

THE GORDONS OF EMBO
WITH OTHER FAMILIES
OF THE NAME IN THE
COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND

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(Including THE EMBO FAMILY)

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The GORDONS in SUTHERLAND

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THE EMBO FAMILY.

The migration of the Gordons into Sutherland was an episode thoroughly characteristic of the rapid rise of the family from the obscurity of their cradle on the Borders ; and the curtailment of their power in the Northern County is equally typical of that decay to which all houses are subject.

It may be remarked as a wide generalization that the Gordons in Sutherland never came to much from the genealogist's point of view ; even the noble family reached the point where it reverted to its original patronymic of Sutherland, much to the indignation of the Marquis of Huntly, who, as the head of the house, considered himself outraged. Similarly with the minor septs which the main line threw off. Any feeling of submission to the house of Huntly which the house of Sutherland felt was intensified in the case of its own offshoots to the house of Sutherland itself, the reason apparently being due to the fact that the Gordons in the far north, though not a Highland family, took on the colour of this clan environment, with the result that the noble house of Sutherland forced an allegiance to itself such as never existed among the Aberdeenshire and Banffshire families. The Sutherland Gordon did not dare to do anything on their "own." Only twice, once in 1615, an attempt was made, John Gordon of Embo, allying himself with the Mackays. Sir Robert Gordon acting for the Earl promptly removed him from his divers possessions and "girsings." Nineteen years later, Embo's son and successor transacted a deal in land with Lord Reay which the noble house of Sutherland did not approve of.

Ultimately Reay came to grief, while the Gray's of Creigh, who were Sutherland's favourites in the matter, made a success of life; whereupon Sir Robert Gordon, in his most pontifical manner declares:—

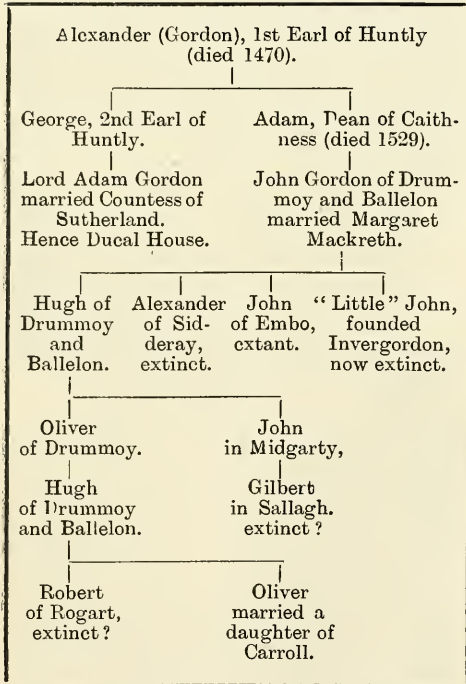
This should teach Southerland men to depend none but vpon the Earl of Southerland under his majestie.

The same strain of thought runs through all Sir Robert's estimates of the smaller Gordons, for he mentions with intense approval that this and the next one were "trustie and faithful" servants of the Earl of Sutherland.

The general consequence is that the smaller Gordons in Sutherland had nothing like the "smeddum" of the families in Aberdeenshire and Banffshire, and for that reason their history is far less picturesque and far more difficult to follow. Thus only two vendettas were waged by the Sutherland Gordons, namely against the Sinclairs who never seemed to get over the feeling that they were outlanders, and against the Sutherlands of Duffus, who expressed the same feeling for the neighbouring county. In the same period such a family as the Gordons of Gight are to be found carrying on a dozen vendettas, their chief, Lord Huntly, timidly intervening at intervals to suggest that they should desist. So while the pages of the Privy Council Register are full of details about the Aberdeenshire families, they contain next to nothing about the Sutherland lines, for the history of which we have to remain mainly on Sir Robert Gordon. The lack of individuality thus engendered undoubtedly devitalised the Sutherland families. The noble family itself no longer bears the name of Gordon and only two of the old septs remain, so far as we can trace them. Sir Robert's own representatives, the Gordons of Letterfourie, with not an acre in Sutherlandshire, are on the point of extinction. Again, though the baronetcy of Embo remains, the present baronet does not own one rood of land in Scotland. He is to all intents and purposes an Englishman with an Englishman's tastes, the game of cricket being a particular obsession; and as he has no issue and no male heirs there is a strong

probability that the baronetcy created in 1631 may become extinct.

The great majority of the families of Gordon in Sutherlandshire and the far north were founded by two Adams, respectively uncle and nephew; namely, Adam Gordon, Dean of Caithness, who was the son of the first Earl of Huntly, and Lord Adam Gordon, son of the second Earl of Huntly, who married Elizabeth, Countess of Sutherland in her own right about 1509. The lines of descent will be seen at a glance in this table :—



The Decendants as the Dean of Caithness.

Adam Gordon, Dean of Caithness

The Dean was probably the first to go North and smooth the way for his nephew who was to carry on the noble line of Sutherland. Several minor lines, however, were founded by the Dean, although as a prelate of the Church he had no business to be founding lines at all. It is with the Dean's descendants that I am concerned at the present moment. I have already dealt with that branch which was connected with the lands of Invergordon and Carroll. I shall now describe the senior line represented by the Gordons of Embo, graduating on to it all the other male descendants of the Dean, as they have long since disappeared from the ken of the genealogist.

Sir Robert Gordon ("Earl of Sutherlands," p. 104) describes Adam Gordon, the Dean of Caithness, as "a man of singular good learning."

[He] did governe the church of the dyocie of Catteynes with great integretie tuentie-four years; which his bishoprick wes voyd for that space, because that John Sinckler (sone to the Earle of Orkney) unto whom Prosperous bishop of Catteynes had resigned his place, wes never confirmed nor admitted (sayeth the manuscript of Fern); whereby Mr Adam Gordon, being dean of that church, wes appoynted vicar-general of that sea, vntill the admission of Bishop Andrew Stuart, commendator of Ke'so.

The Dean, who died at Elgin, June 5th, 1529, and who was buried in the cathedral church of Elgin beside his father

There is some doubt as to his partner's identity. Sir Robert Gordon does not mention her name but the Balbithan MS. favours us with the reformation that she was a "gentlewoman." Mr Murray Rose has pointed out ("Notes and Queries" (vii., 10th S., 317) that a *Bore Brieve* of 1663 claims for the Gordons of Embo that they "were descended of lawful marriage, of illustrious parents, and most distinguished families, who were all united in lawful wedlock, and were all renowned for splendour of descent and virtue." This document further records that the Dean of Caithness had a son John "by Katherine, de-

scended of a most ancient and verie noble lineage, to wit, the most illustrious Earl of Huntly." Now, in the various published pedigrees, this John (ancestor of Embo) is given as a brother of Master William Gordon, treasurer of Caithness, and of George Gordon, Captain of Badenoch, the ancestor of the Gordons of Meldornie. "But there is contemporary record proof that William and George Gordon were sons of the Dean by 'May or Mariote Duffus, bastard dochter of Sir John Duffus, chap'ain,' because on Feb. 24, 1527, they had letters of legitimation, and this document was recorded at Elgin. In this deed there is no mention of John Gordon, so that his maternity is still doubtful, if no reliance can be placed on the *Bore Brieve* of 1663." In any case the children were well provided for. Two of the sons went into the church, and a third got land. His sons in turn were further dowered with possessions by the immediate head of the house, the Earl of Sutherland, while the chief of the clan, the Earl of Huntly, sheltered them in troublous times in Morayshire when the Sinclairs meant to have their blood. The process of turning the issue of the Dean into lairds occurred in the case of his grandsons, of whom Sir Robert Gordon says ("Earl of Sutherland" pp. 104, p. 236) :—

These gentlemen have done good and acceptable service to Alexander Earle of Southerland and to his sone, Earle John ; and although they were borne to small moyens by birth, yit have they so faithfullie and truelie behaved themselves in serving their masters, the Earles of Southerland, that by their liberalitie, connivancie, and sufferance of ther masters, together with ther owne industrie, they have purchascd to themselves reasonable meanes, under ther wings and protection. They have bought the lands which the Laird of Forrse held in Souther'and, and they have purchascd the wedset and morgage of the Terrells' lands in Strathfleet from Walter Innes of Auchintowll, reserving the heretable right therof upon a reversion to the Earle of Southerland ; which lands the surname of Innes had from the Terrels by the marriage

of the Terrel's daughter and Leyre These Gordons have purchased also the fues and leases of divers church lands and other possessions in Southerland which they and ther children doe enjoy at this day.

The Dean of Caithness, according to Sir Robert Gordon and the "Balbithan MS." had three sons and a daughter :—

1. Master William Gordon, chancellor of Dunkeld, treasurer of Caithness, and rector of Petty.
2. Master George Gordon of Beldornie, now represented by the Gordons of Wardhouse who are strong Catholics.
3. John Gordon of Drummoy and Balleone.
4. Elizabeth Gordon. She married firstly—Ogilvie of Findlater, who, according to the "Balbithan MS." disposed his lands of Findlater and Auchindown to Lord John Gordon, son of the 5th (really the 4th) Earl Huntly. Lord John subsequently married the lady, and was executed at Aberdeen November 1562.

John Gordon of Drummoy.

This son of Adam Gordon Dean of Caithness is described by Sir Robert Gordon (p. 104) as "a faithful and diligent servant of Earl John [of Sutherland] who gave him the lands Ballelan in fue." He bought the lands of Drummoy from Sutherland of Forss in 1598 (ibid. p. 237).

The "Balbithan M.S." says he married the "Vicar of Kilmacheys daughter Sutherland" but Sir Robert Gordon says he married a gentlewoman called Margaret Mackreth who was then in service with the Countes of Southerland. Sir Robert (pp. 104, 314) expatiates on her at some length.

This Margaret Mackreth, long afterward in the time of her widowhood, did foster and bring up Sir Robert Gordoun, now tutor of Southerland and knight baronet [that is to say, the author of the "Earl of Sutherland" himself]. She was a verie vertuous gentlewoman, much given to hospitalitie, both towards rich and poor, and the best interteyner of strangers, and others that hath been these many yeirs in that province of her estate and qualitie. She died at Doill the yeir of God 1598

and was bureid at Dornogh, much regrated by all that knew her, haveing lived widdow above fourtie ycirs,

John Gordon of Drummoij had five sons and two daughters, according to Sir Robert Gordon.

- 1 Hugh Gordon of Drummoij who is treated separately
- 2 Alexander Gordon of Sidderay, who is treated separately
- 3 Adam Gordon, who died young.
- 4 John Gordon of Embo, who is treated separately.
- 5 John Gordon of Kilcalmkill and Backies. He was apparently distinguished from his brother by the epithet "Little" John ("Balbithan MS") Sir Robert Gordon ("Earls of Sutherland" p 233) says what he was a "special favourite" of the Earl of Sutherland. Kilcalmkill had been obtained from King James IV. by Y-Roy-Mackay in 1499 for taking nephew Alexander Sutherland of Dilred and presenting him to the King with ten of his accomplices, who had murdered Alexander Dunbar, the brother of Sir James Dunbar of Cumnock. This infettment was the first any Mackay had had, "being befor that tyme possessors onlie of some lands in that cuntrie of Strathnaver, not careing until this tyme for any charsters or infettments, bot claiming title by their possessions, as the most pairt of the Highlanders have always done." ("Earl of Sutherland" p. 305). The infettment was reduced in the Court of Session in 1512 in favour of the son of Sir James Dunbar of Cumnock, in so far as it concerned Golspitor, Kinnald, and Kilcalmkill. John Gordon bought Backies from Sutherland of Forss in 1598. He was closely identified with the Earl's projects. Thus in 1586 when Sutherland went with his "forces" to the Rony Rode, to assist the Earl of Huntly against the Earl of Athole, he sent his footmen to Dunkeld under John Gordon of Kilcalmkill and the latter's brother in law, Hugh Murray of Arbircors, to

join Sir Patrick Gordon of Achindoun, Gordon of Cluny, and Sir John Gordon of Pitlurg. The idea was to invade Athole from Dunkeld, Huntly joining the army with his cavalry from Brechin. The King, however, intervened and the contemplated attack did not take place. "This was called the Ronie Rode, because it hapned in the wunter season, when as the ground was full of ronns or sheckles of yee ("Earl of Sutherland," 186, 208). Again in February 1588 John Gordon of Kilcalmkill was sent out with his brother John of Embo to keep watch on the Earl of Caithness. They perpetrated a raid known as Craighlairn, that is, the harship of Lathron. Robert Gordon (p. 232) says he was a "special favorite" with the Earl of Sutherland. In recording his death in December 21, 1621, at Culmalie Kirktown, Sir Robert Gordon, describes him (p. 372) as having been a "faithfull and trustie servant unto Alexander and John, Earles of Sutherland and so continued even unto his death, a constant follower of that house dureing the minorite of this Earle John. He was in good favor and credet with Earle Alexander and with his son Earle John by whom he was imployed in divers actions and enterpryses. He was lykewise verie intire in the time of his government; a rare thing to sie one man have the favour of thrie persons and governors successivelie; which argues the great merit and desert in the person so beloved. He married Margaret Innes and had

- (1) Robert Gordon, "eldest sone of John Gordon of Kilcalmkill," whowent to Orkney with the Earl of Sutherland in August 1602. But on the voyage he "seikned and died shortlie afterward." Sir Robert Gordon calls him a "young gentleman of good expectation" (p. 248). According to Sir Robert Gordon's tables he had an illegitimate son, William Gordon, who married Margaret Smyth.
- (2) Gilbert Gordon in Rein. He was charged by the Privy Council on June 10th,

1621, with having helped John Gordon of Embo to attack the Sutherlands of Duffus. On August 2nd, 1621, Sir Robert Gordon was surety for him in £500 not to attack the Sutherlands. Sir Robert in his "Tables" says that he married Anne, daughter of John Mac-ean-mac-donald-bain in Cinenes (Shinness), the chief of the Mathesons, and had

- i. Robert Gordon
 - ii. John Gordon
 - iii. Alexander Gordon
- (3) Captain Adam Gordon of Kilcalmkill, sold Backies to Sir Robert Gordon before 1626. He went into England with Sir Robert (*ibid* p. 296.) In September, 1623, he helped to lead the right wing of Sir Robert's expedition to Berriedell. He carried on the Invergordon line as I have already shown in these columns, and died in Germany.
- (4) Alexander Gordon, founder of the Gordons of Carroll. At Whitsuntide, 1589, the Earl of Sutherland sent him with three hundred "chosen men" into Caithness to revenge the Sinclair's murder of his lordship's herdman, Donald Mack-ean-Moir. Sir Robert Gordon says they went almost as far as Girnigo, and "did strick a great terror into the hearts of the inhabitants of Catteynes. They ranged at large, spoiled and wasted frielie all the cuntrie before them, and filled many places with rwyne and desolation, pursued the enemy with a bloodie execution, so long as their furie did last; killed divers of the Seill-wick-Inver, and other inhabitants of Catteynes, and so returned home into Southerland with a great booty, without skirmish or the loss of one man; and this was called the Craigh ne-Kamkish" ("Earls of Sutherland" p. 198.) In 1616 he was one of the leaders of the expedition sent into Lochaber in pursuit of Mackrenald (*ibid* p. 329.) In 1620 he went with

Sir Robert to France. On August 2nd, 1621, Alexander became cautioner in £500 for Adam Gordon, Lochbeg, not to harm the Sutherlands of Duffus. ("Privy Council Register.")

5. John Gordon "of Brora" is given by the "Balbathin MS." as a natural son of John of Kilcalmkill. In 1612 John Gordon "in Broray" helped Sir Robert Gordon to run Arthur Smith, the coiner, to earth in Thurso, and rescued John Gordon of Embo who had got into a very tight corner ("Earls of Sutherland" p.p. 282, 283). In 1613 Sir Robert Gordon got him a remission for his slaughter of John Sinclair of Stirkag on that occasion (ibid 297). On June 10th, 1621, he was charged by the Privy Council with having helped John Gordon of Embo, to attack the Sutherlands of Duffus, and Sir Robert Gordon, was caution in £500 on August 2nd, 1621, that he should not molest them. He married Margaret Anderson, and had
 - (i.) Hew Gordon in Brora
 - (ii.) Robert Gordon, "slayn in France."

He may be the Robert Gordon, who was burges for the burgh of Dornoch in the Parliament of 1639 ("Earls of Sutherland" p. 496.) A Captain Lieutenant Gordon of Brora was captured by Lord Aboyne at the battle of Auldearn. He was one of the Earl of Sutherland's officers (ibid p 525.)
- 6 Eleanor Gordon, the daughter of John Gordon Drummoy, married Hugh Murray of Abirscors, and died without issue. Murray took the Gordons' side in the quarrel with the Earl of Caithness who "invaded" him in Strathfeet about 1571, killing three of his men. ("Earls of Sutherland" p. 163.)
7. Isobel Gordon, married (1) Master George Duff of Craighead, by whom she had issue ; and (2) Walter Murray, brother of Hugh of Abirscors, who was presumably her brother

in law. She had issue by both husbands. By her first husband she had a daughter, Isobel Duff "a vertuous gentlewoman" who married about 1602 Patrick Gordon of Craigton (son of Gordon of Cairnburrow) who had migrated into Sutherlandshire ("Earls of Sutherland" p. 245) She had

- i. John Gordon, Lieutenant-Colonel in Germany.
- ii. Robert Gordon, a Colonel in Germany. In 1628 he set out on the Rochelle expedition in the Earl of Morton's regiment ("Earls of Sutherland" p. 468.)
- iii. James Gordon
- iv. Jane Gordon

Hugh Gordon of Drummoy, (Died 1612).

He was the eldest son of John Gordon of Drummoy. He went into Orkney about 1569 "therby to eschew the Earle of Catteynes his furie and duelt ther with good credet, wher he maried a gentlewoman called Vrsley Tallogh, [Tulloch]. Yet he came sundrie tymes, dureing Earle Alexander his minoritie through Catteynes, secretlie into Southerland to visite his freinds, wher he escaped many dangers and snairs which wer layd for him by the Earle of Catteynes. Hugh Gordoun, his brethre, went with the Morrayes to Strathbogie, to the Earle of Hunley, who placed them and the Morrayes amongst his owne friends, wher they remained vntill the issue of Earle Alexander his waird." ("Earls of Sutherland," p. 157). Hugh Gordon died on March 3, 1612 at Dunrobin at the age of 82. Sir Robert Gordon says of him (p. 278):—

He had bein all his dayes a faithfull and trustie servant to the house of Southerland. He wes, dureing his tyme, baillie and shirreff-depute of Southerland; he wes in his youth verie able in all kynd of exercises; he wes of a good merrie disposition and of a pleasing conversation, indued with divers good gifts; he wes much given to hospitalitie, wherein he did equalize any in his tyme, of his degrie and qualitie, in the kingdom; he

was exceedingly lamented, not only by the inhabitants of Sutherland, but also by such strangers as did know him. . . .

[His virtues] well deserved to be registrat.

The "Balbithan MS." calls his wife "Ossala" Tullich, that is Ursula Tulloch, daughter of the Provost of Forres. He had

1. Oliver Gordon of Drummoy.
2. Patrick Gordon ; married a gentlewoman in Orkney.
3. John Gordon in Midgarty. Sir Robert Gordon (p. 199) calls him the "basse" son of Hugh Gordon of Drummoy. The Balbithan MS. designates him as "in Garty" ("Garty?") In June 1589 when the Earl of Caithness's brother, James Sinclair of Murkle, killed the spies of the Earl of Sutherland, the latter raised a guard, commanded by John Gordon in Midgarty, "who removed still from place to place where he suspected most danger and performed charge verie carefullie" ("Earls of Sutherland" p. 198). At the skirmish of Crissaligh shortly after this John Gordon showed himself "verie resolute and adventurous" and with the aid of two others, "alone, without anie help, provoked the avauntguard of the Catteynes armie and skirmished with them, until they were rescued by John Gordon of Kilcalmkill ("Earls of Sutherland" p. 199). Sir Robert Gordon in his "Tables" says that he was three times married (1) to Florence Monro, daughter to Farquhar Monro of Petbure; (2) Annas Sutherland, daughter of William Hectorson in Berriedell; and (3) to Isobel Anderson, whose origin is not stated. He had

- (1) Gilbert Gordon of Sallagh, by the second wife. He seems to have been a man of some note, for it was he who carried on the continuation of Sir Robert Gordon's history of the Earls of Sutherland from 1630. Another interesting fact about him is this, that when Dornoch was made a royal burgh in 1634, Sallagh, "who then attended Sir Robert Gordon," went first from Edinburgh to court with the new infeftment of the

regality and sheriffship of the burgh for the Earl of Sutherland, and brought it back again with the king's signature to it ('Earls of Sutherland' p 451). He married Christian, daughter of George Murray of Pulrosie and had two sons and a daughter :—

- i. Master John Gordon of Sallagh
 - ii. Robert Gordon
 - iii. Lucy Gordon
- (2) John Gordon, by the second wife
 - (3) James Gordon, by the third wife
 - (4) Mary Gordon, by the first wife. She married as his first wife Adam Gordon in Doill, the natural son of George Gordon of Marl, who was the natural son of Gilbert Gordon of Garty. George Gordon was slain in 1587 and his death created a great sensation in Suther'andshire. Adam Gordon married secondly a daughter of James Sutherland of Shiberseag. On June 10, 1621, Adam Gordon was charged before the Privy Council of helping John Gordon of Embo in his attack on the Sutherlands of Duffus ; and on August 2, 1621, Sir Robert was caution for him in £500 not to molest them.

Adam Gordon had four sons :—

- Hugh Gordon
 Patrick Gordon
 John Gordon, a bastard
 Adam Gordon, a bastard
- (5) Jane Gordon by the second wife. She married Adam Gordon in Culgour. He also (as "in Kilgour") was charged before the Privy Council, on June 10, 1621, of helping John Gordon of Embo to attack the Duffus Sutherands. Her husband was the son of Adam Gordon of Golspiekirkton, (natural son of Master Adam Gordon of Ferack, who in turn was the son of Adam Gordon, Earl of Sutherland). They had
 - i. Adam Gordon
 - ii. John Gordon married (1) Jean Gordon, daughter of Alexander Gordon of Carroll ; and (2) Katherine, daughter of John Gordon in Easter Hemsdale.

- iii. Alexander Gordon, married Margaret Gordon, daughter of Alexander Gun in Borboll.
- (6) Elizabeth Gordon married "Alexander Gordon Williamsoune" He was the bastard son of William Gordon of Overskibo, and is described by Sir Robert Gordon as being "in Killen." He had
William Gordon, Anne Gordon.
- (7) Katherine Gordon married Angus Mackenzie in Pettarchusie.
4. Thomas Gordon, a bastard. The Balbithan M^r. designates him "in Helmsdale." Sir Robert Gordon says he married Margaret Murray, daughter to John Murray, slain at the conflict of Clyne, and that he had
- (1) John Gordon, married the daughter of William beg Gun in Berridell, and had a son
John Gordon
- (2) Margaret Gordon, married Malcolm Macleod
5. Katherine Gordon married Alexander Cuthbert in Inverness, and died without issue.

Oliver Gordon of Drummoy

He was the eldest son of Hugh Gordon of Drummoy. In 1619 he was made bailie of the parish of Rogart, and in September 18th, 1634, Justice of the Peace for Sutherland and Strathnaver ("Privy Council Register.") He is apparently the Oliver Gordon in Ballelon for whom Sir Robert Gordon stood caution in £1000, on August 2, 1621, that he would not molest the Sutherlands of Duffus.

His land transactions are dealt with in the Inverness Sasine Register:—

1633, September 3—Sasine in favour of the honorable Oliver Gordon of Drummoy as heir to Hugh Gordon of Ballon of the lands of Kintraid, being one davach in the Barony of Strathfleet and shire of Sutherland, proceeding on a precept of clare constat from John Earl of Sutherland. The sasine dated August 26, 1633 (folio 101.)

1633, December 24—Renunciation by Oliver Gordon of Drummoy of the lands of Rovie, Kirktown, and Kintraid and Rogart, in the shire of Sutherland and, in favour of John Ear. of Sutherland (folio. 130.)

Oliver Gordon married (1) Jane Monro, daughter of Andrew Monro of Milton; and (2) Katherine Clunas, daughter of James Clunas, burgess in Cromartie (“Balbithan MS.”) He had

- 1 Hugh Gordon of Drummoy by the first wife.
- 2 John Gordon by the second wife. The “Balbithan MS.” designates him of Kilmallie. On August 2, 1621, Sir Robert Gordon was caution in £500 that John Gordon, son of Oliver of Ballelon, should not molest the Sutherlands of Duffus. He married Jane Gordon, the daughter of John Gordon of Kilcalmkil, and had
 - 1 John Gordon
 - 2 Robert Gordon
 - 3 Master Gilbert Gordon, a “laick jesuit” by the first wife
 - 4 Oliver Gordon by the second wife. On April 9, 1640, there was sasine to Oliver Gordon, son to the deceast Oliver Gordon of Drumoy proceeding upon an irredeemable charter by John Earl of Sutherland to him and is of the town and lands of Torboll (Inverness sasine register folio 276).
 - 5 George Gordon by the second wife, “slain in Germanie”
 - 6 Robert Gordon
 - 7 Daughter by the second wife (“Balbithan M.S.”)
 - 8 Daughter by the second wife, (“Balbithan M.S.”)

Hugh Gordon of Drummoy.

He was the eldest son of Oliver Gordon of Drummoy. He is apparently the “Hew Gordon, fiar in Ballelone” who was charged by the Privy Council in June 10, 1621, with having helped John Gordon of Embo to attack the Sutherlands of Duffus. On August 2, 1621 William Ross of Easter Farne was caution in £1000 that he should cease to do so. Again, in September 1623, Hugh Gor-

don, fiar of Ballelon, with John Murray of Abirscors and Adam Gordon of Kilcalmkill led the right wing of the little army sent by Sir Robert Gordon from Dunrobin against the Sinclairs ("Earls of Sutherland" p. 378). He married Margaret Gordon, daughter of John Gordon of Embo and had

- 1 Robert Gordon of Rogart. He married Janet Gray, daughter of Robert Gray of Over-skibo. He probably died before 1621, for he does not appear among the Gordons accused of attacking the Sutherlands of Duffus, though a William Gordon in Rogart-moir, probably his son, appears
- 2 Oliver Gordon, married Janet, daughter of Alexander Gordon of Carroll
- 3 Andrew Gordon
- 4 Jane Gordon, "Lady Fors."

Alexander Gordon of Sidderay.

The second landed line founded by the Dean of Caithness was the Gordons of Sidderay, or Ciderhall, as it is sometimes called. Alexander Gordon of Sidderay was the second son of John Gordon of Drummoy. The following are the few facts we know about him:—

- 1569—Alexander Gordon of Sidderay, "dis-guysed in a pedlar's apparell" was sent by the Gordons to Dunrobin to warn the Earl of Sutherland that the Earl of Caithness wanted him out of the way. The Gordons lay in ambush at the burn of Golspie and then sent the young Earl with Sinclairs, who perpetually accompanied him. The Gordons seized him and conveyed him to the Earl of Huntly at Strathbogie ("Earls of Sutherland" p. 154).
- 1583, April 16—Alexander Gordon of Sidderay was a juror in a case at Inverness ("Laing Charters.")
- 1597-8, February 2—Alexander Gordon of Ciderhall was one of the four Gordons who were to represent the Earl of Sutherland in arranging for an heir to David Ross of Balnagown in the event of his not having an heir of his own ("Sutherland Book" i 184).
- 1612, May—During the struggle between the Gordons and the Sinclairs, Sir Robert Gor-

don went to see the King at Greenwich, accompanied by John Gordon the son of Alexander Gordon of Sidderay ("Earls of Sutherland" p. 317).

1621, August 2—Sir Robert Gordon was caution in £1000 that Alexander Gordon of Sidderay should not molest the Sutherlands of Duffus ("Privy Council Register.")

Alexander Gordon of Sidderay died in March, 1630, at the age of 95, "which," says Sir Robert Gordon "is verie rare. He had been alwayes a constant and faithfull servant to the house of Southerland, whom (with the apparent hazard of his owne lyff) he carried away dureing his minority from his enemye, the Earle of Cattcynes, and conducted him to Strathbogie to the Earle of Huntlie, in spight of his greatest foes." ("Earls of Sutherland" p. 412).

