





WILLIAM BAIRD of Auchmedden,

Ætat: 32.

GENEALOGICAL MEMOIRS

OF THE

UFFS

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P R E F A C E.

THE author of this manuscript was William Baird, Esq. of Auchmeddan, in the parish of Aberdour, in the district of Buchan and County of Aberdeen. He was connected with the Duff family by near affinity, having married Anne Duff, eldest daughter of William Duff of Dipple, by his second wife, Jane Dunbar, youngest daughter of Sir William Dunbar of Durn. He should seem to have been a man of considerable condition, in particular a good Greek scholar, as he executed and published a translation of the work of Thucydides. Along with many accomplished men of his day, he had the misfortune to engage in the disastrous affair of 1745, in all probability dragged into the business by the zealous persuasion of his near neighbour, the Lord

Pitsligo. He was, in consequence, obliged to remain for several years in concealment, finding shelter in general at Echt, the property of his brother-in-law, William Duff, Lord Braco, who was afterwards the first Earl of Fife. Though his estate of Auchmeddan was not seized upon and confiscated, he got into very great difficulties from pecuniary obligations undertaken for the Stewarts, which constrained him to part with the whole of his landed property in the year 1750, to the Lord Haddo, eldest son of the Earl of Aberdeen. As appears from several of his incidental remarks in the course of this manuscript, he should seem to have written it during the period from the year 1763 to the year 1773, when he sent it as a present to William Duff, of Muirtown, grandson of Provost William Duff of Inverness, with the view, there can be no doubt, of having it preserved as a genealogical memorial of the family of Duff. He was the last male representative of the Bairds of Auchmeddan; for, though he had a family of six sons and four daughters, they all died without issue, except the youngest daughter, who was married to Francis

Fraser, of Findrach, in the parish of Lumphanan, county of Aberdeen. The present laird of Findrach is her grandson, who has in his possession a portrait of his great-grandfather by Ferguson, the astronomer. Mr. Baird died at Aberdeen, 1777, aged 76; his wife, Anne Duff, having died 1773, aged 68. The remains of both rest in the churchyard of St. Nicholas, Aberdeen.

I discovered this manuscript when looking over various old documents and records which belonged to my predecessors, to one of whom, John Duff of Drummuir, I have reason to think, it was given by his grand uncle, the aforesaid William Duff of Muirtown.

LAUCLAN D. GORDON DUFF.

DRUMMUIR, *Nov.*, 1869.



GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL MEMOIRS
OF THE SIRNAME OF DUFF,
And principally of the Family of Moldavid,
NOW REPRESENTED BY LORD FIFE.
From the Earliest Accounts to the Present Time.

AT what precise period the name of DUFF was first settled in the North of Scotland, cannot now be known, because their old writes are lost, and the oldest they have point to others of greater antiquity, by mentioning Lands formerly belonging to that name.

But Mr. George Keith, Advocate in Aberdeen, who died in September, 1738, assured me he had seen among Lord Marishal's papers, a Charter under the Great Seal, upon the Lands of Fetteresso, and that it was prior to the Excam-

bion made by the Familys of Marishal and Crawford, about anno 1400, of the Lands and Castle of Struthers, in Fife, with the Lands and Castle of Dunnotyr, in the Merns, which borders with Fetteresso, when Sir Robert Keith, designed Great Marischall of Scotland, and Lord Marischal's Predecessor, was married to Lady Elizabeth Lindsay, daughter to David, Earl of Crawford. So that in all probability the Duffs were Proprietors of that noble Estate above 400 years ago. And, if any regard is due to constant and invariable Tradition, they are Descendants of the great & ancient M'Duffs, Thanes, or Earls of Fife.

It is agreed on by all our Historians, that the Progenitor of that illustrious family was one Fifus Duffus, or Fife M'Duff, a man of vast wealth and Power in the Reign of King Keneth the 2d, who gave that Prince great assistance in his wars against the Picts, about anno 834, and that after they were subdued, King Kenneth gave him in reward of his eminent Services the whole country called Otholinia of old, which M'Duff himself had conquered from the Picts, and extending

East and West from Fifeness to Clackmannan, and from the River Forth in the South, to the Tay and Earn on the North, all which large tract of Land is since called the County of Fife.

Now what is more consonant to reason and the Custom of all the Nations in Europe, than that all those of the name of Duff should be originally descended from the Chieff and principal Family of their own name? For it will appear afterwards that Duff and M'Duff are one name.

This Family flourish't in great Splendor for above 500 years after this, untill anno 1353, when it came to an Heiress, Isobel, Countess of Fife, who married thrice—1st, to Sir William Ramsay, whose Pedegree is not mentioned; 2d, to Walter Stewart, second son of King Robert 2d, by his first marriage; and lastly, to Sir Thomas Bisset of Upsetlighton, but had no issue by either; and in 1371, she disponded her whole Estate to Robert Stuart, third son of King Robert 2d, by Elizabeth Moor. He was then Earl of Men-teith, and in 1399 was created Duke of Albany, by his Brother, King Robert 3d, but his eldest

son Murdoch, Duke of Albany, being guilty of high Treason against his nephew, King James 1st, was, with two of his sons, tried, condemned, and executed in 1425, and all his Estates and Honours forfeited to the Crown.

Others say that the Duffs in the North are immediately descended from the Strabolgys, Earls of Athol. They were a younger branch of the same old Thanes of Fife; and of their rise and ending in the Two Co-heiresses, the story is thus:—

Thomas, Brother to Allan, Lord of Galloway, lineally descended from Fergus, the first Lord Galloway mentioned in History, who flourisht in Malcom Canamore's time, was created Earl of Athol by King Alexander 2d, in anno 1223, upon his marriage with Isabel, second Daughter of Henry, Earl of Athol.

This Earl Henry was Grandson of Malcom, a younger son of King Donald 7th, who was Brother to Malcom Canamore, and the first upon whom that Title was conferred. Isabel's eldest Sister was dead without issue male; her name is

not known, but she had been married to one Alanus de Londoniis, Octianus Regis. Thomas, Earl of Galloway, died in 1234, and was succeeded by his son Patrick ; he was unhappily burnt in his own Lodgings at Hadinton, anno 1242, by the instigation, as was said, of Sir John Bisset ; and as he left no issue, the Estate and honours devolved again to the Crown, and were given by King Alexander 2d, to Sir David Hastings, who was married to Feredith, 3d Daughter, and by the Death of her two eldest Sisters without issue, sole Heiress of Earl Henry.

Sir David died in a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, anno 1269, leaving only one daughter, Adda. This Lady married John de Strabolgy, Grandson of Duncan M'Duff, Earl of Fife. Duncan himself had got the whole County of Strabolgie from King William the Lion, and left it to his second son David. This John's father and he, from his new Estate, assumed the name of Strabogie.

Of his descent from the old Earls of Fife, there are many documents in the Chartulary of Murray

particularly one called a Convention between Andrew, Bishop of Murray, and an Nobleman, David de Strabogie, son to umql. Duncan, Earl of Fife, dated Octr. 5, 1234. Upon his son John's marrying Adda, he was immediatly girt with the Sword of the Earldom of Athol.

The family continued in great Lustre for five generations after this, and acquired a noble Estate in England by a marriage with Isabella, Heiress of Richard, a natural son of King John. And they were always in great favour with the Kings of Scotland, till anno 1327, when David de Strabogie, Earl of Athol, joined John Baliol's interest, and was forfeited by King Robert Bruce.

He married Jean, eldest Daughter and Co-heiress of John Cuming, Lord of Badenoch, by whom he got a great fortune. His eldest son, another David, married Elizabeth, Daughter of Henry, Lord Lewers of Grooby, and had by her two Daughters, Co-heiresses of all his Estates in England—I. Elizabeth, married to Sir Thomas Piercy, eldest son of Henry, Earl of Northumberland, and the present Duchesse's Ancestor; and

2. Philippa, to Sir Ralph Piercy, a younger son of the said Earl.—*Dugdale's Barronage.*

He himself died on October 22d, 1375, and was buried in Ashford, in Kent. Now it is said that the younger Brothers and other Cadets of the family continued, at least most of them, in the North, and assumed, or perhaps had never quited their own name of Duff; and as the Lands possest by them lay in the neighbourhood of Strathbogie, belonging to the Earls of Athol, originally of the same name, it is very probable they were descended of that Family.

Sir Robert Sibbald, in his natural History of the countys of Fife and Kinross, published in 16—, confirms the same origin, but in a more direct line from the old Earls of Fife; for he says that two younger sons of that Family left their own County and came North, one to the shire of Perth, where he purchast the Lands of Findowie, in Stratherle, and the other to Banffshire, where he purchast Craighead or Moldavid, in the Boyn.

And one Mr. Duff, a Clergyman near Perth, a

very ingenious, sensible man, told me, Augt. 28, 1768, that the Estate of Findowie was possest by a Family of his name for nearly 300 years, till about 55 years ago they were bought by Logy o' Drummond, and that the Heir of the last Findowie offered the present Logie a high price for it, but was refused, and that he himself had advised him to call his present Estate Findowie; but he told him that he would look upon that as a sort of impiety.

The same Gentleman said there was Duff of Bonhard, and some other small Heretors of the name in Perthshire, and a great number of substantial, well respected Farmers spred over all that County, who are called Duff and M'Duff indiscriminatly as being reckoned by them all the same name, which is a certain proof that it is so.

Mr. Lodge, in his Peerage of Ireland, gives it as the opinion of Scots writers, that the name of Duff draws its origin from M'Duff, Thane of Fife.

A learned Antiquary, in his Genealogical history of the Family of M'Intosh, says that Duncan,

Sixth Earl of Fife, who died in 1203, left issue four sons—

1. Malcom, his Successor.
2. Shaw, or Shaugh, of whom M'Intosh.
3. John, or Owen Moir na Vouch, Ancestor of the Earls of Weems.
4. Duncan, of whom the Duffs of Craighhead are descended.

Mr. Malcom's Collections, belonging to the Earl of Weems.

Another opinion is, that Duncan, Earl of Fife, who was killed in the Battle of Falkirk, anno 1298, had a younger son Malcom, who married a Daughter of Duncan's, Thane of Calder, by which marriage he got a considerable Estate in the County of Aberdeen, where he settled, and was Progenitor of the Duffs in the North. History of the MacDuffs, Earls of Fife, MSS. wrote in 1599, in Latin, belonging to the present Earl of Fife.

Mr. Nisbet says, those of the Surname of Duff are thought to have derived their descent from the Macduffs, Thanes of Fife, tho' they differ in

armorial bearings, as many do that are of the same Stock.—Vol. I., page 443.

But it would appear to me that the sameness of the name does not leave any Room to doubt that the Duffs are originally the same Family with the old Earls of Fife.

However, this is a circumstance of very little moment, and be it as it will, the present Familys of the name are of a sufficient standing to set them on a level with most other Scotch Gentlemen.

The two principal familys in the North are Lord Fife, Representative of Craighead or Moldavid, which is the same estate, and Drummuir. But there is a great many branches descended of both.

To begin with Lord Fife. The oldest Charter that he has, is dated Feb. 4th, 1404, under the Great Seal of King Robert 3d, to David Duff and Mary Chalmers, his Spouse, upon Moldavid, &c., but it appears from thence that his ancestors were Proprietors of Baldaveen, Auchingal, Darbreich, and Findochtyfield, tho' they alwise took their Title from the Barrony of Moldavid, till they sold it in 1626.

David Duff of Moldavid, by said Mary Chalmers, left a son and Successor.

2. John Duff of Moldavid, who married

He flourisht in the Reign of King James 1st, as appears by a Charter from King James 2d, dated Febry. 12, 1442, to his son, another John Duff, tho' it does not appear that ever he expeded a Charter himself; it is granted to John Duff, son and Heir of John Duff of Moldavid, upon the Lands and Estate of Findochtyfield, lying on the west side of the Burn of Cullen, upon a Resignation made by his said Father.—Public Records.

