

## Fifeshire.

## FALKLAND PALACE.

IN the north-west of the county of Fife is a conspicuous range of hills, known as the East, Mid, and West Lomonds. The East Lomond, which is conical, and rises one thousand four hundred and sixty feet above the level of the sea, is terminated by the West Lomond in Kinross-shire, one thousand seven hundred and twenty-one feet above the level of the sea,<sup>1</sup> overlooking the capacious lake of Lochleven.<sup>2</sup> The Mid Lomond diverges northward from the two, and the sloping sides of the three form beautiful and interesting features in the district.

On the north side of the East Lomond, at the head of the beautiful vale known as the Howe of Fife, traversed by the Eden, is the very antique and sequestered parish village of Falkland, originally a burgh of barony under the Earls of Fife, and constituted a royal burgh by a charter of James II. in 1458, which was renewed by James V. in 1595. The position of this curious specimen of the Scottish burghs of the sixteenth century is such that the denizens are precluded from the sun during the winter quarter of the year. The town consists of a principal street, from which diverge most primitive streets and alleys in all directions up and down the slope; and as the place is remote from any principal road, the old thatched dwellings have never been replaced by more substantial tenements, and only a few are slated and of modern erection. The houses are small, and generally display in front the date of erection, armorial bearings, initials of the original proprietor, and in some instances emblematic representations of his trade or profession. The inhabitants are chiefly weavers—a race also of “baskers in the sun, it being quite customary, after their long summer day’s work is over, to stretch themselves, with all their children around them, on the unequal streets, to enjoy the glories of the waning light. They live contented in the homes of their fathers, practising the same trades, eating the same food, entertaining the same ideas, and at last sharing the same graves.”

The preamble to the charter constituting Falkland a royal burgh alleges as the reasons for granting it, the frequent residence of the sovereigns at the Manor of Falkland, and the inconvenience sustained by the prelates, peers, barons, and others, for want of hostelries or inns, which in modern times would be designated hotels. The denizens, however, appeared to have considered the honour with indifference, and though governed by a town-council, whose municipal revenues amount to the annual sum of about 60*l.*, they never exercised their right of sending a member or commissioner to the Scottish Parliament. Probably their inability to pay their representative was one of the causes. Their privileges were in consequence overlooked in the classification of the Fife royal burghs at the time of the Union. Though now a mere country village, it is still a royal burgh in other respects. The Town-House was erected in 1802, and the magistrates hold courts to decide petty offences and questions of civil contracts occurring within their jurisdiction. Some memorials of the former influence of the burgh exist in the names of the humble localities, one of which is dignified as the “Parliament Square,” a second is the “College Close,” a third is the “West Port,” and some of the residences of the officers of James VI.’s household erected by him still remain, with grateful inscriptions on the walls. Yet for centuries the finely cultivated plain on the east was so marshy, that in 1611, when the King issued a mandate to the Presbytery to meet in future at Falkland instead of Cupar-Fife, the members refused to comply, assigning as a reason that the burgh could not be approached in winter, nor after heavy rains in summer.<sup>3</sup> This was certainly an extraordinary district for the erection of a royal palace in times when draining was unknown. The Wood of Falkland, which consisted chiefly of oaks, and was stocked with fallow-deer for the

<sup>1</sup> The above heights are stated on the authority of the Trigonometrical Survey made by order of the Board of Ordnance. In Mudge’s Trigonometrical Survey the height of the East Lomond above the level of the sea is calculated to be 1480 feet, and that of the Wester Lomond 1720 feet.

<sup>2</sup> The Lomonds are thus noticed in the commencement of an old song—

“On Easter Lomond I made my bed,  
On Wester Lomond I lay,  
I luikit down to bonnie Lochleven,  
And saw three perches play.”

<sup>3</sup> New Statistical Account of Scotland—Fifeshire, pp. 936, 937.



GRAND ENTRANCE TO FALKLAND PALACE.