Alexander Gordon of Sidderay was twice married: (1) to Jane Innes, sister of William Innes of Calrossie; (2) at the age of 51 ("Earls of Sutherland" p. 412) to Margaret Keith, daughter of Rev John Keith, parson of Duffus. Sir Robert Gordon mentions it as an extraordinary fact that he should have lived to see the great grandchildren of his second marriage. "He left his grandchylde to succede unto him." He had moreover several natural children. Sir Robert Gordon gives his family thus:—

1 William Gordon, a bastard. He married Annabel Bailzie and had

- (1) Oliver Gordon
- (2) Hugh Gordon
- (3) A daughter
- (4) Adam Gordon, bastard

2 Gilbert Gordon, a bastard. He perished in an extraordinary snowstorm on February 13, 1602, described with great minuteness by Sir Robert Gordon ("Earls of Sutherland" p. 246). On that day the Earl of Sutherland set out with his "ordinary train" from Golspitour to Strathvilly, on his way to Mackwickame's house in Killeirnan. The morning was fair, but in the Glen of Loth, "their fell such ane extream tempest, cwin drift, sharp snow and wind, full in their faces (the ground being alreadye verie deiplye covered with snow) that they wer

all lyklye to perish by the vehemencie of the storme. Some of the companie being thirstie, drank aquavitie. . This maid them afterward so feible that they were not able to indure against the storme. Earle John himselff (being a weill-disposed and able gentleman) travelled exceiding weill all the day long. Such of his train as did keip together in one company with him wer saiff from any hurt or danger. Some were dispersed by the extremitie of the tempest ; some were careid home vpon ther fellowes shou'ders and recovered afterward." Gilbert Gordoun, the base son of Alexander Gordoun of Sidderay, with two others, including the Earl's harper, perished by the "fiercenes and vehemencie of the storm and wer found deid the nixt morning amongst the snow " Gilbert Gordon was not only a bastard himself, but he had three bastard sons.

- (1) Arthur Gordon in Sweden
- (2) William Gordon
- (3) Oliver Gordon

3. John Gordon younger of Sidderay, by the second wife, was the only legitimate son. On March 20th, 1620, James Aikman, merchant burgess, Edinburgh, complained that John Gordon of Sidderay remained unrelaxed from a horning of March 2nd, 1620, for not paying the complainant, £220 11s 8d of principal and £40 expenses ("Privy Council Register.") On August 2, 1621, Sir Robert Gordon was caution in £400 that John Gordon, apparent of Sidderay, should not molest the Sutherlands of Duffus. John Gordon, "the only lawful sone" of Alexander Gordon of Sidderay, died, April, 1622, in Sidderay, "in the flour of his youth, when their wes greatest expectation of him, leaveing two sones and thrie daughters, verie young, to be governed by his father who wes now past eighty years of aige. Both these gentlemen (the uncle and the nephue) were buried at Dornogh, and wer exceidingly regrated, not onlie by ther freinds bot also by the whole inhabitants of the cuntrey, and cheiflie by Sir

Robert Gordun, who reposed much trust and confidence in them" ("Earls of Sutherland" p. 372.) In proof of this reference may be made to the commissions confided in Edinburgh to "young Sidderay" by Sir Robert Gordon in February, 1688. ("Sutherland Book, ii 135.) He married Jane Summer, whom the "Balbithan MS." describes as the daughter of Mr Symer, burgess in Edinburgh. They had

- (1) John Gordon. In 1634 John Gordon "of Sidera went into Germanie," with Adam Gordon of Kilcalmkill to visit the Hon. Captain Adam Gordon," "out of the affection they bore him, not knowing he was killed. ("Earls of Sutherland, p. 473.) Sir Robert Gordon ("Tables") says he died in Germany.
- (2) Alexander Gordon. He is described ("Sutherland Book, iii. 198) as "some-time of Siddrie, now [1656] of Tillgoure. Sir Robert Gordon describes him as "in Ki gour." He is apparently the Alexander Gordon of Sidderey, whom James Douglas macer put the horn for having failed to settle his accounts with the exchequer ("Privy Council Register," 2nd series, vol. 5, p 574):—
 "Therefore, I, the said James Douglas maissar and sheriff in that pairt within constitute upon the threttein day of Januare the yeir of God jm. jc. threttie four yeirs past, to the mercate croce of Edinburgh and thair with sourd and trumpet denounced the person above named [Alexander Gordon "of Sydra" along with certain others], our soverane Lordis rebell and put him to his hienes hornc be three blasts of ane horne as use is and ordanit all thair movable goods and geir to be unbrought to his hienes use for thair contempione. On June 28, 1648, then was a renunciation by Alexander Gordon to John Earl of Sutherland of the lands of Sidderay and others. ("Inverness Sasine Register," folio 14.)

- 4 Adam Gordon, bastard. He died in Salisbury in 1624
- 5 Margaret Gordon, by the first wife, married (1) Charles Papeportioner of Meklereny. He was murdered, by William Murray, bower in Dornoch, and Hutcheon McPhail, who also cruelly set upon his brothers, Mr William Pape, minister at Dornoch, and Mr Thomas Pope, minister at Kilmalie, and the murderers were put to horn October 1st, 1608 at the instance of Margaret Gordon the widow, her son Gilbert, her daughter Barbara, and her brothers-in-law Thomas Pape minister at Kilmalie, and William Pape minister at Dornoch. On November 3 1608 the Privy Council, which described the murdered man as portioner of Raine, issued a warrant of arrest. On June 17 1609 John Gordon of Golspitar was caution in 300 merks for John Dempster, citizen, Dornoch, Thomas Weir there, Robert Weir tailor, there, and William Murray, maltman there, not to reset Pape's murderers. ("Privy Council Register") Margaret Gordon's second husband was Hutcheon Ross of Kindease. She had issue by both husbands.
- 6 Bessie Gordon, by the second wife. She married Robert Gray of Ospisdal and Creigh, brother of George Gray of Skibo, and had four sons and a daughter. On 15th May. 1620, there was a sasine in favour of Robert Gray of Ospisdale, of the lands of Achevlie and Rossell, in the paroch of Rogart and Regality of Sutherland, upon a Charter from John Gordon of Sideray. (Inverness Sasine Register, (folio 219.)
- 7 Katherine Gordon, by the second wife. She married George Murray, brother to John Murray of Abirscors.

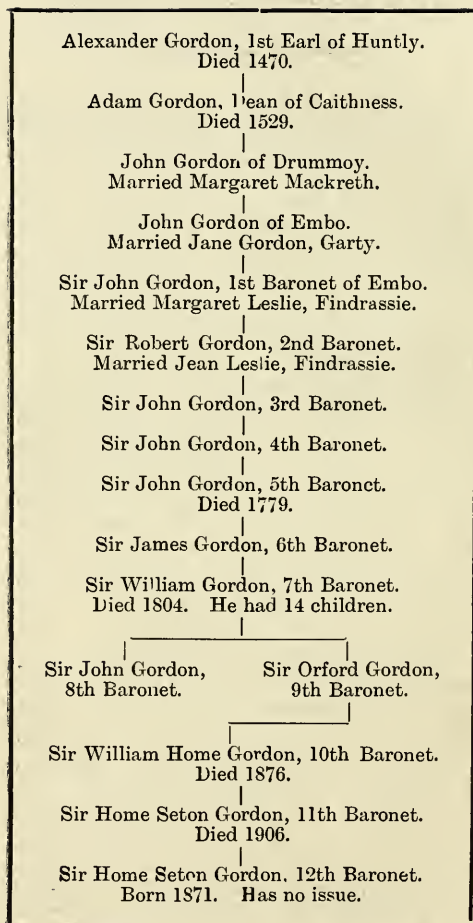
THE GORDONS OF EMBO.

The Gordons of Embo represent the third landed line descended from Adam Gordon, Dean of Caithness, the first laird being the third son of John Gordon of Drummoy, who was the Dean's third son.

The estate of Embo lies in the parish and near the town of Dornoch. Curiously enough, there is a tribe in the region of Mount Kenya, in the East Africa Protectorate which is called the Embo, and is described by Sir Charles Eliot in his admirable book on the Protectorate (p. 75.) The name of the Sutherland estate appears variously as "Embo," "Emboll," "Eaynbo," "Eambo," "Embow," and even "Umbo."

The history of Embo goes a long way back. Sir William Fraser in his "Sutherland Book" states (p. 14) that it was the scene of an encounter between the men of Sutherland and the Norwegians. It was held by the Gordons from the sixteenth century down to 1835, when the second Duke of Sutherland, in his omniverousness for land, added it by purchase to his colossal holdings. To this day, however, there is still a baronet "of Embo," namely Sir Home Seton Gordon. He has, however, no issue, and as there is not a single male heir in existence it is highly probable that the baronetcy, which was created in 1631, will become extinct.

The history of the Embo Gordons is full of obscurities, from their origin, which has been interpreted in two different ways, down to the lost wills of the late baronet and his father. The various peerages call the 4th baronet "William," whereas he was really John, and they mix him up with Sir William Gordon of Invergordon. I do not pretend to have solved all these mysteries, and, therefore I offer this contribution to the history of the house in a tentative way, for definitiveness is the most difficult of all aspirations in dealing with genealogy. The following table, however, may be given as a probably correct account of their descent on the male side:—



John Gordon of Embo

John Gordon was the third son of John Gordon of Drummoy by his wife Margaret Mackreth, and distinguished himself from most of the Sutherland Gordons by the fact that he ventured to strike out on a line of his own, defying for a time the noble house of Sutherland.

His younger brother, Gordon of Backies and Kilcalmkil, was also called John, but was distinguished from Embo by bearing the epithet "Little" John—whether from his physical size, or his younger age, I cannot say.

At first, John of Embo, held the lands of Clentredwall. He then got Golspitour, which had been given in 1499 to the Mackays—with whom he had been very friendly—but which soon came into the omniverous possession of the noble house of Sutherland. He acquired Embo before 1588.

On March 15th, 1580, as John Gordon, "elder of Clynetredwall" he and his brother John Gordon "younger" witnessed at Edinburgh the ratification of a bond by William Sutherland of Duffus (Fraser's "Sutherland Book" iii. 152.)

He started his career with the orthodox fidelity to the Earls of Sutherland. Thus on June 12th, 1587, John Gordon of "Clynetredaune," John Gordon, his brother, and Alexander Gordon "in Sydra" witnessed an agreement between the Earl of Sutherland and John Thomasson ("Sutherland Book.")

In February, 1588, John Gordon of Golspitour ("now Embo") and John Gordon of Kilcalmkil, "brethren," were sent by the Earl of Sutherland with 200 men into Caithness

to spy and remark the countenance of the enemy before that Earle Alexander [of Sutherland] would sturr to enter into the country of Catteynes. These two brethren, with their company, taking their opportunitie, they invaded the parishes of Dumbaith and Lathron, spoiling and wasting all before them. They killed John James one (a principall gentleman of Catteynes) with some others and brought home a great prey of catell, which, at their returne out of Southerland, wer divyded amongst their company; and this was cal ed Craigh-lairn, that is, the harship of Lathron ("Earls of Sutherland" p. 196.)

In 1590, the Earl of Caithness invaded Sutherland, and a skirmish took place at Clyne after a good deal of hesitation among the Sutherland men to fight. In October, according to the "Earls of Sutherland" (p. 202):—

Patrick Gordoun of Gartay, John Gordoun of Enbo and John Gordoun of Ki calmkiil, with such as would follow them, thinking the delay of feighting not onlie a dejected cowardise, bot a base and servile loosing of tyme, and perceaving the Catteynes men dryveing away a great heard of cattell befor them vpon the sand of Clentredvaill, they could not endure the same with patience; bot presentlie, neither staying for the rest of there cuntriemen nor the coming of the Strathnaver men, who were hourly expected, nor a fitt and convenient place to set upon the enemy, who surpassed them so far in number, being tuelff for one—these Gordouns (I say) resolving vpon a doubtfull and dangerous course, went forward more rashlye then wyslie, haveing sun and wind full against them, invaded the enemy with great fury, rescued the cattell, and skirmished with great obstinacy hard by Clyne; wher, after a long feight, with much courage and variety of fortune, the night parted them, with almost equall slaughter on either syd.

On March 28, 1595, John Gordoun of Golspitour and Oliver Gordon of Ballintoune (Ballelone?) were cautioners in relief for the Countess of Sutherland not to reset papists ("Privy Council Register.")

On February 12, 1597-8, John Gordon of Golspitour and three other Gordons were commissioned to meet at Dornoch and chose an heir for David Ross of Ra nagown, in the event of his having no heir male by Lady Margaret Gordon (Fraser's "Sutherland Book" i. 184.)

In 1602, the "tryb of Clancheinzie fell at variance with the Laird of Glengary." A regular vendetta ensued, and when the Earl of Sutherland sent "tuelff score weill appointed and chosen" men to assist Mackenzie, they were conducted by John Gordon of Embo ("Earls of Sutherland" 248).

Embo may, therefore, have come to consider himself a person of importance on his own account. At any rate, he made an attempt in

1615 to break away from the leading strings of the house of Sutherland, by throwing in his lot with the Mackays. He had a ready got Golspitour which he onged for a time to the Mackays. Besides, Y— Mackay, who died in 1617 at the age of six, had been bred from his “nativitie with John Gordon of Enbo, as his father, Sir Dona'd, was lykwise in his infancie; which is the ground of the freindship and familiaritie which hath been betuixt Macky and the house of Enbo.” (“Earls of Sutherland” p. 345).

In 1615, John Gordon of Embo, “and his children with their associats” allied themselves to Donald Mackay, “who in the latter end of his vnc'e Earle John his dayes suayed almost the effairs of the who'e cuntrey of Southerland.”

They endevoared and attempted to mak a faction and partie of their oune within the countrie even against Sir Robert [Gordon] and his brother Sir Alexander [Gordon of Navidale] thereby to try iff by weareying Sir Robert with turbulent factions at his first entrie, they might stiel keip the managing of the effairs of that cuntrey in their oune hands: thinking it ane easie mater for them to resist Sir Alexander's ordoun, iff once they could get Sir Robert removed.

Sir Robert made haste into the north from Edinburgh and arrived in Sutherland in December 1615. Then the plotters set to work (“Earls of Sutherland” 322):—

First, then, they thought now, at Sir Robert his first arryvall, to alienat his affections and good will (by some fals suggestions) from those that were most faithfull to him and repugnant to themselves within that cuntrey; and cheiflie they went about to work against the Grayes, the Morrayes of Abirscors, the Clangun and the Gordons of Kilcalmkill and Sideray, whom they knew to depend most vpon Sir Robert, haveing formerlie procured them Earle John his displeasure, a little befor his death, whom Donald Mackay did then altogether rule and guyd.

Next they begin to sow dissention betuein Sir Robert and his brother Sir Alexander, thereby the sooner to persuade Sir Robert to demit the government of the cuntrey rather to themselves then to his brother. They suggest into Sir Robert his ears that his brother Sir Alexander (by

the advyce of the countes their mother) had delt with Earle John at his death to get the government into his owne hands by excluding Sir Robert; which motion (as they alledged) was hindered by Donald Mackay out of the love he careid to Sir Robert. Thus Macky with his faction, did apprehend that Sir Robert, by these surmises, falling into distrust and jealousie with his brother might be moved to postpone his brother Sir Alexander to resigne the managinge of the affaires of the cuntry, either to Macky or to John Gordoun of Enbo and so return into England.

In the interim betuein Earle John his death [September, 1615] and Sir Robert Gordon his coming into Scotland [December, 1615,] Donald Macky (being of ane active and subtile spirit) laid divers courses and plots to try iff he might setle himself in Southerland and purchase ane estate ther, wherby he might mak a strong pairtie in that cuntry, therby the easier to effectuat his other designes. . . . He bought the lands and house of Golspitour from John Gordon of Enbo, of whom he had also a promise that he should sell vnto him all the lands which he had in wedset and morgage in Strathfleit from the Earle of Southerland. . . . He fed John Gordon of Enbo with fair allureing speeches, praomising vnto him, that the nixt ensueing term he should make him his steward and chamberlane in that pairt of the of the parish of Loth, which did apperteyne vnto the Countesse of Southerland, younger, thinking with the hope of gain and preferment to make him the more faithfull and trustie vnto himself.

[In the end, however, Sir Robert foiled Mackay, who] renounced the right and title which he had now latelie purchased of Golspitour, and resigned the same agane to the old possessors . . . Thus did Sir Robert wyselie shift Macky out of Southerland and so all Macky his pretences and aymes in that cuntrie did vanish and melt away, peice and peice, not being grounded vpon godlie or good courses.

The Gordons of Embo

In 1618, three years later, the breach thus formed between Embo and Sir Robert distinctly widened, for according to the "Earls of Sutherland" (p. 352). . .

At this tyme Sir Robert Gordoun fell at wariance with John Gordoun of Enbo, the elder (who wes then at Edinburgh), becaus that Enbo indevoared to obteyn a prorogation of a lease of the teiths of some lands which he had in morgage from the Earle of Southerland: bot Enbo had a repuls from the lords commissioners. Whervpon, leaving Sir Robert Gordoun at Edinburgh, he returned so discontented into Southerland that he sturred vp Macky (who wes alreadie of himself bent enough) against Sir Robert and the house of Southerland.

Sir Robert hurried home from Edinburgh to deal with the situation, while Mackay went secretly to the parish of Culmaly and lodged in Golspitour with John Gordon, younger of Enbo, "wher he might hearken how Sir Robert would tak this kynd of dealing. Vpon Macky his lurking thus secretly with his company in Golspitour, the cuntrey is presentlie in a tumult." But the affair blew over and Mackay asked for arbitration. As it happened, however,

Sir Robert wold not condescend that Enbo or any other of Macky his alledged dependers in Southerland, should be conteaned in Mackyes aggriment with h m: thinking it ane ivill ex-
emple that the Earlc of Southerland his owne vassalls should come vnder his other vassalls protection and accord, who should be thought (as it wer) a heid vnto them against the house of Southerland; so he reserved Enbo and the rest to farder tryal. (p. 354)

A submission between Mackay and the house of Sutherland was ultimately subscribed at Elgin in June, 1619. Sir Robert then dealt with Enbo (p. 356) :—

He removeth John Gordoun of Enbo and his children from divers possessions and girsings, which they had in the cuntrey from the Earle of Southerland, dureing his p easure. Moreover, he buyes the inheritance of the toun and lands of Golspitour from John Gordoun, younger and elder of Enbo, least that house (being so neir Dounrobin) should be a receptacle for Macky, or for any other, against the Earle of Southerland. Besyds, he redemes the lands of Rovie-kirketoun (in Strathfeit) from George Gordoun, the sone of John Gordoun of Enbo: which redemption thereafter proved to

be of no effect, seing it wes not legallie performed by those that Sir Robert trusted in the prosecution of the bussines ; and further, he reserved inhibitions against the teyns of Cleutridwel, being then in John Gordoun his possession.

The fol owing items from the Inverness Sasine Register refer apparently to the father of the first baronet :—

1620. July 22—Sasine of the lands of Backies in the Earldom of Sutherland in favour of John Gordon of Embo upon a disposition from Adam Gordon of Backies (folio 253).

1627, December 28—Sasine in favour of John Gordon of Embo and his spouse of the Crofts of Lands about and in the city of Dornoch called Auchowchirrich, in the Earldom of Sutherland, proceeding on a disposition from his father ; as also a Sasine of the lands of Embo, upon the same ground or warrant. This entry has been deleted for some reason (folio 48).

John Gordon of Embo died November 23, 1628 at "Clenredwel." Sir Robert Gordon ("Earls of Sutherland" 408) says :—

He wes a man endued with many good pairts ; and by his industrie and verture, purchased to himself and to his children good meanes and possessions vnder the Earle of Southerland's winges. He bought also some lands in Rosse. He was buried at Dornogh the 24th day the forsaid moneth. Vnto him succeeded his eldest sone, John Gordoun of Embo.

John Gordon of Embo married Jane Gordon, daughter of Gilbert Gordon of Garty. Sir Robert Gordon's Tables give his descendants thus.

1 Sir John Gordon of Embo

2 George Gordon, the Sutherland tab'es call him "of Balcouth," but before this he had held the lands of Rovie, Kirktown in Strathfleet, and the Balbithan MS. designates him "of Rogey." In 1619 Rovie was redeemed by Sir Robert Gordon as a punishment for the Embo Gordons' support of Donald Mackay. But the "redemption thereafter proved to be of effect, seing it was not legalie performed." He is therefore possibly the George Gordon of "Bogie" (sic) who was ordered by Privy Council on August 4, 1621, not to molest the Sutherlands of

Duffus. The house of Sutherlands ultimately came into possession of Rovie, for on July 1, 1633, George Gordon of Rovie, renounced the lands of Rovie Kirktown in favour of John Earl of Sutherland for 1000 merks Scots : dated June 8, 1633 (Inverness Sasines, folio 88.) On the same date (folio 89) there is renunciation by George Gordon of Rovie in favour of John, Earl of Sutherland of the lands of Rovie, Craigtoun Dunvachbeg, and Imhope, for 2500 merks, dated June 8, 1633. Sir Robert Gordon's Tables state that George Gordon married Katherine Bane, and had a son John Gordon.

3 Hutcheon (Hugh) Gordon. In 1616 "Houcheon Gordoun (the sone of John Gordoun of Enbo)" and his cousin Alexander, the son of John Gordon of Kilcalmkill were sent into Lochaber by Sir Robert Gordon to assist the Earl of Enzie to capture Macrenald, who had conveyed Sir James Macdonald out of the castle of Edinburgh in 1615. "And now Sir James being in the West Ilands amongst his freinds, after his escape from warde, Macrenald entered into Lochaber, and caused slay his owne brother, Renald-oig, because he had taken his possessions and lands in Lochaber." Lord Enzie started from Inverness in April 1616, and forced Macrenald to "forsake the mayneland and flie into the yles, from whence he went into Spain, wher he stayed vntill his returne into Eng'land with Sir James Mackonald," when he got his pardon from his majesty ("Earls of Suther and," p. 329). Hutcheon got hold of the land of Moy in Strathfleet, which he renounced to John Earl of Sutherland, the superior on September 3, 1634 ("Inverness Register of Sasines," folio 217). On March 24, 1640, Hugh Gordon "of Moy" had sasine of the lands of Kinmounie, Lange and Savoli proceeding on an irredeemable character by the Ear. of Suther and to him (ibid., folio 275). Again on January 16, 1643, he had sasine of the lands of Moy, proceeding on a charter by the Earl of

Sutherland to him (*ibid.* folio 454). He married Margaret Bane, and had :—

- 1 Gilbert Gordon.
- 2 Hutcheon Gordon, a bastard.
- 3 Adam Gordon, a bastard.
4. Alexander Gordon of Uppat was a bastard. On June 10th, 1621, he was charged by the Privy Council with having joined his father in attacking the Sutherlands of Duffus; and on August 2nd, 1621, Sir Robert Gordon was caution in £1000 that he should cease to do so. On July 1st, 1633, there was a reversion by him for 2000 merks (dated June 15th, 1633) of the lands of Uppat in favour of John Earl of Sutherland ("Inverness Register of Sasines," folio 90); and on the same date he had sasine (dated June 15th, 1633) of the lands of Farlary and Strathsteiven in the earldom of Sutherland, upon a charter of alienation from the Earl of Sutherland (*ibid* folio 89.) On August 26th, 1634, he renounced Uppat in favour of John Earl of Sutherland, the superior (*ibid* folio 212.) He may be the Alexander Gordon "of Clintredwell," who on April 10, 1640, had sasine of the lands of "Rhyndein, Strathflit, Kilnabraer, and Carroll" on an irredeemable charter from the Earl of Sutherland. Alexander Gordon of Uppat, married the laird of Pulrossie's daughter. The Sutherland Tables say he had no family, but the Balbithan MS, says he had "succession." He may be the Alexander Gordon "of Golspitour" who witnessed a bond of caution at Dornoch, June 2, 1635, by Gilbert Menzies that John Earl of Strathnaven should observe certain acts of Parliament ("Privy Council Register.")
5. Jane Gordon was the daughter of John Gordon of Embo. She married George Gray of Skibo, and died in childbirth, February, 1612. Sir Robert Gordon ("Earls of Sutherland" 278) says "shoe wes, in hospitality and sundrie other vertues, nothing inferior to any in that cuntrey; as much lamented by her friends and all other cuntriemen as any gentle-

woman that died in Southerland these many yeirs; and cheiflie shoe wes exceed- inglie bewailed and regrated by her husband, who, through the love and affection which he did cary vnto her and to the children which he had by her, did not marie agane for seaven yeirs after her death." Gray married, secondly, Isabel Dunbar, daughter of John Dunbar, Laird of Muynes. He died at Skibo, July 11, 1629, "to the great regrait of all the inhabitants of that countrey and the adjacent shires wher he had bene a good patriot dureing his days" By his first wife he had three sons and three daughters.

- (1) Gilbert Gray.
- (2) Robert Gray of Skibo
- (3) Alexander Gray; killed in Germany.
- (4) Bessey Gray, married Hector Douglas of Muldary.
- (5) Janet Gray, married John Munro of Lynlair.
- (6) Christian Gray, married Houcheon Munro of Assynt. Two of these marriages Sir Robert Gordon "did bring to pass out of love he carcid to George Gray and wes principall partie contractor himse ff in both their contracts of mariage, and wes vndertaker for the performance therof" ("Ear s of Sutherland" 410)

6. Margaret Gordon was three times married. Her first husband was John Sinclair, apparent of Dinn, by whom Sir Robert Gordon says she had no issue. Her second husband was Hugh Ross of Auchincloigh, son of Hugh Ross of Tollie. The Earl of Sutherland was present at the making of the marriage contract, June 22, 1601, (Fraser's "Sutherland Book" i 185.) By the marriage, Sir Robert Gordon says she had a son Hutcheon, and a daughter Elinor. She married thirdly Hugh Gordon of Drummoy, by whom she had:—

- (1) Robert Gordon of Regart.
- (2) Oliver Gordon.
- (3) Andrew Gordon
- (4) Jane Gordon, Lady Fors.

7. Isobel Gordon married Patrick Gibson of "Shrifmils in Murray and hath two daughters."
8. Katherine Gordon married John Monro of Obsdale (Mackenzie's History of the Munro's, p. 171), and had five sons, including
- (1) Captain John Monro of Obsdale; d. s.p.
 - (2) Robert Monro of Obsdale
 - (3) Sir George Monro of Culrain

Sir John Gordon, 1st Baronet of Embo.

The family fortunes revived in the person of Sir John Gordon, who succeeded his father in 1628, though he was not served his heir till twenty years later (May 25, 1648);* for he acquired many estates and was made a baronet (1631). The following entries in the "Inverness Register of Sasines" show his land transactions:—

1618, August 30, (folio 84)—Sasine of the lands of "Umbo" in Sutherland to John Gordon of Golspitour, upon a charter of confirmation from John, Bishop of Caithness. This entry, however, seems to have been subsequently deleted.

1620, June 24, (page 241)—Sasine of the lands of Golspitour in the Earldom and Regality of Sutherland in favour of Sir Robert Gordon of Kinmonivie upon a disposition from John Gordon of Golspitour.

1633, August 2, (folio 95)—Renunciation of the lands of Golspitour in the Regality and Sheriffdom of Sutherland, by John Master of Reay to Sir John Gordon of Embo, formerly designed of Golspitour.

1633, August 19, (folio 98)—Saisine in favour of Sir John Gordon of "Eaynbo," as heir to John Gordon of "Eaynbo," of the half of Kintraid in the barony of Strathflect and shire of Sutherland, proceeding on a precept of clare constat from the Earl of Sutherland (John) as superior. The saisine dated Ju y 23, 1633.

1633, December 24, (folio 128)—Saisine in favour of Sir John Gordon of "Eaynbo" of several crofts of land in and about the Burgh of Dornoch, proceeding on a precept of clare constat from John Earl of Sutherland, superior of the same, all in the shire of Sutherland.

1634, July 1, (folio 190)—Saisine in favour of Sir John Gordon of "Eaynbo," of the lands of Kerrownasiginach, etc., and fishing in the lordship of Strathnaver and shire of Sutherland, proceeding on a feu charter from Donald Lord Reay, superior thereof, On the margin appear the words "Drakies revers. of Collod." ("Drakie's reversion of Culloden?")