3. The said John Duff married

He wadset Moldavid to James Innace of that Ilk, and was succeeded by his Son also,

4. John Duff, who confirmed his father's Wadset of Moldavid, upon which Innace got a Charter from King James 2d. The Confirmation is dated March 13th, 1481, and the Charter, April 13th, 1482. He married _____ and had a son,

5. Andrew Duff of Moldavid, who succeeded him, and redeemed the Wadset of that Estate from the Laird of Innace, as is instructed by an Instrument of Redemption from the said Gentleman to this Andrew Duff, dated in anno 1500.

He also obtained from King James 4th a "Charter of Confirmation upon the Lands of Moldavid, in the shire of Banff, which belonged to John Duff, his Grandfather, and were wadset by him to James Innace, &c., to be held of our Sovereign Lord the King, dated June 16th, 1504." These two last writes are in the Earl of Findlator's possession.

He married Helen Hay, Grandchild of John Hay, Lord of the Forrest of Boin, Enzie, and Tillibody. After the death of her husband, this lady built an Isle on the south side of the Church of Cullen, which is still called the Duffs' Isle, and mortified a Croft of Land and some Tofts in Cullen, for the support of it, with the following Inscription:—

"Pray for Helen Hay and her Bairns that
"biggit this Isle, and feft a Chaplain

“thereto, doted with a guid Croft of Land
“and Tofts in Cullen, that sall uphold
“the Isle and Ornaments thereof.—Pray for
“King James the Vth.”

It is to be at the Gift of her son, John Duff of Moldavid, and his Heirs; failing thereof, at the presentation and Gift of the Baillies and Community of Cullen for ever.

There is also cut on a Stone on the west side of the Isle, the following words:—

“John Hay, Lord of the Forrest of Boin,
“Enzie and Tilliebody, Goodsir to Helen
“Hay that biggit this Isle, fest a Chap-
“lainry there, off his Lands of Ordenhuiffes.”

Besides the monuments themselves, which still remain, both these Inscriptions are recorded in the Registers of Aberdeen, ad ann. 1539, and in the Session Book of Cullen.

Andrew Duff of Moldavid died in 1519, and left issue two sons.

6. John, who succeeded him, and Sir George, who, having been bred to the Church, possest a considerable Benefice, and acquired a part of the

Lands of Castlefield, which he left to John Duff, his natural son, and the Heirs male lawfully procreate of his body, they carrying the name and arms of Duff. This appears by a Charter under the Great Seal, concerning a Disposition from the deceast Sir George Duff, Portioner of Castlefield, of his 4th & 8th parts of these Lands in the above terms. This Charter is dated July 10th, 1535.—Public Records.

7. John Duff of Moldavid was infest in that Estate upon a Precept from the Chancery, as Heir to his father, Andrew, upon the 16th May, 1520, and had a Sasine following thereupon, of the same date, both in the possession of the Earl of Findlatyr.

He left two sons, George and John; the first never married, but resigned his Lands in favors of his Brother,

8. John Duff of Moldavid, who, upon George's Resignation got a Charter from Queen Mary upon the Lands of Moldavid, Miln, Milnlands thereof, &c., dated Novr. 26th, 1550.—Public Records.

He also obtained another Charter upon a Croft, of which the Teind sheaves are said to belong to the Vicar of the Parish Church of Raffan, dated March 29th, 1565.

This John Duff of Moldavid married

and died about
anno 1580, and was succeeded by his eldest son,

9. John Duff of Moldavid, who, upon his father's Resignation, got a Charter under the Great Seal, to John Duff, eldest son, and apparent heir of John Duff of Moldavid, of the said Lands, with the Miln, Milnlands, &c., dated July 10th, 1575.—Public Records.

He made a Resignation of these Lands in the King's hands in favor of himself, and got a Charter upon them, dated February 24th, 1610, which is in the Earl of Findlater's possession, and upon Record.

In anno 1626, he sold the Lands of Moldavid to James Hay of Ranas, with consent of Agnes Gordon, his Spouse, John, his eldest son, and Isabel Allan, his Spouse, and died in the beginning of 1627, leaving issue a Son and Heir,

10. John Duff, who got a Precept from the Chancery proceeding upon a Retour of his Service as heir to his father, dated Novr. 9th, 1627.

By the said Isabel Allan, he left one Son, John, and after her death, he married Margaret Gordon, Daughter to John Gordon of Cairnburrow, by whom he had another son, Adam Duff of Clunybeg, who came to be Representative of the Family, and whose posterity is now numberless, and connected with many of the best Familys both of the North & South of Scotland.

According to the best information, the manner of his acquiring this Title is as follows:—

Clunybeg is a considerable part of the Estate of Auchendown, in the Parish of Mortlach, & comprehends just now a dozen of pretty extensive Farms.

One of the name of Duff, a Relation of the Family of Moldavid, had sometime, in the 16th Century, obtained it in Wadset from the Earl of Huntly, or perhaps from one of the Earls of Athol, when they were Proprietors of the Lordship of Balveny, which comprehended the whole

Estate of Auchendown, and in 1620, one Alexander Duff, his Successor, possest and dwelt upon it.

At the same time, Lord Adam Gordon, a younger son of George first Marquis of Huntly, was Laird of Auchendown, as his Patrimony. He is said to have been of an arbitrary violent Temper, and it appears that Alex. Duff was no less so.

They had frequent picquerings, but at last Lord Adam, being informed that Duff intended to convert into Tillage, some wild barren heath within the bounds of his Wadset, cut closs upon Lord Adam's march, sent his Servants and Tenants, with his own plough, and ordered them to break up the ground. But they had no sooner put the Oxen under Yoke, than Mr. Duff came to the plow with a posse of men, cut the foot soamis, and hunted the Oxen to the Hill.

Upon this, Lord Adam commenced a criminal Process agt. him before the Justiciary Court at Edinr., and Alexr. Duff not being able to contend with so powerfull an Antagonist, and, be-

sides, finding he had been guilty of an unwarrantable Step, made no Compearance, and was fugitate.

He lay sometime concealed at his friend Moldavid's house, but at last, being sensible that he could not live any longer at Clunybeg with peace & satisfaction, he disponed that Wadset to Moldavid, who soon made up matters amicably with Lord Adam, and left it to his son of the second marriage, Adam, who went there with his family at Whity., 1627 or '28, where he lived and died.

His brother by his father's first wife, John, was settled before in Trade at Aberdeen.

At what time this Wadset was redeemed by the Family of Gordon, I do not know, but the field, which was the subject of debate, is to this day called the Pley fauld.

The Lait John Duff of Moldavid, Clunybeg's father, had one Daughter, Margaret, by his Second wife, who married John Meldrum of Lathers, descended of Meldrums family, their eldest son was Petêr Meldrum of Lathers, and

the second, Mr. George Meldrum, Minister at Glass, and who afterwards purchast the Estate of Cromby. He, when sixty years of age, married his Cousin-German, Jean Duff, second daughter of Alexr. Duff of Keithmore, whom he himself had baptised, and had by her three Daughters, Jean Meldrum, Heiress of Cromby, who married her cousin, James Duff, second son to Provost Duff of Inverness, the 2d Daughter Helen, to the late Alexr. Abercrombie of Glasshaugh, and Isobel, to Archbald Ogilvie of Rothiemay, Representative of the Family of Boin, and Grandfather to the present James Ogilvie of Inchmarline.

John Duff, eldest son of the last John Duff of Moldavid, who was a merchant at Aberdeen, got a Charter from that Town to John Duff, merchant & Burger of Aberdeen, upon the half of the Lands of Corghall register. He married _____ and died in the Reign of King Charles the 2d, leaving only one son John Duff, a Lawyer at Aberdeen, a man very much esteemed in his Life, being one of great honour & honesty, of extraordinary good

parts, and a facetious and agreeable Companion, which made every body fond of his acquaintance. He married a comely Graceful Gentlewoman of the name of Innace, Daughter to Thomas Innace, Factor to the Earl of Panmure for the Estate of Belhelvie.

Mr. Duff engaged in the Rebellion of 1715, and was very zealous in that Cause, by which being obnoxious to the Government, he stept over to Holland in the beginning of 1716, where he soon fell into a large acquaintance, and was treated by them all with the greatest Civility and Kindness. There he laid himself out to serve all his young Countrymen who came over to the Continent in the course of their Travels, & upon mercatile and other private affairs. He died at Rotterdam in 1718, universally regretted.

This worthy man had no issue, and as the Posterity of the lair John Duff of Moldavid, by his first Wife, Isabel Allan, ended in him, the Representation came next to the Heirs of Adam Duff of Clunybeg, his son, by his second Wife, Margaret Gordon, Cairnburrow's Daughter.

He may be called the Restorer of his family, for he was the father of a numerous Offspring, to whom he gave good Education and good Provisions, and whose male descendants have most of them flourished ever since, both the stock & the branches.

It is to be regretted that no account can now be given of the fate of younger sons, or the disposal of daughters, during the course of the preceding Geneology ; it is owing to the loss of writes, when their old Estates went into other hands (for no pedigree can be preserved above three Generations by memory) removing from one place to another, or meer negligence.

Several old men who lived within these 40 years, and knew Clunybeg well, spoke of him with great regard, as a man of strong natural sense, perfect integrity, and indefatigable Industry, which was wheted by his being a younger Brother, and his fortune to make.

He was a zealous Loyalist & Anti-covenanter, tho', I think, he never acted in a military Capacity as his two eldest sons did, but he himself

was fined in 500 merks by the ruling party at Edinr., Oct. 27th, 1646, as a malignant. This appears by the List of the Fines in the Register, a Book published there in 1757, page 23.

He married Beatrix Gordon, Daughter to John Gordon of Birkenburn, by whom he had six sons & two Daughters.

1. Alexr. Duff of Keithmore, so called from a Wadset of the Family of Huntly, in Auchendown, which was only Redeemed from the last Lord Fife in 1730.

2. John Duff, stild of Baulmakellach, from a Farm in the Parish of Botrifny, near Daviston, now a part of Drumuir's Estate, but which then belonged to Sir Robert Innace of Invermackie, and it was Mr. Duff's residence all his life.

3. William, a merchant at Inverness, and frequently Provost of that Burrow.

Fortune did not smile so much on Clunybeg's three younger sons, as upon the three eldest, of whom I shall give a more full account in course.

4. George of Edindiack, he married first

Beatrix Duff, daughter to Duff, in Drum-builg, and next to a minister's Daughter of the name of Alexander. He left by both wives three sons, Adam, Great Grandfather to James Duff, present Schoolmaster at Mortlach, and a Student of Divinity, William and Daniel, and two Daughters, Margaret and Rachel, most of them were married, and their Progeny is now very numerous.

Adam's Grandson, Peter, Mr. Duff's father, married Anne Moir, Grand daughter to Moir of Waulkmiln, an Heretor, and got £500 str. of portion with her. They have now living six sons, of whom Mr. Duff is the Eldest, and three daughters, all unmarried—James, Alexander, John, Peter, William, and Robert, Anne, Margaret, and Rachel. There is, I believe, just now many more than a Hundred Male and Female Descendants of this George Duff of Edindiack, Clunybeg's 4th Son, within the Lordship of Balveny, and in that country, some of them pretty substantial Farmers or Farmer's wives, but still in a situation below their Rank, and this their ancestor is to be blamed for. His Father gave him

a good Education, and a competent Patrimony for those days, he likewise got good portions with his two wives, but was himself an idle, lazy, Stupid fellow, very different from his three elder Brothers; and his eldest son Adam, was not a whit better. All their children were left in a low way, and their Posterity have continued so ever since. But there are now some promising young men amongst them, whom Lord Fife takes care to educate to business or Handicrafts.