*From an Original Drawing by D. Roberts R.S.A.*

JOHN G. MURDOCH LONDON

hunting amusement of the sovereigns, has entirely disappeared. This Forest in Queen Mary's reign was rapidly decaying.<sup>1</sup> In the following century Cromwell's troops demolished the remaining timber.<sup>2</sup> The Park of Falkland is noticed as having three wild boars in 1541, which were procured from France by James V. Sir David Lindsay of the Mount, whose patrimonial property so called is only a few miles distant, duly celebrates the happy days he passed at Falkland.<sup>3</sup>

In 1129 Macbeth is mentioned as Thane of Falkland, and, in conjunction with Constantine Earl of Fife, collecting forces to protect the Culdees of St. Andrews and Loehleven from the threats of Robert de Burgoner, who demanded one-half of the lands of Kirkness near St. Andrews. It is impossible to ascertain whether this Thane of Falkland had any territorial possessions or residence in the district, and Falkland soon afterwards was the property of the crown. In the subsequent century, in 1267, William, ninth Earl of Marr, ratified two charters at Falkland, which Morgund, Earl of Marr, his grandfather, had granted to the Prior and Convent of St. Andrews.<sup>4</sup> This implies that a castle or fortress had been erected. It is stated by a learned writer that Duncan, sixth Earl of Fife, married Ada, niece of Malcolm IV., and that Falkland was part of her dowry. A part of the royal grant on this occasion, dated at Edinburgh, in 1159-60, is cited in reference to this marriage.<sup>5</sup> It is farther alleged that the lands of Falkland continued with the subsequent Earls of Fife till 1371, when Isabel, Countess of Fife in her own right, only child of Duncan, twelfth Earl, conveyed the estates to Robert Stuart, Earl of Menteith, third son of Robert II. The Countess had three husbands, who each became Earl of Fife in her right, and by none of whom she had issue. Her second husband was Walter, second son of Robert II., who died in 1360. The brother-in-law of the Countess became the thirteenth Earl of Fife, and also retained the title of Earl of Menteith in addition. He was created Duke of Albany at Seone in 1398, and at the death of Robert III. in 1406 was constituted regent and governor of the Kingdom, occasioned by the seizure and imprisonment of his nephew James I. in England. The Regent Albany closed a long and active life in 1490, aged upwards of eighty years, and was interred in the Abbey Church of Dunfermline. His son Murdoch succeeded as second Duke and fourteenth Earl of Fife, and as Regent of Scotland. He achieved the release of his cousin James I., who in 1425 caused him to be tried at Stirling on various charges, and seized Falkland and his other Castles. He was convicted, attainted, and executed at Stirling on the day after the trial, and his sons Walter and Alexander were at the same time found guilty, and beheaded. The Tower and lands of Falkland reverted to the Crown.<sup>6</sup>

No vestige is preserved of the Tower of Falkland, the predecessor of the Palace, and the precise site is unknown. The building is supposed to have occupied a mound immediately on the north of the present Palace. Before the forfeiture of Murdoch, second Duke of Albany, the edifice was called the Castle or Mar of Falkland, though in ten different charters by the first Duke of Albany, as Regent and Governor, he simply dates from the Manor of Falkland. This Castle or tower is mentioned in an indenture between the Countess Isabel and her heir, in which she stipulates that Albany, then Earl of Fife and Menteith, is to be the Keeper of the Castle and Forest of Falkland—that he was to place a constable therein at his pleasure—that she was to reside within the Tower when it suited her convenience—and that the whole village of Falkland, over against the said Tower, shall be let on lease.<sup>7</sup>

The date of the decease of Isabel, Countess of Fife, is not recorded, which is of little consequence, as

<sup>1</sup> In 1555 an Act occurs—"It was fundin be ane assayse, that the said Wood of Falkland, for the maist part thair of, was auld, failzeit, and decayit, and neid to be cuttit downe for the comoun weill of the realme, and to be packit, hanit, and keptit of new for policie thair of,"—which means that the Wood was to be replanted with what is quaintly designated in the Act "young growth."—Acta Parl. Scot. folio, vol. ii. p. 497. In 1511, when James IV. was building his large ship, the Great Michael, the Wood of Falkland was untouched, while all the other oak-forests in Fife were cut down for timber.—History of Scotland, by Robert Lindsay of Pitseottie, folio, 1728, p. 107.

<sup>2</sup> Lamont records—"This yeare the English beganne to cut downe Fackland Wood; the most pairt of the trees were oaks."—Chronicle of Fife, or the Diary of John Lamont, of Newton, from 1649 to 1672, 4to. 1810, p. 53.