1637, August 1, (folio 74)—Letter of reversion Sir John Gordon of "Eambo" to Donald Lord Reay, of the lands of Mairdail for 2000 merks Scots.

1637, September 14, (folio 86)—Sasine to Sir John Gordon of "Eambo" of the lands of "Mowadail," proceeding on a charter by Donald Lord Reay to him.

1637, September 14.—Sasine to Sir John Gordon of some lands and grass lying in the Divey of Caithness and shire of Sutherland, lately erected, proceeding on a charter by the said Lord Reay.

1648 September 5, (folio 18)—Sasine to Sir John Gordon of Embo of the half of the lands of "Kinkirkton," upon a precept of clare constat granted by John Earl of Sutherland to him as heir to John Gordon of Embo his father.

1648, October 12. (folio 27)—Renunciation by Sir John Gordon of Embo to John Earl of Sutherland of Clyne Kirkton.

At first he had been called "of Golspitour," and the earliest references to him are as follows:—

1595, March 28 —John Gordon of Golspitour and Oliver Gordon of Ballintoune were cautioners in relief for two Edinburgh burgesses, who were cautioners in 2000 merks for the Countess of Sutherland not to reset papists. ("Privy Council Register" V 218).

1597.—Registration on at Edinburgh May 17, 1598. by Mr Thomas Craig, advocate, as procurator for the parties of a band of caution in 20,000 merks by John Earl of Sutherland as principal, and Sir John Gordon of Piturg (and others) as sureties for the said principal, that he and those for whom he is obliged shall keep good rule and be answerable to justice.) Subscribed at Garthlie and Dornoch, December 26 and February 20, 1597,

before Johnne Gordon of Golspitour, William Gordon, Alexander Gordon and Paul Fiddes, servitors to the said noble Lord. ("Privy Council Register" V. 746).

1608. November 3—A commission was issued to John Gordon of "Golspitour" and others to arrest several men for murdering Charles Pape, portioner of Mek'e Reny ("Privy Council Register" viii. 189).

In 1611 Sir Robert Gordon took with him into England John Gordon, younger of Embo, and entertained him there "vntill his nixt returne into Scotland" ("Earls of Sutherland" 316.)

John Gordon of Golspitour was put on the Commission for the Peace within the bounds of Sutherland and Strathnaver, November 12, 1612, and he with ". . . . Gordon apparent of Golspitour" were on the commission August 20, 1623 ("Privy Council Register," x 488; xiii 350)

Young Embo was engaged in the capture of Arthur Smith, "fals coyner" in 1612. In 1599 Smith and "his man," having fled from Banff from Sutherland, were apprehended and sent by the Countess of Sutherland to Edinburgh, where they were imprisoned. His man was burned, but Smith during his imprisonment, having "maid a locke of such exquisit invention and ingenious devyse that the lyk could not be fund agane" This was presented to the king and Smith was liberated. He then went to Caithness and took post under the Earl, who leagued himself with Smith and "at last Catteynes, with the adjacent cuntries, such as Orknay, Southerland, Rosse, Strathnaver and Assint, were full of fals coyne, both god and silver ("Earls of Sutherland," 279). Sir Robert Gordon was commissioned in 1611 to arrest Smith, although the Earl of Caithness declared that he "purchased" the commission merely to irritate his lordship. Sir Robert was unable to carry out the commission, and he deputed the task to his nephew Donald Mackay and to John Gordon younger of Embo Accompanied by Adam Gordon, George-sone, John Gordon in Brora and some other Sutherland men they went to Thurso to apprehend Smith in May 1612. Mackay seized Smith and put him on horseback. Young Embo stayed with some others "to shew the kiug's commission

to the inhabitants and to keip them from raising any tumult, which wes not possible for him to doe ; immediatly the common bell of the toun was rung and all the people assembled." The Sinclairs turned out in great force. " Thus ther began a sharp skirmish among them, which, for a whyle, wes verie furious ; bot in end the Catteynes men wer overthrowne and with the slaughter of some of them, chased farther within the town. Donald Macky, hearing the tumult, presentlie returned with a resolution to aid John Gordon ; yit before his coming the fecht was ended " Gordon and Mackay then retired to the end of the town, " wher they hovered a whyle, attending the resolution of the Catteynes men ; who, being now daunted with this sudden fray," suffered them to depart peceabie at their owne pleasure, not so much as offerring agane to invade them. (" Earls of Sutherland," p. 282.)

Lord Caithness summoned Mackay and John Gordon younger of Embo with their adherents for the slaughter of John Sinclair of Stirkagg and for the mutilation of James Sinclair, the laird of Dun's brother. The parties met at Edinburgh on July 17, 1612 (Pitcairn's " Criminal Trials iii. 231), " divers of the surname of Gordoun " appearing, " such as Sir Alexander Gordon, Lord Sutherland's brother, Cluny, Lesmoir, Buckie, Knockespack, with sundrie other gentlemen of good qua itie, too long to set down." It would appear that young Embo had been wounded, for Pitcairn refers to the charge against the Sinclairs as that of hurting and wounding Johnne Gordoun of Golspitour and others." Sir Robert Gordon gives a long account of the attempt to settle the trouble. Pitcairn is much more succinct :—

Johnne Gordoun, appeirand of Sydra, (the eldest son of John Gordon of Sidderay) compeirant personallie in judgement in name of Sir Robert Gordon, brother to my Lord of Sutherland, Duncane McKy, fiear of Far, Johnne Gordoun, appeirand of Gordoun of Golspitour, and producet the letteris ruisit be thame and remanent complineris insert thairin, aganis my Lord of Caithnes, my Lord of Berriedaill his sone, and remanent defenderis thairin contentit ; be the quhil kis thay and everie ane of thame ar charget to find caution for thair compeirance

befoir the Justice or his deputis this day and place in the hour of caus to underly the law for the slauchter of Neill Nathnear, vmqle Airthour Smyth, taking captiue and prissoner of Angus McWilliam, alias Herrach, but commissioun; and dyuerse otheris crymes specifeit in the saidis letteris; askit instruments and protests for relief of the said Sir Robert Gordon, knyt, of his cautionerie.

On July 30, 1612, John Gordon "younger of Golspitour," Adam Gordon in Garty and others were charged with "being airt and pairt of the slauchter of vmple Johnne Sinclair of Stircko and James Sinclair of Dyne." Pitcairn ("Criminal Trials") records the case:—

Compeirit personalie George Murray, seruitour to my Lady Sutherland, quha produceit ane warrand of the Lordis of Secreit Counsall etc, off quhilk the tennour followis:—

Justice, Justice Clerk, and your deputis Quhairas, thair ar Letteris direct at the instance of Geoege Sincler of Dyn, as brother to vmqle James Sinclair of Dyn, and mother-brother to vmqle Johnne Sinclair of Stircko, and Sir Williame Oliphent of Newtoun, knyt, Aduocat to our souerane lord, for his hienes intreis, aganis Donald Mcky, fear of Far, Johnne Gordoun younger of Golspitour, Adam Gourdown in Gartie and others seruitouris to the said Donald Mcky, fear of Far, and remanent person defenderis thair complices, contentit in the saidis letteris chargeing thame to compeir befor thow, in the Tolbuth of Edinburgh the penult day of Julij instant, to inderly the law for airt and pairt of the slauchter of the saidis vmqle Johnne and James Sinclairis. And seeing all matteris questionable betuix the Erle of Caithnes his kyn and friendis on the vther pairt is be our mayane and travellis submittit; in the quilk submissioun the saidis Johnne and James Sinclairis ar speciallie comprehendit and the decyding thair-of restis in our handis, to be discussit be us. It is thairfoir our wil, and we command you to desert the said dyet appointit to the said penult day of Julij instant, for tryell of the saidis crymes and nawayis to proceed in vnlawing of the saidis persones, defenderis, or thair cuotioneries; dispensing with thair non-compeirance in that respect Quhtirarent this presentis sall be to you ane sufficient warrand.

In December 1613 Sir Robert obtained a remission for his nephew Donald Mackay, John Gordon, younger of Embo, and their accomplices in the matter of slaughter of John Sinclair of "Stirkag" at Thurso, and after a great deal of trouble he "got the remission passed through the seals" in the beginning of 1616.

In May, 1613, the Earl of Sutherland sent John Gordon, younger of Embo, and Donald Mackay "with 300 able and resolute men and 140 fellows for service" to assist Lord Gordon in his expedition to Lochaber against Alan Mackonald-Duy.

At their first arryvall in Lochaber the Southerland men by chance met with Alan Mackonald-Duy and his company, whom they wold have then invaded, iff some of the Lord Gourdown his men had not hindered and stayed them, evin as they were beginning to assaile them al edgeing that ther was assurance and truce betuein the Lord Gordoun and them for tuo dayes, which the Southerland men did not know, bot then lately arryved in the cuntrie, haveing past a great river at Alan his bak beyond his expectation ; which he thought wes impossible for them to doe. the waters being then so deiplic overflowen with abundance of rain. ("Earls of Sutherland," p. 294).

The exciting incident of his career was his vendetta with Sutherland of Duffus in 1621 and 1625. The story is told in the "Earls of Suther and" at great length (pp 364-5, 397-9).

Ther hapned this yeir [1621] some controversies betuein the Laird of Duffus and John Gordon, younger of Enbo (heirtofore called Golspitour) for the merches of Enbo and Cutle which doth apperteyn to the Laird of Duffus. [The latter, accompanied by his brother, James, and seven others, sent for young Embo to confer with them in the matter.]

Enbo obeyes, and comes alone late in the evening to the contraverted bounds, wher Duffus stayed for him. Efter some hote speeches on either syd, Duffus and his c mpany invaded John Gordoun and wounded him, befor he had the leasure to draw his suord ; so they leave him and returns to his housc. The report heirof runes spedelie through the whole cuntry ; whervpon some of the Gordouns and the Grayes, with certane of the Earl of Southcerlands' tennents came

bastalie to the toun of Enbo ; and, disdainig that a Gordoun's blood should be shed in Southerland after that maner, they run heidlong to the Castell of Skelbo, wher the Laird of Duffus then wes. They ryd about the house provocking him to com furth into the fields.

The Privy Council Register (xii. 68) gives a fuller account. The attack it appears from a statement made on March 21st, 1622, was directed on Sunday, June 10, 1621. John Gordon of Embo's party included Alexander Gordon in Uppat, Adam Gordon in Dol, John Gordon in Brora, Gilbert Gordon in Rein, Alexander Gordon in Clayside, William Gordon in Rogartmoir, Francis Gordon in Golspiekirketoun, Hugh Gordon in Ballone, John Gordon in Riorne, Adam Gordon in Kilgour, Adam Gordon in Loghbeg, Hew Gordon in Garvie, and others. They were all armed with "bowis, swordis, targis, lochquhaber axis, hagbutis, and pistolettis." Embo directed them to lie outside Sutherland's house at Skelbo, and wait till Duffus came out. He sent out two scouts, Hutcheon Gordon in Backies and John Mackenzie, who came upon one of Sutherland's servants going out to "watter" his horse. They "brak at him with drawne swordis" and wounded him, chasing him home. The rest of the party, expecting that Sutherland would come out, "raide aboute his house and upoun his growand cornis the speace of tua or thrie houris, schouting and crying to him to come forth, gif he durst ; and they maid mony provocationis to him to come furth with most outragious, disgracefull, and railling specheis ; and persaveing they could not trayne the said Williame out of his house, thay send ane messenger unto him to tell him that upoun the morne thay sould come to his lands and mure of the Coull, and thair, in despyte of him and al wald do for him, thay sould cast fail and divott and leade the same away." They did so, 500 persons raiding the moor and "keast and led away ane grite number of fail and divottis thairupoun." On March 22, 1622, Alexander Gordon in Uppat and several of the other men charged were ordered to enter themselves in ward in the Tolbooth of Edinburgh within 15 days.

The parties immediately summoned one another before the Privy Council. Duffus charged

young Embo and his friends with convocation of the lieges and coming to the house of Skelbo in a "braging maner." Embo summoned Duffus for wounding him "vnder silence of the night." When Sir Robert Gordon arrived in Sutherland, he tried to patch up the quarrell but he found himself on the horns of a dilemma (p. 365):—

Iff he should censure Duffus hardlie, it wold alienat him from the house of Southerland in the Earle his minoritie.

Iff he did not give Embo a satisfaction accord- ing to his mynd, then it wold be said that he did remember the late differs which had been betuein themselues [in 1618].

However, an agreement was come to at Elgin in August 1621, and, later on, Embo showed his appreciation of Sir Robert's attitude by leaving Mackay, "whom now they thought they had fol- lowed too long."

The quarrel broke out again in 1625. Sir Robert Gordon says (p. 397):—

John Gordon, seiking still by all meanes to be repaired of the wrong . . . culd by no meanes meitt with either [of the Sutherlands], becaus they still remaind in Murray: and iff they came into Southerland, they wer still so accompanied, as John Gordoun culd not mend himself.

Which he perceaveing, long thirsting for re- paration of his hurt, and meiting one day with John Southerland of Clyne (the Laird of Duffus his third brother) on horsback, either of them being accompanied with one horsman, betuein Sideray and Skibo, John Gordoun invaded the Laird of Clyne; and first, haveing a cudgell in his hand, wherwith he gave him many blowes, then they drew their suords and they, with their seconds, fell to it eagerlie. After they had foughten a whyle John Gordoun wounded the Laird of Clyne in the head and in the hand, and did mutilat him: yit suffer'd him to goe away with his lyff, although he had him in his will and reverence. The Laird of Duffus and all his freinds and pertakers took this contempt highlie; not so much becaus his brother Clyne wes hurt, bot that he wes battoned and cudgelled.

On August 2, 1621, Walter Murray of Pitgrudie was caution in £1000 for John Gordon "of Inboll, lawfull son to Johnne Gordoun of Clyne Tred-

dwall," not to molest Wilim Gordon of Duffus and thirteen other Sutherlands. Similarly, Alexander Gordon son of John Gordon "of Bakkis," becomes cautioner in £500 for Adam in Lochbeg not to molest the same Sutherlands. On the same day, Sir Robert Gordon of Kynmownie knight, became caution in £1000 each for Hutcheon Gordon of "Bakkis," Alexander Gordon of Uppatt, Oliver Gordon in Ballalone, Alexander Gordon of Sideray, John Gordon, apparent thereof, and two Guns, and in £500 each for John Gordon, son of Oliver Gordon of Ballelone, Adam Gordon in Kilgour, Adam Gordon in Doill, John Gordon in Brora, Alexander Gordon in Clayside, Alexander Gordon in Golspie Kilk-toun, Thomas Gordon in Westchyll, Gordon, his son, John Gordon in Garty, William Gordon in Rogart, Gilbert Gordon in Reyin, and John Mackenzie in Gospitour not to molest the Sutherlands. On the same day, Mr John Dawling, advocate, as procurator for the principals, and cautioners registered a bond of caution in £1000 by George Gray, fiar of Swordaill, for John Gordon, elder "of Inboll," not to molest the Sutherlands. The bond was dated Dornoch July 22, 1621, and was attested at Dornoch by John Gordon, fiar of Ballelone, George Innes, servitor to John Gordon, son of John Gordon of "Inbo" and two other witnesses. Dawling registered another bond of caution by William Koss of Easter Farne in £1000 for Hew Gordon, fiar of Ballelone, not to molest the Sutherlands ("Privy Council Register" xii. 534 555)

An extension of the story is given in the "Privy Council Register," (2nd series i, 86-7) under date July 21, 1625, which shows that the laird of Duffus himself was involved. He complained that—

"John Gordon of Enboll had consaved a deadly hatred and malice in his hairt aganis the said William Sutherland without ony just caus of offence offerit or done by the said Wiliam to him. He hes this long tyme bigane soght by all indirect meanis how to execute his privat grudge upoun him and to haiff his lyff." On Sunday, March 7, 1625, Gordon anticipating that he would come from Dornoch kirk assembled 22 men "all in armies with swordis, targeis, bowis, darlochis, and otheris waponis invasive and with hacquebutts

and pistollettis prohibite to be worn." Having "shaikin off all feare of God," they waited for Sutherland, who luckily did not attend the church that day. So "thay then verie discontentendlie reiteit thameselfis all hame with the said Johnne Gordoun." The defenders did not appear, and Gordon was ordered to be imprisoned in the Tolbooth of Edinburgh; to pay a fine of £100 and to find caution in 3000 merks for keeping the peace; in the same amount for the indemnity of the laird of Duffus, and his brothers: in the same amount for his personal appearance before their lordships; and in 1000 merks not to wear firearms in the future, all without prejudice of any actions civil or criminal, which the said Laird of Duffus has against has him.

According to the "Earls of Sutherland (p. 398:— Duffus and his [two] brether triumphed much that they had thus gotten Embo at the poynt they intended and expected, thinking no lesse than his vtter ruyn should ensue; for they had (by Sir Donald Macky his meanes) gotten a servant of John Gordoun his owne (called William Mack Allen) to be a witness against him. This fellow being a Strathnaver-man borne (one of the Seil-Thomas), proved all that Duffus pleased to al edge against Embo.

The "Privy Council Register" (2nd series, vol. i p. 5) shows that on August 4, 1625, Sir Robert Gordon, and Robert Leslie of Findrassie were caution for John Gordon of Embo not to molest John Macgregor Roy, smith in Skibo; Thomas Allan, "glaisinwright" in Elgin; William Mac-Allan, sometime servitor to the said John, or their wives, bairns, tenants and servants, under penalty of 1000 merks, and that he would not touch their goods under the penalty of 100 merks.

When Sir Robert Gordon returned from London, he attempted a reconciliation. But Duffus was "obstinat," thinking to get great sums of money decerned to him by the lords, from John Gordon for satisfaction of the wrong done to Clyne, "whereby he might vndo John Gordoun his estate." In the end, Sir Robert with the help of the Earl of Enzie got Duffus's alleged convocation annulled, "wroght John Gordoun his liberty, and his fyne mitigat to £100 Scots for the king and nothing to the pairtie;

onlie, action wes reserved John Southerland of Clyne, against John Gordoun befor the Lords of Session, for ane alledged contravention by vertue of a former bond betuein them, which afterwards proved of no effect."

The "Privy Council Register" again helps us here with corroborative evidence:—

1625, August 1—Sir John Grant of Freuchie was caution in 3000 merks for William Sutherland of Duffus for himself and in like sum for each of his brothers John and James, not to molest John Gordon, younger of Embo.

1625, August 2—Sir Robert Gordon, John Gordon of Buckie, Robert Leslie of Findrassie, and Patrick Gibson of Shireffmills were caution in 3000 merks that John Gordon of Embo shall keep the peace in future; that he will not molest William Sutherland of Duffus or his brothers John or James; and in 1000 merks that he will not wear firearms in future

Sir Robert ("Earls of Sutherland p. 399) returned home with Embo "beyond the expectation of all his freinds and foes in these pairts, who thought that he should not have bein re eased so soone, nor fyned at so small a rate; wherein Sir Robert purchased himself great credet and commendation." The parties were not, however, finally reconciled till after the Laird of Duffus's death in October, 1626.

Echoes of the vendetta, however, re-occur five years later ("Privy Council Register 2nd series iv. 253):—

1631, June 23.—John Gordon of Embo sent a supplication to the Privy Council as follows:—

During the late troubles between him and the Laird of Duffus, their Lordships were pleased to put him under caution for keeping the peace, for compearing before them on lawful citation, and for not carrying of forbidden weapons. These quarrels are now fully and finally settled, and "they stand under ane perfect band of peace and friendship, and there is als heartie love interteanned betuixt thame as can be betuix anie gentlemen who ar most strictlie bound in freindship." The bond of caution registered in the Books of Council and Session, the supplicant produces, and craves that, as the ground of their Lordships' act is now removed, and he being now

his Majesty's peaceable and good subject is resolved during the course of his naturall lyfe to continew in a most submissive obedience to his Majestie and his lawes, and there being no subject within the kingdome with whom he has now anie quarrell, this, his act of caution foresaid may be discharged. The Lords ordain that the act so far as concerns his keeping the peace and compearing before them be discharged, but that it remain in force with regard to his not bearing and wearing of hagbuts and pisto's.

On April 24, 1628, John Gordon of Embo, and Sir William Sinclair of Catboll produced a procuratory granted to them and subscribed by the teind buyers within the sheriffdom of Inverness, but did not produce the submission. Therefore, they subscribed the submission sent in by Lord Gordon of the teind "sillaris" within the Sheriffdom of Inverness ("Privy Council Register" 2nd Series ii, 321.)

The "Privy Council Register" shows that Embo was trusted by the house of Sutherland and became a man of some note:—

1623—John Gordon of Golspitour was a Justice of the Peace for Sutherlandshire.

1629, July 25—John Gordon of Embo, Sir Robert Gordon, and others within the bounds of Sutherland were ordered by the Privy Council to apprehend all Jesuits in the country and all persons found going on pilgrimages to chapels and wells.

1629, November 3—His Majesty approved of the act appointing a commission against Jesuits, seminary and mass priests and others, John Gordon of Embo being one of the members.

1634, March 6—A Commission was granted to Sir John Gordon of Embo to apprehend and try sorners within his bounds.

1634, September 18—Sir John Gordon of Embo, was appointed Justice of the Peace for Sutherland and Strathnaver.

John Gordon of Embo had become sufficiently wealthy to be created a baronet June 18, 1631, the patent being sealed June 29, ("but not recorded in the Great Seal Register), with remainder to heirs male whatsoever, and with a grant, presumably 16,000 acres, in Nova Scotia, entitled the barony of New Embo, of which he had seizin in the same month of June, 1631."

By a curious irony, the year 1634 which saw him made a Justice of the Peace, also brought him bad luck. What is more ironic is the fact that it came through the Mackays, though the baronet's father had leagued himself with the Mackays against the house of Sutherland. In 1634, the Earl of Sutherland "conceived some displeasure" against him, in connection with a land transaction. Lord Reay, "having some important use of money wherewith to satisfie his creditors, resolved to se the lands of Achinnes and some other lands about Lochnavern." He first offered them to Robert Gray of Creigh, "who imbraceth the bargane 't the Earl of Sutherland as superior consenting. Then Reay offered the same lands to Sir John Gordon, "and Sir John buyeth the lands with ut the consent or knowledge of Creigh: the Lord Reay alleading that Sir John Gordon gave him better conditions for his lands then Robert Gray of Creigh hade offered, and therefore he would not slip his own profit." Sir John declined to offer the same conditions as Gray had done to the Earl, namely, to "resign and give over the bargain to him, whensoever he pleased to give him his monie again, and to take in morgage and wodset from him." Gilbert Gordon of Salagh who wrote the continuation of the "Earls of Sutherland" (p. 472) clearly sided with his chief, holding that "these lands are fitter for the Earl of Southerland then for any man els, lying so convenientlie for him upon the head of his forrests."

Lord Reay proved Embo's undoing if we are to believe the "Earls of Sutherland" (p. 549).

His estate was much decayed, and that not so much by his falt as by the Lord Rea and his familie, by whom he was hardlie vsed and much wronged, not only by letting him suffer for the debt for which he was suretie and was forced to pay for them, but also in hunding out and suffering their kinsmen [sic] (Neil Williamson, formerly named) to possesse and oppresse his lands in Loghnes in Strathnaver, which lands the Lord Reay hade sold vnto the said Sir John. This was a great vngratitude in the Lord Rea, whom John hade absolutelie followed beyond all men, yea preferring Rea before the hous of Southerland, who hade him still in suspition for Rea his caus. Vpon the other part, Robert Gray

of Creigh, from small beginnings, by his own vertue and industrie, and by the favour of the hous of Southerland (whom he constantlie followed to his end) attained a good fortune and left a competent portion to everie one of his children. This should teach Southerland men to depend vpon none but vpon the Earl of Southerland, vnder his majestie.

On March 3, 1643, Sir John Gordon complained to the Privy Council that Donald Lord Reay,

“Taking advantage of the troubles of the time, hes rendered himselfe altogether lawlesse, contemning both duetie to God and his prince, and hes endeavoured to ruine the supplicant and his haille estat by practises of high attempts, for the quilks he hes raised letters to charge him to appeare to his answer before the saide Lords: and least he sould have anie pretixt of excuse for his absence becaus of his restraint and confynement within his own bounds where he tyrannizes as if ther wer no king nor law to put order to his insolences,” he craves their lordships to declare that such restraint shall be no impediment to his compearance, but that he is hereby enlarged for 20 days before and 20 days after the diet fixed for the same. This the Lords do.

In 1648 during a quarrel between Lord Reay and the Earl of Sutherland, Neil Williamson, one of Reay's men “possessed violently the lands of Lochnaver, pertaining to Sir John Gordon of Embo: and that through his Sir John his own default,” adds Gilbert of Sallagh (p.540), his mind even bent on retribution, “by too much trusting the Lord Rea and his sone, the Master.

On July 3 1643, the King granted to Major General Robert Munro, (who sacked Newry in 1642) the lands of Keandlochklass, Belnacouil and Auchnagall, resigned by Sir John Gordon.

Sir John Gordon died in 1649 (“Earls of Sutherland” p. 549

He married Margaret daughter of the Hon. Robert Leslie of Findrassie, by Margaret, daughter of Alexander Dunbar of Grange, Dean of Moray, and one of the Lords of Session, which Robert was the son of George, Earl of Rothes. On stones on the archway of the cattle court at Embo mains are still to be seen two adjoining coats of arms, “I.G.” “1627”: and M.L.”, clearly standing for John Gordon and Margaret Leslie.

Sir John and his wife had two sons and a daughter :—

1 John Gordon

2 Sir Robert Gordon, 2nd bart.

Jané Gordon : married Dr Lamere, a French physician, and died in 1656, (Sir Robert Gordon's Tables).

Sir Robert Gordon, 2nd Baronet.

He was the son of the 1st baronet whom he succeeded in 1659, being served heir general June 5, 1649. He found the estate much impoverished ; G.E.C. (" Complete Peerage " ii. 392) says " his liabilities amounted to £10,862 2s 4d, and he was adjudged in 1649 to be imprisoned till that sum was paid. He was M.P. for Sutherlandshire 1649-50, 1661, being in 1663 excused from attendance as in the King's Service."

The following entries in the Inverness Sasine Register deal with his land transactions :—

1641, October 20, (folio 382)—Robert Gordon, eldest son to Sir John Gordon of Embo, of the lands of Auchinthesaurer upon a charter granted by Alexander Gordon of Uppat to him.

1656, November 12, (folio 278)—Sasine to Alexander Sutherland of Torbo as heir to James Sutherland of Skelbo, his brother, of the lands of Eaynbo and Auchintresaurer, upon a precept furth of the Chancellary, holden of the Lord Protector in place of the King, feu for payment of £13 scots feu ferm out of the lands of Eaynbo and pertinents, and of £28 scots of duplication and augmentation of the said duty, as also of £3 6s 8d of feu ferm for the lands of Auchtresaurer and £6 13s 4d of augmentation thereof. This sasine proceeds upon a retour dated February 15, 1656 as heir to John Sutherland in Skibo. The lands of Eaynbo and Auchintresaurer hold feu of the Crown for payment of the duties underwritten, viz :—The land of Eaynbo £13 10s Scots, the lands of Auchintresaurer 5 merks.

1665, May 12, (folio 267). Saisine of the lands of Eaynbo in favour of Sir Robert

Gordon of Eaynbo as heir to his father, proceeding upon a precept of clare constat from Patrick Bishop of Caithness, the superior of the lands.

1666, May 15. (folio 66)—Saisine in favour of Alexander Lord Duffus, of the lands of Achness, Cribreck, Corranafarn, Corefuran, Letterchuil, proceeding on a deposition from Sir Robert Gordon of Eaynbo to the said Lord Duffus.

1667, August 21, (folio 231)—Saisine in favour of George McCulloch in Auchindean of the lands of Auchin treasurer upon a contract of wadset from Gordon of Eaynbo.

1668, December 22nd, (folio 347)—Saisine in favour of Alexander Lord Duffus of the lands of Kersnashinach and salmon fishing on the pool of of Claring, lands of Auchness, Cornafarn and others proceeding on a charter from Gray of Creich, Sir Robert Gordon of Eaynbo, Gray of Arboll and Alexander Sutherland of Torbo.

