6 Allr. Brand.          | 6 W. Sutor.         | 6 Aler. McDonald.      | 6 Jas. Shaw.          | 6 Allr. Hendry.         |
| 7 D. McLay.             | 7 Jo. Hendry.       | 7 Jo. Jaffray.         | 7 Jo. McKintosh.      | 7 G. Hesben.            |
| 8 J. Logie.             | 8 W. Logie.         | 8 N. Shaw.             | 8 Ja. Ross.           | 8 Ja. Sutor.            |
| 9 Boniface.             | 9 Jo. Sutor.        | 9 Aler. Stewart.       | 9 Allr. Brown.        | 9 Jo. Man.              |

*XVIII.—THE CREWS OF BURGHEAD IN JANUARY, 1749.*

It would appear that Sir Robert Gordon had at this time (pending his process with the Sutherlands of Rosehaugh) possession of the third of Burghead.

|    |                   |                   |                    |                   |                      |
|----|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Sk. Robt. Shaw.*  | Sk. John Taylor.* | Sk. John Jaffrey.* | Sk. Alexr. Prott. | Sk. Jas. Feimister.  |
| 2. | Will. Flett.*     | Will. Edward.*    | Alexr. Ross.       | Cha. Shaw.*       | Cha. Jeffrey.        |
| 3. | Jas. Mackintosh.* | Will. Sutor.      | Aler. Jaffrey.*    | Jas. MacDonald.   | Aler. Hendrie.       |
| 4. | Jo. Farquhar.*    | Alexr. Macdonald. | Aler. Geddes.*     | Jo. Hendry.*      | Michl. Findlay.*     |
| 5. | Jas. Findlay.*    | Ale. Hendrie.     | And. Ross.         | Jo. Stewart.*     | Da. Hood.            |
| 6. | Buckie.           | Jo. Cook.         | Will. Logie.       | Jo. Peterkin.     | And. Feimister.*     |
| 7. | Jas. Shaw.*       | Jas. Crammond.    | Robt. MacDonald.   | Jas. Prott.       | And Feimister, yor.* |
| 8. | Alex. Sutor.      | And. Grant.       | Alexr. Neilson.*   | Jas. Shaw.        | Will. Innes.         |

The Five Crews of Seamen, consisting of eight men each, were Divided at Burghead, on the 13th day of January, 1749, as above, by me. A. D.

Those marked \* are Mr Dunbar's men, . . . 18

Those without a mark are Sir Robert's men, 22

—  
40

XIX.—DIVISION OF THE SIX CREWS OF SEAMEN AT BURGHEAD, 30th JANUARY, 1750.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                     |                                  |                   |                  |                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Robert Shaw, sk.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Jo. Geddes, sk.     | Jo. Taylor, sk.                  | Jo. Jeffrey, sk.  | Alex. Prott, sk. | Jas. Feimister, sk.  |
| 2 William Edward.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 2 Chas. Jeffrey.    | 2 Alex. Ross.                    | 2 Chas. Shaw.     | 2 Wm. Flett.     | 2 Alex. Hendrie.     |
| 3 James Macintosh.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 3 Jo. Peterkin.     | 3 Jo. Macdonald.                 | 3 Alex. Jeffrey.  | 3 Wm. Sutor.     | 3 Jas. Findlay.      |
| 4 James Shaw.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 4 Michael Findlay.  | 4 Alex. Macdonald.               | 4 Rob. Macdonald. | 4 Jo. Hendrie.   | 4 Da. Hood.          |
| 5 James Farquhar.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 5 Alex. Geddes.     | 5 Alex. Hendry, yr.              | 5 Jas. Cramond.   | 5 Jo. Stewart.   | 5 And. Ross.         |
| 6 Jo. Shaw.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 6 Jo. Cook.         | 6 Will. Innes.                   | 6 Will. Logie.    | 6 Jas. Sutor.    | 6 And. Feimister.    |
| 7 Alex. Sutor.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 7 Jo. Farquhar.     | 7 Wm. Marshall.                  | 7 Alex. Neilson.  | 7 Jas. Prott.    | 7 And. Feimister.    |
| 8 Da. Flett.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 8 Alex. Sutor, yor. | 8 Neil Macdonald.                | 8 And. Prott.     | 8 Alex. Prott.   | 8 And. Grant,        |
| <p>At BURGHEAD the 30 January 1750.—<br/> Then were the six crews of the Burgh divided in manner above mentioned with a solemn oath of protestation, that no skipper should charge by, own, or receive, any man belonging to another but by consent. In witness whereof they have hereto subscribed their names.</p> |                     |                                  |                   |                  |                      |
| ROBERT SHAW, sk.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | JOHN GEDDES, sk.    | JOHN TAYLOR, sk.<br>JOHN GEDDES. | JOHN JEFFRIE, sk. | ALEX. PROTT, sk. | JAMES FEIMISTER, sk. |



