

## SIEGE OF BROUGHTY CASTLE. •

A.D. 1550.

THREE miles east from Dundee, on the banks of the Frith of Tay, is the agreeable and pleasant village of Broughty Ferry—a modern sea-bathing retreat of the lieges of the county of Forfar, and similar to those *watering-places* patronized by the citizens of Edinburgh and Glasgow during the summer months. Although Broughty Ferry is *minus* trees, and has no pretensions to romantic environs, being situated, like the Portobello of the Modern Athenians, on level ground, it is nevertheless a comfortable, pleasant, and sunny village, with a delightful beach, and separate from the opposite shore of Fife little more than a mile. The only object of historical interest in this village is the old ruined Castle of Broughty, prominently situated on elevated rocks, and rearing its venerable battlements as if in proud disdain of the surrounding series of villas and houses. When it was built, or by whom, is not ascertained, and the earliest notice of it is in 1492, when Boece mentions it as witnessing a foolish prodigy. From 1547 to 1550, Broughty Castle was the scene of exploits worthy of notice, and which are intimately connected with important events in Scottish history.

The Duke of Somerset invaded Scotland in 1547, and after gaining the important battle of Pinkie, although compelled to return to England on account of designs formed against him, his fleet continued to scour the Scottish coasts, and, with the fortresses on the islands of the Frith of Forth,

---

• M. Beaugué's History of the Campaigns of 1548 and 1549, Paris, 1556; Statistical Account of Scotland; Lindsay's (of Pit-scottie) History; Birrel's Diary.

the English seized the Castle of Broughty, and filled it with a sufficient garrison. While the Duke of Somerset departed with his army by the south-east of Scotland, the Earl of Lennox, who had been received with distinction by Henry VIII. and honoured with his alliance, entered the kingdom by the west, and his presence everywhere spread terror. The Regent Arran, at all times timid, beheld this new rival with dismay, but to conceal his fear he collected the scattered remains of the Scottish army discomfited at Pinkie, and marched to blockade the Castle of Broughty. He lay before the fortalice from the 1st of October 1547 to the 1st of January, when he was obliged to raise the siege, with the loss of all his ordnance. The English, emboldened by their success, pillaged Dundee and other places, and fortified the hill of Balgillo, nearly a mile northward of Broughty, where some vestiges of their fortifications are still to be seen. When the Earl of Argyle was informed that the English were ravaging the county of Forfar, and defeating every attempt at opposing them on the part of Maule of Panmure, and Halyburton, Provost of Dundee, he collected his vassals, and marched to Broughty, but he was no more fortunate than the Regent, and was compelled to relinquish the siege. A similar fate attended three regiments of French commanded by Monsieur D'Essé, but at length the fortress was yielded in 1550 to the allied army of Scots, French, and Germans, commanded by Des Thermes, the successor of D'Essé. A narrative of this siege, written by M. Beaugué, was published at Paris in 1556. It contains some curious particulars not generally known.

After some severe reflections on Lord Gray, a Scottish nobleman who was most conspicuous in those times for his venality, and to whom it is stated Broughty Castle then belonged, Monsieur Beaugué says—"Broughty is a castle so conveniently situated that at full tide ships of 150 tons may ride at anchor within a hundred or eighty paces of it.

The Earl of Arran had already made two attempts to recover this place, and both times he employed at least eight thousand men and eight pieces of cannon, but he failed in the first, because his presence was most urgently required elsewhere; and as for the second, the Earl of Argyle, who commanded the siege, made a truce with the garrison for a set time, and before its expiry the English had sent such succours as compelled him to retire, after his Highlanders had lain before it as long as they were obliged to serve.