Sir Robert Gordon, married his cousin Jean, daughter of Robert Leslie of Findrassie by Isabel, daughter of Abraham Forbes of Blackford. (Macfarlane's "Genealogical Collections.") She is often (erroneously) called a sister of Lord Duffus.

The date of his death is uncertain. In the return of John Anderson, younger of Westerton, as M.P. for Dornoch, December 21, 1692, he is given as the deceased "Sir Robert Gordon" ("Return of M.P.'s" ii. 597). In the "Services of Heirs" he is said to have died ". . . . 1693": while G.E.C.'s "Complete Baronetage" says he died October 16, 1697.

The Brydges Manuscript says he had three sons:—

- 1 Sir John Gordon, 3rd baronet
- 2 Robert Gordon. He married Isabella, daughter of Sir George Munro of Culrain, and "from her are descended John and George Gordon and from the former is descended the present Robert Home Gordon of Conduit Street London," (Brydges Ms.) No such marriage between an Embo Gordon and Culrain Munro is mentioned in Mackenzie's history of the Munros. But the same descent is given in a manuscript pedigree in the possession of General Sir John James Hood

Gordon, which states that the second baronet had two sons and six daughters.

- (1) Dr John Gordon, designated "of Golspitower" in 1737. In 1750 he is mentioned in a sederunt of the Dornoch Town Council. He married Isabel Grant, widow of James Sutherland of Pronsie. He apparently left her in Scotland, and settled in Jamaica, where he was when she was struggling to get her jointure from Pronsie. ("Notes and Queries" vii 10th Series 317). He lived at Greencastle, Jamaica, and died before 1776. He had a son

Robert Gordon, who was served heir to his father August 23 1776. According to the evidence in the divorce suit where he was co respondent in 1794 he had from £4000 to £5000 a year from his West Indian estates, a town house in Albemarle Street, London, and a shooting box. It was probably with this fortune that he acquired Embo, though I have not discovered the date of his purchase. In 17—he canvassed Sutherland for Parliament against the nominee of the Dukes of Sutherland. He was supported by Gordon of Carroll, Gordon of Navidale, Dempster of Skibo, and "the most respectable barons of the county." He lost the election by a narrow majority. It is like the early history of the Embo family to read that his supporters being tacksmen and wadsetters on the Sutherland estate "gave by their opposition to the candidate of the Sutherland family almost unpardonable offence." The election resulted in the rebuilding of Embo House, which Gordon "erected for the purpose of entertaining the electors." The previous house is said to have been burned, with all the family papers, during Robert's lairdship. Sage says that although Robert built the house at great expense,

he never intended to remain permanently either in the mansion or in the county, so in the beginning of last century Embo was rented to Captain Kenneth Mackenzie. Sage describes the house minutely (p. 148). "The front was of hewn ashlar and consisted of three distinct houses, the largest and loftiest in the centre joined to the other two by small narrow passages, each lighted by a window and forming altogether a very imposing front. The centre house was four storeys; first a ground or rather sunk floor, then a first, second, and lastly attic storey. The ground or sunk floor contained the kitchen and cellars and in front of it was a wall surmounted by an iron railing, resembling exactly the fronts in Princes Street, Edinburgh. Outer stairs ascended to the principal entry door and along the whole front of the building extended a pavement. The lesser houses or wings were each of them a storey less in height than the central building and the attic storeys were lighted from the front, extending at right angles from the principal buildings. The interior of the mansion corresponded with the exterior appearance. The principal rooms were light and elegant, ornamented with rich cornices and each having two large windows." Sage's description (1801) is quite applicable to the house to-day. Mr John Nicol, Golspie, is quite certain, he tells me that there has been little structural attention excepting that one of the back wings mentioned by Sage (neither of which was so high as stated) was cleared away about 30 years ago and rebuilt some distance away. The centre part was the main house and consists of a basement, which did not quite extend over the whole area of the first floor. The

wings were attached by passages 12 feet long, the kitchen being situated in the west wing. Gordon married a divorced woman. The story of the case will be found in a curious pamphlet (8 vo: pp., 74) entitled "The trial of Mrs Biscoe for adultery with Robert Gordon, Esq., tried December 8, 1794, before Lord Kenyon and a special jury, who found a verdict for Mr Biscoe of £4000 damage! This important trial contains the speeches of Mr Bearcroft and Mr Erskine at length, the whole of the evidence on both sides, and the summing up of Lord Chief Justice Kenyon"; London, printed for Allen & West, No. 15, Paternoster Row, 1794. In 1786 Joseph Seymour Biscoe, (born 1762), and grandson of Lady Jean Seymour (daughter of the Duke of Somerset), married Susannah Heriot, daughter of the Rector of All Saints, Derby. They had an only daughter, who married Sir Robert Inglis. In 1794 the Biscoes rented Thorum House, Kent, from Gordon who had been at school with Biscoe. On October 21, 1794, Gordon who is described in the trial as "a stout healthy young man," went down to Thorum in Biscoe's absence and spirited the lady off to London in a post chaise. Her husband's coachman caught them up on the road, but could not persuade her to return. She went to Gordon's house in Albemarle Street. The divorce suit was tried on December 8, 1794. Biscoe was represented by Mr Bearcroft, Mr Gibbs and Mr Perceval. Gordon had as counsel the Hon. Thomas Erskine, Mr Garrow and Mr Barrow. Biscoe won his case and got £4000 of the damages (£10,000) claimed. In the trial, Gordon is called "Robert" only and not "Robert Home." By a curious

coincidence one side of the Biscoe family now owns the estate of Newton, Inverness-shire, which is not so far from Gordon's paternal acres. Gordon died at Brighton, November 19, 1826 ("Gentleman's Magazine," which describes him in Vol. 96, pt. 2, p. 646, as "of Conduit Street and of Embo") His widow, was served his heir of provision general March 10, 1828, ("Services of Heirs" where he is described as "Robert Home Gordon of Embo."). The "Gentleman's Magazine" (vol. 12, N S, p. 211) records the death of his widow as "Samuel [sic] Harriott" at Knightsbridge, July 18, 1839. Sir Orford Gordon was served heir of provision general to "Robert Home Gordon of Embo" December 14, 1840, ("Services of Heirs.") General Sir John James Hood Gordon possesses a lease of some property in Jamaica, which proved invalid, signed by him in 1781. Mrs Robert Gordon sold Embo to the ducal Sutherlands, who improved the estate, an extent of land known as Embo Muir being reclaimed and added to the farm for a time.

- (2) George Gordon, the second son of Robert Gordon and Isabella Munro, died unmarried out in Jamaica. He left his property to his brother Dr John and the latter's son. He made another will leaving it to his sisters, but as this will was unsigned it was invalid although a lease of some property in Jamaica was drawn up in 1781 on the basis of its being all right, and signed by Robert Home Gordon. This lease is now in possession of General Sir. J. J. H. Gordon.
- (3) Jane Gordon, married June 18, 1762, Baillie Robert Murray, merchant in Edinburgh (died 1792), who was a native of Ross-shire. She died February 14, 1795, aged 51, and was

buried in the Canongate Churchyard
(Sir J. J. H. Gordon's MS. Pedigree).

- (4) Catherine Gordon, married Munro
of Dalmore, who was dead by 1778.
They had a daughter

—Munro, who married Alexander Smith
of Kinmylies, Inverness, (a native of
Lothian) and had

Katherine Gordon Smith. She married

(1) Lieutenant Colonel Ross 57th
Regiment, who died at Badajos ;

(2) at Inverness on May 18, 1813,
Major John Gordon, 2nd Queen's,
son of Adam Gordon, tacksman of
Griamachary. She died at St Kitts
during an epidemic in 1818. She
was the mother of

John Gordon, 47th Regiment, who
died in 1843.

- (5). Elizabeth Gordon, married George Mac-
kenzie, factor to Sir H Munro. She
had other sisters, whose names I do not
know

3. James Gordon (Brydges MS), was a son of
the 2nd baronet.

4. William Gordon (ibid).

5. George Gordon, captain. He is de-
scribed in the "Return of M P.'s" (ii. 590)
as son of Sir Robert Gordon of Embo and
as brother of John Gordon of Embo (ii.
597). He was M P. for Dornoch March 5,
1689, (Sessions 4-7, 910), and died before
December 21, 1692, when John Anderson,
yr. of Westerton, replaced him.

Sir John Gordon, 3rd Baronet

The eldest son of the 2nd baronet, he was at
Marischal College in 1672 as John of "Embo,"
and was sixth winner of the archery medal.

On July 4th, 1681, John Gordon "eldest son of
Sir Robert Gordon of Eaynbo" had sasine of the
lands of Hilltoun, (Dornoch), proceeding on a dis-
position from his father (Inverness Sasine
Register, folio 116)

In 1689 he was a captain in Lord Strathnaver's
Regiment (Dalton's "Army Lists.") The Brydges
MS. says that "during his father's lifetime he was
summoned by the Prince of Orange to the Con-

vention of the Estates in 1688-9 as member for Sutherland." He was M. P. for Sutherland July 5, 1681, 1682; March 5, 1689, 1700 ("Return of M. P.'s" ii. 590, 597). G. E. C. says he was excused in 1689 as absent on the King's Service, and being in 1693 ordered to sign the Assurance on pain of forfeiting his seat. Mr Ferguson in his "Scots Brigade in Holland" suggests that a John Gordon who was captain in the Brigade in September, 1694, and was dead by June 7, 1708, was "probably a son of Gordon of Embo," but as the only John at the time was the third baronet himself the suggestion may be queried.

Mr Murray Rose points out that "Sir John, third baronet, is said by some genealogists to have died on 16th October, 1697: others [including G. E. C.] give the date of his death as May 10, 1701. But the truth seems to be that he was alive and M. P. for the shire till 1703, and was on the Commission of Supply in 1704!"

According to the "Return of M. P.'s" (vol. ii.) Alexander Gordon of Gartay was made M. P. for Sutherland May 10, 1700 "vice Sir John Gordon of Embo deceased."

He married Anne Bayne, only lawful daughter of John Bayne of Delny and Anne Gray. In 1683 and 1694 there were sasines to John Gordon of Embo and his wife, Anne Bayne. On May 28, 1700, there was sasine to John, Robert, George, Anne, Elizabeth, and Jean Gordon, "lawful children of Sir John Gordon of Embo and Anne Bayne, his spouse," and grandchildren of the deceased John Bayne of Delnie in the lands of Delnie, portioners (Information from the late Sir James Mackenzie of Scatwell).

Sir John Gordon had the following issue:—

1. Sir John Gordon, 4th baronet
2. Robert Gordon. Mr Murray Rose ("Notes and Queries" vii. 10th series, 317) says he "married Anna Gray of Skibo. In connection with their contract of marriage, which is dated 14th July, 1716, another puzzle arises for the receipt for the lady's tocher is granted by Sir George Gordon of Embo (Earls of Ross, sub voce Gray.) Probably 'Sir George' is a printer's error." Anna Gray was the daughter of Robert Gray, and

- his wife Isobel Munro (Peter Gray's "Skibo," p. 39).
3. George Gordon, d s p. His brother Sir John was served his heir of provision general June 8, 1717.
 4. Anna Gordon. She and her sister Elizabeth, and Jean are mentioned in this order in the sasine of May 28. 1700, as portioners of their grandfather, John Bayne of Delnie.
 5. Elizabeth Gordon.
 6. Jean Gordon, "who died very old in October, 1777" (Brydges MS) The "Scots Magazine" (Vol 39 p. 567) records the death on October 16, 1777, of "Mrs Jane Gordon, daughter of the late Sir John Gordon of Embo, and aunt of the present Sir John Gordon"
 7. Daughter. The Brydges MS says she first married "the late Lord Reay," but this a mistake

Sir John Gordon, 4th Baronet.

The Brydges MS., Burke's "Peerage," and G E.C.'s "Complete Baronetage" give the 4th baronet as "William," but an examination of the services of heirs shows that this is wrong. His name was John and curiously enough the early editions of Burke were correct.

On April 28, 1694, John Gordon of Embo, and Dame Anne Bayne, his mother, had sasine of the lands of Marlick, Rovie, Craigtoun, Idin, and others in the parish of Rogart, proceeding on a heritable bond by John Lord Strathnaver, heritable proprietor of these lands, redeemable for £500 sterling (Inverness Register of Sasines folio 638). Sir John was served heir

To his brother George, June 8, 1717.

To his grandfather, Sir Robert Gordon of Embo as heir special, in Embo, Hilton or Bellaknuck, Achinthesaurer, etc. January 10 1721.

The Brydges MS., calling him Sir William says the baronet "sat in the British Parliament for Cromarty and Nairn, and died member in June 1742," but this Sir William was the baronet of Invergordon, as G E.C. points out. As a matter of fact, Sir John contested the county of Sutherland against Sir William,

and being defeated October 24, 1724, petitioned the House of Commons against Sir William's return ("House of Commons Journals" xx. 38, 152) In the "Case of the election for the county of Sutherland: Sir John Gordon, baronet, sitting member to be heard before the Committee 1722" (British Museum. 816m, 4 74,) Sir John objected that 23 of Sir William's voters were not tenants of the Crown as free holders infekt and possessed of lands of the extent and to the value prescribed by the Act of 1681. Sir William retorted that, by the charter erecting Sutherland into the shire of Parliament, the vassals of subjects superiors as well as vassals to the Crown were entitled to elect. Sir John pointed out that Sir William owned no land in Sutherland; and he stated three other objections to Sir William.

According to the Services of Heirs, Sir John died April 14. 1760.

The Brydges MS says that he had two sons:—

- 1 Sir John Gordon, 5th baronet.
- 2 William Gordon, who was in the Navy.

Sir John Gordon, 5th Baronet

He was the son of the 4th baronet, whom he succeeded in 1760, and to whom he was served heir special in Embo, Hilton, or Bellaknuick, and Auchinthreasurer in Sutherland, February 14 1761. He was collector of cess, 1736-7 and 1767-73. Burke says he married, firstly, Charlotte, daughter of Kenneth (Sutherland) third Lord Duffus: but no such marriage is given either in the Brydges MS. or in the "Scots Peerage." G.E.C. says he married, in 1727, Margaret, daughter of William Sutherland, and widow of James Sutherland of Pronsy. The Brydges MS. simply states that he was "father of three sons." He died at Embo January 24, 1779. ("Scots Magazine" for 1779, p.54). He had:—

- 1 Sir James Gordon, 6th baronet.
- 2 Sir William Gordon, 7th baronet.
- 3 Robert Gordon. He had a daughter

Mary Gordon, "daughter of the late Mr Robert Gordon, and grand daughter of the deceased Sir John Gordon of Embo," who died in her house in Alison's Square, Edinburgh, October

25, 1805. "Gent'eman's Magazine"
Vol. 75, p. 1080).

4 Margaret Gordon. The "Scots Magazine" (vol. ii, N.S. p. 95) announces. "At Dornoch [1819] aged 92, Miss Margaret Gordon, sister of the late Sir John Gordon of Embo, baronet" The June 1818 supplement to the "Gentleman's Magazine" (vol. 88, pt 1, p 647) contains this announcement:—"At Dornoch Mrs Gordon, only surviving sister of the late Sir William Gordon, baronet of Embo, N.B." These two entries may refer to the same lady, or the first may refer to a daughter of the 3rd baronet, and the second to a daughter of the 5th baronet. If they are the same, it would seem that there was some doubt in the mind of contemporary writers as to whether the 4th baronet was John or William,

5 Anne Gordon.

6 Betty Gordon These two must be the "antiquated" ladies "who were living in the town of Dornoch when Sage was a school boy there 1801-3. We know that the third baronet had two daughters Anne and Elizabeth, but as they are mentioned in a sasine of 1700 they can hardly have been alive in 1801, however "antiquated." Sage ("Memorabilia Domestica" p. 164) says that "their brother was the last heir in the direct line and was the immediate predecessor of Robert Hume Gordon of Embo." Anne was "always ailing and seldom visible to the outdoor public. Miss Betty herself was too feeble to walk out, but she usually sat in the window in the afternoon, dressed after the fashion of 1699 in an ancient gown with a shawl pinned over her shoulders and a high cap as head gear. She was very fond of society, and of that light and easy conversation otherwise termed gossip. When, therefore, she took her station at the upper window a female audience usually congregated below it. These attendants gave her the news of the day; and she made her remarks upon it,

as full of charity and goodwill towards all as such remarks usually are”

- 7? Susanah Gordon: The “Gentleman’s Magazine” (Vol. 72, pt 1, p 278) announces the death of Mrs. Susannah Gordon at Bath, February 25, 1802, aged 74. “he was the sister of the late Sir William Gordon, baronet.” The “Aberdeen Journal” calls her brother Sir William Gordon, K.B. The “K.B.” was our Minister at Brussels, and his origin is unknown.”

Sir James Gordon, 6th Baronet.

He was the eldest son of the 5th baronet, and succeeded to the baronetcy, January 24, 1779. He is described in the “Scots Magazine” as “Colonel in the service of the Dutch government,” and as having died at Zutphen in 1786. He may be the ensign James Gordon of Stuart’s Regiment in the Scots Brigade in Holland, who was ordered July 15, 1756, to go to Scotland to recruit for the 1st battalion (Ferguson’s ‘Scots Brigade’ II, 270: “Albemarle Papers” 323). The ensign was lieutenant in the 4th company, 1st battalion of Stuart’s Regiment, November 22, 1749 (Ferguson’s “Scots Brigade” II, 418). He took the oath by proxy August 19, 1767, as brevet major and captain, 2nd battalion of Stuart’s (ibid II, 483). He was authorised as major to draw his pay in Holland January 5, 1781 (ibid II 492). He was unmarried, and was succeeded by his brother

Sir William Gordon, 7th Baronet

Born in 1735, he was the son of the 5th baronet, who died in Guelderland, and succeeded his brother, the 6th baronet, in 1786.

He entered the 19th Foot as ensign, April 30, 1755, and became lieutenant September 28, 1757, and captain May 31, 1769. He served with the regiment in the descents made on the French coast, particularly in the reduction of Belleisle in 1761. He afterwards went with the regiment to Gibralt’ar, where he remained a long time, and, having acted as paymaster, he was appointed deputy inspector of the recruiting depot at Chatham, by General Samuel Townsend, then Inspector General of the recruiting service, after whom he named one of his daughters. He sold out of the 19th Regiment in 1777, and accepted

(July 23, 1778) the adjutancy of the West Norfolk Militia, commanded by the eccentric Earl of Orford—after whom he named his youngest son and successor. Gordon became lieutenant in the Militia May 25, 1779; captain-lieutenant, July 18, 1793, and captain, February 27, 1798. He was paymaster in the corps for many years, and having been adjutant the number of years specified by the Militia Act he resigned, (becoming entitled to six shillings a day for life); and, giving up his paymastership, retained only his company.

He died at Colchester, January 7, 1804, of inflammation of the bladder "which at his advanced age baffled the art of medicine" ("Gentleman's Magazine" vol. 74, pt 1, p 179). The same authority (vol 74, pt. 1. p 90) says his funeral at Colchester was "extremely awful," for "all lamented the death of this gallant veteran, with whose character every one was pleased. The whole of his regiment attended, and the procession included General Sir James Craig, and the staff officers, General Ludlow and Lord Southampton, together with the officers of the East and West Norfolk, the West Suffolk, the 3rd York, the 18th Light Dragoons, and the horse and foot artillery. Nothing could exceed the solemnity with which it was conducted."

His bookplate is described by Mr J. Henderson Smith, Edinburgh, as follows:—

"Sir William Gordon, Bart." Over crest, "Forward without Fear." Supporters, dexter, a unicorn; sinister, a naked man wreathed about the temples and waist. Arms, argent, 3 boars heads erased; the inescutcheon of Nova Scotia Baronetcy in the point. Date about 1790-1800. The shield is encircled by the ribbon of the baronetcy with its motto "fax mentis honestae gloria"

He married June 15, 1760, Sarah, only daughter of Crosby Westfield R.N., (G.E.C.'s "Complete Baronetage" ii 393.) She died at Bath, January 2, 1819. ("Gentleman's Magazine," vol. 89, pt 1, p 181. The Brydges MS says he had 14 children, but it names only 13. Five of his sons predeceased him, three of them in the service of their country. The "Gentleman's Magazine" states (vol. 64, p. 957) that another

son was almost lost on the East Indiaman
"Winterton"

Sir William's issue was:—

William Gordon, born 1764. He got an ensigncy in his father's regiment, the 19th Foot on October 5, 1776 ("London Gazette.") He became a lieutenant in the 72nd on January 4, 1778. The Brydges MS. says that he studied under that "excellent soldier, the immortal Eliot, from the commencement of the siege of Gibraltar until the peace of 1783"—a statement apparently borrowed from the "Gentleman's Magazine" (vol. 64, p 957). Gordon was placed on half pay as captain in 1783, and attained the (army) rank of captain-lieutenant July 11, 1783. He was appointed adjutant-lieutenant and captain in the 41st Regiment, December 25, 1787; captain, April 30, 1792, ("London Gazette" p 396); and brevet-major September 9, 1794 (ibid p 907.) Lomax ("History of the 41st") says he was one of the three officers present during a visit of General Sir George Osborne to the headquarters of the regiment in the Hilsa Barracks in the spring of 1788. He served in the West Indies campaign of 1794-6. On May 28, 1794, he sailed with his comrades from the Mole at Martinique to Port au Prince, St Domingo, where he died June 30, 1794. (Lomax's "History of the 41st" pp 29, 31, 36, 37.) The "Gentleman's Magazine" (vol. 64, p. 957) says:—"His death is generally lamented by his disconsolate parents, relatives, and brother officers, and in short by everyone who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. Possessed of every virtue that can adorn human nature, as a gentleman and a scholar few could excel him in the knowledge of the world and polite literature. The death of Major Gordon is a severe loss to his country and particularly to the 41st Regiment, in which his memory will ever be dear"

2 Paulus Æmilius Gordon, ensign in the 83rd Foot or Royal Glasgow Volunteers, April 28, 1780; lieutenant, 83rd Regiment,

- October 29, 1783. He died at the Bahama Islands (Frydges MS.) Another authority says he died at New Providence 1791. The name Paulus Æmilius suggests a Dutch origin probably owing to his uncle's connection with the Scots Brigade in Holland.
- 3 Farquhar Gordon, died in childhood (Brydges MS.)
 - 4 Robert Crosby Gordon ; major in the 85th Foot (Bucks Volunteers) January 26. 1797, aged 25 (" Gentleman's Magazine," Vol. 67 p 1072). He may be the son of Sir William, who, according to the " Gentleman's Magazine " (vol. 64, p. 957) nearly lost his life on the East Indiaman " Winteron "
 - 5 Sir John Gordon ; 8th baronet
 - 6 Walter Gordon. He died at Jamaica of a "coup de soleil," on board the frigate Hermione, of which he was midshipman, January 21, 1794 (" Gentleman's Magazine " vol. 64, p. 184).
 - 7 Sir Orford Gordon, 9th baronet.
 - 8 Irving Gordon. Burke gives her as a daughter. She died young (Brydges MS.)
 - 9 Judith Margaret Gordon ; married Lieutenant Colonel Jabez Mackenzie, H. E. I. C. and died 1839.
 - 10 Charlotte Gordon ; married at Calcutta August 16, 1789 (" Scots Magazine ") major, afterwards Lieutenant-General, William Neville Cameron, H. E. I. C., and died January 21, 1846. She had a son :—
Lieutenant-Colonel William Gordon Cameron, Grenadier Guards, who was severely wounded at Waterloo, and died in 1856 (Burke's " Peerage.")
 - 11 Sarah C. Townshend Gordon, named after the Inspector of recruiting. She died 1769 as a child.
 - 12 Æmia ; married Major Charles Stewart, H. E. I. C., Bengal army, son of Poyntz Stewart of the Stewarts of Clunie. She died in 1827.
 - 13 Christiana ; died 1795 (Burke's " Peerage.")

14 Daughter? "Mrs" Gordon, the youngest daughter of Sir William Gordon, baronet, of Norwich, died "lately" ("Gentleman's Magazine" for July 1788: vol 58, p. 1027)

Sir William had a grand-daughter, but by which child I do not know "The Gentleman's Magazine" (vol 78 p. 1129) announced that on November 16, 1808, after three months' illness, the wife of Captain Falconer, niece of Sir John Gordon, of Embo, died at Falkirk.

Sir John Gordon, 8th Baronet

He was the fifth, but eldest surviving, son of the 7th baronet. He was born at Cork July 2, 1776, and baptised there, by the Rev. Samuel Perrett, Presbyterian minister (Certificate-India Office).

He entered the Bengal Engineers as a cadet 1792; became ensign November 8, 1793, and lieutenant December 10, 1800.

He succeeded his father January 7, 1804, and died unmarried at Prince of Wales Is and, November 12, 1804 ("New Orienta Register," for 1800, p. 66; "H.E.I.C Register": "Gentleman's Magazine" Vol. 75, p. 583.)

Sir Orford Gordon, 9th Baronet

The youngest son of the 7th baronet, he was named after the Earl of Orford, and was born at Norwich. He succeeded his brother the 8th baronet in 1803. He was served heir

To his father Sir William Gordon, May 16, 1808 as heir general

To his kinsman, Robert Home Gordon of Embo, December 14, 1810, as heir of provision general

He became a captain in the 78th Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs) October 26, 1805; and was a lieutenant in the 3rd Garrison Battalion, July 27, 1815, being placed on half pay, September 20, 1816

Fraser says that Embo was purchased by the 2nd Duke of Sutherland in 1835 (Sutherland Book I, xxxvii); but in the new "Statistical Account" (1842), Mrs Gordon "of Embo" appears as a landowner.