## XX.—RENTAL OF THE TWO-THIRDS OF BURGHSEA, 1751.\*

|             |                                  | Scots money. |    |   |
|-------------|----------------------------------|--------------|----|---|
| CARPENTERS. | Jo. Geddes, carpenter, .....     | £3           | 6  | 8 |
|             | Wm. Steel, for two houses, ..... | 6            | 13 | 4 |
| SEAMEN.     | Skipper Geddes, .....            | 3            | 6  | 8 |
|             | Skipper Shaw, .....              | 3            | 6  | 8 |
|             | Skipper Taylor, .....            | 3            | 6  | 8 |
|             | Skipper Jaffrey, .....           | 1            | 10 | 0 |
|             | Michael Findlay, seaman, .....   | 3            | 6  | 8 |
|             | Jo. Peterkin, do., .....         | 3            | 6  | 8 |
|             | Jo. Hendry, .....                | 2            | 0  | 0 |
|             | Cha. Shaw, .....                 | 2            | 0  | 0 |
|             | Alexr. Jaffrey, .....            | 2            | 0  | 0 |
|             | Jas. Findlay, .....              | 2            | 0  | 0 |
|             | Robt. MacDonald, .....           | 2            | 0  | 0 |
|             | Will. Edward, .....              | 2            | 13 | 4 |
|             | And. Feimister, .....            | 2            | 13 | 4 |
|             | Anne Prot, .....                 | 2            | 0  | 0 |
|             | Alexr. Brodie, .....             | 2            | 0  | 0 |
|             | Alexr. Neilson, .....            | 2            | 0  | 0 |
|             | Jo. Dick's Relict, .....         | 2            | 0  | 0 |
|             | Mary Macleod, .....              | 2            | 0  | 0 |
|             | Jo. Farquhar, .....              | 1            | 13 | 4 |
|             | Jo. Stewart, .....               | 1            | 13 | 4 |
| WOMEN.      | Will. Flett, .....               | 1            | 13 | 4 |
|             | Alex. Geddes, .....              | 1            | 10 | 0 |
|             | And. Feimister, Sen., .....      | 1            | 6  | 8 |
|             | Jas. Mackintosh, .....           | 0            | 13 | 4 |
|             | Jas. Brand, .....                | 1            | 13 | 4 |
|             | Isobel Thompson, .....           | 1            | 6  | 8 |
|             | Janet Hendry, .....              | 1            | 10 | 0 |
|             | Alex. Steuart's Relict, .....    | 1            | 6  | 8 |
|             | Isobel Jaffrey, .....            | 1            | 6  | 8 |
|             | Isobel Macquiban, .....          | 0            | 13 | 4 |
| MASONS.     | Margt. Johnston, .....           | 1            | 0  | 0 |
|             | Barbara Hesben, .....            | 1            | 6  | 8 |
|             | Jas. Allan, mason, .....         | 3            | 6  | 8 |
|             | Jo. Marr, .....                  | 3            | 6  | 8 |
|             | Alex. Marr, .....                | 2            | 13 | 4 |
|             | Geo. Gray's houses, .....        | 4            | 0  | 0 |
|             | Jas. Brown's two houses, .....   | 4            | 13 | 4 |
|             |                                  | <hr/> <hr/>  |    |   |
|             |                                  | £90          | 3  | 4 |

\* The originals of this rental, and of the memoranda relative to the fishermen on the three preceding pages, are all in the neat and well known handwriting of Archibald Dunbar, Esq., of Newton and Duffus.

**XXI.—JOHN DINGWALL, ESQ., PROVOST OF ABERDEEN,  
TO SIR ARCHD. DUNBAR, BART. OF DUFFUS.**

Sir Archibald Dunbar having written Provost Dingwall of Aberdeen to recommend a person to advise him as to the improvements of the Harbour of Burghead, the Provost writes in reply as follows:—

Aberdeen, October 13th, 1801.

DEAR SIR,—In answer to your's of 11th Curt., I believe John Rainie, Esqr., Civil Engineer, London, is allowed at all hands to be the most eminent man of the present day for all kinds of Water Works. The drawbacks against employing him are, in the first place, the Expende, and in the second place, even when he is brought to the Spot he is in such demand that he cannot bestow the necessary time and attention to give designs and thereafter explain these so as to enable people to execute them properly. Water-Works of any consequence, I mean where the Sea is concerned, require not only an Engineer to project but an able experienced Overseer to Superintend. We have no person in Aberdeen so completely qualified as that his opinion ought to satisfy a Gentleman who is anxious about making the most of what Nature has intended for a Sea port.

