

CHAPTER XIV.

THE SCOTS IN SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.

The Expedition of Douglas—The Earl of Argyll—Moodie of Melsetter—Don Pedro Stuart—Sir John Downie—Parentage of the Empress Eugénie—The Scots in Portugal—Forbes of Skellater—Other adventurous Scots in Portugal.

WHEN the illustrious Robert Bruce lay dying at Cardross, by his desire, after his demise, his heart was taken out, as all know, embalmed, and given to his firm friend and brother patriot, the noble Sir James Douglas, for conveyance to the Holy Land, whither the long war with England had prevented the king going in person. Douglas had that true heart, which had so often beat high in battle for Scotland, enclosed in a silver casket, which he constantly wore suspended from his neck by a chain of the same metal; and having made his will, and settled all his affairs, he set sail from Scotland, attended by a splendid and gallant retinue of knights, among whom were Sir William Sinclair of Roslin, Lockhart of Lec, and others famed in Scottish war. This was in 1329.

Anchoring off Sluys, the great emporium of Flanders, expecting to find companions bound on the same pilgrimage, he kept open table on board his ship, with royal munificence, for twelve days. Froissart says he had with him eight Scottish knights, one of whom bore his banner; twenty-six esquires, "all comely young men of good family; and he kept court in a royal manner, with the

sound of trumpets and cymbals. All the vessels for his table were of gold and silver."

At Sluys he heard that Alphonso, the King of Leon and Castile, was at war with Osmyn, the Moorish King of Granada, and as this was reckoned a holy strife, he resolved to take Spain on his way to Jerusalem; thus, after landing at Seville, he marched with the Spanish army to the frontiers of Andalusia, and in the great battle fought at Teba the vanguard was assigned to him—the Scottish hero and veteran of Bannockburn.

Teba lies about forty miles north-west of Malaga, in the midst of the rocky Sierra Camorra, and has still its Moorish castle which was made defensible by the French in 1810.

The Moorish cavalry were routed and took to flight, and Douglas with his comrades, pursuing them too eagerly, were separated from the Spanish army. The Moors, perceiving the small number that followed, rallied and surrounded the Scots. Douglas, with only ten survivors, cut his way through, and would have made good his retreat had he not turned to assist Sir William Sinclair, whom he saw surrounded and in dire peril. In attempting to save his friend, he was cut off and overwhelmed. On finding himself inextricably involved, he took from his neck the casket containing the heart of his king, and threw it before him with the memorable words, "Now, pass onward as thou wert wont, and Douglas will follow thee or die!"

He rushed to where it lay, and was there slain, with the Laird of Roslin, Sir Robert and Sir Walter Logan, two

brothers. Next day the body of the hero of *seventy* battles—Fordoun says he was thirteen times defeated by, and fifty-seven times victorious over, the English (Book XIII)—was found with the casket and brought home by his few surviving friends. He was laid among his forefathers in Douglas Kirk, and the heart of Bruce in Melrose Abbey.

At the court of Alphonso there was a knight of high renown whose face was seamed with scars, and who expressed surprise that a soldier of such renown as Douglas had none to show. "I thank God," said the latter, "that I always had hands to protect my face." (*Barbour.*) His sword is still preserved, and is referred to by Scott in the notes to *Marmion*. On the blade is the date 1329—the year of Teba.

When Seville was captured from the Moors by the Spaniards in 1247, after one of the most obstinate sieges mentioned in Spanish history, in which the wooden bridge of the Guadalquiver perished, one of the bravest knights in the army of the King of Castile was a Scottish wanderer named Sir Lawrence Pooré (Powrie?), called in the Spanish annals Lorenzo Poro, who, after the storming of the city, was the first man to ascend La Giralda, a tower still 250 feet in height. His descendant, the Marquis de la Motilla, still owns his ancestral mansion in the Calle de la Cuna at Seville, says Forde in his work on Spain, and adds that "a Scottish herald will do well to look at the coats of arms in the Patio."