5. Duff, who went South, and never returned to the North Country again.

6. Duff, who was drowned crossing the water of Fiddach in a Speat.

7. Jean, married to John Muiren of Mather Cluny.

8. Helen, married to Taylor in Ardgaithnay.

Clunybeg died in April, 1674, when he could not be under 76 years of age, as his two eldest sons were Officers under Montrose; the time of Beatrix Gordon's death is not now remembered.

I return to Clunybeg's two eldest sons

named before, and their Posterity, who are very extensive, and have many good connections.

Alexander Duff of Kiethmore, his heir and worthy successor, was born in 1623, and was an Officer under Montrose in all his Campaigns of 1644, '45, and '46, and when the Marquis went beyond Sea in consequence of his Capitulation with Middleton in Septr., 1646, he went over to the Continent likewise, but to what Country I do not know. He came home in a year after, when the violent prosecutions of the Loyalists were over. But it is affirmed he was then taken up by the Covenanters and thrown into prison where he lay a long time. However he got his Liberty at last, and in the end of 1649, or beginning of 1650, married Helen Grant, daughter to Archibald Grant of Balintomb, who was Grandfather to the present Sir Archibald Grant of Monymusk.

Keithmoir was a little man, and in the decline of life became very corpulent which was very probably owing to the fatiguing Campaigns he had with Montrose. This made his friends

call him Croilie Duff, tho' severals say it was Clunybeg to whom that appellation was sometimes given.

Keithmoir was a judicious, frugal, honest man; and, tho' abundantly active and diligent, a great share of his Success in acquiring money is ascribed to his Wife, one of the most industrious painstaking women of the age in which she lived, or perhaps in any other. She was a sturdy big-boned woman, and at last became so fat and bulky, that it is said it required an eln of plaiding to make her a pair of hose, and that one time when she threw herself hastily into her Chair without taking notice that the House cat was lying squat upon the Seat, she prest puss so effectually to Death with the weight of her body, that it never waged a foot more; and she was so broad that no Armed Chair of the common size could admit of her sitting in it.

Helen Grant was a most hospitable kind housekeeper, while at the same time she neglected no commendable and virtuous method of thriving.

It is said of Keithmoir's Lady, Helen Grant,

that she would have gone to market with 1000 elns of plaiding, all made of the wool of her own sheep, and riden on the Horse crupper behind one of the Loads herself, and brought home 1000 mks. as the price of her plaiding.

It's said she had alwise great plenty of Gold and Silver Specie. In those troublesome times, people were affraid to lend out their money, or even to let it be known that they had any, for fear of being robed, and therefore hid it in holes and bores, and to this purpose I heard lately one of her Grand Children tell the following story :— During the Usurpation of Oliver Cromwell, she had concealed a great leather bag full of ducations in the Ceiling of the Hall at Keithmore, and the rats had just finish't gnawing a Chasm in the bottom of the bag, when a large company was at dinner, a shower of Dollars fell on the floor, every body rose to give their assistance in gathering, but the Lady entreated them all in a very peremptory tone of voice to keep their Seats for she did not want any body to gather but herself.

And in the beginning of King William's Reign about 1689, being informed one day that a Party of Military was in the neighbourhood, and afraid lest they should come to Keithmore and take her money, she delivered a Sealed bag of Gold and Silver Coin to her Grand Child, old Lesmurdy, a boy then 17 or 18 years of age, and desired him to hide it somewhere in the Ground, and to set a mark at the Place, that he might find it again, but to be sure to hide it well, because she would rather wish it was lost, than that King William's Dragoons should get it. The boy dig'd a hole at the side of a Strype of water which runs alongst the Green of Keithmoir, in which he laid the bag, and covered it with Earth, and when the Party was gone, he took it out and delivered it to his Grandmother.

Keithmoir got a good portion with this honest worthy Lady, and afterwards by the death of her Brother, Allachy, succeeded to 100,000 merks more, including the Wadset of Allachy itself, which was very profitable, and not long ago redeemed from the last Lord Fife, by Sir Lodvick

Grant, and sold to James Grant of Carron ; for tho' there were three or four Sisters, all married, Keithmoir & his wife were greater favorites of the Brother than any of the rest. And by a proper improvement of this & his own original Stock, he died possest of 24,000 merks of Land rent, as his nephew, the last Corsindaye, assured me ; and this besides large Purchases which his eldest son, Braco, made in his father's lifetime, for he was near fifty years old when Keithmoir died. He got the Wadset of Keithmoir from the Marquis of Huntly sometime between 1640 & 1646, and very probably exchanged it with Clunybeg on such terms as they could agree on.

In 1676, he got his Armorial bearings matri-
culated, and the following Certification from the
Lord Lion :—

“ I certifie and make known that the Coat
“ Armorial appertaining and belonging to
“ Alexr. Duff of Keithmoir, lineally de-
“ scended from the Family of Moldavid
“ and Craighead, and approved of and con-
“ firmed by me Sir Charles Areskin of

“Cambo, Lord Lyon King-at-Arms, to
 “him of this date, is matriculated in my
 “public Register &c., viz., a *Feese daun-*
 “*zette ermine*, between a Buck’s head ca-
 “boshed in chieff, and two escallops, &c.”

Keithmoir’s Lady died in 1694, in the 60th year of her age ; he outlived her several years, and died about the year 1700, aged 76, or near 77. At that time, I believe the whole Land Estate of the Father and son was about 40,000 merks per an.

Keithmoir and his Lady are interred in the Church of Mortlach, under a Statly monument of cut stone. And above their Grave, both their statues lie at full length, very well chiseld, and extremly like. As I was informed, they are placed on a stone Bench, and make a Comely gracefull appearance, both jolly figures, and looking like Peace and Plenty. The following Inscription is engraven above them :—

“Within this Tomb are deposited the re-
 “mains of Alexr. Duff of Keithmoir, and
 “Helen Grant, his Spouse, the lineal and

“lawfull Heir to the antient Family of
“Craighead, lately in Possession of that
“Estate, and originally descended from the
“most noble Thanes or Earls of Fife, and
“she of the most illustrious and Powerful
“Clan of the Grants.”

Tho' this Inscription is no proof of the Duffs being of the same stock with the old Thanes of Fife, it shows that the Story is not newly trumped up, but that it was supported a hundred years ago, by an old & invariable tradition.

Keithmoir left three sons, Alexander Duff of Braco, William Duff of Dipple, and Patrick Duff of Craigston, and four Daughters.

1. Margaret, married to James Stuart of Lesmurdy.

2. Jean, to Mr. George Meldrum of Cromby, minister of Glass.

3. Mary, married 1st to Dr. Andrew Fraser, Physician at Inverness, to whom she bore one daughter, Helen, married to Charles Hay of Ranas, and by him Mother of a numerous issue. And after Doctor Fraser's death, she married

Thomas Tulloch of Tannachy, one of the oldest familys in Murray, to whom she had one son, the present Tannachy, and one daughter, Elizabeth, married to Alexander Cuming of Craigmiln, who was engaged with Prince Charles in 1745, taken Prisoner at Culloden, and died in Jail at Carlisle, in 1746, leaving by her five daughters & two sons, one an Officer in France, and married to a French woman, and the other a Miln-wright in Jamaica.

4. Elizabeth, married to a Brother of Sir James Calder's, but died in half a year after.

Clunybeg's second son, John Duff of Baulmakillach, was a very brave young man, and joined Montrose, soon after he set up his Standart, he got a Commission, and was the Marquis' close companion in all his marches and warlike expeditions. The House of Castle Forbes was committed by Montrose to his Custody, and he kept a small Garrison in it, and defended it against all the power of the Forbeses, who were then mostly Covenanters, all the time the Marquis was in arms, and half a year after he was

gone abroad, and never surrendered it till he obtained an honourable Capitulation for himself and his men from the Forbeses, he then retired to his farm, upon which he lived and died, and applied close to agriculture.

But when he heard in March, 1650, that his old General was landed in Caithnes, he went directly to him, and so entirely were the Soldiers of his Garrison, or at least most of them, attacht to him, and the Cause, that they all marched along with him and joined the Marquis.

Everybody has heard of that heroic nobleman's defeat by Colonel Strachan, and his being soon after treacherously betrayed in his Concealment by a Gentleman of that County. Baulmakellach was taken lurking in that neighbourhood, being discovered in the same perfidious manner.

The Prisoners were all carried south to be hanged, by different roads, for the sake of Provision and forage for the Horses. John Duff was brought luckily through the Cabrach, where he had a Grass room, or Summer shealing, at that

time in Tack, and was perfectly known and well acquainted at the public house where they lodged.

Here he got some opportunity of giving a hint to the Landlord to ply the common Soldiers well with usque (of whom there was only half a dozen for his Guard), while he himself took care of the Officer, who staid in the same Room with him. And after he had got a sufficient dose, and was fallen asleep, Mr. Duff left him, and knowing the avenues of the House, went straight to the Stable to take out his Horse.

But here he found an unforeseen obstruction. One of the soldiers was sleeping before the door to keep it close, as it had no lock. In this Dilemma Baulmakellach, having no time to lose, cut the unhappy fellow's throat with his pen knife, then drag'd his dead Carcase aside and took out a horse, but being in the dark, instead of his own it happened to be one of the Soldiers' horses.

He immediatly mounted, but had not gone a great way, when he heard the sound of horses

fast in pursuit of him. This made him leave the high road and turn off towards the nearest wood, in hopes of making his escape there; but before he had got to the entry of it, daylight appeared, & discovered to him that the Horses all wanted riders, and were only Galloping after him for company.

Upon this he bent his course straight down to Buchan by the most private and least frequented by-roads, with all the soldiers' horses following him at the Heels.

He was very safe in that Country, where the Loyal party had many wellwishers, and sold all his Horses.

He never left the Kingdom as his Brother Keithmoir had done four years before, but lived privatly at home till the Executions at Edinr. were all over. His residence was in a loyal well principled Country, where he was much lik't; nobody informed against him, and in two or three years after General Monk got the command of Scotland from Cromwel, and the Loyalists met with no further disturbance; besides,

Baulmakellach had then no land Estate or any considerable stock in money or other effects, to tempt the averice of the covenanters, and so was less minded.

He married first a merchant's daughter at Elgin of the name of Pringle, by whom he had the late James Duff of Corsinday, and one Daughter, Isabel, married to Stuart of Bush; and next to a Gentlewoman called Margaret Kennedy, by whom he had John, who went abroad and never returned; Adam, who was mortally wounded in a Skirmish at Aberdeen; Margaret, married to Bonyman of Hillockhead; and _____, married to _____ M'Intosh, a merchant at Inverness, by whom she had Lachlan M'Intosh, an Officer of that Clan under Prince Charles in 1745, who went to France after the battle of Culloden, and has been there ever since, an Officer or Pensioner of that King; and a daughter, Elizabeth, married to an English Gentleman, Captain Whiting.

Mr. M'Intosh married in 1738 Catharine Donaldson, daughter to Thomas Donaldson of

Kinnairdy. She died at Inverness in 1740, leaving him one daughter, Elizabeth, who was some time with her Aunt, Mrs. Whiting, in Ireland, but has been for several years past with her father in France, where a small pension was settled on her.

Baulmakellach was a daring, bold fellow, and a good Country man; he applied himself particularly to cleanse his neighbourhood from house breakers and thieves, and all sort of Raggamuffians, whom he seized & delivered to Justice, wherever he could find them, which got him the Appellation of Rinse the Glen, but in this Patriotic employment he frequently ventured his life.