Sir Orford Gordon, died at Brighton, June, 19, 1857 ("Gentleman's Magazine" vo. 3, N.S p. 228)

He married at Plymouth, December, 20, 1813, Frances, third daughter of Major General Gore

Browne, Colonel of the 44th Regiment and lieutenant Governor of Plymouth ("Gentleman's Magazine," vol. 83, pt. 2, p. 698). She died at 24 Brunswick Square, Brighton, August 11, 1866, aged 72 (*ibid.*, vol. 2, N.S., p. 423). They had :—

1 Sir William Home Gordon, 10th baronet

2 Julia Charlotte Mackenzie Gordon, born at Government House, Plymouth, November 27, 1814 ("Gentleman's Magazine," vol. 84, pt 2, p. 600). She married December 5, 1839, at Walcot, Bath, the Rev William Churchill of Colleton and Muston, Dorset, and of Tidcombe Manor, Wilts. He was Rector of Winterton-Stickland, Dorset. She died August 10, 1857. He died July 1, 1886. They had eight sons and three daughters (Burke's "Landed Gentry," 1898):—

- (1) William Churchill of Colleton, born October 6, 1840
 - (2) Orford Churchill, born 1843; Rear Admiral. He is married and has issue.
 - (3) Mackenzie Churchill, born 1848: Colonel in the army.
 - (4) Cameron Churchill, born 1849, governor of Dulwich College. He is married, and has with other issue a daughter, Ida Blanche Gordon Churchill,
 - (5) Rev. Melville Churchill, born 1850.
 - (6) Seton Churchill, born 1851: army staff paymaster. He is married and has a son George Seton Churchill, born 1878.
 - (7) Reginald Churchill, born 1853, civil engineer. He is married and has a daughter, Elsie Kathleen Gordon Churchill.
 - (8) Rev. Stuart Churchill, born 1856.
 - (9) Julia Louisa Churchill (Mrs. St John).
 - (10) Louisa Churchill
 - (11) Caroline Churchill.
- 3 Louisa Charlotte Melville Gordon, born August 18, 1817: died unmarried September 18, 1882. She or her sister Frances was born at Weymouth, May 30, 1825. ("Gentleman's Magazine," Vol. 95, pt. 1, p. 560).
- 4 Frances Amelia Gordon: born May 30, 1825. This lady achieved the notoriety of a leader

in the "Times" (April 6, 1855), apropos of her being summoned before the Petty Sessions at Kingsclere, Hants, for torturing a pony. It was shown that on February 23, she left her house at Baughurst in a pony phaeton for Kingsclere. The pony did not trot quickly enough to please her, so she got out and beat it about the head and neck, and finally thrust a stick up its nostrils and into its mouth. She then tied it to a gate, and left it standing for two hours, and after that she stabbed it with a penknife. On taking it back to its stable, she pricked its nostrils and mouth with a penknife. She was fined £5. The "Times" commenting on the case in a leader said— "We cannot but say that a few months' imprisonment, a few private whippings administered by the hand of the stoutest women in Hampshire would have constituted a much more fitting punishment for Miss Emilie Frances Gordon." On April 11, 1855, the "Times" printed a letter signed "A Neighbour of Miss Gordon," as follows:—"As a near neighbour of Miss Emilie Frances Gordon, on whose cruelty to her pony you commented in your paper on Friday last, I venture earnestly to hope that her relatives will now see the absolute necessity of putting her under some personal restraint. Her vagaries have too long continued to be alternately the jest, the scandal and the terror of the neighbourhood in which she resides. Whether the strange history she gives herself be true or partially, if not entirely, mental hallucinations, it is certainly incumbent upon her friends, if not of consideration for their own credit, at any rate out of regard to decorum and the public safety to put an end at once to the extraordinary behaviour in which she has for years indulged. I am alluding now to circumstances which are well known to every person, rich or poor, who lives either ten or twenty miles of Baughurst. The whole country side has been ringing with anecdotes of Miss Gordon, her antecedents and

pre-ent eccentricities, ever since she came to reside in this neighbourhood. I have not the least doubt that mania, of which her savage treatment of the pony was only one manifestation, has been developing itself in her mind for years past and is making rapid advances towards a highly dangerous state." Instead of an asylum, however, she found a bridal bower for she married in 1861, to Stylianos Apostoloides, a Greek, living in England, and died without issue, July 5, 1896. He was living at 42 Brunswick Terrace, Brighton, in November 1899, and at Nice in 1907. "The Sketch" (June 21, 1899), stated that "being excessively benevolent as well as erudite, he presented three public libraries to various towns in Cyprus." He owed the manuscript of two stories by the elder Dumas "La Neige du Mont Chakh-Dague," and "Ammalet Bey." They were announced in "The Sketch" (June 21, 1899), as "two absolutely fresh romances," and "a veil of mystery" was said to shroud their history between the time when they were completed and the autumn of 1899 when they were to "flash out as new stars in the firmament of letters." So they were duly translated by the present baronet of Embo, Sir Home Seton Gordon, and published at M. Apostoloides' expense in the autumn of 1899 by Simpkin Marshall. It was then discovered that under other titles they had been published by Calmann-Levy in Paris in 1862, and re-issued in English by Lent. Sir Home explained the matter in a letter to "The Academy" in December, 1899, in which he offered to "refund the money expended to any one who bought the book under erroneous statements."

Sir William Home Gordon, 10th Baronet.

He was the only son of the 9th baronet, and was possibly "the son and heir" born at Government House, Plymouth, January 21, 1816 ("Scots Magazine," vol. 78, p. 157). G. E. C. ("Complete Baronetage" 11 393) says he was born at Devonport 1818. He was educated at Trinity

College, Cambridge, where he took his B. A. in 1839. He was served heir of provision special to his father in Embo, Hilltown, and Auchintreasur, Sutherlandshire, August 10, 1858. He was appointed D.L. for Sutherland, January 1853 ("London Gazette," for 1853 pt. 1, p. 292).

He married, March 26, 1844, at Speldhurst, Kent, Ellen Harriet, ("Gentleman's Magazine," vol. 21, N.S., p. 530) youngest daughter of Bartholomew Barnewall, Weymouth Street, London, by Mary, daughter of John Charles Lucena, Consul General for Portugal. Barnewall belonged to the baronet family of Barnewall, of Crickstown Castle, County Meath (Burke's "Peerage" 1907.)

Sir William died at 64 Upper Brunswick Place, Brighton, September 18, 1876. The "Times" (October 30, 1876), made a curious announcement about his will :—

Strict search having been made, but no will or other testamentary document of the deceased having been discovered, any person who can produce any will or other testamentary document of the said Sir William Home Gordon, Baronet, or can give any information which may lead to the discovery of the same, is requested to communicate immediately with Charles O. Humphreys, Giltspur Chambers, Ho born Viaduct, London, solicitor for Sir Seton Gordon, Baronet.

Sir William left an only son :—
Sir Home Seton Gordon, 11th baronet.

Sir Home Seton Gordon, 11th Baronet.

The only son of the 10th baronet, he was born at Dover, March 21, 1845 ("Gentleman's Magazine," Vol. 23, N.S., p. 535) and succeeded his father in 1876. He was educated at a school in Ealing—not at Eton as Burke states—and at Sandhurst. He entered the army as ensign in the 76th Foot in 1864 and transferred to the 44th Foot, with which he served in India, retiring in 1869. He was captain of the Glamorgan Light Infantry Militia till 1875. In the Dogs' Cemetery in Hyde Park there is a stone bearing the inscription :—

To the blessed memory of our dear Jack, a
Scotch collie : died August 31, 1895, aged

15 years. The most intelligent, devoted, well bred and affectionate dog that ever lived. Adored by his devoted and afflicted Sir H Seton Gordon, baronet

He married on November 25, 1870, at Crawley, Sussex, Mabel Montagu, only daughter of Montagu David Scott, M.P., of Hove, and granddaughter of Sir David Scott 2nd baronet of Dunninald, Forfarshire. Sir Home, who was a keen yachtsman and traveller, died at his residence 8, Granville Place, Portman Square, London, December 11, 1906. His will, like his father's, went missing, for the "Times" of February 25, 1907, contained this advertisement:—

Sir Home Seton Gordon, Baronet. Information is desired as to wills of the above, who died on 11th December last. Anyone affording material information on the subject at once to Messrs Dimond and Son, of No. 47, Webeck-street, London, W., will be rewarded.

The will was ultimately found, (he left estate valued at £703) and directed that

His remains should be cremated, and the ashes scattered to the wind, or left where the cremation takes place; that no funeral service should be held over his remains, and wreaths or flowers used at his funeral, or memorial stone or tablet erected to his memory.

He left an only son:—

Sir Home Seton Gordon, 12th baronet.

Sir Home Seton Gordon, 12th Baronet.

The only child of the 11th baronet, he was born at Brighton, September 30, 1871. He was educated at Eton, and according to the "The Sketch" (June 21, 1896) "practises journalism, has Parliamentary ambitions on the Tory side, is an enthusiast about Wagner and cricket, whilst he has strong views on modern painting, and has translated several books from the French." He has published

"A Compendium of Art," translated from the text of J. Block, 1894.

“Cricket Form at a Glance,” Constable 1902 ; described by the “Times” as a “work of bewildering industry.” It consists of thousands of scores made by cricketers, that game being quite an obsession with Sir Home.

“The Reminiscences of an Irish Land Agent, being those of Samuel M. Hussey”: Duckworth, 1904.

He married at Lismore Cathedral October 2, 1897, Edith Susan, daughter of the late Richard John Leeson-Marshall, of Callinafercy House, County Kerry. He has no issue, and no heir male : so that the baronetcy may become extinct.

The Gordon's in Dalchairn.

The family according to Sage ("Memorabilia Domestica" pp. 86, 182) was "a cadet of the Gordons of Embo." Dalchairn is the name of a farm in Kildonan, and derives its name from an immense cairn situated in the middle of it, and about sixty yards from the right bank of the river, Helmsdale which here receives one of its principal tributaries, the water of Dalchairn or Fridh. The Fridh rises about eight miles due west and on the boundary line between the parishes of Kildonan and Clyne. In Sage's time the farm was occupied by Alistair Gordon, "a wealthy and substantial tenant." He goes on to say :—

During any vacancy in the mission of Achness in which the upper part of the parish of Kildonan was comprehended, my father preached at Ach-na-h'uaighe, and quartered himself at Dalchairn. Alastair Gordon and his wife, as well as the members of his family, were often Saturday and Sabbath evening guests at Kildonan. Presents, too, of mutton, butter and cheese were frequently sent to the manse, and good old Alastair and his kind and hearty wife would not be content with an interchange of hospitality and friendship to this amount only; they insisted upon it that my brother and I should spend the Christmas holidays with them. I distinctly remember these festive occasions. To give us a more than ordinary treat, tea was prepared for breakfast, a luxury almost unknown in these hyperborean regions. Gordon's second daughter Anne, who then had the management of her father's house, would insist on preparing it. She put about a pound of tea into a tolerably large sized pot with nearly a gallon of "burn" water, and seasoned the whole as she would any other stew with a reasonable proportion of butter, pepper, and salt. When served up at the breakfast table, however, the sauce only was administered, the leaves being reserved for future decorations. The old man had an unceasing cough, very sharp and loud, which was not a little helped by his incessant use of snuff.

Sage says that Alastair Gordon's wife was "a lineal descendant of the Strath Uilligh Sutherlands," and that they had a "numerous family."

- 1 John Gordon, the eldest son went to America "about thirty years ago." He died leaving his family in easy circumstances.
- 2 Gilbert Gordon, second son, "was a non-commissioned officer in the 93rd Regiment, but afterwards went to Berbice where he realized a few thousand pounds as a planter, came home, married a daughter of Captain John Sutherland of Brora, lost all his money by mismanagement, and ultimately emigrated to America (Sage) The "Scots Magazine" says he married at Lyberus on January 30, 1818, Margaret, daughter of John Sutherland, commissary and J. P. of Sutherland.
- 3 Robert Gordon, followed his brother to America.
- 4 William Gordon, got a commission in the army, went to Jamaica, returned on half-pay, and lived in poverty at Rosemarkie. "He was always a strange mixture of the shrewd worlding and the born fool."
- 5 ———Gordon, another son of Dalchairn, went to Jamaica and died there.
- 6 ———Gordon, the eldest daughter, married John Macdonald, tacksman of AchScarlet in Strathmore, Caithness, and a noted Highland drover. After his death his widow and family emigrated to America.
- 7 Anna Gordon, the second daughter, married one John Gordon of Soluschraiggie. She lived with her husband at Dalchairn after her father's death, and afterwards took a lot of land in the village of Helmsdale and a sheep farm in Caithness. Her husband died a few years ago in consequence of cold caught in his winter journey from his house at Helmsdale to his Caithness sheep farm. Ann Gordon died at Helmsdale in 1849. When they lived at Dalchairn, both before and after the old man's death, Sage was frequently their guest during his incumbency at Achness.

The Gordons of Golspiekirkton

Sir Robert Gordon in his "Tab'es" heads this section as the "offspring of Maister Adam Gordon of Ferack," but as "Ferack" (which was really Ferrar in Aberdeenshire) passed out of the family quickly and as the family was identified wholly with Sutherlandshire, I prefer to designate it as of Golspiekirkton.

Ferrar lies in the lordship of Aboyne, Aberdeenshire. Mr James Macdonald ("Place Names of West Aberdeenshire" p. 186) suggests that "possibly" the name is derived from "feur," which means grass, and the terminal "ar," meaning "a grassy place." The "Boate of Ferrar" is given in the notes to a View of the Diocese of Aberdeen as having been one of the fords of the river Dee. This name also appears as "Ferrer," "Ferar," and "Farer," never as "Ferack;" which shows that Sir Robert Gordon knew of it only by hearsay. It belonged to Lord Adam Gordon, who married Elizabeth Countess of Sutherland, and it formed part of the lordship of Aboyne to which his grandson John Earl of Sutherland was served heir in 1536. Lord Adam is said ("Records of Aboyne" p. 147) to have lived there "during the closing years of his life." He is usually said to have died at "Aboyne" in September, 1535. His third son, "Master" Adam, probably lived with him, while the elder son Alexander looked after the estates in Sutherland. "Master" Adam was killed at the battle of Pinkie and as he left no legitimate issue, the lands apparently reverted to the Sutherland line for his grand nephew, Alexander, Earl of Sutherland, sold Ferrar in 1578 to Sir John Carnegie of Kinnaird ("Records of Aboyne" pp. 148-150).

Master Adam Gordon left "only a bastard sone."

Adam Gordon of Golspiekirkton.

Adam Gordon of Golspiekirkton.

He was the natural son of Adam Gordon of Ferrar. Sir Robert Gordon ("Earls of Sutherland" p. 58) says he died in March, 1626, "verie aged."

Sir Robert in his Tab'es says he married Christina Murray, daughter of Hugh Murray of Abircors, and had

1. Alexander Gordon of Golspiekirkton. He was implicated in the attack on the Sutherlands of Duffus, Sir Robert Gordon having to stand caution for him in £500. August 2, 1621, to desist from annoying them ("Privy Council Register"). He married Margaret, daughter of John Gordon of Baekies, and had
 - (1). John Gordon
 - (2). Robert Gordon. He married Jean Gordon, daughter of Patrick Gordon, sometime of Craigton
 - (3). Adam Gordon. He married Jean Anderson, daughter of Mr Andrew Anderson, minister at Kildonan
 - (4). Margaret Gordon. She married Robert Cadell (Cadder), and had issue
 - (5). Christian Gordon
2. Adam Gordon "in Culgower." He married Jane Gordon, daughter of John Gordon of Midgarty, and had
 - (1.) Adam Gordon
 - (2). John Gordon. He married (1) Jean Gordon, daughter of Alexander Gordon of Carroll; and (2) Katherine Gordon, daughter of John Gordon of Easter Helmsdale
 - (3). Alexander Gordon, married Margaret Gordon, daughter of Alexander Gun in Borboll
 - (4). Hugh Gordon "son of Adam Gordon of Culhour" is stated by Sir Robert Gordon ("Earls of Sutherland p. 402) to have joined Mackay's Regiment in Germany in 1626; but he does not appear in Sir Robert's Tables, which states that Adam Gordon's brother, not son, was called Hugh
3. Hugh Gordon is given in the Tables as having married the daughter of William Abrenethy and to have had
 - (1) William Gordon
 - (2). Adam Gordon
4. Gilbert Gordon. He had a natural son
Hugh Gordon
5. John Gordon was a natural son of Adam Gor-

don of Golspiekirkton and appears in the Tables as being "now in Spain." He had a natural son

Francis Gordon "now in Holland." There was no Francis in the Scots Brigade however Francis Gordon "in" Golspiekirkton was charged on June 10, 1621, with helping John Gordon of Embo to attack the Sutherlands of Duffus (Privy Council Register). Francis Gordon, "now in Holland," is said by Sir Robert Gordon to have had a natural son

Adam Gordon

6. Elizabeth Gordon died "childless"
7. Jane Gordon married William Sutherland of Caen in Kildonan and had issue.

The Gordons of Garty.

The lands of Garty were held by several Gordons. I am unable to connect the different owners, but the first of them, Gilbert Gordon was the youngest son of Adam Gordon, Lord Boyne, second son of the second Earl of Huntly, who married Elizabeth Sutherland, Countess of Sutherland in her own right.

In 1542 Donald Mackay burned the village of Knockartol and raided Strathbrora. Sir Hugh Kennedy marched against him accompanied by Gilbert Gordon of Garty, surprising Mackay beside Aldy-Ne-Beth. Sir Robert Gordon ("Earls of Sutherland" p. 107) says:—

After a hard and sharp conflict, the Strathnaver men fled, the booty was rescued, and John Mackean-Mack-Angus (chiftain of Slaight-wic-ean-wic-Hucheon of Edderachilis) was slain, with divers others of the bravest men in Strathnaver, having had unlucky success of an evnoked for conflict wher nevertheless Donald Mackay. . . made good retreat. . . Donald Mackay was so hardly pressed in the chase by Gilbert Gordoun and Hutcheon Morray, that he was forced to make hast to escape into Strathnaver.

In 1563 Gilbert Gordon of Garty is mentioned in a charter as uncle to the 10th Earl of Sutherland (Fraser's "Sutherland Book" i, 89).

The most exciting event in Gilbert Gordon's career was the poisoning at Helmsdale in 1567 of John 11th Earl of Sutherland and his Countess by his wife, Isobel Sinclair the sister of William Sinclair, laird of Dumbearth. The crime was only one point in the history of the long vendetta between the Sinclairs, Earls of Caithness and the noble Gordons of Sutherland, but it gained an ironic interest in being perpetuated through the Gordons themselves, and from the fact that the murderess inadvertently killed her first born by it. The story is told at length in "The Earl of Sutherland," by Sir Robert Gordon, who admits, however, that he had picked up the threads of the plot with some difficulty.

Sir Robert insists that the real instigator of

the crime was Mrs Gordon's cousin, George, Earl of Caithness, who hated Sutherland "mortally and repined at his prosperity." Caithness plotted from two stand points. In the first place, Isobel Sinclair's son, John Gordon, younger of Garty, was the next heir male to the Earldom of Sutherland after Earl John and his son. In the second place, Isobel's brother, William Sinclair of Dunbeath, who had married Sutherland's sister Beatrix, would have benefitted by the removal of the Earl in this wise

Sutherland, who was born about 1527, had joined in the measures of his cousin the Earl of Huntly, and being convicted of treason fled to Flanders in 1563. Before leaving, however, he had bought from the Bishop of Orkney, the lands of Dounreyn Caithness, and he gave the documents pertaining to the sale for safe keeping into the hands of Dunbeath whom he made his tenant. During Sutherland's absence, Sinclair took a new gift of the lands in his own name, suppressing Sutherland's charters, apparently in the belief that the Earl would never come home. But he did, for his conviction was rescinded in 1567, and the calculations of the Sinclairs were completely upset. They had therefore every reason in the world to get rid of the Earl, and they put up Mrs Gordon of Garty, whom Sir Robert pillories as a "vainglorious" and a "covetous" woman, to do the deed, "feinding her with the foolish hope" that she might see her own son with the coronet. She administered poison to the Earl, and his wife, who was then "big with chylde," and both of them died at Helmsdale five days later, July, 1567. It was only by the narrowest chance that the Earl's only son, Alexander, escaped. As the boy who was just eleven "came from hunting," and was "making for supper" the Earl, "feiling himself past all hope of recovery. . . . took the table oath, and threw it among the house, not suffering his son to eat any meat or drink. So he, who was then taking his last leave of the world, took a so last fareweill of his onlie son; and recommending him to the protection of God and of his deirest freinds, he sent him the same night to Dounrobin, from Helmsdale, without his supper; and from thence he was conveyed to the Castle of Skibo." Next day the Earl and his wife were carried to

Dunrobin where they died " fyve dayes after they were poisoned "

Thus the Earl's son escaped, and Mrs Gordon's hopes were blighted. But her failure was rendered more acute by the fact that her own son John, " whom in her own mynd and conceat shoe had appointed to succeed," fell a victim to her crime. He was in the house with the Earl when the poison was being prepared, and, feeling thirsty, called for a drink. One of his mother's servants, who was ignorant of the plot, " brought vnto the youth a drink of what shoe found readiest." It was the fatal potion, and the youth having quaffed it off died two days later, and was buried at Golspie.

By another touch of irony, it fell to the Earl of Caithness, " by virtue of his pretended justiciarie within the bounds of the diocie of Catteynes," to investigate the crime. But all he did, according to Sir Robert Gordon, was to punish those who were " faithfullest " to the Earl of Sutherland, and to spare the " guyltie who were most suspected for that fact."

Then the dead Earl's friends, seeing how Caithness had " indevoared to shouffle over and cullor " the matter, arrested Mrs Gordon, and sent her off to Edinburgh for trial. But she died on the day of her execution, " cursing alwise her cusin, the Earle of Catteynes, all the tyme of her seiknes, evin vntil the hour of her death." The suggestion is that she " maid herself away."

Sir Robert Gordon saw in the who'e sequence of events the finger of fate which he constantly noted working in favour of his heroes, the Earls of Sutherland. He enumerates the doom of the criminals like a Greek dramatist :—

- (1) Dumbaith, his house, and familie is now perished as wee sie, and his estate is come into a stranger's hand.
- (2) There is no lawfull succession descended from the heysr mail of Gilbert Gordon and Isobell Sinckler :
- (3) And shoe herself died miserablie at Edinburgh, having (as wes supposed) maid herself away, least shoe should have suffered a just punishment for so wicked a cryme.

- (4) The Jerrell of Doill his posteritie is decayed and run headlong to miserie, whos wyff wes ane actrix in this dolefull tragedie.
- (5) John, Master of Catteynes (the eldcst sone of George, Earle of Catteynes), rose up and conspyred against his father, for the which he imprisoned him in the castle of Girnego, where he maid him die miserablie in wofull captivitie.
- (6) Earle George, his second sone, William Sinckler, was slain by his owne brother John, who bruised him to death in the castle of Girnego durcing his imprisonment there.
- (7) George, now Earle of Catteynes (grandchyld of old Earle George), was constrained by the authoritie of the kingdom, for divers crymes and misdemeanors, to forsake his countrey and familie a long tyme. This Earle George is at great jarrs and contentions with his own eldest sone, the Lord Berridale, it being now almost hereditarie to this familie that the father and the sone should be at odds together. Besides this, their house is overburdened and overwhelmed with debts, whereby you see at this day the house and earldome of Catteynes, weill neir ane vtter rwyne, liklie to fall from the familie and surname of Sinckler.

Thus is the Almighty ever liveing God a just revenge of innocnt blood vpon the third and fourth generation. Happy are they who refer their vengeance to the Lord ! The onlie hope of that familie rests vpon the Lord Berridale, his sone, a youth of singular good expectation.

Had Sir Robert lived, he wou d have seen this amiable Lord Berridale's issue die out to such an extent that he was succeeded by his great grandson, the 6th Earl, who made such a mess of matters, that being childless and in debt he, in 1672 made over his lands and honours to Sir John Campbell of Glenurchy, who married his widow. It is true that Campbell re'inguisht the Earldom of Caithness in 1681 on being raised to the peerage as Earl of Breadalbane, but his right to the lands was held good ; so that Sir Robert cou d have echoed with even greater fervour his conviction :—

Thus is the Almighty ever living God a just revenger of innocent blood, vpon the third and fourth generation. Happy are they who refer their vengeance to the Lord !

Gilbert Gordon of Garty had by his wife Isobel Sinclair the following issue, as noted in Sir Robert Gordon's tables :—

- 1 John Gordon, poisoned at Hemsdale 1567.
- 2 Patrick Gordon, of Garty.
- 3 Jane Gordon, married John Gordon of Embo.
- 4 Eleanor Gordon, married Alexander Sutherland, grandchild of Alexander Sutherland and the natural son of John (Sutherland) Earl of Sutherland and she had two sons.
- 5 Isobel Gordon, married William Sutherland of Clyne, by whom she had two daughters who both married Sutherlands
- 6 Beatrix Gordon, married George Sinclair of Scrabister, son of the Laird of Dun.

Gilbert Gordon of Garty had also illegitimate son George Gordon in March (said in 1587), who is treated separately

Patrick Gordon, of Garty.

The power of the noble house of Sutherland and over the minor septs of Gordons in the county was illustrated in the person of the second laird of Garty, the surviving legitimate son of Gilbert Gordon

We have seen how his mother, Isobel Sinclair, poisoned the Earl of Sutherland and his Countess at the mandate of her brother William Sinclair of Dunbeath, and her cousin, George, Earl of Caithness. This feeling of kinship seems still to have lingered in her son Patrick, for when his half-brother, George in war fell out with the Earl of Caithness, Garty went to Caithness to try and effect a reconciliation, only to find that the Earl "fed" him with "fair words" in order to make George "careless of himself." Indeed, after George was killed by the Caithness men, Patrick was kept prisoner by the Earl, but escaped shortly after and returned into Sutherland ("Earls of Sutherland" p. 194).

This may have tended to show Patrick that blood was not thicker than water, for he helped Sutherland to fight Caithness. In October 1590,

he assisted John Gordon of Embo and John Gordon of Kilcarnock to fight the Sinclairs at Clyne, ("Earls of Sutherland," p. 208). Again in July 1601, he was again fighting the Earl of Caithness, taking part in what is known as the "Flight Carn or Heap," (ibid pp. 241-2). Under the pretence of a hunting expedition, Caithness went into Sutherland, but was met by the Earl of Sutherland near the hill of Bingrime. Caithness did not want to fight in view of this exhibition of force, but Sutherland assured him that unless he quitted the place, there must be a battle. The Caithness men despite the Earl's entreaties then retired "in a fearful confusion." Meantime the Earl of Sutherland's army advanced, preceded by his "vanguard," which was "conducted" by Patrick Gordon of Garty and Donald Balloch Macky. By the time Sutherland came up the Caithness men had vanished. So Sutherland's men "gathered a number of stones, and, throwing them in one place, called the same Carn-Teaghie, that is, the Flight Carn or Heap, in memorie of the flight; which is yet to be seen hard by the hill Bingrime."

Patrick Gordon married Jane Sinclair, daughter of the laird of Dun, but died without issue.

John Gordon of Garty

Although Patrick Gordon had no issue, the estate remained in the hands of the Gordon family for John Gordon son of a John Gordon of Garty, was one of those who joined Sir Donald Mackay's regiment for service in Germany October, 1626, ("Earls of Sutherland" p. 402). In the list of "Scottish officers in chief" given by Robert Munro ("Expedition," 1637) as having served the King of Sweden in 1652, there occurs the name Gordon, "lieutenant colone, since colonel to foot of Dutch under the crown of Sweden."

On August 2, 1621, Sir Robert Gordon was caution in £500 that John Gordon "in" Garty should cease to annoy the Sutherlands of Duffus. ("Privy Council Register.")

John, the father may have been the illegitimate son of Adam Gordon in Doit, and the grand nephew of Partick Gordon, II. of Gartay.

According to the Inverness Sasine Register (folio 253), John Gordon of "Garthie" had sasine

on October 9, 1667, of the lands of Ballinlavill, Auchnagormary, part of Over Skibo, etc. in the parish of Dornoch, proceeding on a contract of wadset twixt Gilbert Gray of Over Skibo and the said John Gordon.

Alexander Gordon of Garty.

I do not know the origin of the laird but the following transaction clearly refers to him.

1694, April 28—Sasine in favour of Alexander Gordon of Garthy of the lands of Mid Garthy, Wester Garthy, and Kilgour, in the parish of Loth, proceeding on a wadset from John Lord Strathnaver to the said Alexander Gordon for 10,000 merks Scots ("Inverness Sasine Register," folio 639).

On May 10, 1700, Alexander Gordon of Garty was elected M.P. for Suther and vice Sir John Gordon of Embo, deceased. ("Return of M.P.'s")

He seems to have been dead by November 15, 1723, when John Gordon "of Kilgour, once of Garrie" (Garty?) was served heir to his father, "Alexander Gordon of Kilgour."

Alexander Gordon of Garty.

I know very little about this laird, but he is apparently the "Mr Gordon of Garthy" who is referred to in a letter by Alexander Brodie of Brodie to Sir James Grant of Grant as "Sir Robert Gordon's nephew in law." The letter which is dated October 8, 1734, and is quoted in Fraser's "Chief of Grant" ii. 117), counsels the removal of one John Baillie:—

He is all our inveterate enemy, and as such, is a great detriment to all our friends in the way of trade. Besides, he is a servant of and greatly attached to the family of Gordon, who are sworn enemies to the present administration and by them employed to sollicite against you; which attachment is the proper handle with the ministry to attack him upon, and if this were done I shou'd think Sir Robert Gordon's nephew-in-law, Mr Gordon of Garthy and young Cava were the most proper men to be employed for the service of the country as well as the revenue, and it might very well serve them both, the one to have the district to

the north of the Firth, and the other to the south ; and this would oblige Sutherland, Munro, and Kilraich, and would effectually withdraw Kilraich's attachment to the Advocate.

Alexander Gordon of Garty had a sister Isobel, who married Hugh Munro merchant, in Clayside. According to Mr Alexander Mackenzie's history of the Munro family (p 161) he married Jane, daughter of Captain Munro of Culcairn, and died shortly after the birth of his son Alexander. He had

- 1 William Gordon died in infancy
- 2 Alexander Gordon, who entered the Navy

Alexander Gordon, H.M.S. Oxford.