<sup>3</sup> In the "Second Epistle of the Papingo directed to her brethren at Court," Sir David Lindsay writes—

"Farewell, Falkland, the fortress sure of Fife,  
Thy polite Park under the Lowmond Law,  
Some time in thee I led a lusty life,  
Thy fallow-deer to see them rack on raw,  
Court-man to come to thee they stand great awe,  
Saying, thy burgh been of all burghs bail,  
Because in thee they never got good ale."

<sup>4</sup> Liber Cartarum Prioratus Sauti Andree in Scotia, printed for the BANNATYNE CLUB, 4to. 1841, pp. 309, 310, 311.

<sup>5</sup> Douglas' Peerage of Scotland, by Wood, vol. i. p. 574.

<sup>6</sup> The mode of acquisition of Falkland by the Crown is uncertain. The statement that the lands were obtained by the attainder of Murdoch Duke of Albany and Earl of Fife is opposed to the assertion in a law-plea, decided by the Court of Session in November 1829, that the property at Falkland was *purchased* by the then sovereign from the Earl of Fife.—Halkerston's Treatise on Privileges of the Palace and Sanctuary of Holyrood house, 8vo. 1831, pp. 128, 149, 150.

<sup>7</sup> New Statistical Account of Scotland—Fifeshire, p. 924.

Albany was Earl of Fife in 1371, the year of her acknowledgment of him as her heir, and he possessed the title without any dependence on her life. His father, Robert II., was advanced in years; and as his elder brother, afterwards Robert III., was unable from bodily debility to be useful in the management of public affairs, a Parliament was held in 1389, in which the then Earl of Fife was solemnly declared by the Estates to be governor of the kingdom. Robert III., who succeeded in 1390, constantly resided at his Castle of Rothesay in Bute, and the Earl continued to his brother's death in 1406 to discharge the duties of his office, when he was, as already observed, constituted governor. The little burgh of Falkland, the Castle or "Mar" of which was Albany's usual abode, when not engaged in military expeditions or progresses in various parts of the kingdom, was for thirty years the seat of government, and the "Mar" was in reality a palace, with all the attractions of a Court in its then rude splendour. His fraternal relationship to the King, as one of the blood-royal, his high office, which invested him with all the powers of the State, and other advantages, rendered the manorial burgh of great importance, and the resort of many a prelate, abbot, and noble of high rank. Centuries have elapsed, and all this ancient pageantry is in oblivion.

The old Castle or "Mar" of Falkland derives its only historical notoriety, while the first Regent was the proprietor and occupant, as the scene of the death of David, Duke of Rothesay, eldest son of Robert III., and nephew of Albany, which occurred on the 26th or 27th of March, 1402. If the popular and generally received accounts are correct, Albany, assisted by Archibald, fourth Earl of Douglas, surnamed the Grim, whose sister Lady Marjory or Elizabeth had married, in February, 1400, the Duke of Rothesay, and John, Earl of Buchan, the son-in-law of Douglas, murdered this unfortunate Prince in a most atrocious manner. Rothesay, though high-spirited and chivalrous, was young, wild, and reckless, and, according to the old historians, by unbounded licentiousness had destroyed the peace of families, degraded his high rank as heir to the Crown by associating with profligates, and had excited against himself a multitude of enemies. His life was a daily scene of turbulence, immorality, and dissipation, and his marriage, which was probably the result of political convenience rather than of inclination, had failed to improve his conduct. The old age of Robert III. was disturbed by incessant complaints of the excesses of his son, whose conduct towards the Lady Marjory Douglas, his wife, by whom he had no children, would naturally exasperate her brother the "Grim" and powerful Earl of Douglas to connect himself with any plot which would accomplish his destruction. Rothesay, with all his violence and debauchery, evinced occasionally generosity, honour, and courage, which promised reformation, and he delighted to expose the selfish cunning of his uncle Albany, whose carefully concealed ambition he detected. Albany was deep, cold, and unprincipled; his vindictiveness was such that his victims when once in his power had no chance of mercy, and his command of temper enabled him to facilitate his designs. He hated Rothesay, and had long resolved to remove him as the obstacle of his projects and the fearless detector of his intrigues. After the death of the Queen Annabella Drummond, his mother, Rothesay perpetrated some of his frequent excesses, and his father eventually issued an order for his imprisonment. This was effected by the agency of Sir John Ramorny, one of Rothesay's profligate companions, and Sir William Lindsay of Rossie, whose sister Euphemia he had loved and forsaken, or who had been affianced to him and rejected, and who never forgave this insult to his family. Ramorny is said to have at one time suggested the assassination of Albany to Rothesay, who denounced the proposal with horror and indignation, and the refusal animated him with the most inveterate contempt and hatred. After alarming the fears of the old and decrepid monarch, who was, as usual, at Rothesay Castle, far distant from the scene of action, and convincing him that his son would no longer listen to counsel or restrain his youthful passions, Ramorny and Lindsay hastened with the command for Rothesay's temporary imprisonment, addressed to Albany, who soon had an opportunity of securing the doomed victim. It happened that Walter Trail, Bishop of St. Andrews, had recently died in the Castle of St. Andrews, and Albany, who had received the order for the durance of Rothesay, induced Ramorny and Lindsay to inveigle him into Fife, on the pretence that he should take possession for the King, as was the custom of those times in the case of vacant episcopal castles and residences, of the Castle of St. Andrews, until the appointment of another Bishop. Another account is that Rothesay, jealous of the resumption of power by Albany, resolved to seize the episcopal castle of the deceased Bishop, before he was anticipated by any command of his uncle or of his father, and this illegal design, of which Albany was aware, afforded him an opportunity to accomplish his purpose. Rothesay, while riding to St. Andrews with a few attendants to occupy the Castle, was arrested near Strathtyrum, in the vicinity of that city, by Ramorny and Lindsay, and strictly confined in