Some time being informed that a crew of these Banditti were lodged all night in a Barn at Aberlour, at three miles' distance, he sent to Keithmoir, desiring he would meet him there with some good stout men. In the morning the two brothers met accordingly, near the Barn, at the hour appointed, with their party all well armed, but found that the Rogues were both

armed and more numerous than they. This startled Keithmoir, and he was hesitating how to proceed, when Baulmakellach stept boldly up to the Door, upon which Keithmoir cried to their followers to pull back his Brother, for the villians would certainly kill him; but he had just then broke open the door with his foot, and collar'd the head of the Gang, and as all his Party followed close at his back, the rest submitted.

Baulmakellach died about 1696, aged about 73, and his last wife in 16 , aged .

His eldest son, the late James Duff of Corsinday, acquired a genteel fortune, with as much and as honest Industry as any man ever did; he was of so active and stiring a Spirit, that he used to say it was hard that a man who lived but sixty years should sleep twenty of them. Yet he was a most hospitable, kind housekeeper, and it will be acknowledged by all who knew him that no man had a more friendly or warmer heart to everybody with whom he was connected, or whom he thought deserving of his friendship.

He was born in 1678, and came to Banff in 1700, where he lived alwise afterward, except a few years at Crombie and at Corsinday. He was a merchant, and traded to a pretty considerable extent, and had for several years a Tack of Lord Fife's Salmon Fishing upon Devern.

When he merchandis'd, he would sometimes go to Edinr., Glasgow, or other Sea Ports in the South or West, where his business called him, and in going and returning from these Expeditions, made such dispatch as was really incredible.

He was twice married, first to a Gentlewoman of the name of Cuming, from the County of Murray, by whom he had the present William Duff of Corsinday, another Son, who died unmarried, and one daughter, Margaret; and next to Magdalen Duff, daughter to his uncle, Provost Duff of Inverness, but had no issue by her. The Daughter of his first marriage has been twice married, first to one Mr. Milne, by whom she had one son, James Miln, a merchant in Norway, who married his Cousin, a daughter of Gordon of Forskine, and has issue; and next

to John Stuart, eldest son of Provost Stuart of Banff, who is lately dead; by him she had no issue. Both her husbands were Supervisors of Excise.

Corsinday died in 1763. in the 85th year of his age, and his death made a great Blank at Banff, where he was a sort of Bank to all in distress; for he was still ready to advance money to industrious honest Tradesmen and housekeepers when they were in any difficulty, and would frequently trust men whom very few others would; so that when he died, he had about £300 str. lent out in this manner to very poor people, all from mere humanity & constitutional benevolence.

Wherever he lived, his advice was alwise of great use to his acquaintaince in the management of their private affairs. He was a few years Factor of the Estate of Echt, which is near to Corsinday, for Lord Fife, and lies in a part of the Country where good husbandry seems to be still in its infancy, and the Farmers upon it, who were then very poor, acknowledge to this

day that he would put them frequently upon methods of making money which were in their own power, but which they would never have thought of.

The present William Duff of Corsinday married, in 1743, the eldest daughter of Arthur Gordon of Carnousie. She died in 1753, and, tho' he was then but a young man, he has lived unmarried ever since, for the sake of his Children, to all whom he has given the best Education. He resided several years at Edinr. on their account, and taught his daughters the French language himself. The eldest is married to Mr. John Dingwall, Junr., mercht. in Abdn., and they have a promising young family.

Clunybeg's third son, William, was a most Sagacious, mettled man, and became the most eminent merchant in the North of Scotland in his time. He lived at Inverness, was often Provost of that Burrow, and had for many years, and very justly, in a great measure the Government of it; for he studied the Interest of the Community with unwearied application, and with-

out regard to any person or party. And he was a kind Patron and Protector to all deserving young people. These excellent qualities made his death much regretted and his memory long revered at Inverness.

His nephew, Dipple, was Apprentice, and afterwards Partner, to the Provost and Sir James Calder, who were in Company, and they three carried on for many years almost all the Forreign Trade be-north Aberdeen. The Provost made a great Fortune with a fair Character.

He married thrice; 1st to Mrs. Christian Duff, eldest daughter of Alexr. Duff of Kinloss, Town Clerk of Inverness. She died soon, leaving him only one Surviving Child, Alexr. Duff of Drummuir; next to Jane Lockart, daughter to Mr. Lockhart, a merchant at Inverness, who bore him another son, James Duff of Cromby, and five daughters, of whom four were married, Mary to William Baillie of Dennin; Catharin to Hugh Monro of Tenninich, in the Shire of Ross, and the present Captain Monro is their son; Jean to Gordon [Steuart]

of Birkenburn; Magdaline, who was thrice married, 1st to Cuthbert of Draikies, near Inverness, when she was not fully sixteen years old; he died in less than half a year after their marriage. She married next Dr. Robinson, a Physician at Inverness, son to one Provost Robinson of that place; and lastly to James Duff of Corsinday. The fifth Daughter, Isabel, died unmarried. The Provost married last Mrs. Jean Fraser, of the Family of Daltalich, Sister to Mr. Robert Fraser, Advocat, but had no issue by her.

Provost Duff was an agreeable, facetious Companion, and had a great deal of humour. The Earl of Weems came one time to the Isle of Moy to pay a visit to the Laird of M'Intosh, who was married to the Provost's Grand daughter; from thence they came both together to Inverness to spend some days with the Provost; and one afternoon when they, with some other Company, were taking a cheerful Glass, the Question was started some how or other, which of them was Representative of the old Thanes of Fife. Provost Duff spake not a word till Lord

Weems and M'Intosh had pled their respective pretensions with a very serious air, but all in good humour; then he said, Ha! ha! Gentlemen, on my soul, if I had Lord Weems' Estate and M'Intoshe's following, I think I would have as good Title to be Thane of Fife as any of ye.

He died in October, 1715, aged 83. His eldest son, Alexr., married Catharin Duff, heiress of Adam Duff of Drumuir, an old family of that name in the Parish of Botrifny and Shire of Banff.

This Lady alwise maintained that her Family was of an older standing than Moldavid; but this is a matter that only concerns themselves, and is not of the smallest consequence to them neither. She was a most hospitable, kind house-keeper.

This Drumuir, her husband, was a conscientious, good natured, honest man; he sat in the Scotch Parliament at the Union, and was alwise firm to the Country party; he was likewise a Member of the first British Parliament for the Inverness District. He preserved the Estate

which his father left him, but was not a money-making man, & did not increase it much.

He was zealously attacht to the Episcopal order in the Church, and I heard that he left by his Will an annuity of £15 Str. for ever to a minister at Inverness, ordained by the Successors of the old Scotch Bishops deprived at the Revolution, and in case Bishops were restored in Scotland, to go to the Town Ministers.

Drumuir died in August, 1726, aged , and his Lady in Febry., 1758, aged 89. They had three sons; Robert, the last Drumuir, the late John Duff of Cowbin, and the present William Duff of Muirton; and three daughters—Anne, married to the famous Lachlan Mc Intosh of Mc Intosh, without issue; Mary, first married to Sir James Gordon of Lesmoir, and next to Arthur Gordon of Carnucie, and had issue to both; and Catharin, who died in 1739, unmarried.

This Mc Intosh was a man of great Courage and Honour, and of primitive Integrity, but so lucky in his Repartees and a poignant turn of wit, that many of his *bons mots* are still handed

down. He engaged in the Rebellion, 1715, with a great body of men of his own Clan, and entered England at their head, with other Forces, in all about 2000. But they were defeat at Preston, in Lancashire. Mc Intosh was tried & condemned, but pardoned by King George the 1st. He died in 1731, and his Lady in 1750.

James Duff, the Prövost's second son, married his father's Cousin German, Jean Meldrum, Heiress of Cromby, being eldest daughter of Margaret Duff, Clunybeg's sister, by Mr. George Meldrum of Cromby, and minister at Glass. He died in 1709, leaving issue the present William Duff of Cromby, Advocat and Sherriff of Air, and five daughters—Mary, married to Peter Gordon of Ardmelly; Margaret to Gordon of Forskine, who both had issue; , married to Sir Alexander Barclay of Towie, but she died soon after her marriage, leaving one Daughter, who married Doctor Dalrymple, brother to her Uncle Cromby's Lady, but died soon after, in her 18th year, without issue; Janet, still unmarried; and one who died at School at Edinr.

The present William Duff of Cromby married, about 1730, a daughter of Sir Robert Dalrymple of North Berwick, by whom he has had sons and daughters, none now alive but two sons and two daughters. His eldest daughter now living was first married to the late Earl of Dumfries, but without issue. She is now married to Mr. Alexr. Gordon, Advocate, Brother to the Earl of Aberdeen and Sherriff of Kircudbright, by whom she has two sons and one daughter already. Her next sister is married to her Cousin German, Sir Hugh Dalrymple of North Berwick. Cromby's eldest son has been long a merchant and Factor at Lisbon; the second is in the East Indies; a third son of his commanded a ship in the Country trade in the East India Company's Service, and died there several years ago, leaving about £5000 Str., which he had made upon that Coast.

The last Drumuir, the Heiress' son, married a daughter of Sir Archibald Campbel of Clurie, Uncle to the present Mr. Campbel of Calder. He died in 1736, leaving only two sons—Archi-

bald, the present Drumuir, who is still unmarried; William, bred in the Mercantile way, who died abroad; and one Daughter, Catharine, married to Doctor Archibald Campbel of Budgate, near Lethem, in Murray. Their mother died in 1743.

After Drumuir's death, she married Arthur Gordon of Carnousie, who had been first married with her husband's sister, Lesmoir's widow.

But the old Estate of Drumuir is very inconsiderable in comparison of the Fortune which the Provost acquired, perhaps not a Tenth part of it, and his son, who married the Heiress, made little or nothing by her; for there were more debts and Claims on the Estate than it was worth. But the Provost left an opulent Fortune to him, and he left it entire to his eldest son, Robert, the last Drumuir, and also good Estates to his two younger sons, Cowbin and Muirtown.

John Duff of Cowbin was a good, friendly, honest man, but unhappily fell into acquaintance with Mackay of Scoury and his Brother, from the Shire of Ross, who did not indeed deserve

the name of Gentlemen. They got him engaged with them in a Trade to North America by alluring him with the prospect of great Profites, but for carrying on of which he was obliged to furnish all the money, and, as there was a continual outlay and no Returns, at least to Cowbin, the honest Gentleman was in a few years ruined, and every body was convinced he had been egregiously imposed upon by the Mackays.

He married, first, Mary Gordon, daughter to James Gordon of Ellon, by whom he had one daughter who died young, and one son, Alexander, now a Major of Foot; and next, Helen Gordon, eldest daughter to Sir James Gordon of Park, by the eldest daughter of William Lord Saltõn, by her he had one daughter, married to Alexr. Morison of Bogny (who have a numerous issue), and four sons, James, a Captain in the 40th Regiment; 2d, William, bred in the Navy, and promoted to be a Master & Commander, but died in Jamaica in 1761; 3, John, a Lieutenant in the Marines; and 4th, Lachlan, a Writer to the Signet.

Cowbin died in 1743, his first Lady in 1728, and the second in 1767.

William Duff of Muirtown married Mary Baillie, daughter to John Baillie of Tarbrech, a Graceful handsom woman, who died lately, and left him one son, Captain Alexander Duff, now on half pay, married to Mrs. Christian Baillie of Dochfour, and has issue and five daughters. Jean, married to Hugh Falconer of Draikies; Ann, to Captain John Forbes, your. of New; Magdalin, to her Cousin, Major Duff, Cowbine's eldest son, and Catharin & Mary still unmarried. —He died in 1782.

I now return to Keithmoir's three sons mentioned in page 31 before.

Alexander Duff of Braco was born in the end of 1650 or beginning of 1651.

After his Education at School & Colledge was over, he attended a Writer to the Signet's Chamber at Edinr. some years, and came into employment himself as an Agent, but retired to the country in 1675.