According to his will (Edinburgh Commissariat vol. 116) " Alexander Gordon son to the deceast Alexander Gordon of Garty, sailor on board H. M. S. the Oxford, deceast furth of the Kingdom aboard the said ship upon the—day of November, 1755." His inventory was given up by his aunt and nearest of kin, Isobel Gordon, " widow of the deceast Hugh Munro, late merchant in Clayside and sister german to the deceast Alexander Gordon of Garty." The sailor had owing to him

The sum £2704 15s 4d Scots as the appraised value of a certain number of cattle set by way of steel bow with the lands of Gilgour, Garty, and others by the deceast Captain George Munro of Culcairn [his grandfather] in name and as administrator in law for the said defunct Alexander Gordon to John Clunes of Neilston for 15 years from, and after Whitsunday 1739, conform to the tack betwixt him and the said deceast Captain George Munro, in name of and as administrator foresaid for the said deceast Alexander Gordon, dated November 14, 1739, and conform to a contract of agreement relative to said tack executed by the said Captain George Munro, and the said John Clunes of date March 24, 1742, whereby the value of the said steel row cattle is ascertained to be the said sum of £2704 15s 4d Scots.

The cautioner to the executrix is Lieutenant Hector Munro, of Major-General Holmes' Regiment, dated June 16, 1756.

The sailor on the Oxford was clearly a relation of Adam Gordon of Ardoch, who was the nephew of Captain George Munro of Culcairn. Lewis Gordon, son of Hugh Gordon of Carroll was an officer in the Navy.

George Gordon in Marle.

George Gordon was the natural son of Gilbert Gordon I. of Garty and the half-brother of Patrick Gordon II. of Garty. Marle is "in Strathvilly, bordering upon Catteynes" When the Earl of Sutherland and the Earl of Caithness, friends for once, joined forces in 1586 to punish the "Catteynesian Clangun," the Sutherland contingent started first, with two companies, the second of which was committed to George Gordon in Marle, and two other leaders. The Clan Gun was overpowered however by the first company at a place called Lechmelme ("Earls of Sutherland" p. 185).

But Gordons and Sinclairs did not mix well and George Gordon fell a victim to the Caithness men in the following year. He had offered many "contempts and indignities" to the Earl of Caithness, who complained to the Earl of Huntly and not to the Earl of Sutherland, although Huntly advised that course to be taken. This refusal to deal with the case seems to have inspired George Gordon to further outrage. Sir Robert Gordon (p. 193) says :—

Not satisfeid with the indignities and disgraces which he had formerlie done to the Earle of Catteynes, [George Gordon] he did cut the Earle his horse taills, as they wer led by some of Earle George his servants, in passing the river of Helmsdale, vpon their journey from Catteynes to Edinburgh, desiring his servants to shew vnto the Earle their Mr that he had done the same.

Not only was Caithness furious, but Sutherland also turned against George, "because he did interteyn his owne wyff's sister as a concubin." George then turned to Caithness to whom he sent his half-brother Patrick Gordon of Gartay "to

work for his reconciliation with him." The Earle of Caithness was delighted to see the breach.

So he fed Patrick Gordoun of Gartay with fair words, therby to mak his brother George carelesse of himself. God (no doubt) had a work to performe heirin; for, notthel-les of all the secreit adertisements that George Gordoun received out of Catteynes, of the Earle of Catteynes his coming to invade him, yit vpon a fatall sottishnes he wold not beleive these certane intelligences, nor leave his owne house that night, vntill the Earle of Catteynes came with his army and invaded him in the town of Marle, vnder silence of the night. Having invironed the house with his whole company, ranged in order round about, George Gordoun keiped the house a long tyme, with great resistance; and as they wer eagerlic pursueing the house wherin he wes, he killed a gentleman called John Southerland, a speciall commander in the Earle of Catteynes his company, and one of the principall contryvers of the said George his death. In end, George Gordoun, with great valor, issued furthout of the house; and escaping thorow the thick prease of his enemies, he thrust himself into the river of Helmsdale, which wes hard by him, wher he wes shot and slain with arrowes as he wes swiming in the water. This happened in the month of Februarie 1587 pp 193-4).

This affair was the cause, Sir Robert Gordon says, "of all the ensueing troubles and miseries that befell shortlie thereafter in these neighbouring cuntreyes." George Gordon, even on Sir Robert's own showing had not been a very estimable person, but Sutherland took George's death in "ivill pairt although he was offended at him for his vitious lyff." And yet Sir Robert argues (p. 194):—

Blood cryeth, and let all those who desyre so ferventlie and thirst so eagerlie after blood, assure themselves that either in ther owne persons, or in succeeding tymes, their offspring, or in that tyme which is beyond all tyme (without a cordiall and true repentance) their soulls shall pay for it. And

let them assuredlie expect, that the fearful horror of God's judgment shall light hevelic vpon all those whose hands are readie and ther feit swift in shedding of blood vpon particular on slight grounded quarrells ; becaus the justice of God wil be satisfeid, either in themselves or in their prosteritie.

The month following the slaughter the Earls of Caithness and Sutherland met at Helmsdale The river kept them from actually fighting a battle, "yit they skirmished daylie, and divers wer hurt on either syd, with gunes and arrowes which wer shot from the bankes of the river." The vendetta continued till February, 1588, when the Earl of Huntly intervened as umpire. (p. 197):—

Thus Earle Alexander [of Sutherland] haveing wroght his will against the slayers of George Gordoun, and being satisfeid with the ha me and spoile wes then alreadie done in that cuntrey, he retired himself with his army into Southerland, haveing lost in that journey but one man, who wes slain in the water of Weik, stragling behind the army.

Sir Robert Gordon must have felt that William Sutherland ("the Earle of Catteynes, his special favorit and the cheiff plotter of George Gordon, his slaughter") met a just fate when he was killed in 1694 by members of the Cl in Gun (p. 207). The same hand of fate seemed to be at work in the imprisonment at Dunrobin, in 1627, of Sutherland's grandson (p. 405).

George Gordon in Marle "begate," according Sir Robert Gordon's tables, a son.

Adam Gordon in Doil He seems to be the Adam Gordon "George-son," who figures in the "Earls of Sutherland" as having in 1612 helped to pursue Arthur Smith, the coiner (p 282) at the skirmish at Thurso, when Smith was slain. Adam Gordon George-son was wounded (ibid, p 283). Further down the same page Sir Robert speaks of George Gordon in Marle, "whose sone, Adam Gordon, wes present at this skirmish, and wes said now to have had ane hand in the slaughter of John Sinclair" of Stirkage, whose father had slain Marle. In

1613 Adam Gordon George-sone got imersion for the slaughter of Sinclair (ibid, p. 297). At any rate, Adam Gordon in Doill was twice married—(1) to Marie Gordon, daughter o' John Gordon in Midgarty (son of Hugh Gordon of Drummoy); and (2) the daughter of James Sutherland of Shiber-scag. He had

- (1) Hugh Gordon.
- (2) Patrick Gordon
- (3) John Gordon, a bastard.
- (4) Adam Gordon a bastard.

Sir Robert Gordon ("Earls of Sutherland," p. 402) says that "Adam and John Gordounes, the sones of Adam Gordon George-sone, joined Sir Donald Mackay's regiment in Germany in 1626.

The Gordons of Swiney.

The estate of Swiney in the parish of Latheron was held by a family of Gordon from 1789 to 1877, when the Duke of Port and purchased it. The family came from the Parish of Farr; but its origins are not clear. All we know is that at the beginning of the 18th century there were two brothers Adam Gordon, tacksman of Rheney, Farr, whom I deal with separately, and Charles Gordon of Pulrossie.

Charles Gordon of Pulrossie

Sage ("Memorabilia Domestica" pp. 33 and 139) says that Charles was descended "from that branch of the Clan Gordon which originally came to Sutherland along with Adam Lord Aboyne." Charles farmed Clerkhill, in the immediate vicinity of the parish church of Farr. He was besides, factor on the Reay estate, and an extensive cattle dealer. He was one of the original members of the Highland and Agricultural Society 1784 (Ramsay's "History of the Society" p. 543). The editor of Sage says in a note (p. 53) that "consequent a long course of industry, Charles found means to acquire the lands of Pulrossie. He afterwards sold them to Dempster of Skibo, and in 1789 purchased from Patrick Sinclair Sutherland (Henderson's "Caithness Families" 172) for £5500 the estate of Swinzie or Swiney, Risgill and Murray. The conveyance was taken to John Gordon, eldest son of the purchaser, who was represented by five sons and two daughters. By John Gordon, great grandson of the original owner, the estate of Swiney was sold in 1877 to the Duke of Portland. Charles Gordon was twice married. By his first wife he had no children. His second wife was Catherine Sage (born 1729), sister of Alexander Sage, and aunt of the Rev. Donald Sage, who says (p. 34)—"Charles Gordon took a lively interest in my father's welfare, and being one of the most influential men in the Reay country he had much in his power." To his friendship and influence Sage's father was in-

debted for every situation which he held in that country. His first appointment was that of a parochial schoolmaster at Tongue, a situation which he held until he received license. Charles Gordon procured for Sage the living of Kildonan in 1787 (ibid 63.)

By his second wife, Charles Gordon had three sons and two daughters :—

1 John Gordon, who succeeded.

2 William Gordon, lived after his return from the American war at Clerkhill Lord Gower, husband of Elizabeth Countess of Sutherland, wrote to John Fraser, October 13, 1766, about a corps which the inhabitants of Strathnaven proposed to raise for the defence of the district. It was to be commanded by Captain William Gordon of Clerkhill ("Book of Sutherland ii 109) In 1874 he was living in Fraserburgh. He married Ann Grant and had :—

- (1) William Grant Gordon second son, who was born in Farr, June 20 1800. He was educated at Banff and entered the Madras Native Infantry 1817 as cadet 1817. He was made Lieutenant June 4, 1818, and served with the 23rd and 2nd regiment. He died July 16, 1824, at Gooty, of cholera, and is commemorated by a monument at Madras erected by his brother George
- (2) George Gordon born at Farr, May 9, 1804. He became a cadet in the Madras army 1820 ; and ensign of the 48th N.I.
- (3) Fairly Gordon who visited the sages at Kildonan in 1813.
- (4) Mary Gordon (or Macdonald) of "Clarkhill," Farr, was served to Katherine, daughter of Alexander Mackenzie of Letterbeg, co heir of provision general August 4, 1845.

3 George Gordon lived at the farm of Skelpig on the North bank of the Naver.

4 Fairly Gordon, married (as his second wife) James Anderson. He first held the farm of Rispond in Durness, where he not only carried on agricultural, but also commercial speculations dealt much in cod-fishery in which he employed much shipping and for

the accomodation of which he built a pier and founded a village at Rispond. He afterwards leased the farm of Arisdale in Caithness from Sir John Sinclair, but after building upon it a most substantial dwelling house, office houses and cultivating the moor he took a farm in the Orkneys, ultimately returning to his native country to end his days. By his marriage with Fairly Gordon he had (Sage p 240):—

- (1) Charles Anderson who entered the army.
 - (2) Thomas Anderson, who resided at Stromness.
 - (3) Alexa Anderson
- 5 Gordon, married an Englishman named Todd, and thus gave offence to her friends, "as her husband was obscure and indigent. But in London Mr Todd got into business and afterwards became affluent." (Sage, 133). This is apparently the Elizabeth Gordon who married Kenneth Todd of Kennington, and had at least three daughters (and child Ann Gordon):—
- (1) Catherine Charlotte Fairley Todd, married Isaac Ketchen,
 - (2) Eliza Tod,
 - (3) Sarah Ann Tod, all mentioned on a gravestone in Kenal Green Cemetery, London.

John Gordon of Swiney.

He is described in Henderson's "Caithness Families" (p. 172) as "lieutenant" He was admitted January 13, 1807, to the Highland Society, to which he communicated an article on whin hedges (Translations, series I., vol. 4, p. 341).

Sage (p. 222) says he often spent days and weeks with him at his house in Caithness, and afterwards at Fortrose, where he resided for a time to get his children educated. He was well informed, and had travelled much on the Continent. He is probably the author of a pamphlet, "History of the French National Convention," ascribed in the British Museum Catalogue to "I. Gordon of Swiney." The pamphlet (8vo 230 pp.) is anonymous, dateless, and has no title page, but an MS date "1828" is inscrted in the Museum copy. On page 230 the writer says—"The author

travelled in France before and after the Revolution, and conversed with some of the principal men concerned in it, particularly with Dumourier and Tallien." Sage's remark about Swiney's culture is borne out by a pamphlet entitled—

"A Short History of the Adventures of a London Reviewer," by John Gordon of Swiney. "Blot out, correct, insert, refine, enlarge, diminish, interline.—Swift" Second edition. Edinburgh. Published and sold by Alexander Mackay, High Street. 1824. 8vo, pp. 235.

The book, which is dedicated to the "London Reviewers, High and Mighty Lords, &c., &c.," purports to be a series of discussions on the merits of various authors of repute from the days of Homer to the time the book was written. The persons carrying on the discussions appear under allegorical names, such as Samuel Fairletter, a bookseller; Edward Calfleather, a bookseller's clerk and a punster; the Chieftain Mackbustle-kilt, a Scotch Highlander; Mactacitus, Livison, and Laboricranium, historians; Stultune Genio, a poet; Glisverbo, a divine; and Smitosh, a political writer.

The reviewer says he was descended from the old Earls of Castle Pillar! He describes his upbringing under a curate, Meagremeal, who kept a school; his going to Cambridge with two blankets and a cheese; his descent upon London with the proverbial bundle and stick; his fruitless study of law, &c.; his turning bookseller and reviewer, &c. There are copies of the book in the Advocates' and Signet Libraries, Edinburgh.

Sage says that Swiney died "at his own house" in 1825. He had—

1. Son.
2. Son.
3. Son.
4. Son.
5. Son.
6. Catherine Gordon, "second daughter," died at Fortrose (Sage, p. 222).
7. Fairly Gordon, "third daughter," married Young, the Town Clerk, and in good circumstances (Sage, p. 222).
8. Elizabeth, "fourth daughter," died at Edinburgh January 4, 1822 ("Scots Magazine").

**Major-General James Gordon, R.E.,
of Swiney.**

He joined the Royal Engineers as ensign July 11, 1808; became lieutenant June 24 1809; captain September 1, 1813; major January 10, 1837; lieutenant-colonel March 31, 1838; colonel November 11, 1851; major-general October 27, 1855, retiring on full pay. He took part in the attack on the Castle of Scylla, June, 1809, and the siege and capture of Santa Maura, March, 1810 (Hart's "Army List," 1861). He died suddenly at 32 Saxe Coburg Place, Edinburgh, April 5, 1867 ("Gentleman's Magazine," vol. iii., N.S., p. 690).

John Mackay Gordon of Swiney.

Residing in America, he was served to Major-General James Gordon of Swiney heir of taillie and provision special in the lands of Monosane, in the parish of Wattin, Caithness, October 26, 1867; also in the lands of Reisgill, Achahow, Golticlay, the manse of Swiney and others on the same date. He died in December 4, 1868, and was succeeded by his brother, George Montagu Gordon, who was served his heir.

The Gordons whom I have dealt with do not exhaust the families of the name in Sutherlandshire, but the others, though fairly numerous, are not readily traced, for the simple reason that they were for the most part merely tacksmen, and were not in actual possession of the acres on which they lived. Our knowledge, therefore, is of the scappiest description, much of it coming from the gossipy pages of Donald Sage. Yet, some of these families, starting from small beginnings, have achieved distinction in the world. This is notable in the case of the Griamachary Gordons, who had a remarkably brilliant career in a century of military service. Again we have a shepherd in Brora who was the ancestor of a well known family of scholarly Nonconformist ministers. For the most part, however, the data at one's hand are not sufficient to enable one to compile regular deductions, and so I present some of these families alphabetically under their location in the Shire. Subsequent investigation will certainly add to this information, but I am afraid that we can never hope to establish their descent from the noble

family of Gordon who migrated into Sutherland. Indeed, many of them are probably descended from the followers of Adam, Lord Gordon, and started out in the world without a pedigree of their own. In Sutherland itself, as I have shown, the whole tendency of the Earls of Sutherland was to remain cocks of the walk in a way that the Earls and Marquises of Huntly never achieved, and they dominated the County, reinforcing the instinct for chieftainship by the possession of wealth which enabled them to buy out the small man, and to accomplish the terrible Sutherland "clearances" of 1813-5 and 1819, which Sage describes with the pathos of poignant brevity.

Achnamoine (Kildonan).

The farm of Achnamoine is on the south side of Loch Achnamoine (or "peat field"), which is connected with the Loch of Badenloch by the Helmsdale. Sage says (p. 180) that Thomas Gordon of Achnamoine held office as a justice of the peace and "was moreover a perfect enthusiast as a magistrate." He continues:—

He imagined that the cause of justice depended on his personal exertions. If the people of Kildonan did not furnish him with weekly opportunities of deciding in his worshipful capacity their various cases of dispute, Thomas Gordon put them in mind that justice was to be had for the asking. Quartering himself at the Manse, he directed all disputants to repair to Donald Gunn's house to have their disputes finally settled by his arbitration. I recollect, on one of these occasions, having had the special honour conferred upon me of being chosen clerk to his worship, and of having received his fee, the sum of one shilling. Of the farm of Achnamoine, Gordon was tacksman, holding it in lease from the family of Sutherland. To his wife, who was a sister of Rev. George Gordon of Loth, he was devotedly attached, and he never wearied of talking about her. She was a pious amiable person, but she was always in bad health, and died many years before her husband. They had a large family of sons and daughters—

- 1 Robert Gordon, the eldest, emigrated to America.
- 2 Charles Gordon, the second son, held the farm after his father's death, but previous to

that held a commission in the army ; and while on military duty at Portsmouth got acquainted with the family of a gentleman named Russel, one of whose daughters he married. Having retired on half pay, he went home with his wife after his father's death to reside at Achnamoine. On their way thither (says Sage) they spent two days at Kildonan manse. "The wife, accompanied her lord to the country, the localities, accomodations and privations of which she had not thought or dreamed of." On the morning previous to their departure from Sage's house to Achnamoine, she asked Sage's wife what sort of domicile might be found at Achnamoine, and whether it was like the manse. Mrs Sage led her to the gable window of the upper east room, and, "pointing very emphatically to John Meadhonach's long stragglng turf hovel, which might be seen from the window, said, 'It is like that, but scarcely so good.' The poor Anglo-Saxon burst into tears and exclaimed, 'Mercy on me !' but, checking herself, added, 'Well domestic happiness is as sweet even in a cot as in a palacc' And it was as she said." She lived with her husband many years in the turf-hovel at Achnamoine very happily. When Charles Gordon took possession of the farm, after his father's death, and his brother's departure to America, a better house was built by him, and Sage says his own father spent many a comfortable night there as their guest, when at Achness. Gordon retained the farm until after old Sage's death when on the expiry of his lease, he first resided at Avoch in Ross-shire, and afterwards with his wife's relatives in Portsmouth. Sage (p. 282) says that Charles had "some feud or other on his hands every day of the year, but that his wife was universally esteemed."

- 3 Hugh Gordon became an ensign in the 1st Royal Scots, August 26, 1813 ; lieutenant, November 30, 1814. He went on half pay March 25, 1816. After his return he took the farm of Bad-'chlamhain, and first

married his cousin, a daughter of Gordon of Innis-verry, parish of Tongue. He married a second time and took a farm in Strathhahladale, where he died of paralysis, 1824.

4 Adam Gordon. He went to America.

5 Miss Gordon. The second sister married a man from the parish of Clyne. "After I had performed the ceremony (says Sage) my sister and I were guests at their wedding, when the feasting was kept up for two days"

ACH-NAN-NIGHEAN (Kildonan)—This was a pen-dicle occupied by James Gordon, or Gow, a black smith. Sage (p. 173-4) presents a vivid picture of him and the primitive conditions under which he worked;—

He could everything to meet the demands and wants of the parishioners but one, and that was to shoe horses. He was not up to this, merely because the hoofs of the Highland garrons were so hard, and the greater part of the sort of roads so soft, that the inhabitants never thought of getting the feet of their horses cased in iron. When Sage's father went to Kildonan he got big horses, and they had to be sent to the neighbouring parish of Loth. At that time coals were not used by any smith in the country. Gordon was a "tall, slender man, with a countenance full of solemnity. He had a theory of his own upon almost every subject that came within his ken, and he was of opinion that nothing ever could be done or should be done, within the four corners of the parish, without a previous consultation with him. He was always complaining about the state of his health and these complaints were usually uttered when a more than ordinary arrear of parish work, in the way of his calling, lay unperformed on his hands. It came therefore to be a sort of proverb among the people if anyone complained of the state of his health without any good grounds for it that 'he was a delicate person like James Gordon'"

ACHNESS—Robert Gordon of Achness had a son Rupert Danial who died in Clrendon parish,

Jamaica, June, 1802 ("Scots Magazine.") He may be the Rupert Daniel Gordon who was made a cornet in Colonel Macdoowal's Regiment of Fencible Cavalry, March, 18th, 1796 ("London Gazette," p. 760) This Robert of Achness may be the same as Robert of Rein, who was the father of Captain Robert of Invercharron. Lieut. William Gordon, Achness, was an officer in the Duke of Gordon's Northern Fencibles, 1798.

AIRD (FARR)—John Gordon of Aird, was served co-heir portioner general to Katherine, daughter of Alexander Mackenzie of Letterbeg, August 4, 1845. Elizabeth Gordon, probably her sister, widow of D. Macleod, was served heir to Katherine on the same date.

ARDOCH—In 1748 Gordon of Ardoch sued Sutherland for a judicial sale of the lands of Little Torboll which belonged to the deceased John Sutherland of Little Torboll, in order to secure payment of a debt due by John Sutherland to him. William Sutherland (John Sutherland's eldest son and heir), appeared in the process and objected to the sale on the ground that by the Marriage Contract between his father and mother, his father had become bound to leave the lands of Little Torboll to him. He pleaded that by the Contract of Marriage he had acquired such a right to the fee of the estate as could not be defeated by the diligence of creditors whose debts had been incurred subsequent to the date of the contract. The Court of Session (June 3, 1748) however, overruled this plea and granted decree in favour of Gordon ("Morison's Decisions," 4398). This judgment was appealed to the House of Lords, but was affirmed on 7th March, 1751.

BACKIES (GOLSPIE)—Sir Robert Gordon was caution in £1000 on August 2, 1621 that Hugh Gordon, Backies, should cease annoying the Sutherlands of Duffus (Privy Council Register.) In 1616 Backies was in the hands of John Gordon of Kilcalmkill, founder of the Invergordon family.

A gravestone in Golspie churchyard states that "An Gordon, lawful daughter of John Gordon [died] in 1695."

BADENLOCH (KILDONEN)—Alexander Gordon of Badenloch along with Thomas Gordon of Ach-na-moine and William Gordon of Breachy was ap-

pointed to superintend the statutory labour of the people repairing the roads of the district, 1790. (Information from Mr John Nicol, Golspie).

BEIN-EWEN—John Gordon, son of Gilbert Gordon of Bein-ewen, joined Colonel Munro's regiment in Germany 1631, ("Earls of Sutherland" p. 450) The name Bein-ewen is obsolete.

BREACACHADH (KILDONAN)—Breacachadh (or speckled meadow) was a farm situated on an eminence on the south side of Loch Badenloch, and had been "for many generations in the possession of a family of Gordon. Sage ("Memorabilia Domestica" p. 261) says they were lineal descendants of "a race of Gordons transplanted from Banffshire to Sutherland during the days of Adam, Lord of Aboyne." The Gordons of Breacachadh and of Ach-na-moine "were of the same race. Their original ancestor, a Thomas Gordon, was a man of gigantic strength. His descendant, William Gordon, was a low statured, broad shouldered, square built man, the model of a Highlander, with keen black eyes, and most respectable and consistent in point of character, but peculiar in temper and of a somewhat sordid disposition." Being of a frugal disposition, he was often the butt of the sarcasm of George Mackay, Halmindary, who resided about eight or ten miles farther on in the same parish. "Both strictly maintained the terms of good neighbourhood with each other, but although they often exchanged the rights of hospitality, they never met or parted without their miffs" Halmindary could not possibly keep his caustic humour against Breacachadh within the bounds of civility when they met, and this Breacachadh both felt and resented." When Sage went to Achness about 1815 to preach his first sermon, he lodged with Thomas Gordon, who was the son of this William.

BRORA—William Gordon, who had been proprietor of a hotel in Brora village for many years, took a lease of the farm of Embo about 1876 and lived at Embo House till his death. He had a son William, who continued the farm till 1900 when he left the district; and a daughter (Mrs Sutherland) who continued the hotel at Brora.

The Rev. Alexander Gordon, head of the

Unitarian College at Manchester, is descended from a Brora shepherd, who went to Belhelvie, Aberdeenshire, in the 17th century.

CARROLL (Golspie and Clyne)—The following sasines from the "Inverness Sasine Register" refer this family which was a cadet of the Invergordon Gordons.

1641, December 30. — Sasine to Alexander Gordon of Carroll of the lands of Killnallmuckle upon a charter granted by William Gordon of Killnallmuckle to him (folio 392.)

1642, September, 16.—Sasine to Robert Gray in Culmtlie, Kirktown, of the land of Rhyne, upon a charter from Alexander Gordon of Carroll to him (folio 444).

1665, February, 24.—Sasine in favour of Robert Gordon of Carroll and Margaret Gordon, his wife, of the lands of Killichallumchill in Strathbroray, upon a charter by the said Robert Gordon (folio 246). On the same date (folio 247), Robert Gordon had sasine of Killnabraren and Carroll, proceeding on a precept of clare constat from George, Lord Strathnaver, superior, as heir to Alexander Gordon of Carroll

1679, March, 10.—Mr George Gordon, son of Robert Gordon of Carroll, got sasine of the lands of Carroll, upon his contract of marriage (folio, 554).

1707, September, 15.—Sir William Gordon of Dalpholy, had sasine of the lands of Carroll, Kilblair, Asholbeg, Kilcalmkill and others as heritable bond by Mr John Gordon, younger of Carroll, and John Urquhart of Craighouse (folio, 425).

1711, January 24 —John Gordon of Carroll, grandchild and heir of Robert Gordon of Carroll, had sasine of the lands of Killnabraren, Carroll and others in the parish of Clyne upon a precept of clare constat from John Earl of Sutherland, superior. He had another sasine of the same estate upon a charter from the Earl with the consent of Lord Strathnaver (folio, 103).

CLAYSIDE (Golspie)—Alexander Gordon in Clayside was charged before the Privy Council on June 20, 1621, with having helped Gordon of Embo

to attack the Sutherlands of Duffus, and on August 2, 1621, Sir Robert Gordon was caution in £500 that he should desist ("Privy Council Register.")

CLERKHILL (Farr)—This farm was occupied by Charles Gordon of Pulrossie and afterwards of Swiney and his son Captain William Gordon. Captain Gordon was residing in 1817 and 1824 at Fraserburgh. Curiously, enough, there was Clerkhill near Peterhead, owned by a family of Gordon, and, while Captain William Gordon had a son Lieut. George Gordon, there was also a Lieut. George Gordon at the Aberdeenshire Clerkenhill.

CULMAILIE — Mr Raymond Tinne Berthon, sends some notes on his descent from George Gordon, tacksman, Culmailie, Golspie. The origin of this George does not transpire, but he had at least one son and three daughters, as follows :—

1. Robert Gordon, died before March 13, 1769.
2. Grizel Gordon married D Sanderson, joiner, Cromarty, and was served heir to her brother, March 13, 1769.
3. Janet Gordon married A. Sutherland, of Torbreck. As a widow she was served heir to her brother May 24, 1769.
4. Ann Gordon married, before 1745, William Forbes, gardener, Dunrobin. On May 24, 1769, she was served heir to her brother and died a widow in September, 1800.

They had four sons and two daughters :—

- (1) William Forbes was Attorney General of Barbadoes for 25 years and died in 1789. He had a son at Eton who died there or in London.
- (2) George Forbes, planter, Tobago. He married Miss Campbell, of Campbelltown, and had two sons.
- (3) James Forbes.
- (4) Duncan Forbes died in the West Indies.
- (5) Elizabeth Forbes married, November 16, 1758, Rev George McCulloch, Loth.
- (6) Anne Forbes, born about 1754, married on April 23, 1772, the Rev Harry Robertson, D.D., minister of Clyne,

and then of Kiltearn. Their daughter Elizabeth Robertson was the ancestor of Mr Berthon.