In 1495-6 ambassadors were sent from James IV to Spain. In the High Treasurer's accounts for that year

there is an entry to "George Murehead—4 ells of Rissili's brown, for a gowne to him, when he went to Spain with the Secretary."

Sir John Seton of Barnes, Knight of St. Jago, the direct descendant of George IV. Lord Seaton was Master of the Household to Philip II, 1556-98; but was home in Scotland in 1609. (*House of Seaton, etc.*)

In 1618, Archibald, Earl of Argyll, who commanded the royal forces at Glenlivet in 1594, "not being able to give satisfaction to his creditors," according to Scotstarvit, entered the service of Spain, had a command in West Flanders, and distinguished himself at the capture of several strong places from the States of Holland, but changed his religion. Thus Craig, a forgotten poet, wrote of him:—

"Now Earl of Guile and Lord Forlorn thou goes,
Quitting thy prince to serve his foreign foes;
No faith in plaids, no trust in Highland trews,
Camelion-like, they change so many hues."

About two years after this, one of the Semples, of whom little more than the name is known, founded the Scottish College of Valladolid, the revenue of which is now about £1,000 per annum, and the lands of which are to be held off the Spanish Crown while vines shall continue to grow upon them. Six miles from the city is the country villa (of the college) which Wellington occupied for a night on the retreat from Burgos.

Ludovick, "the Loyal Earl of Crawford," after the king's fortunes had reached the lowest ebb in 1646, finding himself penniless and destitute, returned to Spain, the

theatre of his early fame, "to crave," says Guthry, "arrears due to him" by Philip IV, who gave him command of an Irish regiment, in which a Don Diego Leslie had a company—a follower of his own. He was at Badajoz in 1649. Two years after he was in Paris fighting valiantly in the wars of the Fronde, and guarding the Cardinal de Retz in Notre Dame, with fifty other Scottish officers *qui avoient été des troupes de Montrose*, and in these wars he is supposed to have perished. (*Memoirs of Montrose*, 1858.)

In 1706 a Scotch officer rendered such valuable services in succouring the city of Denia, in Valencia—a place of difficult access, and strongly defended by walls and a double port—that he won the gratitude of Charles III. This was Commodore James Moodie, of Melsetter, who ran from school in his boyhood, and entered on board a man-of-war. How well his services were appreciated by the Spanish king may appear from the following letter which the latter addressed to Queen Anne on the subject in French:—

"Madame, my sister,

"Captain James Moodie, who commands the vessel *Lancaster*, has rendered me services so important that I owe almost entirely to his zeal the preservation of my city of Denia, which, being destitute of all kinds of provision, would not have held out against a siege of five weeks, unless the said captain had furnished a supply at the request of those who commanded on my part. I doubt not but your Majesty will make him a handsome and generous return, both on account of the said services and of this my

pressing intercession; to which I shall only add the assurance of that respect and sincere attachment with which I am, madame, my sister, your affectionate brother.

“CHARLES.”

How the commodore was rewarded we know not; but from the old *Statistical Account* we learn that when close on his eightieth year he was murdered in the streets of Kirkwall at the instigation of the Jacobite, Sir James Stewart.

During the war in Catalonia, John Wauchope of Niddrie-Marischal, a general of Spanish infantry, was slain in 1718. His brother, in the same service, has already been referred to as the governor of Cagliari, in Sicily. The earl-marischal at this time, and till 1733, and several other Scottish officers, his companions in loyalty and misfortune, were serving in the Spanish army. Among them was Sir John Macdonald, who afterwards landed in Moidart with Prince Charles.

The earl was offered the rank of lieutenant-general, but declined it, until his services should prove his capacity and merit—an instance of modesty and disinterestedness that filled with astonishment the ambitious Alberoni. The earl then proceeded to Rome, where he received the Order of the Garter from King James; and in 1733 he was again in the army of Spain when war broke out between that country and the emperor. Some years after he seems to have quitted the Spanish service again and lived for a time in obscurity, though in 1750 he was sent by Charles III of Spain to negotiate for the peace of Europe, but failed in

the attempt. As stated elsewhere, he was governor of Neufchatel.