He married early to Margaret Gordon,

Daughter of Sir James Gordon of Lesmore, who outlived him many years; he sat long in the Scotch Parliament as one of the Representatives of the County of Banff, and was alwise for what he thought the interest of his Country.

In the beginning of this Century, it was the general opinion of the Scotch nation that an incorporating union with England would be very detrimental to the interest and honour of their country. Braco being of this opinion opposed the Union strenuously, and was on that account much regarded by the Duke of Hamilton and all the leading men of that side. Mr. Gordon of Pitlurg, who was then one of the Representatives for the County of Aberdeen, used to tell that, when Braco went North on account of his private affairs, the Duke always stipulated with him that he should return against a day appointed. He likewise said, that, tho' Braco went very plain, and even coarse at home, he was still extremely well drest at Edinr.

He lost all patience if he suspected that any of his friends was like to desert and join the

Court side, and would threaten them bloodily. Being informed that one Gentleman, a near ally of his, was wavering, he came into the Room where he was, drew his shable, and drove him into a corner, alwise shaking it over his head in great passion, and saying "Ha! man, ha! man, are you going to vote against the Good of your Country; Deil ha' me, I'll head you like a Sybow!"

At another time, being told that several of the Peers were gained by the Ministry, he swore he would buy a hail bench of them out at the ground.

At the Union the Land Estates of most of our nobility were almost all mortgaged, Wadset, or sunk in debt. Now it is the reverse.

He was certainly a good Countryman in all national concerns, and a very useful member of Society in the North of Scotland, by the care he took to have all the Highland Robbers and Thieves who pestered the low Country at that time, apprehended and brought to Justice on which Occasion he frequently exposed his own

life to very great danger, but at the same time gave good proof of his courage and conduct.

One instance, which made a great deal of noise at the time, gave occasion to a Ballad which is still sung in the Country, I mean the seizing of Mcpherson and Peter Brown in Summerive's fair at Keith, Sept. 1700.

They were two notorious breakers of the Peace in all sort of villiany. Braco had made several attempts to catch them, but as they were protected by the Laird of Grant, Laird Lewis, who did not look with a very favourable eye on him, he was still disappointed.

As soon as he spied them in the market, he desired his Brother-in-law, Lesmurdy, to bring him a dozen of stout able men, which he did; they all attackt the villains, who having several of their accomplices with them, made a desperate Resistence. One of them made a pass at Braco intending to run him thro the heart, but the durk slented alongst the outside of his Ribs without cutting the Skin, and one of Braco's men stab'd the Fellow dead. They carried Mcpherson

& Brown to a house in Keith where Braco & Lesmurdy left them with a Guard, not expecting any more opposition.

But when they were in an upper room with two or three of their acquaintances concerting the committment of their Prisoners; the Laird of Grant, with Thirty armed men, came to the door calling for them, and swearing that no Duff in Scotland should keep them from him. Braco, hearing the noise of the Grants, came down Stairs and said, with seeming unconcern and in good humour, that he intended to have sent them to Prison. But he saw they were protected by too strong a Party for him to contend with, and, therefore, must give them up; but without losing a moment he took a turn thro' the market, found other two Justices of Peace, held a Court, and assembled sixty able bold men, who retook the Criminals. They were sent to Prison, carried to Edinr. and tried; they were both condemned to be hanged, Mcpherson's sentence was executed, but by Grant's interest Brown's was changed into Banishment.

I have heard likewise that to all his Relations and Allys, Alexr. Duff of Braco was a faithful firm friend, and would have gone any length to serve them. In a word, he was a very significant man in his time, and bore great weight in the public and private Transactions of the shire of Banff while he lived.

One trifling anecdote which I heard from his nephew, old Hatton, shews his acuteness, and the quickness of his reflection to that point which he seems to have had alwise in view.

A sturdy Beggar, having heard that he had pickt up a half-peny from the street of Banff, came up to him craving an alms, and saying, "God bless ye, Braco. Gi's a babee, and if ye winna' gie's a babee of your awen, gie's the babee at ye fand." "Find a babee to yourself," says Braco.

He made many great additions to the Family Estate in his father's time, whom he only survived five or six years, they both joined in bringing about the Purchase of the noble Estate of Balveny, which they had in view from about the

year 1675; of it I shall give a more particular accot. after.

Besides the Fishings on Doavern from Lord Airly, Cullen, and down from Lord Cullen and other Lands near Banff, he bought a great deal in the Strathisla and about Keith.

There was then a number of small Heretors in that country, most of them ran in debt all their Estates; he pickt up some from the Proprietors, but acquired many of them by buying up their debts and adjudications, Comprysings, or other Slump or emperfect Rights on their Land. And if he only got possession he was not very scrupulous about the security more than about the Justice of his Title, by which means these Gentlemen or their heirs had many of them Claims and Complaints too well founded for the most part; in all these his son, one of the most upright worthy men alive, did every body Justice by entering into a fair compt. and reckoning, and paying them the ballance which appeared to be due, and the last Lord Fife told me that all these clearances cost his Cousin above a Hundred

thousand pound Scots, and there was two or three which, by minority of the Claimants or other accidents, were left for him to transact. Braco died in 1705, aged about 54, and left an only son, William, with a Land Estate of near £3000 str. a-year, and three Daughters. Margaret married to Gordon of Glengaroch, Helen to William Gordon of Faskine, and Mary to Alexander Abercrombie of Tillebody.

William Duff of Braco got a very competent Education at School and Colledge with a good private Tutor; then studied the civil law at Leyden, and there acquired an excellent taste for all polite literature. He made abroad, at London, and at Edin., a large collection of books, in Latin, French, Italian, and English, of Classic learning, civil law, History, and all the branches of the Belles Lettres.

He married about 1706 to Helen Taylor, a woman of much inferior rank to him, tho' come of very honest parents. It is affirmed by his friends that his penitence and anger at himself

for making so low a match was the Cause of his unhappy death.

But to do his widow Justice, who has now outlived him about sixty years, She has by her virtuous behaviour, charity to the poor, hospitality and good offices to all her Husband's Relations, Allys, and friends, to whose memory she has still shewn a most grateful regard and attachment, gained the Esteem of all who know her.

Braco was a most benevolent, generous man, adored by his Servants and Farmers, who all lamented his death as if they had lost their father. Several of the old People at Balveny told me that the winter before his Death he offered all his Tenants long Leases at the present rent, and gave them to such as were willing to accept.

When Lord Marishall was attainted in 1715, Braco told Mr. Keith his Doer at Aberdeen, and to whom Peter Duff, Braco's cousin, was then bound apprentice, that if £10,000 Str. would procure his Pardon, he was willing to pay the money, and there was found in his Cabinet, after his

death, an order to Mr. Duff, who did all his term affairs at Aberdeen, to pay Mr. Keith 500£, to be sent as he had concerted with that Gentleman before, which was to remit it to Lord Marishal. This order was dated a few days before Braco died, and never given to Mr. Duff, both these particulars Mr. Keith told me, and Braco was no Shuffler.

He went over to Holland in the end of 1716, and after staying in that Country till next Spring, he proceeded to Prince Eugene's Camp in Hungary, and was at the Seige of Belgrada; he returned to Scotland in the beginning of winter, 1717, and died at Balveny in the month of January, 1718. He left only one Daughter, Margaret, who was married in June, 1721, when but eleven years of age, to her cousin, Peter Duff, he died in Decr., 1763, without issue, and in 1768, she married Udney.

Braco left one natural son, Mr. William Duff, long minister at King Edward, now at Rothiemay, a man of an excellent Character, he married a very good Gentlewoman, Turing, who died

many years ago, leaving him several Children, and he has never married again, one son of his is just now Minister at King Edward, and another at Glenbucket.

2. Dipple was a middle sized well made man, of a fair ruddy Complexion, and very good features, of solid sense, an active lively spirit, and a most facetious agreeable Companion.

His Sister, Lady Tannachy, a very sensible well bred woman, used to tell the following Story, which, she said, had been often attested to her by her father and mother.

It was Keithmoir's Custom to sit beside his Lady, the first night after she was delivered; the night Succeeding Dipple's birth, he was placed near the fire with a candle burning before him, and reading the Bible; about midnight, a tall big woman appeared on the floor, clad in a green gown, and walkt up to the Cradle, in which the Child was laid, and stretched out her hand over it, upon which Keithmoir rose, ran to the bedside, and made the sign of the Cross, first on his Lady, and then on the Infant, saying, "In the

name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, may my Wife and my Child be preserved from all evil," upon which the Apparition immediately vanisht.

After Dipple's School and Colledge Education was over, he was bound Apprentice, and afterwards became Partner in Trade to his uncle Provost Duff, and Sir James Calder, and I think continued at Inverness till about 1703, when he married his second Lady, and then came to Elgin where he lived till his death.

He was a conscientious honest man in all his dealings, and indeed I never heard that any unfair thing was ever laid to his charge. He was the easiest Creditor in the world, and it was said in Murray that he never did diligence but against one person, who had attempted to impose upon him; and if he saw an industrious honest man opprest with difficulty and endeavouring to extricate himself by his diligence, he was alwise willing to give him time to pay, and even to advance him money. This acquired him a great deal of public love, and had a very good effect

among the commonalty, while he merchandized, in so much that a man who had not paid his accompt when it fell due was disgraced, and lost all Credit amongst his Equals, and they used to tell one another, in a bragging way, after their term was over, "God be thanked I have paid the Laird, and William Duff," so he was called before he got any Land Estate of his own. For, being a Second Brother, he got only 10,000 mks. of Patrimony from his father, and by his mother's influence the wadset of Keithmoir, for which his Brother Braco paid him afterwards 6000 mks.

But he had given over merchandizing many years before his death, when he had made large Purchases in Murray, and he would often say that he likt very well to see a merchant turn a Laird; but he did not like so well to see a Laird turn a merchant.

He was extremely fitted for business, and to this one particular felicity of Constitution contributed greatly, viz., That the longer he sat at his bottle, he became still more Cautious and Secure, so that, if at the beginning of a Sederunt we

might get a tolerable bargain of him, after he was a little in liquor, it was impossible to overreach him.

He was twice married, first to Jean Gordon, daughter of Sir George Gordon of Edinglassie, by a sister of Sir James Abercromby's of Birkenbog; by her he had the last Lord Fife and four Daughters.

1, Hellen, married to William Sutherland of Roscommon, Brother to Keneth, Lord Duffus.

2, Catharin, to her Cousin, Alexr. Duff of Hatton.

3, Isabell, to Alexr. Mackintosh of Blervie.

4, Elizabeth, to Thomas Donaldson of Kinairdy, and they all had numerous families of Children, except Lady Roscommon, who had none. Lady Blervie bore Twenty-two to the full time.

Dipple married again in 1703, to Jean Dunbar, youngest Daughter to Sir William Dunbar of Durn, whose eldest sister, Anne, was Countess of Findlater, wife to the Chancellor, and Great Grand Mother to the present Earl, and had by her one son and four daughters.

Alexander, who died in 1721, when but five years old; he had been provided by his Father to a Land Estate of 24,000 merks per annum in Murray.

5, Anne Duff, married to William Baird of Auchmeden.

6, Janet, to Sir James Kinloch, Nevry, in Perthshire.

7, Mary, to Lieut. General James Abercrombie of Glassaugh.

They all have issue, and I believe it's doubtful if there has been in our days a dozen of Gentlemen in Brittain that had seven daughters, who were all so virtuous women and so good wives.

8, Henrietta, who died at Edinr. Augt. 8, 1748, unmarried, having declined several good matches. She was one of the most accomplished young women of her time, being endowed with every virtue that can adorn the sex, and the numberless offices of Charity, Generosity, and Friendship which she bestowed to a surprising extent for her fortune will be long remembered by many.