DORNOCH—William Macculloch, son of Hugh Macculloch, Sutherland, was served heir general to his "remote cousin" Isabella Macculloch or Gordon, Dornoch March 15, 1832.

Elizabeth Gordon wife of Hugh Matheson in Dornoch, was served heir to her great grandfather George Gordon there, August 28, 1824.

FARR—George Gordon, an orphan and native of Farr, spent all his patrimony on his education. He took his M.A. at King's College, Aberdeen, 1761, and studied divinity 1761-3. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Tongue July, 7, 1763, and was ordained minister of Clyne April 10, 1764. He got a church built in 1770. He married May 18, 1764, Elizabeth, daughter of George Graham of Drynie. She died June, 1784. He had a daughter

Anne Gordon, married Colonel Munro of Poyntzfield (died 1827) who fought against Hyder Ali (1780-4), publishing a book about the campaign (1789). He left the army in 1808 ("Dictionary of National Biography.")

GARVIE—Hew Gordon in Garvie was charged, June 10 1621, with having helped the Gordons of Embo to attack the Sutherlands of Duffus ("Privy Council Register.") The name Garvie seems to be the same as Garvault, of which there are several in Sutherlandshire, one being on the confines of Farr and Kildonan, a few miles west of Badenloch.

GAVITIE—John Gordon of Gavitie married Christian, daughter of Robert Gray of Skibo, by Isobel daughter of Sir George Munro of Newmore Her sister Anna married (about 1716) Robert Gordon, brother of Sir John Gordon of Embo. (Gray's Skibo, its airds and history," pp. 38, 39.)

GOLSPIE—Sage ("Memorabilia Domestica" p. 136) mentions as one of his recollections of the "olden times at Kildonan," a Mrs Gordon, who died at Golspie. She was a daughter of the Rev. Murdo Macdonald of Durness, and when Sage knew her she was a widow with an only daughter Peggy. Inheriting her father's taste for music, Mrs Gordon played beautifully on the violin, and was a periodical visitor, and an almost constant

residenter at the house of Sutherland gentry. "Many a time and oft have we tripped it to her heart-and-heel-stirring reels and Strathspeys in the low easter room at the manse of Kildonan. She was universally known under the term of 'Fiddlag.' Her fiddle was her god. When on her death-bed, nearly her last words were to 'spread the cloth over the fiddle.' When to d it was her soul that should then be her chief concern and not her fiddle, she replied, 'Oh I leave all these good things, as I ever did, to the worthy man, Mr Keith.'"

Alexander Gordon and Adam Gordon in Go'spie were denounced rebels in 1619 for remaining at the horn ("Privy Council Register" xi, 583.)

GOLSPIE TOWER—On the old house there are several mural tablets. A tablet above the entrance door is inscribed

A. G. H. G

Contentment is what we aim with all our store.
If that be had with little, what needs we more?

The same initials also figure above a fireplace. On the east gable of a byre are the letters :—

M.

A. G

M.

A. M.

GORDON BUSH—Miss Catherine Ross Gordon, inspector for Domestic Subjects for the London County Council (1906), says her people came from Gordon Bush.

GRIAMACHARY (KILDONAN)—This family, which has distinguished itself far more than many families who own half a county begins, so far as our present knowledge goes, with Adam Gordon, tacksman of Griamachary (1750-1831), who gave to his country

4 Sons,

4 Grandsons,

4 Great-grandsons,

1 Great-great-grandson,

1 Grandson (a peer and judge) } To the Army.

1 Great-grandson (a minister) } Volunteers.

2 Sons-in-law—To the Army.

HELMSDALE—William Gordon had a son Paul Gordon, draper, Helmsdale, and a daughter Johan Paul, who died some thirty years ago, had eight of a family :—

1. William Gordon, dead
2. David Gordon, dead
3. George Gordon, took his M.B., C.M., at Glasgow University, and practises at 313 Paisley Road, Glasgow. He is a captain in the R.A.M.C. Volunteers, Glasgow. He wrote an article on the "reunion of an avulsed finger" in the "British Medical Journal" 1890, and on the "external dislocation of radius and ulna" (ibid 1896).
4. Williamina Gordon, dead
5. Ann Gordon
6. Margaret Gordon
7. Johan Gordon, dead
8. Catherin Gordon

INVERAN (' REICH)—On August 12, 1691, Adam Gordon of Dalpho^{ly} had sasine of the lands o Inveran, Glenshin, Garvald, and Finald, and Lindsaymore, on a bond of corroboration by John Munro of Inveran to him ("Inverness Sasine Register," folio 560).

INNERBOLL—George Gordon in Innerboll had a son, William Gordon, who had sasine of Over Skibo in 1633.

INVERCARRON. — Robert Gordon, Corrifforan, married Ann Mackay, daughter of Neil Mackay, Strathnaver, and had a son

Robert Gordon, Achness. Dr Aird, of Creich, in his "Genealogy of the Families of Douglas of Mulderg and Robertson of Kindeace," 1894 (pp 42-3), calls him of "Rhein," which is in Rogart. He was married three times. His first wife was Barbara Munro, daughter of Robert Munro of Blairich, who was the son of Hugh Munro, II. of Achany. I do not know the names of his other wives. He had issue by all three (information from Miss C. Rainy : and Alexander Mackenzie's history of "Munro of Foulis," p 478). He may also have been the father of Rupert Daniel Gordon, Cornet in Colonel Macdowell's Fencible Cavalry who died in Clarendon parish, Jamaica, June, 1802. Miss Rainy says he had

- (1) Robert Gordon only child by the first marriage. He had the estate of Invercarron on wadset from the Duke of Sutherland. He seems to be the

Robert Gordon who entered the 73rd as ensign, June 2, 1781, although the "London Gazette" dates the appointment August 18, 1779. He became lieutenant October 22, 1785, and he was out of the regiment in 1786. Our correspondent says he was in the Sutherland Fencibles. There were, however, three Roberts in the Fencibles, joining as lieutenants respectively in 1779, 1794, and 1799. A Robert joined the Northern Battalion of the Sutherland Volunteers as 2nd lieutenant in 1800. I am unable to decide which was which. Robert of Invercarron died before January 14, 1800, when his will was proved (Edinburgh Commissariat). Robert Gordon of Invercarron married his kinswoman Christina Munro, daughter of Hugh Munro IV. of Achany by Margaret, daughter of George Munro I. of Culcairn. He had

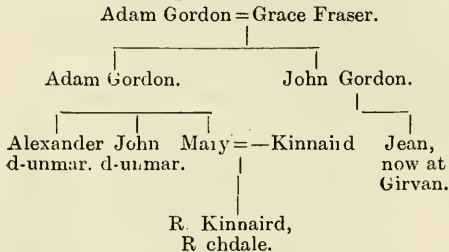
- i. Hugh Gordon.
- ii. John Gordon.
- iii. Georgina Gordon.
- iv. Robina Gordon. She married at Glasgow, March 29, 1825, John Balfour, and had with other issue the Rev Dr Robert Gordon Balfour.
- v. Barbara Gordon, married on November 30, 1818, Harry Rainy, M.D., son of Rev. George Rainy, Creich, Professor of forensic medicine, Glasgow. She died in 1854. He died in 1876. They had
Principal Robert Rainy.
Anne Rainy, born 1821.
She married John Mackintosh Balfores, W.S., of Pilrig, who succeeded to the entailed estate of White Melville.

(2) John Gordon by the second marriage, banker in London. (Information from Miss C. Rainy).

- (3) Alexander Gordon by the second marriage. He became lieutenant in the Sutherland Fencibles, September 27, 1794, ("London Gazette" p. 794): Ensign in the 16th Foot, October 3, 1795; Lieutenant, April 22, 1796. He then went into the 93rd as Captain, August 28, 1800; became Brevet Major, January 1, 1812; Major, February 10, 1814; Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel, July 19, 1821. (Philippar's "Military Calendar" v p 198)
- (4) George Gordon by the second marriage, "father of the Irish Gordons"—a very wide designation, considering that there are hundreds of these.
- (5) William Gordon.
- (6) Robert Gordon married Miss Macneill and had issue.
- (7) John Gordon by the third marriage. Alexander Mackenzie in his "Munro of Foulis" p 478) calls him "John P." He entered the army as Ensign, January 3, 1811; became Lieutenant August 5, 1813; and was placed on half-pay of the 71st, March 21, 1816. He died at Lairg Cottage, near Tain, May 29, 1824. He married on June 12, 1819, his kinswoman Ann. Purves Munro (1800-79), youngest child of William Munro of Achany. She was granted on October 5, 1824 a pension of £40 a year while her three daughters were placed on the Compassionate List from December 1823 at £10 each. She had
- i. Catherine Gordon, born March 21, 1820, died unmarried 1891.
 - ii. Elizabeth Jane Gordon, born January 27, 1822, married in Canada, her cousin, William Patrick Ross.
 - iii. Georgina Munro Gordon, married Donald Fraser of Mayfield, Tain. (Mackenzie's "Munro of Foulis" p. 478.)
- (8) Jess Gordon, by the second marriage. She died unmarried

(9) Jane Gordon, by the second marriage. She married Rev. Mr Macgillivray, Laing.

INVERGORDON.—The baronetcy, which is dormant, may lie with the descendants of John Gordon, son of Captain Adam Gordon, who was the younger son of Adam of Dalpholly. This John was a cattle drover. A correspondent, Mr R. Kinnaird, 12 Exeter Street, Lochdale, says Adam Gordon, his great grandfather, came from Invergordon and was in the Fencible regiment, and was a "relation of a cattle drover named Gordon in Glasgow." The descent thus given would work out thus:—



KILPHEDDER (KILDONAN)—Kilphedder is described by Sage ("Memorabilia domestica" p 98) as a lovely spot, past which a rushing torrent breaks through the copsewood on its way to the river He misdale. The place is interesting, not only from its romantic scenery, but from its historical associations. At the east end of Kilphedder, the foundation of a house was discernible in Sage's time. "The stones are remarkable for their immense size, so much so that it is difficult to conceive how they could have been placed there except by the aid of mechanical appliances, then of course unknown."

On April 21, 1686, Adam Gordon of Dalpholly had sasine of the lands of Kilphedder and mill thereof, Cayne, Corinsie, Arbirscores, and Baden-shewark, upon a contract between Lord Duffus and Adam Gordon Kildonan parish ("Inverness Sasine Register," folio 360.)

LANGDALE (Farr)—Langdale was in the hands of the Gordons as early as 1666, and the last of the line was alive in Sage's time (1816-9). On

February 22, 1666, Robert Gordon "in Langdeall" had some of the lands of Gunmore, Gunbeg, Schyre and Langwell in Sutherlandshire, proceeding on a disposition and charter of George Lord Strathnaver, superior of the lands. R. Mackay in his history of the Clan Mackay (p. 392), says that Robert Gordon of Langdale married Jane, daughter of the 2nd Lord Reay, and that she married, secondly, Hugh Mackay of Strathy, as his spouse in 1676 sasine on certain lands. Sage says with regard to the Robert of his time that his "remote ancestor was one of the Gordons who were placed there by the Earl of Sutherland, when he purchased the lands of Strathnaver from Donald, first Lord Reay," and that Robert "possessed the farm of Langdale not only from the proprietor of the soil, but also from his own ancestors who were tacksmen and wadsetters thereof." Sage ("Memorabilia Domestica," pp 242, 278), goes on to say that Robert Gordon was a relative of the Gordons of Clerkhill:—

He was a kind old man intimately acquainted with the simple annals of the church in past times. In youth he had known Mr George Munro of Farr and all the worthies of the Reay country. He had stored in his memory all their sayings and doings, their views of divine faith, and their remarkable experiences. His house, a rustic cottage, stood on a fairy-like knowe, on the banks of the Inver, and was freely open to all comers of every rank. His farm was parcelled out among a number of sub-tenants, to whom he granted every indulgence. The beautiful green sward overhung by Robert Gordon's antique, romantic, little cottage on a eminence, was the scene of the historic gathering when Sage preached his farewell sermon to the ousted people in 1819 (Sage's "Memorabilia Domestica," 288-299).

He had a brother and sister. The former had predeceased him, and the latter kept house for him while serving in the district. He married a daughter of William Mackay of Tongue. His wife died soon after the birth of their only child. She was much distinguished for her personal attraction as for her piety. For some time before her death she was rather unhappy, unbefuddled by her past experiences of grace and her

hope of glory. William Mackay of Syrc was her constant visitor during her illness, and as the end approached he wrestled earnestly in prayer on her behalf. At last the light shone in upon her soul and she was enabled fully to rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Triumphantly pointing upwards and looking her christian friend in the face with a smile of joy, she yielded up her spirit to him who gave it. Mr Gordon of Langdale died a widower. When, with the rest of the people, he was turned out of his ancestral home, he went to reside at Farr manse, where, after a lingering illness, he died a few years after.

His only daughter, Barbara Gordon was, when Sage met her at Clerkhill, about 1813, a "very shy, pretty young woman of about seventeen. She afterwards became the wife of her cousin Rev David Mackenzie (eldest brother of Dr Hugh Mackenzie), who was latterly successor to Rev James Dingwall, minister of Farr.

LINKWOOD—George Gordon of Linkwood was denounced a rebel in 1619 for remaining at the horn. ("Privy Council Register," xi. 583.)

LOTHBEG (Loth)—Adam Gordon in "Logh-beg," was charged, June 20, 1621, with having helped the Gordons of Embo to attack the Sutherlands of Duffus ("Privy Council Register.")

MIDGARTY—Sage (p. 141) speaks of one of John Gordon, footman at Midgarty about 1800. He helped Robert Baigrie (eldest son of Captain Baigrie), who had contracted debts of honour by card playing "at the tables of the great," to break open a shop at West Helmsdale "under silence of night" and rifle the till of nearly £20. The robbery was discovered early next morning, and the hue and cry raised in the neighbourhood. Suspicion fell upon the perpetrators. Gordon was openly accused of it, but the charge against the man glanced directly at his master and associate. "With aching hearts and streaming eyes did Captain Baigrie and his amiable wife hear the confession of guilt from the lips of their son; the merchant's loss was refunded; John Gordon sent out of the country; and poor Robert Baigrie sent to the West Indies where in a few months after his arrival he died of fever."

NEWHALL—William Gordon of Newhall, son of Charles Hamilton Gordon (died 1761), and grandson of Sir William, first baronet of Invergordon, had some difficulty in getting recognition in the county. As a minor, but within a few months of twenty-one years of age, he was enrolled by the freeholders of Cromarty, with a proviso, that he should not be entitled to vote till his majority. Upon a complaint of McLeod of Adboil, he was ordered (December 1765) to be expunged, though he had become of age before the complaint was determined. (Fol. Dic. v. 3. p. 422). Gordon claimed to be enrolled as a freeholder of Cromarty, and, being refused, complained to the Court of Session upon the statute. Mr William Johnston was enrolled at the same meeting, and Gordon complained of his enrolment. Waving the merits, Mr Johnston pleaded that the complaint was incompetent in respect Gordon did not then stand upon the roll. The Court (February 17, 1767) appointed an answer upon the merits of the complaint, after which they (on February 17, 1767) took up Gordon's first complaint and having ordained him to be enrolled, repelled the preliminary objection, that he was not upon the roll, in respect of their previous interlocutor, by which his title to be upon the roll was sustained. (Fol. dic. v. 3 p. 432)

OSPISDALE (CREICH)—George Gordon of Ospisdale married Christian, daughter of Kenneth Mackenzie of Scatwell, and widow of John Gray jun. of Arkboil, who died in 1696, and who was the grandson of Robert Gray of Ospisdale and Bessie Gordon his spouse. (Peter Gray's "Skibo" pp 51, 52).

Bessie Gordon married Robert Gray of Ospisdale and had with him a feu charter of the lands of Creichmoir 1628. (Peter Gray's "Skibo" p. 51).

George Gordon, mason, Ospisdale, died April 25, 1873, aged 70, and was buried in Dornoch churchyard.

Creich produced three Gaelic poet brothers, who are dealt with in the "Dictionary of National Biography." They were, William Gordon, born November 20, 1770 "at Creich." When over twenty years of age he entered the army, serving in the Royal Fencibles till their disbandment in 1802. He wrote his poems while his regiment

was stationed in Ireland. On leaving the army he returned home and married, and spent the later years of his life as a teacher in a Gaelic School. He died in 1820. His poems consisting of hymns and songs in Gaelic, were published in 1802 under the title, "Dantadh Spioradal le Uiliam Gordon Saighidhear ann an Reighiseamid Gaidhealach Mhic - Aoi. Codhbhuailt air son U.G. le Deorsa Conolie, Leabharreiceadar Gaileadh." Some of his hymns were reprinted in John Munro's collection ("Dana Spioradai ann an da Earrann," Glasgow, 1819. At his death he left a work in manuscript entitled "Gleanings in the Field of Truth."

George Ross Gordon, his brother, served with the Black Watch in Ireland, was afterwards teacher of a Gaelic school at Morness, and was living in 1832. His poems in Gaelic were published while he was in Ireland.

Alexander Gordon, another brother, who was a mason in Tain, also wrote verses which appear in George Ross Gordon's volume.

Peter Gordon, still another brother is commemorated in an elegy by William.

OVER SKIBO—On May 27, 1633 William Gordon, son to George Gordon in Innerboil, had sasine of the lands of Over Skibo and Androwgorn lying within the Bishopric of Caithness and Sheriffdom of Sutherland, proceeding on a precept of Clare Constat from John Earl of Sutherland, superior to him. The sasine is dated May 6, 1633 ("Inverness Sasine Register" folio 78.) On June 12 1633, George (sic) Gordon renounced the lands of Over Skibo in favour of John Earl of Sutherland for £1000 merks (sic) Scots; dated May 21, 1633 (ibid. folio 84).

RHENEVY (FARR)—Adam Gordon, tacksman of Rhenevy, in Strathnaver parish of Farr, brother of Charles Gordon of Pulrossic was twice married according to Sage ("Memorabilia Domostica" p 139). He had

Rev. George Gordon, minister of Loth, by his first marriage. He entered Marischal College in 1785, and began studying divinity in 1787. He was for a time tutor to the young Gordons of Carroll. He was ordained by the Presbytery of Tongue, November 30, 1796, as missionary at Achness, be-

came assistant at Lairg, October 1797, and was presented to Loth in 1801, ministering there til his death, October 27, 1822. He married in 1787 Harriet, youngest daughter of Rev. Thomas Mackay, minister of Lairg. She died November 30, 1848. They had five children including

- (1) Rev Charles Gordon, born at Lairg, July 24, 1799. He entered King's College, Aberdeen, 1815, went to Edinburgh University, 1819, and returned to Aberdeen for his divinity course 1821-2. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Dornoch, November 25, 1823, and presented to Assynt where he was ordained, September 22, 1825. He joined the Free Church, May 24, 1843. He married September 6, 1826, Sarah Rose, daughter of David Tyrie, Newton, Edinkillie. She died 1843. He died September 26, 1873. He had at least two sons

i. George Gordon, born July 23, 1827. He was educated at King's College, Aberdeen, 1841-8 at Merchiston Castle Academy, Edinburgh. He was recommended to the Indian Army by James Matheson, and nominated by John Shepherd. His cadet papers are witnessed by James Matheson, who was his father's cousin.

ii. John Gordon, born February 22 1831. He was educated at Lille, in France, under the Rev. Th. Marzials. He was recommended for a commission in the Indian Army by J. Matheson, and nominated by J. A. Hogg.

- (2) Isabella Gordon, "youngest daughter," died at Vulcan Cottage, June 4, 1828, aged 23, and was buried at Rosskeen.

2. Gordon. I do not know his name, but he had a son.

- (1) John Gordon, born January 15, 1802, his uncle, the minister of Loth, testifying

to his identity (India Office papers). He was educated at Tain, and got a commission in the 10th Madras Native Infantry, 1819. He became lieutenant in the 6th Madras N.I. June 13, 1819; and died April 28, 1831 ("H.E.I.C. Registers," 1819-31.)

3. Miss Gordon, by second wife. She married George Macleod, who succeeded his father Donald Macleod, as parish schoolmaster of Kildonan (Sage p. 179.) An Elizabeth Gordon, widow of D. Macleod, teacher, Farr, was served as heir of provision-general to Katherine, daughter of Alexander Mackenzie of Letterbeg, August 4, 1845.

RIBIGILL (TONGUE)—Charles Gordon of Ribigill, Strathnaver, was a friend (1816-9) of Sage, who writes of him ("Memorabilia Domestica," p. 284):—"Although he did not belong to the mission district of the Strath,—yet he was not unfrequently a hearer on Sabbath, and a welcome and much esteemed associate of ones fellowship meetings. I have often met him on communion occasions throughout the county. His personal appearance commanded respect and his views of divine truth were sound and experimental, expressed on all occasions with great perspicuity and force. He was a near relative of the Gordons of Clerkhill and had himself a numerous family of sons and daughters by each of his wives, for he was thrice married. Most of his family as well as his last wife preceded him to the grave. He died in 1824."

RIORNE—John Gordon in Riorne was charged June 10, 1621 with helping the Gordons of Embo to attack the Sutherlands of Duffus ("Privy Council Register.")

SOLUS CHRAIGGIE (KILDONAN)—Solus-chraigie means the rock of light and is opposite the dark side of the Strath. "Here a conical rock, about a 100 feet high, rises in the middle of the farm, and on this the sun shines during the very few hours in which it is visible in winter. This was the only ocular demonstration to the inhabitants of Taobh-dorch that it had risen at all, and hence its name, John Gordon of Solus-chraigie married Ann daughter of Alaister Gordon of Dalchairn, where she and husband lived after her father's

death. They afterwards took a 'ot of 'and in the vi lage of Helmsdale, and a sheep farm in Caithness Her husband died in consequence of a cold caught in his winter journeys from his house at Helmsdale to his sheep farm at Caithness His widow died at Helmsdale in 1849. (Sage "Memorabilia domestica" pp 99,182). In 1771 John Gordon was a tenant of John Gordon of Carroll who held the lands of Kilphedder in wadset (Information from Mr John Nicol Golspie.)

SPINNINGDALE (CREICH)—William Gordon at Spinningdale married Janet Macintosh and had a son William, baptised at Creich May 19, 1786. He was dead by 1807 when William entered the Bengal Infantry, his mother attesting his birth certificate. He became ensign in the 21st N.I. September 21, 1808; lieutenant in December 16, 1814; and died February 11, 1823 at Chunar.

TONGUE—Robert Gordon, native of Tongue, had a son, Charles James Mackay Gordon, born at Tobago June 17, 1866. He was Snel Exhibitioner at Bawol He took a 2nd class Mod. 1889, and 2nd class Lit. Hum. 1891, and B.A. 1892 He entered the service of the Government Training College, Cinnamon Gardens, Colombo, Ceylon.

TORGHORDSTON—Sage (p. 281) describes Thomas Gordon, "who lived at the p ace of Torghordston," as "a decided Christian of great simplicity, far advanced in life. He had a grown up family who persuaded him to accompany them to America."

TUARY (KILDONAN)—An interesting example of how genealogy touches the affairs of to-day occurs in the advertisement recently printed in these columns, in which Erskine Dods and Rhind, S.-C., Edinburgh, advertised for the heirs of Gordon Macdonald, Plantation Moy and of his brother, Alexander Macdonald, Plantation Bellevue, both in the district of Cronie, Surinam, Dutch Guiana Both these Macdonalds were descended from the family of Gordon in Dalchairn, whom I have already treated briefly. Through the great courtesy of Erskine Dods and Rhind, I am now able to give more precise details The interest in the family lies in this, that it may probably contain the heir presumptive to the baronetcy of Embo, for the family documents before me contain the same statement as

in Sage, that these Gordons were cadets of Embo. The most valuable document is some " memoranda written by the late Gilbert Gordon for the information of his children," dated Woodlands, January 1835, who wrote, as I wish all fathers would write :—

My dear chi'dren—In case you shou'd at some future period when you launch out in the world be desirous to know something of your forefathers or the families from whom you are descended, for your information on that same I record the following It is commendable, as well as advisable, that you should not only know your relatives, but endeavour to trace out those abroad of them and to make yourselves known to them [a counsel of perfection which has come to have a most intimate bearing on the family.]

The descent of these Gordons as given in the memoranda is as follows :—

Gilbert Gordon, Tuary, Kildonan, is stated in the memoranda as having been " descended in a direct line from the Gordon family of Embo," a fact which made him popular with the noble family of Sutherland. He was appointed a forester by the Earls of Sutherland, on account of his being such a powerfully built man as to prevent depredations being committed on the Sutherland forest. The Earl of Sutherland had a " small room at Tuary, where he generally passed three weeks or a month shooting, and Gilbert always attended him in Kinarmine, Gorrynafeam and other places. He had at least one son

John Gordon, Tuary, who died a young man, leaving three sons. Two of them listed in Highland regiments during the American war, and were never heard of afterwards. The youngest, Alexander, had " several cousins" who went in 1772 to North Carolina, where they became men of considerable popularity. A daughter of one of them married a gentleman who was a merchant and a planter in South Carolina, reported to be worth an immense deal of money ; but there was no account of any of those families for fifty years back [1785]. The youngest son of John Gordon, Tuary, was as stated

Alexander Gordon, tacksman at Dalchairn.

His son Gilbert writes of him in his memoranda as follows:—"My father was well known in the county as a great Highlander of a generous, liberal disposition and extremely hospitable. He was a favourite with Lady Stafford, now Duchess Countess of Sutherland, to his last and to that period he retained a peculiar natural attachment for her Ladyship and the whole family. It may not be out of place to record an anecdote of my father, well known to this day in in the highest circles as well as the lowest in the county of Sutherland. One day at Dunrobin Castle a number of county gentlemen were there paying a complimentary visit to her Ladyship shortly after coming to Sutherland. My father being an old man, her Ladyship on all occasions when there ordered him to sit beside her ladyship. This done, after some passing in general conversation, my father turned to her ladyship and said: 'My Lady, were your ladyship to come to Dalcharn to see me, I would not allow your ladyship to sit so long in my house without offering your ladyship something, as your ladyship allowed me to sit beside you in your house, Dunrobin Castle.' The whole company were astonished, and could not refrain from laughing. Her ladyship did not comprehend what my father said, being an illiterate man unable to speak English properly. A gentleman present, to whom my father was well-known, the late Dr Bethune of Dornoch, stated briefly to her ladyship what Dalcharn meant. Her ladyship rose quite delighted, rang the bell. A servant immediately appeared. She desired him to bring directly some of the best Dunrobin Castle for Dalcharn and the rest of the company. Some of those present on this occasion told myself that for a long time afterwards when strangers called at the Castle her ladyship would

mention that one her tenants upbraided her of being inhospitable in Dunrobin Castle, and that she must not forget to offer strangers some refreshments. I have stated this simply and merely to prove how familiar some of the Hightenantry were in those days with their landlords, of which the above is a strong instance." Alexander Gordon married Isabella Sutherland. She was descended from the Kilpadder family, "the last branch of whom William Sutherland laid claim to the Sutherland estate when Lady Stafford was a minor, and he had an annuity to the last from her ladyship." He died in Edinburgh. Alexander Gordon had five sons and four daughters.

1 John Gordon went in the summer of 1816 to Pictou, Nova Scotia, with six sons, of whom the eldest died, April, 1832, and a daughter.

2 Gilbert Gordon was, according to Sage, an non-commissioned officer in the 93rd Regiment. He then went to Berbice, where he made a few thousand pounds as a planter, and came home. In 1835 he was living at Woodlands, Ross-shire. He emigrated about 1842 to Canada with his wife and family. He married in 1818 Margaret, daughter of John Sutherland, Commissary and Justice of the Peace for Sutherland (died 1836), son of Wm Sutherland of Lyberscross and Skelvo, who was Sheriff-Depute of Caithness and Sutherland, and "was said to be the handsomest and most accomplished gentleman of his day in the northern county, except President Forbes of Culloden." The Lyberscross family were a collateral branch

of the Sutherland family, and also connected with the Lords of Reay and Duffus. Mrs Gordon was one of the three daughters of John Suther and, who also had four sons. Gilbert Gordon had a large family including

John Suther and Gordon of Plantation Greenfie d. Demerara. He died in Edinburgh. August 19, 1880. He married, and had

John Richard Co in Gordon, now residing at Berbice. He was married on July 19, 1906, at St Andrew's, Farnham, Hilda, only daughter of the Rev. Canon Soman of Berbice, and had a son born to him at Plantation Bath, Berbice, December 25, 1907.