“ Monsieur D'Essé, being informed of the state of affairs at Broughty, sent Count Rimgrave with his companies of Germans, and Monsieur D'Etauges with one of French, following with the remainder of his forces in person with the greatest expedition. The enterprise was projected and conducted with all imaginable secrecy and prudence, but it was not possible to conceal those movements from the English, who, when informed that we intended to visit them, demolished the fortifications they had commenced and diligently carried on during the space of eight days at Dundee, rifled the houses, and set fire to the town, returning to their forts at Broughty and Balgillo Hill. They were fortunate to have faithful spies in their interest on this occasion, for Count Rimgrave and Monsieur D'Etauges had gone before with a design of giving employment to the enemy; but when they entered Dundee they had the mortification to find in the town only a few men and some poor women, who were exerting themselves to extinguish the flames kindled by the English.

“ Two days after this disappointment, the officers now mentioned went at the head of their companies to view the new fortress built by the English at Broughty. They advanced so very near it, that those within must either have drawn out, or allowed themselves to be braved at the foot of their walls. They chose to sally out, and we had a very warm rencounter. Our Germans drove back the fore-

most to their fort, and there met with the strength of their forces, who received our men within reach of the ordnance of the place; yet our captains and soldiers repulsed them again and again, till seeing a proper time they retired towards Dundee, facing about when necessary, and observing to a nicety all the punctilios of honour required on such occasions.

“ After the various undertakings and successes of the campaign, Monsieur D’Essé ordered Dundee to be fortified, to prevent the English getting any more footing in those parts of the kingdom. For which purpose he left seven companies of French and two of Scots in the place, with pioneers, cannon, and other necessary ammunition. He then returned to Edinburgh, and it being necessary to give some ease to his fatigued soldiers, he sent the residue of the army to quarter in the towns of St Andrews, Perth, Aberdeen, Montrose, and in some villages of the county of Fife.

“ Monsieur D’Etauges was commander of the garrison of Dundee, which consisted of his own company of horse all very well mounted and armed, seven companies of French infantry and two of Scots, the one of foot and the other of horse. All these had made frequent attempts upon the English at Broughty, and knowing how to improve an advantage, and to *nick* an opportunity, they always had the advantage of them. By this means the enemy were brought to that pass that they durst not stir abroad, or if they did, they were sure to keep always within the reach of an harquebuss of their own walls. On this account Monsieur D’Etauges so much undervalued them, that one day he resolved to go with a very few attendants to see a small vessel which was cast away at Broughty. He put on a coat of Spanish leather, and, armed only with his sword and dagger, he mounted a very fine Turkish horse, desiring seven or eight gentlemen of his own retinue

to follow him, and take the air and pleasure of the fields for a few hours. But Beauchatel, who was near him at the time, thought fit to play a sure game. He caused about twenty-five of our men to arm, and rode after his commander at full speed. Monsieur D'Etauges had been already discovered by the English. All that tract which lies between Dundee and Broughty is a large plain, the way is marshy, and deep and uneasy during the winter. The garrison had no sooner descried Monsieur D'Etauges proceeding along the road from Dundee than they began to discharge their cannon. This did not prevent Monsieur D'Etauges from going round the fort, and viewing it on all sides, as he had often done before. This induced the English to sally out upon him. He was joined by Beauchatel and his twenty-five horsemen, all brave lusty fellows. As he was himself about to charge the enemy a second time, his horse, wheeling about in a marshy place, fell on his right side. Being surrounded by the English he was made prisoner, who carried him off immediately to their fort."

The English retained possession of Broughty Castle till expelled, as already stated, by a united force of the Scots, French, and Germans, under Monsieur Des Thermes, the successor of D'Essé. The castle was afterwards dismantled, and though occasionally repaired it was eventually permitted to become a ruin, in which condition it now exists, and is a prominent object when entering the Tay, as if surveying with indifference the mighty changes which have completely altered the appearance of the surrounding country. Dundee is now a large and populous sea-port, the land between it and Broughty is finely cultivated, instead of being a marsh as it was in Queen Mary's time, and Broughty is a pleasant village, the inhabitants of which live in peaceful seclusion, enlivened, and of course enriched,

by the presence of those summer visitors who resort to it for health and retirement.