Dipple died in May, 1722, in the 69 year of his age, having succeeded as Heir of Entail to his nephew Braco, in 1718; he left to his son a Land Estate of £6500 St. per annum, and £30,000 St. of money settled on Interest.

He bequeathed by his will about 16,000 mks. to the poor of the different Parishes in which his Estates lay.

Dipple was lucky in his Bons motts, and observations, which were very sensible and smart.

He was one of the last Sir Robert Gordon's Curators and Sir Robert sometimes acknowledged that Dipple had contributed greatly by his advice and directions to the clearing and improving of his Estates. But that Gentleman very early discovered a tyrannical, oppressive disposition, and was not so easily prevailed upon to do alwise to others what law and equity, and good neighbourhood obliged him to, while, at the same time, he was very watchful that nobody made any encroachment upon him. Dipple observed, "This was a very fashious Ladie, for he would neither do the Right nor have the Wrong."

When the Elgin Troop went out to the Rebellion of 1715, which I have heard was a very handsome and well equipt body of men, Dipple said, "William Duff would have gone with them, but Dipple would behold the event."

He was one time going down the great Stair at Gordon Castle before it had got the Raveline, upon which he said to the Duchess, that it was a good Forenoon Stair.

In 1714 he bought the Estate of Coxton from Sir George Innace. When the Disposition was signed, Sir George shewed a List of his debts, and, being an indolent man and much given to his bottle, very probably believed it to be a full List, tho' it was, if I remember right, £20,000 Scots short of Sir George's whole debt; but Dipple took his word, and granted an obligation in general to pay all Sir George's debt without naming the sum, and a Bond for the supposed Ballance of the price; at the same time only the List was signed by Sir George before witnesses, with a Declaration at the end, that he owed no more, and delivered to Dipple.

Dipple paid all the Creditors contained in the List, and Sir George died at Perth in winter, 1715; but in 1716, the other Creditors pursued Dipple for their Sums before the Court of Session upon his general obligation. He defended himself by the signed List; but at last the Lords found him liable to pay the whole of Sir George's debt. Dipple appealed to the House of Peers, and they reversed the Decree, finding him only bound for Sir George's signed List.

This happened in Spring 1721, and at that time he said to James Cheyne, his Agent at Edinburgh, that he was sure he had acted fairly and honestly in all his own dealings, and was persuaded his heirs would never be challenged for any transaction of his. As to what any of his Predecessors had done he could not answer (meaning, I suppose, his eldest Brother Braco), but that it was very hard he should be overreached entirely by his confiding in another man's word.

From the death of his Nephew Braco and his Cousin John Duff of Aberdeen, both in 1718, he

came to be Representative of the old family of Moldavid.

It was lucky for Keithmoir, his Brother Provost Duff, his three sons Braco, Dipple and Craigston, and his Grandson William Duff of Braco (who made several good Purchases, particularly that of Fisherie, which accommodated all his Lands on the East side of Doavern in moss), that they abounded in money at a period of time, in the first part of which money was scarce, Land cheap, Interest high, and Rents low, and all the noble Familys about them, Gordon, Findlatyr, Duffus, &c., with most of the Landed Gentlemen of large fortunes sunk in debt by means of the Civil Wars and other public Commotions, wherein they had been almost all involved on one side or other at a vast expence, & but lately come out of; and in the last part of it, the Tenantry, in many parts of the country, were left in a miserable Condition by the seven years of Famine preceeding 1700, which had made land of very little value by laying it waste in many places, and making a great scarcity of Farmers; for all

these concurring Circumstances were favourable to Purchasers, and gave these Gentlemen in some sort the command of the market.

3. Keithmoir's third son, Patrick Duff of Craigston, was a man of strong natural parts, and a most active industrious Spirit, and, tho' he was not bred to the Law, he was very capable of giving his friend good advice in any point of business, and no man was more willing to assist him in any strait.

Tho' naturally of a very passionate Temper, he could argue with the greatest Coolness, and was a man of so much acuteness and Sagacity that he was seldom outwitted in any Transaction.

He likewise merchandized in his younger days, tho' rather in Country than forreign Trade and particularly in carrying meal and malt to the South Firth. But for the last part of his life he confined himself entirely to agriculture, which he understood to perfection in the common old method, and to buying & selling Country Bolls of meal.

He acquired a pretty little Fortune from a

small beginning, which enabled him to bring up and give Education to a very numerous family of Children, leave Land Estates to the eldest sons of both his marriages, and provide for all the rest ; he alwise kept a most hearty hospitable House.

He purchased Craigston from the Duke of Gordon in Anno 1705, Castleton from Sir John Guthrie in the year 1695, Knockleith, from his Father-in-Law, who afterwards lived with him till his death in _____, and Hatton from Meldrum of Hatton in _____, all very cheap, being in, or soon after the dear years.

He was twice married, first to a daughter of John Innace of Edingeith, by whom he had four sons and one Daughter Jean married to her Uncle's son, the next John Innace of Edingeith, besides several children who died young, and next to Mary Urquhart, daughter to James Urquhart of Knockleith, a younger son of the family of Meldrum. Craigston had by her Twenty-one Children, _____ Sons and _____ Daughters, of whom three are married and have issue.

Elizabeth to William Stuart of Loanhead, a younger son of Lesmurdy's, Mary to William Leslie of Melross, and Margaret to Alexander Gordon of Gight.

Craigston died in August 1731, and tho' he had never been so much in the polite world, or acted in so public a sphere as his two eldest Brothers did, he was a very worthy country Gentleman and always well esteemed.

15. William, the Last Lord Fife, Dipple's only son who survived him, was born in Autumn 1697; he got a very compleat Education, and was a better scholar than most Gentlemen commonly are who have not been bred to any of the learned Professions. For he was much master of the Latin, French, and Italian Languages, with some Tincture of the Mathematics, and was very well acquainted with antient and modern History.

He married in 1719 Lady Janet Ogilvie, daughter to the Earl of Finlatyr, and niece to his father's second Lady, but she died in 1721, to the great regret of all who knew her, without issue; and in 1723 he married Jean Grant, Eldest

daughter of Sir James Grant of Grant, by whom he had a numerous issue.

He was a member of the British Parliament for the County of Banff from 1727 to 1734, and alwise joined the Country party. He was one of the Bedford hand club, kept by Sir William Windham, Sir John Rushout, Mr. Shippan, &c., about Thirty in all, worthy Gentlemen and true Patriots, who afterwards spoke of Mr. Duff with high esteem, and used to tell him, that he might rely upon their Good will to do him all the services in their power.

I was informed that he spoke a few words on some particular occasions in the House of Commons—once in 1730, when a Debate came on, whether to continue the Hessian Troops in British pay; he stood up in his Place and said, the affection of the people was the best Security of the Government, and if they possest that there would be no occasion for hyring mercenary Forces from any forreign Country in time of peace; and besides it was reasonable to give our own fish Guts to our own Sea-maws. The English mem-

bers did not understand this Fraise; but, when explained to them, said it was a most significant and judicious expression.

He was created Lord Braco by King George the 2d in 1735, and Viscount McDuff & Earl of Fife in 1759, Irish Honours.

He was a man of extraordinary good sense, which, improved by his Stock of acquired knowledge, seven years' sitting in the British Parliament, and an intimate acquaintance with the best Company in Brittain, made him a polite, well bred man, and an agreeable, entertaining, & instructive Companion.

In his private Character he was a most indulgent Parent and Husband; and the kindest and easiest master to his Tenants and Servants.

As to his morals, he had a great deal of the fear of God, and was very punctual in performing his private devotions morning & Evening on his knees. He had a perfect abhorrence of all gross vices to such a degree that, in 1737, when he was affected with a plethora at Edinr., and the Physician told him that some certain liberties

were absolutely necessary for his health, he said the cure was worse than the disease, and he would rather risk his life than obey the Prescription.

He had inflexible principles of Honour & Justice, from which nothing could make him depart but misinformation or prejudice, which last, if once he had contracted [it] against any person, it was not easy to remove, especially if he thought he had met with any Disingenuity, or been in the least imposed upon. However, this went no further than to make him less sanguine in doing that person any good Offices afterwards; for I never could observe any thing of vindictive[ness] in his nature, and, upon a proper acknowledgment, he was most ready to forgive a fault.

He had an anxious concern for the welfare of all Relations and friends, and he was a friend to merit wherever he found it.

He was naturally very ingenuous, and had no Reserve when he believed his Confidence would not be abused; he did many generous humane things, gave a good deal in Charity to the poor, and in a very private way; for, wherever he was,

he made choice of some particular persons who he reckoned would not blab, to find out the proper Objects of charity in the Place, those he intrusted with the distribution of his Alms under the strictest injunctions of Secrecy.

He would have done a great deal more for his nearest Relations, if he had been left to his own inclinations ; but he was sometimes under the direction of people of less candour and Goodness of heart than himself, even to a weakness, and this amongst other bad consequences laid him under the imputation of being both litigious & stingy ; whereas, except when he thought, or was made believe, that he had been ill used, no man loved peace and good neighbourhood more than he ; but on these occasions there was never wanting incendiaries ready to blow the coal, and, as to the other fault, I alwise thought that he gave his money with great Frankness, when he believed it necessary or proper ; and, tho' I don't pretend to say his liberality was very extensive, yet it was equal to that of any of his great neighbours. For I have known him several times give 50 and

100 Guineas, not only to Relations, but to others merely on account of their merit. In Aprile 1746, when the Duke of Cumberland was at Banff before the battle of Culloden, he gave £250 of drink money to the common Soldiers of his Army, merely that he might with more freedom ask protections for the Houses, Cattle, Horses, & other effects of any of his friends and Relations who had the misfortune of being engaged. And indeed at that time both he and his Lady exerted their utmost efforts to save all that they could from being plundered or otherwise harrast.

Every body has their foibles, and perhaps he discovered too great an ambition of ruling the Elections and other political disputes in those Counties where his Estates principally lay. And I believe this disgusted a great many who had no connection with, or dependance upon his Family, and lookt upon themselves as his equals in every respect but that of Fortune, and that this was the main spring of that opposition which he sometimes encountered, and of that implacable envy and detractions which on some occasions

attempted to run him down; and, besides, those who had served him in Politics might sometimes think that he had not made them such Returns as they expected. For these services are a sort of *Contractus consensualis*, in which the law does not allow making of terms. And therefore it's not impossible but the Giver may overvalue, and the Receiver undervalue, the favour. However, I believe he had seen his Error, & was sensible of it, and, if he had lived longer, would have acted in a more popular manner, and avoided every thing that had the least air of assuming, and so his influence would have become both greater and less invidious.

After all it must be acknowledged, that, considering his large Property and numerous connections in the County of Banff, he was extremely well entitled to the greatest political interest in it, and that in Murray, where his Estate paid a third part of the Land Tax of the whole shire, it was unreasonable in any other great Family to propose to make a Cypher of him.

He expended vast sums of money in building,

in Law Suits, and in political disputes. For when he once took a Cause in hand, he spared no cost to carry it thro'. Yet, being an excellent Economist, he made many valuable additions to the Family Estate, and most of them at very good prices.

Upon the whole I am perswaded he will be always allowed by those who knew him well to have been an honest, valuable, and worthy man.

He died Sept. 30, 1763, at Rothiemay, and had by his second marriage seven Sons and seven Daughters.

1, William, born in March, 1724, and died in 1751 in the North of England.

2, James, the present Earl of Fife, who married Lady Dorathea Sinclair, only child to the last Earl of Caithnes. Lord Fife has no children by her, but had a daughter and two sons before his marriage—James, an Ensign in the first Regiment of Foot Guards, and William, a Lieutenant in the Royal English Fusiliars.

3, Alexander Duff of Echt, Advocate.

4, George, married to a Grand Child of General

Dalziel's, by whom he got a good Fortune, and had issue.

5, Peter, born and died in 1738.