He was the last earl-marischal, and with him ended a family the most ancient in Europe, after serving Scotland in a distinguished capacity for above *seven hundred years*. Then the old prediction attributed to Thomas the Rhymer was said to be fulfilled :—

“ Inverugie by the sea,
Lordless shall thy lands be !”

The prints of 1759 record that Don Pedro Stuart, lieutenant-general of the naval forces of Spain, left Madrid in November for Carthagena, whence he sailed with sixteen ships of the line to convey home his Sicilian Majesty. (*Caledon Mercury*.)

It was no doubt a son of this officer that we find so prominently referred to by Schomberg and Brenton in their naval histories.

On the night of the 19th December, 1796, Nelson, then a commodore, having been despatched by Sir John Jervis in *Le Minerve*, 38-gun frigate, accompanied by the *Blanche*, 32 guns, to Porto Ferrajo, fell in with two Spanish frigates, and directed Captain Cockburn to attack the one that carried a large poop light. This was off Carthagena. The *Blanche* kept up a running fight with one of the frigates; but the *Minerve*, says Sir Jahlel Brenton, “ proved more fortunate, and subdued her antagonist, which on being boarded proved to be the *Santa Sabina*, an 18-pound frigate of 40 guns, commanded by Don Jacobo Stuart. During the action the contending and chasing ships had run close into Carthagena, with the wind

dead upon the land. The Spanish captain was therefore no sooner on board the *Minerve* than the *Sabina* was taken in tow. This was scarcely accomplished when the *Minerve* was brought to action by another Spanish frigate.”

The hard and gallant fighting that followed—fighting for which Nelson presented a beautiful gold-hilted sword to Captain Cockburn—lies apart from the story of Don Jacobo Stuart, who, before he struck his colours, had lost his mizzen-mast, and had 164 killed and wounded out of a crew of 286—by his valour exciting the admiration of Nelson. Schomberg gives the date of this frigate-battle the 19th December, 1796; Brenton, the 1st of June in the same year.

In the early part of the present century, Sir John Downie, a Scotsman in the Spanish army, took a prominent part in several political events. He went to Spain in the first instance with Sir John Moore, and with the survivors of that officer's ill-fated expedition returned with Sir Arthur Wellesley. Having entered the Spanish service, he won such reputation in Estramadura that a legion of 7,000 men, collected by his influence alone, served under him with great success during the rest of the Peninsular war. This force was named the Estremena Legion, on the formation of which he expended 200,000 dollars. (*London Courier.*)

In the attack on Seville, in 1812, he led the advanced column, which his legion formed, and for this King Ferdinand VII promoted him to the rank of field-marshal, loaded him with honours, and made him knight of St. Ferdinand, Carlos III, with seven crosses, for distinguished actions in the field. He was made governor of the palace

of Seville and captain-general of Andalusia. On visiting London the Prince Regent (afterwards George IV) knighted him for his Spanish services; but his decided preference for Spain gave offence in some quarters, though he had many attached friends in the British army, among them notably the gallant Sir Thomas Picton, who fell at Waterloo.

When the troubles of Ferdinand began, Sir John Downie and his nephew were arrested at Seville in 1823, on suspicion of being engaged in a plot to rescue the king and royal family, about the time that a French army crossed the Bidassoa and occupied Madrid, while the king and Cortes retired to Seville, and thence to Madrid.

He was subjected to many grievous indignities, and imprisoned for a time in the Four Towers, at the arsenal of Curacca, on an island near Cadiz, with a sentinel placed over him. But these sufferings were temporary, and his honours were restored to him.

Sir George Napier, in his *History of the Peninsular War*, gave great offence to the relatives of Sir John Downie by terming him "an adventurer," and drew forth a retort from one, who asserted that he "was lineally descended from Sir Duncan Forrester of Arngibbon, in Perthshire, an extensive landed proprietor, who in the year 1492 was Comptroller of the Household to King James IV," and that he was also descended from the Maxwells of Brediland, in Renfrewshire.