the same Castle until Albany and Douglas, who were then at Culross, should determine his fate. As this had been long resolved, Albany and Douglas soon appeared at the Castle of St. Andrews with a strong party of soldiers on a day peculiarly stormy, dismissed Rothesay's retinue, compelled him to mount a miserable horse, threw a coarse russet cloak over his splendid dress, to protect him from the rain, and hurrying rudely and without ceremony to the "Mar" of Falkland, which had been named his prison, he was thrust into a loathsome dungeon. He was suffered to remain fifteen days without food, under the charge of John Wright and John Selkirk, ruffians who were appointed to watch his agony till it ended in death. His body was privately interred in Lindores Abbey, on the Tay, in the north-west of Fife, and a report was circulated that he died of dysentery.<sup>1</sup>

Such is the popular narrative of the fate of David, Duke of Rothesay, elder brother of the first James, and which is prominent in Sir Walter Scott's "Fair Maid of Perth." It is also stated that the wretched prisoner was sustained for a time by a poor woman, who, in passing through the garden of Falkland, was attracted by Rothesay's groans to the grated window of the dungeon, which was level with the ground, and who became acquainted with his situation. This woman resorted thither at night, dropped small cakes of barley through the grating, and supplied him with drink from her own breasts, conducted by a pipe to the Prince's mouth; and that his two keepers, suspecting from his appearance that he had some means of obtaining a secret supply, watched and detected the benevolent female. Buchanan records that two women were concerned, the one supplying Rothesay with the cake, and the other with her own milk, before they were discovered, and the sufferer consigned to famine. It was also believed that after his death his body indicated that in the extremities of hunger he had gnawed his fingers and torn his flesh.<sup>2</sup>

Albany was loudly accused as the murderer of his nephew Rothesay, whose cruel death made his follies and licentiousness be forgotten, and his better qualities remembered. As Albany was in consequence denounced with scorn and detestation, it was necessary that he should endeavour to clear himself from the odious imputations which the conspiracy involved. He produced the King's letter ordering his son to be arrested, affirmed that every act was in compliance with the injunctions he had received, persisted in maintaining that dysentery was the cause of the Prince's death, and defied any one to prove that the slightest violence had been inflicted, appealing to and demanding the judgment of the Parliament. This meeting was held in the Abbey of Holyrood, on the 16th of May, 1402, and Albany and Douglas were examined. No record is preserved of the proceedings of this Parliament. Albany and Douglas confessed the imprisonment, and imputed the death to divine providence. They were acquitted of a crime which it was evident could not be sufficiently or minutely investigated, and a public remission, under the King's seal, declared their innocence, which in the opinion of Lord Hailes, who first printed the document, is expressed in "terms as ample as if they had actually murdered the heir-apparent." Albany resumed his office as regent or governor under the infirm Robert III., who lamented the fate of his son, and probably well knew who were the perpetrators; but preparations for continuing the war in England now occupied the public attention, and the fate of the Duke of Rothesay in the "Mar" of Falkland was forgotten.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Tytler's History of Scotland, 8vo. Edin. 1826, vol. iii. pp. 118-124; Pinkerton's History of Scotland, vol. i. pp. 67, 68, 69. "His body," says Boece, "was buryit in Lundoris, and kithit mirakles mony yeirs after, quhil at last King James the First began to punish his slayaris, and fra that time furth the miraklis ceissit."