I consider Bailie Shepherd's judgment in this line in a very respectable light, and think if he would undertake the Journey the expence would not be thrown away.\* He has had a good deal of experience here, & is a very shrewd sensible man, one who will not be ready to lead your Friend into useless wild Schemes. If you wish me to speak to him I shall do it or anything else in my power to forward the intentions of your Friend.

Mrs D. joins in best wishes to you, and I always am, Dear Sir, Sincerely Yours,

JOHN DINGWALL.

\* Whether Bailie Shepherd ever appeared at Burghead or not we do not know, but the harbour was built by an Aberdeenshire contractor, and he has left evidence by his substantial work that he understood his business well.

XXII.—MINUTE OF SALE OF BURGHEAD BY SIR ARCHD.  
DUNBAR, BARONET, DATED 25th FEBRUARY, 1805.

It is Contracted, Agreed, and Ended, between Sir Archibald Dunbar of Northfield, Baronet, heritable proprietor of the Subjects aftermentioned, On the one part, and him, the said Sir Archibald Dunbar, William Brodie, Esquire of Milntown, Joseph King, Esquire of Newmiln, John Brander, Esquire of Pitgaveny, George Forteath, Esquire of Newton, William Young, Esquire of Inverugie, Thomas Sellar, writer in Elgin, On the other part, in manner following, That is to say, the said Sir Archibald Dunbar has Sold and disposed, and in consideration of the price underwritten, Sells and disposes To and in favour of himself and the said William Brodie, Joseph King, John Brander, George Forteath, William Young, and Thomas Sellar, Share and share alike, and to their respective heirs and Assignees heritably and irredeemably, All and Whole the Towns, Lands, and harbour and Seaport of Burgh, commonly called Burgh Sea or Burgh-head, with the Fishers' houses, and other houses, lands, yards, fishings, boats, quarries, Teinds, parts, pendicles, and universal pertinents of the same, Together with the whole duties payable or exigible for or out of the same, and Also the loft and Seats erected in the Church of Duffus by the late Sir Alexander Dunbar of Northfield, Baronet, father of the said Sir Archibald Dunbar, for the accommodation of the inhabitants of said Burgh, called the Fishers loft, of which Subjects the said Sir Archibald Dunbar Binds and Obliges him, his heirs and successors to Grant and deliver to himself, and the said William Brodie, Joseph King, John Brander, George Forteath, William Young, and Thomas Sellar, and their foresaids against the term of Whitsunday next, a valid and formal disposition containing an obligation to infest a *se vel de se* procuratory of resignation clause of absolute warrandice, Excepting therefrom two Minutes of Tack Granted by the said Sir Archibald Dunbar to the late Mr John Reid, minister of Duffus, one of them dated the        day of May, one thousand eight hundred, and the other relative to a piece of ground whereon Alexander Alex-

ander has partly built the walls of a house, dated , and excepting such obligations as have been granted by the said Sir Archibald Dunbar to William Stephen, Carpenter, John Findlay, Skipper, and John Peterkin, and others for allowing them certain sums of meliorations for houses built by them as specified in a Rental furnished by the said Sir Archibald Dunbar, docketed of this date as relative hereto, declaring nevertheless that it shall be in the power of the said purchasers and their foresaids to Quarrel or impugn such Tacks or other claims on any Ground known in Law, provided the same do not infer warrandice against the said Sir Archibald Dunbar or his foresaids, With Assignation to the Writs and evidents and to the rents, maills, and duties from and after the term of Whitsunday next, with precept of Sasine and every other usual and necessary Clause, and with the said disposition to deliver up a complete progress of Titles to the said subjects hereby Sold, or where the said Titles contain other lands, an obligation to give access to the same whenever the said purchasers shall have occasion therefor : And further, the said Sir Archibald Dunbar becomes bound to free and relieve the said subjects of all debts and incumbrances and of all public and parochial burdens affecting the same or payable at and preceding the said term of Whitsunday next : And the said Sir Archibald Dunbar hereby empowers the said purchasers to pursue, follow out in his name all actions of Removing against the tenants and possessors of the said subjects, and having obtained decreets in the said Actions he hereby further empowers them to use all necessary diligence in his name for carrying the same into full effect : And he obliges him to give whatever further aid may be necessary for this purpose, the expence of the said actions and diligence being defrayed by the said purchasers and their foresaids ;—For Which causes the said William Brodie, Joseph King, John Brander, George Forteach, William Young, and Thomas Sellar Bind and Oblige themselves jointly, their heirs, executors, and Successors to make payment at the term of Whitsunday next to the said Sir Archibald Dunbar, each of them





Mr Brodie of Milntown afterwards retired from the speculation, and there were assumed as Partners in addition to the six others above mentioned, His Grace Alexander Duke of Gordon, and Colonel Francis William Grant of Grant, afterwards Earl of Seafield, making in all eight proprietors, in whose favour Sir Archibald Dunbar executed a Disposition of the Town and Harbour, on the 11th May, 1808.