He was born on his father's property of Blairgorts, near Kippen, in Stirlingshire, and was a man of very commanding presence.

He died in Spain in 1826, and was interred with every honour that the King of Spain could bestow.

In 1879 there died at Madrid Donna Maria Manula Kirkpatrick of Closeburn, the mother of the Empress Eugénie, and daughter of a Mr. Kirkpatrick, who was British consul at Malaga during her marriage with the Conde de Montijo, an officer of the Spanish army, connected with the Duke de Frias, representative of the ancient Admirals of Castile, of the Duke of Fyars, and others of the highest rank, including the descendants of the kings of Arragon.

Her great-grandfather (according to the *Times*) died on the scaffold in 1746, in consequence of having joined the loyal Highlanders under Prince Charles Edward. His son emigrated and settled at Ostend, whence his family passed into Spain and settled in the south. The Countess-Dowager, who died in her 86th year at the Alba Palace, was married to a brother of the Count of Montijo and Teba (the same Teba where "the good Sir James Douglas" fell), and on the death of the latter without issue her husband succeeded to the title. The law of Spain makes it necessary to inquire into the descent of any lady before she can be espoused by a noble, thus certificates were obtained from Scotland proving that the Countess was a Kirkpatrick of Closeburn, and her ancestor had been created a baron by Alexander II. "From these parents the Empress Eugénie inherited the title of Teba. The Counts of Montijo and Teba were of the same origin as the Dukes of Medina-Sidonia, the family name of both being Guzman. . . . The counts appear among the most illustrious warriors of

Spain in past generations, back as far as 1492, and during the wars of the first French Empire the owners of the title fought under the standard of Napoleon.”

The first Scotsman we can trace in the Portuguese service is Captain Forbes of Skellater, in Strathdon, who served at the siege of Maestricht, and in the Seven Years' War with the Prussian army, after which he entered that of Portugal, where he was the chief means of introducing the principles of that discipline which he had learned under Frederick the Great and Marshal Keith.

He enjoyed the confidence of four successive sovereigns of Portugal, who nobly rewarded his integrity and virtue. He rose to the rank of general, and commanded the army at Roussillon, at the commencement of the Revolutionary war. He attained the highest rank and honours the King of Portugal could award him; and when the royal family retired to Brazil he accompanied them, and died there, on the 8th of January, 1808, in his 67th year.

The influence of Forbes in the Portuguese army drew other Scotsmen to its ranks. Among these were William Sharpe, a native of St. Andrew's, who in 1764 was made brigadier-general and governor of Olivenza, and died in London a baronet; in 1780 governor of the province of Minho, and colonel of the Monça regiment of infantry; Colonel James Anderson, who in 1763 commanded the battalion of Lagos, and died at Viona in 1771; Major Bethune Lindsay, who died at Falmouth in February, 1776; and Colonel John McDonell, commander of the regiment of Peniche in 1765—a corps for steadiness surpassing even those of Prussia. “I am told,” says a writer in the *Edinburgh*

Advertiser, vol. iii, "that Colonel McDonell has been indefatigable, and that, with the assistance of three or four of his own relations who have seen service, he has in a few months brought that regiment to its present perfection, from being one of the worst in Portugal. The king publicly expressed his satisfaction, and thanked the colonel at the head of his regiment."

There was also Lieutenant-General MacLean, who was appointed governor of Lisbon in 1763, and ten years after succeeded Don José Francis Lobo, Count of Oriolo, as governor of Estramadura, the first military honour in Portugal, and never before given to any but a noble of the highest rank.

In 1764, Captain Forbes, the antagonist of the notorious John Wilkes, entered the Portuguese service, after having been in the French ; and there was also the gallant Brigadier John Hamilton, who was drowned in 1767, when returning home in the *Betsy*, of Leith, which foundered off the coast of Lincolnshire.