<sup>2</sup> Boece, who accuses Albany of the murder of Rothesay, says that "ane woman, havand commiseratioun on this Duke, let meill fall doun throw the loftes of the toure, be quhilkis his lyfe was certane dayis saivt. This woman, fra it was knawin, was put to deith. On the same maner, ane other woman gave him milk of her paup throw ane lang reid, and was slane with gret crueltie fra it was knawin. Then was the Duke destitute of all mortal supplie, and brocht finalie to sa miserable and hungry appetite that he eit, nocht allenarie the filth of the toure quhare he was, but his own fingeris, to his gret marderome." Another version of the story is, that one of the women was the daughter of the governor, and the other was employed in the family as a wet-nurse. It is added that both were put to death for their humanity.—Jamieson's Royal Palaces of Scotland, 4to. 1830, pp. 31, 32.

<sup>3</sup> A learned critic on Tytler's History of Scotland, contends that the Duke of Rothesay actually died of dysentery, though "a report was circulated that he died of hunger," alleging that the story is "of much the same character with that of Richard II. of England," and that in "regard to the manner of his death a controversy has arisen as keen as that relative to the fate of Richard."—"The authorities on the subject may be stated in a sentence. Winton narrates the fact of the death and burial, without a word of the perpetration of the murder. Mr. Tytler appears to account for this by saying (after Pinkerton, from whom he appears to have borrowed it), that as his Chronicle was written in Fife, during the regency of Albany, he was afraid or unwilling to detail the horrid truth. But when we find Bower expressly stating that the Prince died of dysentery, adding merely the remark, as if it were a foolish popular rumour, that a report arose of his having died of hunger, we can see no ground for the theory as to Winton's silence, but considerable room for the charge, that history here has been sacrificed to effect. The words of Bower are, that he was kept in the castle by 'John Selkirk and John Wright, until, having wasted away by dysentery, or as others will have it (*volunt*) by hunger, he

After the forfeiture and execution of Murdoch, second Duke of Albany, and son of the alleged murderer of Rothesay, Falkland Castle was secured by the Crown. The "Mar" was evidently neglected in the reigns of James I. and James II., and probably was in a ruinous condition, when it was resolved to rebuild the edifice in a more appropriate style of architecture as the hunting retreat of the Scottish monarchs in the "Kingdom of Fife." The "Mar" was accordingly levelled to the ground, and even the Duke of Rothesay's prison-vault has disappeared.<sup>1</sup> It is impossible to ascertain whether James III. or James IV. commenced the present Palace, as both monarchs were partial to architecture, and employed mechanics at Falkland, which was not a special royal resort till the reign of James V., who completed the edifice under the inspection and skill of Sir James Hamilton of Finnart, steward of the royal household, and superintendent of the various palaces. On the top of a basement supporting Corinthian pillars are the initials of that monarch and his second consort Mary of Guise.<sup>2</sup> The roof was then thatched, and was continually requiring renovation.<sup>3</sup>