*XXIII.—ABRIDGEMENT FROM THE RECORDS OF THE  
PRESBYTERY OF ELGIN RELATIVE TO THE  
CHURCH AT BURGHEAD.*

For the following abstract of Church proceedings at Burghead, I am obliged to the Rev. Philip Jervis Mackie of Elgin, and the Rev. James Weir of Drainie.

The first proposal for having a Church and Minister at Burghead, was made by Mr Gordon, minister of Duffus, at a meeting of Presbytery on 4th April, 1821.

Dec. 3d, 1822.—Mr David Simpson was authorised by the Presbytery to act as itinerant minister at Burghead, the ministers of Duffus and Alves having certified that he had begun his ministerial labours there on Sunday, 3d November preceding.

1823, July 2d.—Mr David Simpson was ordained (at Elgin), and thereafter the Presbytery, at the same meeting, appointed him to minister (under the superintendence of the parish minister of Duffus), “did and ‘hereby do appoint him to discharge the duties of a ‘clergyman in the villages of Burghead, Cuminston, ‘and Hopeman.”

1825, Aug. 6th.—Mr David Waters was chosen Minister by the people of Burghead.

1825, Nov. 4th.—The Directors of the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge sanction Mr Waters’ appointment.

1826, May 31st.—Mr Waters presented by the Committee for managing the Royal Bounty.

1826, July 31st.—At Spynie, Mr Waters ordained Missionary and Catechist to Burghead.

1833, March 17th.—The Rev. Alexander Brander



produced to the Presbytery two minutes, of date 4th February, and 25th February, 1833, stating that in consequence of the Presbytery's recommendations of 1st December 1830, and 9th February 1831, subscriptions had been raised for building a manse to the extent of £100, and it is believed a suitable house could be built for £150, recommending to borrow £50—the Minister to pay the interest till the debt be paid off by the surplus funds of the Chapel.

1833, Dec. 4th.—Draft Charter.

1844, Dec. 4.—Mr Alex. Whyte held by Presbytery as elected by meeting at Burghead, on 14th Nov. 1844.

1844, December 20.—Dr Rose dissents from resolution to ordain Mr Whyte, and gives reasons.

1844, December 26.—Rev. Alexander Whyte ordained at Burghead.

1846, May 14th.—Rev. Alexander Leslie ordained at Burghead.

1866, December 27th.—Rev John Garioch ordained at Burghead.

#### XXIV.—VILLAGE OF ST ETHAN.

A few years ago Mr Cumming Bruce, the respected proprietor of the estate of Roseisle, resolved to lay off ground for building adjoining Burghead, with the view of its eventually becoming a village, and very appropriately gave it the name of the old Saint (St Ethan.) About six or seven neat cottages have been built, but the success of this village will entirely depend on the progress of the town and harbour of Burghead, with which it is inseparably connected. When the building lots of Burghead are filled up, any farther extension, as a matter of course, must come upon St Ethan. The place is well situated, having roads running eastward along the coast, westward to Forres, and southward to Elgin, and may eventually in connection with Burghead, and with suitable encouragement from the proprietor, become a flourishing village.

The coast here is exceedingly bleak and exposed, and would be much improved by judicious planting.

The best practical planters are of opinion that with the protection of the high sand hills, wood would grow very close to the sea, and the sand-drift would thereby be checked and perhaps entirely prevented. From what has already been done by planting the sands on the estates of Moy and Kincorth, in the parish of Dyke, it may reasonably be expected that it would succeed equally well on the extensive Links near Burghead. The improvement would, if successful, be an incalculable benefit to the district, and it is hoped at no distant period the experiment may be attempted to be carried out.

#### XXV.—SOCIAL PARTIES.

Burghead has at various stages of its history been famous for its social entertainments. During the time of the co-partnery proprietors they had many fish dinners in William Lee's Inn (then a comfortable house of the old school), where they met and entertained their friends with the best cheer. The late Alexander Duke of Gordon occasionally attended with the other proprietors, and much enjoyed these festivities. It was a time of much conviviality, carried perhaps to an extent that would seem excessive in the present day. At a succeeding period, during the time of the late Mr Young, there were frequent salmon feasts, many of them given by the hospitable and genial Baron Bailie, where the best society of Elgin mingled with some of the respectable inhabitants of Burghead. After the lapse of a quarter of a century and upwards, it is pleasant to look back on these friendly and social entertainments. Alas! many of the choice and kindly spirits of those days have crossed "that bourne from whence no traveller returns."

#### ERRATUM.

Page 62—23d and 24th lines from the top, for one-third of Duffus read “two-thirds of Duffus.”

NOTE.—On the same page it is noticed that Alexander the first Lord Duffus was three times married; this is given on good authority. I am inclined to be of opinion, however, that he had a fourth wife, a daughter of Lord Forbes, who survived him.