6, Lewis, a Captain in the 8th Regiment of Foot, and married to Miss Davies of Harwich.

7, Arthur, an Advocat.

And the four younger Brothers who survive have good Estates left them by their Father.

1, Lady Anne, married to Alexr. Duff of Hatton younger.

2, Janet, married first to Sir William Gordon of Park (to whom she had two Sons, both in the Army, & one Daughter, married to Captain Urquhart of Burdsyard); and next to George Hay of Montblairy, to whom she bore several Children, but only one Daughter surviving.

3, Jean, married to Keith Urquhart of Meldrum.

4, Hellen, married to Captn. Robert Duff of Logie.

5, Sophia-Henrietta, still unmarried.

6, Catharine, died at Edinr. Aprile 19, 1765, much regreted.

7, Lady Margaret, married to James Brodie of that Ilk.

And all the married Ladies have issue.

The last branch of Keithmore's family is Patrick Duff of Craigston's male issue.

His four Sons of the first marriage, Alexr., John, William, and Peter, were born in the years 1688, '89, '90, and '91 respectively, and were all nursed by the same woman, upon the same milk. Yet were all so Sturdy vigorous men that they bore irrefragable testimony to the Goodness of their nurse.

As Alexr. Duff of Hatton was my intimate friend and particular acquaintaince for above thirty years, and one who, during the whole course of his Life, was really in the first Class, as a man of the world & a man of business, I shall be the more explicit in giving an account of him.

He had an excellent understanding, a retentive memory, a clear and distinct manner of thinking, & of expressing his thoughts on every Subject, and those Gifts of nature were much adorned by an uncommon Stock of knowledge in an English

reader; for he read a vast deal & digested it well.

He served an Apprenticeship of Five years to Thomas Boyce, a Writer to the Signet at Edinr., which, with his Application and quick parts, made all sort of business familiar to him, and gave him a Superiority over most men.

Indeed his Abilitys both for public and private Affairs were such that he could have been a Minister of State to any Prince in Europe. And the Earl of Findlatyr, who died in 1730, used to say, that, in Person, Solidity of Judgement and Address, Hatton put him in remembrance of Sir Robert Walpole, who was then in his meridian of power; and in 1726, when all the marches between the Estates of Alex., Duke of Gordon, and the last Lord Fife, were perambulated by four Gentlemen named on each side, the Duke was so well pleased with Hatton's manner of proceeding the first Day, because he thought it fair & just to the Proprietors, and well adapted for the conveniency of, and to prevent disputes betwixt, the respective Farmers,

that he proposed to Lord Fife that they should both leave it to him to fix all their marches.

He was a blessing to several young Gentlemen to whom he was named Tutor and Curator by their Parents in directing the management of their Affairs. To many who applied to him for advice upon any Ticklish point, and to all his friends and acquaintances, in composing differences that happened amongst themselves or with any other person, in all which I am persuaded he did more good than any man of his time; and he was so accurate & shrowd in planning a Transaction for his friends' greatest advantage, that I observed, when he kept any appointmt. on business for me, that if I varied in the least from his opinion, with respect to any one article and finish'd in my own way, I had reason to repent afterwards that I had not been implicitly directed by him. I likewise know him by experience to be a most faithful Secretary in concealing whatever was entrusted to him or any thing that could either hurt his friend in his interest, or lay him open to Censure or Redicule, so that he was

not the man whom Horace describes when he says—

He, who malignant tears an absent friend,
Or when attackt by others, don't defend,
Who trivial bursts of laughter strives to raise
And courts of prating petulance the praise
Of things he never saw, who tells his tale,
And friendship's secrets knows not to conceal—
This man is vile, here, Roman, fix your mark,
His soul is black as his complexion's dark.

FRANCIS.

Hatton was alwise in the Commission of the Peace, & a strenuous Protector of the Country, by mitigating the severity of the Excise Laws, and when any Riot fell out between a farmer and a malt Gauger, which was frequent at the first Introduction of that Tax upon Scotland, he had a singular dexterity of saving the Offender from punishment, and of this I remember one instance which has something ludicrous in it.

A malt Officer came to a Gentleman's house in that neighbourhood, and desired his Servant, whom he found turning over a dunghill, to give him the key of his master's barn, because he was informed there was malt on the floor, the Servant

denied he had the key, and gave the Officer so much abusive language as provokt the other to Strick him. Upon which the hireman beat the Gauger so unmercifully that he had difficulty in crawling home, but as soon as he was recruited, he made his Complaint to Hatton, who assured him he should have all satisfaction at a Justice of Peace Court, which was to be held in a few days at Turreff, and desired him to Sumond the Rascal to compear. The Gentleman had been with Hatton before asking his protection for his man, and he had bid him attend the Court & bring the Lad with him, but that he should get his whole head close shaved, with a wig powdered & oil'd upon it, a suit of good Cloaths, with a clean Shirt and Cravat put on, and to speak very smooth, and alter his Tone of voice as much as possible.

They all came to the Court, and Hatton began by setting forth the Henousness of the Crime, and concluded with saying that the punishment for such a knave ought to be Transportation. Then the Lad was called, and the Gauger

asked if that was the person who had struck him. He, who did not know him in his new figure, cried, "By no manner of means, the fellow who struck him was liker to the Devil than to that Lad." His Master said if that was not the Criminal, he could not conceive who it could have been, for he had no Servant at present but him and a boy; the Officer found afterwards that he had been fairly bubbled, but was obliged to sit down with the skaith & the scorn too.

He did more than any man I knew to introduce good Husbandry amongst his own farmers and in the neighbouring Parishes; and I have often thought it was from him that many of those in Aberdeen and Banff shire round him learnt to turn their Ground to so much more advantage than their Predecessors had any notion of.

His method was never to raise the Rent at first, because very few farms in the present state of Husbandry in this Country could bear it; and it would only serve to disable the Tenant from making any improvements. He therefore gave Leases for 15 or 19 years at the present Rent,

and tied them to proper rules for bettering the Ground during the Currency.

These were—to rest their Infield a boll's sowing every year, and on the third Grass to manure with lime, & plow again for Grain, till they had gone round the whole, to dung or lime and make Infield of their folding in the same Gradation, and folding of their fauch or barren ground, or to improve it with dung, lime, Potatoes, &c., and to water ley ground where there was conveniency of bringing on the water; these rules were varied according to the Circumstances of each Farm, and he surveyed every one of them at proper seasons, and examined strictly whether his regulations had been properly obeyed, and fined the Tenant who had failed.

But they soon found the real benefite to themselves by the great increase of their Crops both of Grain & Grass, so that they did all, or most of them much more than they were bound to, tho' they had many of them above Twelve miles to fetch the Lime. I remember he told me that one of his Farmers, called Abernethy, who was

only obliged by his Tack to lay 30 Bolls of Lime yearly on his land, laid on 120.

By this manœuvre, at the expiration of a Lease, the Farm was much improv'd in value, because the Infield & Grass was greatly enlarged, and no part of the Corn ground outcropp'd, and consequently the whole was worth a third or fourth more than at the commencement, and the farmers themselves became Rich, so that severals of them had money lent out upon Interest, and they were so far from making their Prosperity a secret from their Master, that they generally consulted him in lending their money, and every year at Candlemas he called them all to a meeting at a public house, where every man told him how much meal he could spare of that Crop, besides sowing his Land, paying his Farm, & maintaining his Family, and he sold the whole in the same Contract with his own ; and, if any of them wanted a little money before the merchant's term of payment, he advanced upon being allowed half a merk of interest for every bol's price which he advanced if at Whity. first, or Fourty penies Scots if at Mar-

timas, and this with Country Bolls which he bought in the neighbourhood enabled him to sell sometimes 12 or 1500 Bolls, when he had not above 500 paid him.

The effect of so judicious a Conduct is now surprising, for his whole land rent when it came first into his possession did not exceed 750£ St. and I am perswaded that just now, including the Estate which Mr. Grant has got with his Granddaughter, It is rather above £1700 St.

I know it may be said that many Estates have risen much more within these 40 or 50 years; but I believe, that, except where Hatton's method has taken place, these Estates are racked, the ground run out, and the Tenants so poor, that one bad Crop ruins them. Whereas, the Farmers on Hatton's Lands are full of substance, the ground in top condition, and large Grassums paid at the renewal of a Lease.

A very clear & indeed an amazing proof of the excellent Condition in which Hatton left his Estate at his death in Decr. 1753, and of the wealth of the Farmers, has appeared since.

The Lands which Mrs. Grant succeeded to upon her father's death, in 1764, as heir of line, were not fully £200 in 1753. But from that year to 1770, when Mr. Grant sold them, [they] had risen £400 per annum, and were most of the Lots purchased by the Farmers themselves, who bought either their own or one another's farms, and at so high a price that Mr. Grant toucht about £15000 Str. by the sale, and one or two of the Lots were bought at the same price with the rest by a Gentleman in the neighbourhood, who is a very good Judge of the value of Land. And Mr. Grant has likewise reserved the Superiority of all the Lotts which were sold to the Farmers, and likewise, as I am informed since, of what was sold to Muriefauld.

Indeed, for Twenty years before old Hatton's death, his Estate was brought into so good heart, and so much new Corn land & Grass created from barren ground upon it that he never set a Tack without both a rise in the Rent & a Grassum. Yet still the Tenant had a good bargain if he followed Hatton's directions in the management of the premises.

To conclude, the late Corsinday told me that in Address, Capacity and Person, Hatton was a perfect Copy of his Uncle, Alexander Duff of Braco. And with all his Abilitys so valuable in themselves, and so usefull to others, he was no doubt much attacht to his private interest, and took every opportunity of promoting it. And I have heard his near Relations complain, that, wherever it stood in the way, he was blind & deaff to all other considerations. But for my own part I never knew nor heard from any good authority of his doing an unfair thing. Besides, to my certain knowledge, from many observations made in the course of our acquaintaince, no man had a more sincere regard for Religion; he read much in the Bible and in the best Ecclesiastical Historians, he was most punctual in attending public Worship, and in performing his private devotions every morning & Evening on his knees. The Book he esteemed most as a very accurate and succinct System of Divinity was Dr. Thomas Burnet's Faith and Duties of a Christian. And I am sure he was not a Hypocrite or gave himself airs of Religion.

He wrote, or at least dictated, all his Tenants' Contracts of Marriage and their Last Wills. And they were all made by his direction and advice. And when any of his Tenants died, he was entreated by the nearest in kin to divide the Effects in terms of the Will. All this put him to a great deal of Trouble, and he deserved, as well as any Lawyer or Agent by Profession, to be paid for it. And the rather as it could be well spared; for it was never heard of that a Farmer of his was reduced to Poverty, and they all generally, who lived to any considerable age, died rich.

An instance I was well informed of. Many years ago he had been employed in settling the Affairs of a Widow & Children of a Farmer, who was lately dead, and in allotting to every one their just share in the Effects. When every thing was over, they seemed to be well pleased and full of expressions of thankfulness to the Laird. Hatton said that he was glad they were all contented, but that he thought he deserved something more than Thanks for his pains and trouble, upon which they all cried out that was very true,

and if there was any thing about the Town that his Honour would accept of, he was heartily welcom to it. Then he went to the Corn yard, drew out a handfull from several Stacks, and at last pitcht on a Stack of Trathfold oats, and said that was all he would ask, and he got it accordingly. And I am perswaded all concerned thought it well bestowed as it prevented a Law Suit among themselves, which might soon have consumed a much greater part of the Subject, and set all the family by the ears together. And I have indeed heard that a Stack of Corn was his common Præmium for such good Offices. But he did many benevolent Actions from good nature, Friendship, or meer Compassion, without any view of a Reward, as severals who received them have acknowledged to me, so that his Death made a very great Blank, and was an irreparable loss to all his connections.