James V. was attached to Falkland, where he gratified his taste for hunting and hawking. It was here that, in July 1528, under the pretext of preparing for a grand hunting party, he planned and effected his emancipation from the thralldom of the powerful House of Douglas. Having given orders to warn the tenantry and assemble the best dogs, he retired to rest, on the plea of being obliged to rise next morning before daybreak. When all was quiet in the Palace he stole from his couch, disguised himself as a groom, and, attended by two faithful domestics, mounted on fleet horses, reached the Castle of Stirling before daybreak. The Earl of Angus had proceeded to the south of the Frith of Forth to adjust his affairs, leaving the King in the charge of Sir Archibald Douglas his uncle, Sir George Douglas his brother, and James Douglas of Parkhead, captain of the royal guard; but it happened that the uncle had travelled to Dundee to visit his mistress, and the brother to St. Andrews, to conclude an advantageous lease with Archbishop James Beaton, and a guard of one hundred men, commanded by Douglas of Parkhead was considered sufficient to control the movements of the sovereign. Sir George Douglas returned to Falkland at eleven in the evening, and in the morning was awakened with the unwelcome tidings that the King had escaped. After a vain search throughout the Palace he exclaimed—"Treason! the King is gone." A messenger was sent to Angus, who returned without delay, and soon felt the downfall of his name and family. James V. was then in his seventeenth year, and he subsequently enlarged and improved the Palace. The conduct of his forces at the Solway Frith on the 1st of November, 1542, induced him to hasten from Caerlaverock Castle to Falkland, and he died in the Palace broken-hearted on the 14th of December, in presence of Cardinal Beaton, the Earls of Argyll and Rothes, Durie his physician, Sir David Lindsay of the Mount, and a few others who were in the apartment. The announcement of the birth of his daughter Queen Mary, on the 7th of December, afforded him no consolation, and turning in his bed, he ejaculated in anguish, in reference to the Kingdom—"It came with a girl, and it will go with a girl."

Mary of Guise, the widow of James V., and for some time Regent, often resided at Falkland. The Queen Regent was in the Palace in June 1559, when she heard of the destruction of St. Andrew's Cathedral, and afterwards reluctantly signed the armistice concluded at Cupar Muir between the Duke of Chastelherault and Monsieur D'Osell on the one side, and the Lords of the Congregation on the other. Her daughter Queen Mary first visited Falkland in September 1561, on her journey from St. Andrews to Edinburgh, when a plot was alleged to have been concocted by the Earl of Bothwell and the Hamiltons to murder her illegitimate brother Lord James Stuart, afterwards the Regent Moray. They had resolved to secure the

died on the 7th of the calends of April.' This report having arisen, there was a natural desire in the persons implicated to clear themselves from the heinous charge. Hence the parliamentary investigation which Albany insisted for, and in which, as appears from a document printed by Lord Hailes, he was entirely acquitted. With regard to the congregation of accessory horrors which have given a gloomy interest to the story of the unhappy Prince, we rejoice to think that they originated in that copious storehouse of such existing topics—the fertile imagination of Hector Boece. It was a glorious theme for that rare fancy to work upon. The Prince is made to die the most execrating of deaths, and the story naturally winds up with a miracle."—North British Review, 1845, vol. iii, pp. 382, 383.

<sup>1</sup> Sir Robert Sibbald observes—"There is hard by the Palace, to

the north, a fair large house built by David Murray, Viscount of Stormont, then steward of Fife, in the very spot where (some think) stood the old castle where David Duke of Rothesay was famished to death by his ambitious uncle."—History of Fife, pp. 386, 387.

<sup>2</sup> The initials are I. R. (James Rex) and M. G. (Mary of Guise) and the date 1537.

<sup>3</sup> July 17, 1525—"Comperet Jhone Betoun of Criech, and protestit that sin he has the keping of the Palace of Falkland, and the samin is riven, the *thak* thereof broken, and will tak gret skaith without it be hastelie remedit. Therefor to cause the falts be mendit, or ellis gif him comand to do the samin on the Kingis expens, and mak him allowance thereof, and gif that failzeit, that na thing be laid to his charge."—Acta Parl. Scot. folio, p. 296.

Queen's person, that she might be completely in their power, and Bothwell urged that it could be effected without any difficulty. In the vicinity of Falkland was a small wood in which stags were kept, and to which the Queen often resorted with a small retinue. It was proposed to surprise the Queen at this place, and murder Moray. This charge was promulgated in 1562 by the Earl of Arran, son of the Duke of Chastelherault, and who was then considered insane. Mary was alternately at Falkland and St. Andrews in the beginning of 1562, to avoid the feuds of Arran and Bothwell, her mornings diversified by hunting in the Vale of the Eden, or practising archery in the garden, and her evenings in reading the Greek and Latin writers with George Buchanan, or at chess and music. In February 1563, after her return from her northern progress, the Queen resorted to Falkland, from which she made excursions to places in the neighbourhood. She received at St. Andrews intelligence of the assassination of her uncle the Duke of Guise; and on the 19th of March she proceeded to Falkland, where she endeavoured to dissipate her melancholy by pastimes, and amused herself in her usual manner from the 3d to the 19th of April, when she removed to Lochleven. Mary was at Falkland in 1564, and in 1565, after her marriage to Darnley. Her last visit was after the birth of James VI.<sup>1</sup>