William James Sutherland Gordon, Skajit county, Washington, U S. A.

Josephine Maxwell Gordon, now residing at 85 West and Avenue. Boston, U.S.A. She is named after her great grandmother, Mary Maxwell, wife of John Sutherland, and daughter of Major John Macdonald of the Black Watch. Miss Gordon was one of the defenders in the action raised in November, 1907, by the trustees of the will of Gordon Macdonald.

3 Robert Gordon is stated in the memoranda to be "with his family in Scorac et," 1835.

- Sage says he went to America.
- 4 William Gordon got a commission in the army, went to Jamaica and returned on half pay to Rosemarkie
 - 5 George Gordon died in Berbee.
 - 6 Alexander Gordon was at home in 1835, aged 12.
 - 7 Miss Gordon, married John Macdonald (died 1840) After his death she and her family went to Canada, and the sons went from there to Surinam. The sons were
 Alexander Macdonald, died 1870.
 Gordon Macdonald, died in Scotland. 1859. It is the heirs of these two that have recently been advertised for.
 - 8 Christy Gordon She was lost with her husband and two or three children and many other passengers on going to America in the summer of 1808.
 - 9 Ann Gordon, married John Gordon. Soluschraiggie.
 - 10 Janet Gordon married Alexander Gunn.

UPPAT (GOLSPIE)—This estate had belonged to Alexander Gordon, the bastard son of John Gordon of Embo. He died without issue and it came to the Invergordon family, via the house of Sutherland. On February 5, 1684, Adam Gordon of Dapholly had sasine of all and hail the lands of Uppat with the mills thereof, proceeding on a disposition and charter (without redemption) granted by John Lord Strathnaver to the said Adam ("Inverness Sasine Register" folio 253). On September 15, 1707, William Gordon of Dapholly, afterwards 1st baronet of Invergordon, had sasine of Uppat upon a precept of clare constat by the Earl of Sutherland and Lord Strathnaver as heir to Sir Adam Gordon, his father, ("Inverness Sasine Register," folio 425.)

WASKYLMIRE—On May 15, 1678, Adam Gordon,

son of William Gordon of Dalpholly, had sasine of the lands of Waskylmire, in the parish of Clyne, upon a disposition by the said William and his spouse ("Inverness Sasine Register" folio 413-513?) The name "Waskylmire" is extinct.

WESTCHYLL—Sir Robert Gordon was caution in £500, on August 2, 1621, that Thomas Gordon in Westchyll and his son, whose Christian name is not given, should cease annoying the Sutherlands of uffus ("Privy Council Register.") The name "Westchyll" is extinct.

WILKHOUSE—The inn of Wilkhouse, be'ow Kintradwell in the parish of Loth was kept by Robert Gordon. Sage ("Memorabilia Domestica" p. 145) says:—

This Highland hostelry with its host, Robert Gordon, and his bustling, talkative wife were closely associated with my early years comprehending those of my attendance at school and college. The parlour, the general rendezvous of all comers of every set and size, had two windows one in front and another in the gable, and the floor of the room had according to the prevailing code of cleanliness about half an inch of sand upon it in lieu of carpeting. As we alighted before the door we were received by Robert "Wilkhouse" or "Rob Lighe na faochaig" as he was usually called, with many tones indicative of welcome whilst his bustling helpmeet repeated the same protestation of we come on overcrossing the threshold.

UAIG (CAITHNESS) — Sage ("Memorabilia Domestica" p. 52) mentions one Alexander Gordon, a native of Sutherland, living at Uaig on the estate of Langwell, at the base of Scaraben, the mountain (2044 feet) which separates the estate of Langwell from that of Braemore. Sage shows that even in the beginning of the 19th century the old antagonism between the Sutherland and Caithness men existed:—

The embers of this quarrel were sure to be blown into a flame when the contending parties met at markets, and when on such occasions their tempers were heated by the ardent spirits which they drank immoderately over their bargains.

On one occasion when a market was held at Dunbeath, an old feud between the Caithness and

Sutherland men came on for decision. The ring-leaders in the fray were the tenants on the estate of Swiney and Iatheron. These fellows had communicated their intentions to their landlord, Sutherland of Swiney, who, instead of checking them, went so far as to order some scores of hazel sticks from Inverness to furnish them with the means of attack. The business on the market had nearly closed when one of Swiney's tenants fastened a quarrel on Alexander Gordon, under pretence of having been unfairly dealt with by him in a matter of bargaining. From violent words they came to blows. Swiney's tenant struck Gordon with his cudgel; and this was the signal for a general onset. Gordon had no stick, and he was encumbered with the care of his son, a youth of nine whom he held in his right hand. But forbearance was in existing circumstances out of the question; so, letting go his little son, he threw himself upon the foremost of his opponents, wrestled his cudgel from his hand, and dealt out to him and two or three others such stunning blows as laid them prostrate at his feet. Their places were, however, soon supplied by others, and Gordon would have been overcome had he not in his extremity been observed by his stout friend Neil Macleod. Placing themselves back to back, the two wielded their cudgels, striking down an assailant at every blow, until at last they got clear of the crowd, and their opponents surrendered. Macleod and Gordon came off with a few scratches, but a dozen of Swiney's tenants were carried home severely bruised. The case was tried before the Circuit Court, and the culpable part which Sutherland took in the matter being educed in evidence, he was so heavily fined as to be under the necessity of selling his estate. It was afterwards purchased by my uncle, Charles Gordon of Purossie.

GILBERT GORDON — One would like to know the precise origin of Gilbert Gordon who married Elizabeth Mackay, daughter of William Mackay, and went to Peterboro, Canada, where his relatives have made their mark. This Gordon emigrated from Caithness, but he originally came from Sutherland. His wife's brothers—Joseph, Edward, and Donald Mackay—who also came from Caithness,—were wealthy wholesale merchants in

Montreal. Donald is still alive (he is nearly 95) and lives in Toronto. Gilbert had, at least, a son and a daughter.

- (1) John Gordon was president of the Toronto and Bruce Railway and died some years ago.
- (2) Helen Gordon, married on November 22, 1866, William Mortimer Clark, son of John Clark, manager of the Aberdeen Insurance Company, and founder of the Caledonian Bank, by his wife Jane Mortimer. William Mortimer Clark was educated at the West End Academy, the Belle View Academy, the Aberdeen Grammar School, Marischal College, and Edinburgh University. He became a Writer to the Signet in 1859, and was called to the Bar of Ontario in 1867, becoming Q. C. in 1890. He is now Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. He had
Gordon Mortimer Clark, M.A., LL.B., died in 1902, six weeks after he became associated with his father in business.

Jeanie Clark
Elsie Clark

JOHN GORDON—Another Gordon from the far north who crossed the Atlantic is noted by the Rev. A. W. Eaton, who published an eight page pamphlet in New York in 1893 on the "Families of Eaton—Sutherland, and Lytton Hill," in which he stated his descent from a John Gordon, a landed proprietor in Lord Reay's county. He had a son James, who married Janet Mackay, daughter of James Mackay of Meikleferry. This James Gordon had a daughter Christian Gordon, who married Donald Sutherland, of Meikleferry, and had issue.

JOSEPH GORDON—Mr Murray Rose, says that when alterations and additions were made to the house of Skibo, the contract was given to Joseph Gordon, who had a small farm on the estate. He gave a great deal of trouble. Before the return of the family from Devonshire, (where Harriet Soper Dempster had died and been buried) Gordon emigrated to the West Indies. "It was his son G. W. Gordon of the Jamaica Riots." It is only right to add that G. W. Gordon has been credited with other fathers than this one. He was of course a half caste.

Rev. Patrick Gordon, who was minister of

Coull, Aberdeenshire, 1678-1680, was a "native of Sutherland" He entered King's College, Aberdeen, in 1652, and took his M.A. in 1659 (Scott's "Fasti.")

EDDERTON—This journal devoted a good deal of space on February 14 to the death on January 24 of Dr Robert Pope Ross Gordon, son of the Rev. John Gordon of Edderton. Subsequent investigation enables me to link this family on to the Griamachary Gordons.

On the male side it goes back to John Gordon, farmer, Aird, apparently the John who was served co-heir portioner general to Katherine, daughter of Alexander Mackenzie of Letterbeg, August 4, 1845. At any rate John Gordon married Mary, daughter of Rev. George Munro Farr, by his wife Barbara, daughter of Rev. John Mackay, Lairg. They had five sons and four daughters:—

1. Charles Gordon, merchant, Thurso
2. Rev Donald Gordon, Edderton He took his degree at King's College, Aberdeen, March 1819; and studied divinity 1819-21. He was appointed schoolmaster of Farr May 14, 1817, and continued there till Martinmas 1822, being licensed by the Presbytery of Tongue November 28, 1822, and ordained the same day as assistant to the Rev. John Mackenzie of Edderachylis. He was presented to Store, Dornoch, by George IV. April 24, and admitted September 2, 1829. He was transferred to Edderton by the Hon. Mrs Maria Hay Mackenzie of Cromartie, in compliance with a unanimous petition from the heads of families, December 5, 1835, being admitted April 7, 1836. He joined the Free Church, 1843, and died August 30, 1847. He married Donaldina Ross, and had

John Gordon

Mary Moore Gordon, married John Richmond

3. Angus Gordon succeeded his father on the farm at Aird
4. Robert Gordon went to America
5. William Gordon, doctor of medicine. He married and had three daughters, one of whom was matron of St Thomas Hospital, for nearly 20 years; another was matron of Charing Cross Hospital, and a third was

matron of a hospital at Leeds. These three ladies now live at Hove

6. Ellen Gordon married
7. Janet Gordon married and became the grandmother of the Rev. William Watson, M. A., Kiltearn.

Charles Gordon, the eldest son of John Gordon, Aird, was born in March 1791. He was a merchant at Thurso. He married November 25, 1817, Barbara. (1800-35) daughter of John Mackay, Strathallda'e, by his wife Mary Anne, daughter of Adam Gordon, Griamachary. Charles Gordon, married secondly, Jane J Sinclair. February 23, 1836. He died October 10, 1837, (9?) and had

1. Rev John Gordon, born December 12, 1822.

He took his M.A. at Kings College, Aberdeen, in 1848, and became a Free Church minister of Edderton. He married and had

- (1.) Robert Pope Ross Gordon, born at Edderton, November 18, 1861. He was educated at the Tain Academy, took his M.A. at Glasgow 1882, and his M.B., C.M., at Edinburgh 1886. In 1887 he took up practice at Great Falls, Montana. He married November 1892, Isabel M Maupin of Mobile, Alabama, and died January 25, 1908.

(2.) James S Gordon, now at Great Falls.

(3.) Charles Gordon, now at Great Falls.

(4.) Minnie R Gordon, Mrs Macdonald of Knockbreck House, Tain.

2. William Gordon, born August 25, 1824. He died at Edderton Manse, July 4 1840.

3. Donald Gordon, born May 26, 1826

4. Adam Gordon, born October 2, 1828

5. Ann Gordon, born October 1 1818, died August 8, 1819

Mary Gordon, born April 25, 1820, died July 1820.

7. Mary Ann Gordon, born May 28, 1832. She died July 19, 1832.

8. Barbara Mackay Gordon, born May 7, 1833, and baptised June 21.

9. Mary Gordon (by the second marriage) born January 30, 1837.

A Brora Shepherd's Descendants

Once upon a time there was a shepherd at Brora named William Gordon, and during the early part of the seventeenth century he migrated into Aberdeenshire, which was far more of a Gordon country than his native Sutherland. He may have traveled down a flock of sheep and elected not to travel back with them.

So much for tradition. We come to firmer ground with William's son John, who was schoolmaster and session clerk of Belhelvie. I cannot recognise him as a student at the University, but that is not surprising as the parentage of the early student is not always given in the college registers. He seems to have been a licentiate of the church, for in the kirk session records, under date December 22, 1695, we read:—"The minister being sick, Mr Johanes Gordon preached," but he does not appear in Scott's "Fasti." He died on Sunday, March 29, 1696.

A family tradition states that this John was succeeded by his son John, and that he was session clerk till 1786. Unfortunately, the kirk session records of the parish are missing between June 21, 1761, and August 21, 1791. On the latter date, however, which was the settlement of the Rev. Alexander John Forsyth, the inventor of the percussion cap, the record refers to an elder, "John Gordon, Drumhead, formerly schoolmaster." I am indebted for these references to the Rev. Malcolm Sorley, Belhelvie.

The second John had a son Alexander, who set up in Dudley as a wine and spirit merchant in 1800. He married in March, 1806, Maria Loxton, who was born at Wolverhampton on December 26, 1781, and died June 22, 1833 (Sims'- "Bibliotheca Staffordiensis," p. 192). They had a son and a daughter. The son was named John Gordon.

He was born at Dudley, March 1, 1807, and educated under Brooke Robinson at the Grammar School there. He entered Queen's College, Oxford, with the view of taking orders in the Church of England, but did not matriculate, having refused to sign the thirty-nine Articles. *The Inquirer* (of May 6, 1880, pp. 3012), in a long obituary notice of him said that in declining to sign the Articles

he had no religious objections to the doctrines of the church. This act was characteristic of his whole life. He became a Wesleyan minister on trial, 1827; and in full Connexion 1831. He left the Wesleyan ministry in 1834, and the New Connexion in 1837.

He was placed in circuits including Cheltenham, Bangor, and Stroud, being moved about frequently to give him fuller opportunities of private study. He was at variance with the course of action taken by the Wesleyan authorities, and resigned. "He was twice driven from the work of religious teaching and preaching, and for a while he let go his Orthodoxy and fell into Deism. Mr Gordon then became acquainted with the Unitarians of Birmingham, and accepted the ideas of Christianity which may be described as the Unitarianism of the older school. He became minister at Coseley, 1837, and, in the same year, of the Great Meeting, Coventry, in 1840, and for 14 years was minister of the Great Meeting." On leaving Coventry in the spring of 1854 he received at a public dinner a testimonial subscribed for by parties "representing every shade of religious and political sentiment." He then immigrated to Edinburgh, where he settled at St Marks, he found congenial work, and an enlargement of the association with literature. "His Scottish descent — always conspicuous in his character and temperament — his literary acquirements and conversational powers enabled him to take his place and feel himself at home in the modern Athens. His great friends were George Hope and Mr Colston." After four years in Edinburgh he spent four more in Dukinfield, and then went to Evesham. Oat Street Meeting received Mr Gordon in October, 1863, when he entered on his last stated ministry, which was to continue for nine years. In 1872, when 65, as it was his wish to retire at that age from a settled ministry, he resigned Evesham, and lived at Ladyeshill, Kenilworth, where he added to his writings. He delivered a lecture in the West Orchard Independent Chapel, Coventry, on the centenary celebration, in November, 1877, at the request of the Rev. Edward H. Delf, on the "History of Independency," and took a share in the public meeting.

He was a good scholar—the result of his laborious and conscientious self-culture—a deeply read theologian, and conversant with history and literature. Besides the Hebrew Scriptures and the Greek Testament, his companions, he always carried a Shakespeare.

His writings were numerous, consisting principally of contributions to periodicals. His signature of a Greek Gamma disclosed the authorship of many papers in the *Christian Reformer*, and elsewhere. Gordon wrote several books and pamphlets.

Mr Gordon's last illness was rapid and unexpectedly fatal. In January 1880, after a bad attack of cold, he went to Bournemouth and seemed to recover, but on returning home caught fresh cold, and died at Kenilworth, April 24th, 1880. He last spoke in public on December 3rd, at a social meeting in the Evesham Institute.

He was twice married; (1) On January 4th, 1832, to Sarah King Mumford, (daughter of John Mumford, Kimberley) who died in January, 1833. (2) On March 25th, 1840, to Anne Maria Hodgetts of Bristol, who died at Kenilworth, February 1st, 1896, in her 89th year. He had the following issue:—

- (1), Hurd Mumford Gordon, only child by the first wife, born, December 30th, 1832; died, January 20th, 1875. He married on October 5th, 1859, Mary Lyall, Birmingham, who died June 3rd, 1875 and had

John Hurd Gordon, born, May 27th, 1860. He is a doctor; L.R.C.P. and L.R.C.S., Edinburgh. He was educated at Queen's College, Birmingham, and the University of Durham, and in 1887 compiled a pamphlet "Aids to Practical Chemistry," especially arranged for the analysis of substances containing a single base and acid radicle (London, Bailliere, Tindall & Cox, 1887, 8 vo. p. p. 66.) These notes "were originally arranged when preparing for the primary examination of the Royal College of Physicians, of London, &c." Dr Gordon was formerly located at Portleven, Cornwall, and is now medical officer of Stocklade and

Dalwood districts of Axminster. He is a widower, without issue.

- 2, Rev. Alexander Gordon, Manchester.
- 3, John Gordon, born, May 4th, 1843, and died July 6th, 1864, unmarried.
- 4, Thomas Hodgetts Gordon, born February 20th, 1849. He married Mary E Marshall, Dukinfield, but has no issue. He graduated B A., at London University, became a solicitor, and is now Town Clerk of Dukinfield.
- 5, Walter Gordon, born, June 29th, 1850. He matriculated at New College, Oxford, October, 16th 1868; took his B.A. in 1872, with a second-class in classics, and his M A in 1875. He lives at "Bydand," Summertown, Oxford, and is unmarried.

Rev. Alexander Gordon, Manchester.

He is the eldest son of the Rev. John Gordon, by the second marriage, and was born in June 9, 1841. He took his M.A. at Edinburgh University in 1856, and entered the Unitarian ministry. In view of his Aberdeenshire connection it is interesting to think that one of his first tasks was to fill the pulpit of the Unitarian Church at Aberdeen from August, 1861, till November, 1862, as supply between the ministry of the Rev. W. S. Smith and that of the Rev. W. Sharman. He was minister of Hope Street Church, Liverpool, 1863-72, and of the Octagon Chapel, Norwich, 1872-7. He was called to the First Presbyterian Church at Belfast, February 18, 1877, and installed by the Northern Presbytery of Antrim, June 5, 1877. On August 24, 1879, he presented an address to the General Synod of the Unitarian Church of Hungary at Székely Keresztúr on the occasion of the tercentennial of the death of Bishop Francis David. He became Principal of the Unitarian Home Missionary College, Manchester, January, 1890. Mr Gordon has been a voluminous writer, for his knowledge is encyclopædia.

He married on April 23, 1875, Clara M. Boulton, Liverpool, who died February 23, 1902. He has had five sons and a daughter

- 1 Christopher Gordon, born August 30, 1873, trained as a solicitor, now in Texas.
- 2 Ritchie Gordon, born September 26, 1875, died January 14, 1902, at Mafeking.

- 3 Herbert Gordon, born September 1, 1877, engineer Burton-on-Trent.
- 4 Geoffrey Gordon, born October 15, 1881. He revived the family connection with Aberdeenshire by being educated at Aberdeen University, where he took his M.A. with second-class mathematical honours, 1903. He entered the Indian Civil Service 1904; arrived in India November 27, 1905; and is assistant commissioner in the Punjab.
- 5 Eustace Gordon, born November 2, 1883, a teacher.
- 6 Mary, only daughter, born November 30, 1879, died at Rostrevor, County Down, on May 25, 1904.

The most serious error was the total omission of Alexander Gordon, son of Sir William Gordon, 1st Bart. of Invergordon, was an officer in the Navy, and as "Lieutenant" Gordon was promoted 'ommander of the sloop Otter in November 1741, ("Scots Magazine." vol, 3, p. 523") On January 4th, 1742, he lost his life on the Otter, which was cast away on the coast of Suffolk, when only fifteen of the crew (which consisted of 60) and the mate were saved. ("Scots Magazine.") According to the same authority Sir William Gordon was told of the accident in the House of Commons, "with an artful design when some important question was coming on." Notwithstanding his grief he "staid till the debate was ended and voted for his country—as he always did." Our surprise is heightened, however, in reading his son Charles's account of Sir William's condition two days before (January 2nd, 1742) Sir William was extremely ill, his symptoms being "very dangerous, his cough violent to the greatest degree, and his legs twice their usual size." His death in forty-eight hours would have given his physicians "no surprise." Although Sir William did not die till the following June, it is difficult to think that he can have been in the House of Commons two or three days after his son gave this account of his health. At any rate, a poet in the "Scots Magazine" improved the occasion with a long poem in his honour entitled "The Story of Alphonsus from Strada, imitated." This lucubration, which fills three columns of the Magazine (vol. iv. p.p 277-9) is prefaced by an "Address" to Sir William.

Sir William's position as a member of Parliament was challenged in 1722 by Sir John Gordon, 4th Bart of Embo, who is given frequently, though incorrectly, in the books of reference as Sir William. In the British Museum Library (816. m. 4.74) will be found a petition entitled "Case of the Election for the County of Sutherland; Sir John Gordon, Bart, petitioner V. Sir William Gordon, Bart. sitting member; to be heard before the Committee," 1722. Sir John objected to Sir William's representing the county for four lengthy argued reasons. One of them was that 23 of Sir William's electors were not tenants of the Crown or free holders infeft and possessed of lands of the extent and to the value required by the Act of 1681. Sir William replied that by the Charter erecting Sutherland into a Shire of Parliament the vassals of subjects superiors as well as the vassals of the Crown were entitled to elect. The Baronet of Embo further objected that Sir William himself possessed no land in Sutherland.

I have stated and shown by example that the power of the Gordons in Sutherland, after a rapid rise, gradually declined. Originally a Border tribe, the Gordons had fixed themselves on Aberdeenshire and Banffshire with extraordinary success, so that their ascent further north was quite natural. They gained their footing there in the first instance in the Church of Caithness, and in the next generation crossed into the neighbouring county to marry the heiress of the Earldom of Sutherland. This move was so successful that they not only were raised to the ennobled status, but they gave their surname to the Sutherland family for two centuries. During that time, though they were regarded as interlopers by the original clans, they dominated all the minor families of their own name, for whom, however, three baronetcies, Gordon-ton, Embo, and Invergordon, were created. Having made themselves cocks of the walk, as Sir Robert Gordon shows again and again in his amusing megalomaniac pages, they ultimately defied their Chief, the Cock of the North, by reverting, about 1713 to their name of Sutherland. From this period onwards there was something like antagonism between the Sutherland and Gordon families, and a

significant epilogue was found in the failure of the Duke of Gordon to find support in Sutherland for his Regiment of Northern Fencibles in 1778. I have only recently been permitted by the Duke of Richmond to examine a great many letters on this subject, and they clearly show that by the end of the 18th century the Gordon influence had become greatly attenuated, the fourth Duke adopting a very different tone from his ancestor, who wrote the angry protest against their going back to the original name of Sutherland. The position is all the more interesting in view of the fact that, just as it was with Elizabeth, Countess of Sutherland, that the Gordons came into power in the 16th century, so it was with another Elizabeth, Countess of Sutherland that they failed to get support in the 18th century, although it was called for on so urgent a matter as the defence of the realm.

The Duke of Gordon had much experience in regiment raising. He had an equipped force of Fencibles in 1759; a company for the Fraser Highlanders in 1775, and he gallantly set forth on a second regiment of Fencibles in 1778, clearly under the impression that he was going to get much help from Sutherland.

Very early in his recruiting operations he came into collision with the Countess, to one of whose guardians, the Hon. James Wemyss of Wemyss, he wrote on May, 18th 1778 :—

I received your obliging letter. Believe me I never entertained an idea of interfering with Lady Sutherland in the event of a corps being destined for her country. But by this time I presume you will know that mine is the only one fixed for the north, and as it would give me particular pleasure to embrace this opportunity of distinguishing with suitable commissions such of my Lady Sutherland's friends as her managers approve, I therefore should deem it a favour to have this permission to take into my regiment Captain James Sutherland at Dunrobin, or any other person more agreeable to Lady Sutherland's friends. I have a company at their service and perhaps a majority if the attention necessary to be paid to my friends in this country can admit of it.

As this undertaking of mine requires despatch,

may I beg the favour of an answer directed to me at Gordon Castle as soon as convenient?

The Duke wrote from Gordon Castle to Wemyss on May 26, 1778:—

Dear Sir—After writing you the other day, I was exceedingly happy to receive your letter this morning. I am much obliged to you for the friendly part you have used upon this occasion. I shall be ready to do anything on my side to keep up the connection that has so long subsisted between the family of Sutherland and mine.

I am very glad to have it in my power to name Captain Sutherland one of my majors and Mr Charles Gordon or any other you think proper for a company, with four lieutenants and two ensigns to be named by you—making in all the whole officers for two companys—taking it for granted that they are to bring their quotas of men, agreeable to my recruiting instructions, copies of which with Beating Orders, etc., I shall leave with Captain Sutherland's agent at Inverness, for which I set out this evening on my way to Lochaber.

The Duke wrote Captain James Sutherland, Dunrobin, on May 18, 1778.

SIR—I have received your obliging letter of 25th April. Mr [Charles] Gordon of [Wardhouse] wrote me from Edinburgh 19th that he had delivered my letter to Mr Wemyss [of Wemyss], who, after expressing much friendship for me told him that he expected you at the Wemyss early last week, and would upon your arrival, write on a particular answer to my letter.

I have since been in daily expectation of hearing from Mr Wemyss, and upon that account have delayed arranging some of the commissions in my regiment, being very desirous to reserve such as might be agreeable to you or any other gentleman named by Lady Sutherland's managers. But as the business I am embarked in does not admitt of much longer delay in filling up all my commissions, and as I have just now heard a report that you have not yet left Dunrobin, I send this by express and must beg to know by the return of the bearer what part you and Lady Sutherland's other friends chuse to take in my regiment. I have kept one of the majoritys open for your acceptance. It will be very obliging to have your final resolution by the return of the

bearer and if you don't find it convenient to accept I beg you will not mention my offer.

I had almost forgot to mention that I have already appointed a paymaster, but I hope Mr Gordon [of Wardhouse?] will still accept of the company. My paymaster [Captain Finlayson] was appointed before I left London; other ways [1] should have been happy to have bestowed it on my namesake.

I daresay your friends, when once they embark, will have the honours of the corps so much at heart as not to make it necessary for me to commend it to them to raise their men as soon as possible, that we may not be behind the other fencible regiments in Scotland.

On May 21, 1778 Sutherland wrote from Edinburgh, to James Ross, cashier to the Duke:—

Sir,—I am favoured with your letter, and the reason for my delay in not acknowledging it before now was the expectation I had of a Sutherland Regiment being raised; but as that is now over, I can with truth assure you that I wish success to the Duke of Gordon's regiment, and if his grace will procure me an order from the Countess of Sutherland and her guardians, I can in ten days' time send his grace two or three hundred fine young fellows, and on this present emergency I hope every gentleman in the northern counties will exert their endeavours to have the Duke's Corps completed with the soonest.

I only arrived here last night, and when I go next week to wait on Mr Wemyss I shall mention to him the propriety of his and Lady Sutherland's other tutors assisting the Duke of Gordon on this occasion.

On June 8, 1778 Lieutenant John Sutherland, wrote from Dunbeath to the Duke, that he had got eight men and hoped soon to have more. He asks whether he might make one or two sergeants as he had got in view one or two young men of education. He also asks for some more attestation papers, with a few of the printed obligations, "as the young men in this county are so afraid without them that they think they're not safe."

On September 16, 1778, Sutherland, now captain, wrote from Dunbeath to the Duke:—

I've the honour to inform your Grace that I have got 20 men attested for your Grace's regi-

ment, and would have got all my complement had I not been continually thwarted by some of the country gentlemen, who never lose an opportunity to disappoint me, Freswick only excepted, to when I appeal for my conduct. Shall use every fair means to compleat my complement with all possible speed.

On June 17, 1778 the Duke writes to Sir Adolphus Oughton commanding the forces in Scotland :—

I have met with some great disappointments in gentlemen resigning their commissions after having accepted them a fortnight. The greatest is the family of Sutherland, who had undertaken for 200 men, and if they had stood to their first engagements I should now have been 600 strong.

Captain Sutherland held his commission only a fortnight. "It was a disappointment to me, you may easily believe, particularly in losing time," wrote the Duke on June 17, 1778.