Falkland Palace was the favourite summer residence of James VI., who enlarged the park to the extent of three miles, planted the enclosure with oaks and elder-trees, and enjoyed the hunting of the numerous deer within its limits. After his deliverance from the "Raid of Ruthven," in August 1582, the King retired to Falkland, and summoned his friends to consult on the mode of relieving himself from the thralldom of that audacious attempt. In 1589 James VI. married Anne of Denmark, to whom he consigned Falkland as part of her dowry, which he included in his "Morning Gift" to his consort, and ratified by Parliament in 1593.<sup>2</sup> On the 17th of July, 1592, the turbulent Francis, Earl of Bothwell, made his second effort to secure the King's person at Falkland, and James VI., betrayed by some of his courtiers, and feebly defended by others, was indebted for his safety to the fidelity and vigilance of Sir Robert Melville, and the irresolution of Bothwell's associates. Bothwell was repulsed and fled, after robbing the King's stables, and carrying off many horses from the Park and the town.<sup>3</sup> In 1596, after the riots at Edinburgh, the King proceeded to Falkland, where he employed himself partly in hunting, but chiefly in his determined project to establish the Episcopal Church. The first act of the celebrated Gowrie Conspiracy occurred at Falkland on the 5th of August, 1600, when the King was residing in the Palace, and preparing to mount his horse to pursue his favourite sport. The mysterious message was delivered to him by Alexander Ruthven, brother of the Earl of Gowrie, which induced him to ride to Gowrie House at Perth, and the result is well known.

After the accession of James VI. to the crown of England, the Palace of Falkland ceased to be a royal residence, or even the property of the Crown, and hastened to decay. Fairney of that Ilk acquired the heritable offices of Forester of the woods and muirs of Falkland, Nuthill, and other lands, all of which he sold in 1604 to Sir David Murray of Gospetrie, Lord Scone, and first Viscount Stormont, for 4000 merks, the King having in November 1601, and in August 1602, granted to Lord Scone the lordship of the offices of the Constable of the Castle, Forester of the Forest, and Ranger of the Lomonds of Falkland, for his services at Perth on the 5th of August, 1600, the day of the Gowrie Conspiracy. Nevertheless the Crown held some interest in the property, as on the 14th of January, 1617, the Privy Council, to provide for the King's sports during his visit to Scotland, issued a proclamation "against the slaying of his Majesty's bucks" in the Park of Falkland, or which might be found straying in the neighbourhood, under a fine, varying, according to the rank of the trespassers, from five hundred to one hundred merks.<sup>4</sup> On the 19th of May, 1617, King James proceeded to Falkland, where he was complimented in the name of the burgh of Aberdeen with the presentation of a long Latin poem, printed in the "Muses' Welcome," which was the production of David Wedderburn, Rector of the Grammar School of Aberdeen, who received a gratuity of fifty merks. The King remained some days at Falkland, where he was on the 17th of July.<sup>5</sup>

In July, 1633, Charles I., after his coronation at Holyroodhouse, proceeded from Stirling by Dumfermline

<sup>1</sup> Chalmers' Life of Mary Queen of Scots, 4to. vol. i. pp. 55, 102.

<sup>2</sup> Acta Parl. Scot. folio, vol. iv. p. 25.

<sup>3</sup> Historie of James the Sext, 4to. 1825, printed for the BANNATYNE

CLUB, p. 250.

<sup>4</sup> Progresses, Processions, and Festivities of James I., by John Nicols, F.S.A., 4to. 1828, vol. iii. pp. 327, 328.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. vol. iii. pp. 328, 329, 330.

to Falkland, was three nights in the Palace, from which he went to Perth, and was sumptuously entertained by George, first Earl of Kinnoul, Lord Chancellor. He returned to Falkland, and after a residence of two nights, on the 10th of July he removed to Edinburgh, narrowly escaping from a violent storm in the passage from Burntisland to Leith.<sup>1</sup> In July 1650, Charles II., during his unsuccessful attempt in Scotland, resided in Falkland until the 23d of that month, and on the 10th conferred the honour of knighthood on Mr. Thomas Nicolson, Lord Advocate, in the drawing-room after supper. This was the last royal visit to Falkland, the estate of which was acquired after the death of Lord Stormont in 1631 by John Murray of Lochmaben, first Earl of Annandale, whose son James, second Earl, sold the property to John, second Earl, and first Marquis of Athol. His son and successor, John, first Duke of Athol, who died in 1724, sold the property to Skene of Hallyards in Fife, from whose family the estate was purchased by John Bruce, Esq., of Grangehill, who commenced a repair of the Palace in 1823, converted part of the edifice into an elegant and commodious residence for the factor, and embellished the adjoining grounds as an ornamental garden. The operations of Mr. Bruce may be considered a restoration of the edifice. He renewed the roof and the floors, opened the built-up windows, and the crevices in the walls were plastered with coloured cement. The work was completed after his death by Mrs. Tyndal Bruce, his niece and heiress, whose magnificent residence of Nuthill, in the Elizabethan style, was commenced in 1839, and finished in 1844. The Beatons of Cricch are said to have been the original keepers of Falkland.

The Palace is incidentally connected with the Enterprize of 1715. After the battle of Sheriffmuir the celebrated Rob Roy Macgregor garrisoned the edifice, and laid the surrounding country for miles under contribution. Though within thirty miles of Edinburgh, he and his lawless followers continued their violent extortions for some time unmolested, and retired with valuable plunder.

The western external front of Falkland Palace consists of two circular towers, resembling those of Holyroodhouse. The south front is the oldest portion, and is still partially inhabited. On each floor are six windows, square-topped, and divided by mullions. Between the windows are buttresses, with niches for statues, the mutilated remains of which are still seen, and these buttresses are terminated by pinnacles rising considerably above the wall. The upper floor consists of a large hall or audience-chamber, the ceiling of which is carved and decorated in the most gorgeous style. The western front is in the castellated style, and of greater height than the two others. A lofty archway between the circular towers forms the entrance to the court-yard, and is secured by strong doors defended by the flanking towers. James V. made considerable additions, and appears to have erected two ranges of buildings of equal dimensions on the east and north sides of the court-yards. As completed by that monarch the Palace consisted of three sides of a square, the western side enclosed by a lofty wall. The buildings on the north side have disappeared, and the bare walls of the western side only remain. Those two portions were accidentally destroyed by fire in the reign of Charles II. James V. assimilated the inner front of the older part by a façade in the same style, ornamented with finely-proportioned Corinthian pillars and rich capitals, and above the windows are medallions presenting a series of heads carved in high relief, some of which are elegantly sculptured.<sup>2</sup> The view from the south parapet of the Palace is deservedly admired, commanding the Lomonds, green to their conical summits, the Strath or Vale of the Eden, and the Howe of Fife from Strathmiglo to Cupar. Some little knolls on a large plain on the east of the Palace are the memorials of islets in the now drained Rose Loch. Such is "Falkland on the Grene,"—as it is designated in one of the most humorous effusions of Scottish royalty, entitled "Christ's Kirk on the Green,"—abounding in delightful associations, its burgh one of the most curious and amusing in Scotland. It is unfortunate that the Palace is so close to the intricate and incomprehensible alleys as to preclude the possibility of enclosure, and the front forming one side of the public street.

<sup>1</sup> Sir James Balfour's *Annals of Scotland*, vol. ii. p. 201.

<sup>2</sup> In Slezer's "*Theatrum Scotiæ*" two engravings of Falkland Palace fancifully represent the edifice as seen in 1690. One view, from the north, presents the interior court, and in the east wing all the statues are entire, two on each buttress, or one in the niche and the other in the capital of the pillar. The other is an external view from the east side of the town, and represents the east wing of the

Palace as more entire than at present. Slezer introduces four carriages, one with six horses, one with four, and the two others with two horses, with a body of cavalry, and a company of infantry. He records that "the Duke of Atholl is hereditary keeper of this Palace, and hath a considerable rent by the neighbouring lands and stewardry."