He married young in 1709 with his cousin, Catharine Duff, as mentioned before, she was three years elder than him and survived him five years.

Upon his marriage, his Father gave him the

Lands of Hatton and Knockleith, not then 3000 mks. a-year; but took his Lady's Portion, 12,000 mks. from Dipple. The lands of Knockleith comprehend only two plows & a miln, & might be 5 or 600 merks of yearly rent when Craigston bought them.

But the Lands of Hatton are pretty extensive, run a great way to the south-west from the house, & they & Knockleith may, I doubt not, have been 3000 merks a-year when old Hatton married.

I lately heard the following bon mott of Craigston to his Lady's Brother, Captain Urquhart. When the Captain came to Britain in 1723 to get three ships built at London for the Trade to South America, in consequence of his Licence from the King of Spain, he called for the clearances between his father & Craigston upon the price of the Lands of Knockleith. Finding the remainder due him was a meer trifle, about 500 mks., much less than he expected, he said it was excessively hard, complained of several articles which he thought severely stated, and expostulated a good deal upon the whole, (very probably

from his not knowing the Circumstances of the case and State of the Country), and at last, finding he could be no better, concluded with saying, "Well, Craigston, I'll tell you one thing, Ill-won gear will not last;" "Ha! man," says Craigston, "i' my saul, man, ye are a' mistane; it's only ill-guided gear that winna last."

Hatton was married in the end of Harvest. Craigston had then the Mains of Hatton in his own hand, and, before his son brought home his wife from Elgin, where they were married, had carried down his whole outgoing Crop to Craigston; so Hatton was necessitated, as he told me himself, to borrow money from Dipple, to buy Corn & Straw to serve his horses & cattle the ensuing winter; this was bringing him up thro' the hard. Indeed, it was his father's method with all his Sons, and it did really teach them to look out sharper for themselves as soon as they were men.

But luckily for Hatton, the Factory of the Estate of Dunfermling fell vacant soon after his marriage in 1710 or '11 by the death of one Mr. Erskin,

and Alexr. Achyndachy & he got it between them and kept it till 1727, that the last Earl of Aberdeen bought Fyvie, and the Duke of Gordon the Murray Estate & the Fishings upon Spey from Lord Dunfermline's heirs and the Government.

Fyvie was not then above 6000 mks. per annum little more than a third of the present rent. And the Salmond Fishings and Lands in Murray were likewise very low rented. And as they had the selling & raising of the Tenants, and the victual at the common Conversion of the Country, their Profites behaved to be very considerable, and they made a vast deal by it.

Hatton had also a Tack for several years of the Vicarage of the Parish of Fyvie from Meldrum, who is Titular, and it was a good Tack too; both these were great helps to him in the beginning of his days.

In 1719 he bought Balquhally, which cost him about £4000 Str.; his next Purchase was Downies and Auchinhamper, from North Leslie in 1722. About 1726 he made a small Purchase from Bogny, but which proved afterwards to be a very good

one; then he bought Balnoon from Mr. Ogilvie of Inchmartin; his Last Purchase was in 1750, of about 2000 mks. per annum of the Estate of Kennaudy, and after all he left 10,000 Str. Settled on good Security,

He told me in 1725, when he had about £500 Str. of land Rent, that he saved every farthing of it; but his Farm Grassums, for renewing of Leases, and the Profite of the Factory of Dunfermlin were large funds for living on, and indeed he lived alwise well, and made his friends very welcome.

In a word, I am convinced no man in his time conducted all his Affairs with greater prudence, or, I believe, with more honesty, and gave a better example of all commendable Industry.

He died in the end of Decr. 1753, aged 65, and left three sons & two daughters, besides an elder daughter Margaret, who married one Mr. Gordon, an Officer of the Customs at Dundee; but died some years before himself without issue, and several other Children who Died young.

1, Alexr. Duff, younger of Hatton, was an

honest, generous, sensible man, a very candid ingenuous Disposition, a warm heart to his friends, and nothing sordid or unworthy of a Gentleman in his nature; it was a great loss to all his Connections, and, I may say, to the Country in generale, that his days were so few; his Tenants lamented his early Death as if they had lost their father.

He married, in 1745, his Cousin, Lady Ann Duff, and Died, Decr. 4 1764, when he was but 44 years old; he broke his Leg by an unlucky fall in his own Cellar over a Sackfull of Coal: it was cut off, but the loss of blood occasioned his death.

He left only one Daughter, Jean, married to her Cousin, the present Sir James Grant of Grant, and has issue; Lady Anne bare another Daughter who died in her infancy.

Hatton has left a natural son, Alexr. Duff, who has been some years in the Army, and has lately got a Company in the —— Regiment of foot; he is now married to an English Girl of Liverpool, & is very well esteemed.

2, John Duff, now of Hatton, married to his

Cousin, Hellen Duff, eldest Daughter to Patrick Duff of Whitehill, & has by her a numerous issue.

3, James Duff, Sherriff Clerk of Banff, first married to Helen Skene, Daughter to George Skene of Robslaw, who died several years ago, leaving him two sons & one daughter; and Mr. Duff is married above a year ago to Margaret Dunbar, daughter to James Dunbar of Kincorth, and niece to Sir William Dunbar of Durn, and has a Son by her.

The two Surviving Daughters of the first Alex. Duff of Hatton, are Jean, married 1747 to James Abernethy of Meyan, who died at Dunkirk, Dec. 10, 1771, leaving by her three sons & six daughters; and Helen still unmarried.

2, Craigston's second Son John Duff, was bred with his uncle, Dipple, at Elgin, then Factor to the late Lord Fife, for his Estate in Murray, and a merchant; he came soon into the Magistracy, and was sometime Provost of that Burrow.

He was a man of very shroud, solid Judgment, not ignorant of the Latin, and well acquainted with Modern History and Trade; and

the present State of the World ; from the best accounts, he was really a friendly, honest, worthy man ; he used to recommend reading the Bible to all his young friends, which he said was the best of History. When Chieff Magistrate, he stood firm to the interest of the Town of Elgin.

He married his Cousine, Margaret Gordon, daughter to William Gordon of Forskine, by whom he had three sons who survived him, and one daughter, married to James Leslie of Bennegeith in Rothes ; he died himself in 1749, and did not leave his Family in so opulent Circumstances as his Brothers did theirs ; but I believe he spent a good deal of money upon his Children's Education and putting them into business.

His Eldest son, Peter, was bred to the Law at Edinr., and entered Writer to the Signet. He would have been well employed, but he fell into a life of dissipation and pleasure, and at last into an itch of Gaming, and kept Company with some of the great folks at Edinr., and, after losing his own money, played away other people's entrusted to him, and was obliged to retire to North America.

He married a Gentleman's daughter in Fife, an agreeable pretty woman, and had a Daughter by her, but both [are] dead many years ago.

Archbald, Sherriff Clerk of Murray, the Provost's second Son, married his Cousin, Stuart, Daughter of Francis Stuart of Lesmurdy, and has by her one son.

James is in the Planting way in Jamaica ; John was a Factor in Holland, but died lately, and William died some years before his Father.

The Provost was a man of very entertaining, facetious conversation. And I have heard good Judges say that he was the best Companion of the four Brothers.

3, Provost William Duff, Craigston's third son, settled a Merchant at Banff about 1716 ; he was a very sensible, social, friendly, honest man ; while Provost of that Town, he studied the interest of the Place without any regard to person or party.

In Queen Anne's wars, he went upon a Trading Voyage to the Levant, aboard of a merchant ship, was taken prisoner I think by an Algerine and carried to Smyrna, where he lay a Winter

till his Ransom was remitted, and then came home.

He was very successfull some years in merchandizing, Husbandry, & country dealings; he likewise got a good Tack of the Lands of Cullen & Down, originally granted by William Duff of Braco to one Thomas Duff, and the late Lord Fife took him into a Share of his Salmon fishings upon Dovern, by which he made good profite for several years, and he managed all his affairs with activity & prudence; he was a most candid, ingenuous man, had much of what the French call *naïveté*, and would sometimes, when half in his bottle, play upon his own industrious Spirit, and say it was a bare muir where he could not find a cow.

In 1718 he was living at Cullen, near Banff, and married that year to Bathie Garden, Daughter to Alexr. Garden of Troop. By her he had a numerous family of Children, of whom none now are alive, but Patrick Duff of Whitehill, frequently Provost of Banff. James went to the East Indies, and died in that country. His



Daughter, Bathie, was married to John Gordon, Brother to the late William Gordon of Baden-scoth, but had no issue ; all the rest died young, and he died himself in the beginning of the year 1740. The present Patrick Duff of Whitehill married Clementina Hay, daughter to Charles of Ranas, by whom he had a great many children, and of them there are still living two sons and two daughters. William, bred with a writer to the Signet at Edinr. now gone to North America ; Peter, who is in the East Indies ; Hellen, married to John Duff of Hatton, & Margaret, to Mr. William Stuart, a Grandson of old Lesmurdy's, and minister at Auchterless.

4, Craigston's fourth son, by his first marriage, was Peter Duff of Premnay, so called from an Estate in the Garrioch which he first purchased, and afterwards sold but retained the Title. He served an Apprenticeship to George Keith, Advocate at Aberdeen, at that time the most eminent man of his Profession in the North of Scotland. He was afterwards much employed by his Uncle, Dipple, and his Cousin, William Duff of Braco, in their business.

In Spring, 1721, he was sent to London by Dipple to manage his appeal from a Decree of the Court of Session to the House of Peers against one Class of the Creditors of Coxtan as is mentioned before.

In June, that Summer, he married Margaret Duff, his Cousin, Braco's Daughter and only child, then but eleven years of age, now Lady Udney.

When Dipple succeeded to his nephew, that Lady's father, in 1718, as Heir of Entail, he granted to her a Bond of Provision for £3000 Str. which was much about a year's rent of the Braco Estate. But Premnay being advised that her Father's Entail was liable to several Objections, served his Lady Heir of Line to him, and got her infest in every part of the Estate. But, in 1724, matters were compromised, and he accepted of £10,000 Str. from the late Lord Fife, and he and his Lady discharged all further pretension.

Prennay acquired, soon after, the Estate of Sir Alexander Cumin of Coulter, by buying in the debts; and after that most of the low Country Estate of Drum; but both these Familys, espe-

cially the last, complain of a Train of fraudulent & unfair steps taken by him in accomplishing these Purchases, and a Law suit, at the instance of the present Alex. Irvin of Drum agt. Premnay's heirs, has been for several years carrying on, in order to reduce the Sale; but, as it will, in all probability, be tedious, and the event uncertain, people must suspend their Judgement. Premnay died in the end of the year 1763, at Coulter, where he has made one of the most beautiful & best finished Gentleman's Seats in the North.

He had been much conversant in business during the whole course of his life, and was a very sensible and agreeable man; but I have heard some men who were well acquainted with the Parliament house at Edinr., and knew both Hatton & Premnay, and had been often witness to their transacting business, say, that either in knowledge of law, or contriving & drawing of distinct & proper writes for executing any agreement, Hatton was much superior. But that might have been owing to his having been so long in a writer's Chamber at Edinr., in which there was a great run

of practice in all sort of business; however, Premnay was a very clever, adroit man, and indeed the four Brothers had mother wit or intuitive knowledge to discern where their interest lay and the best means of promoting it, and an indefatigable activity in using them to a greater degree than most other men acquire by many years' experience, tho' by inclination as much attacht to their interest as they and with more sordid dispositions.

Of Craigston's numerous family of Children, by his second marriage, none are now alive but his three married Daughters & two sons. Captain Robert Duff of Logie, a good naval Officer, who has raised himself in that service, and Baillie Adam Duff, Merchant in Aberdeen; he has of late applied to Husbandry, and improved some Land of his own near the Town to great advantage,

The eldest son of that marriage was James Duff, to whom his father left the Lands of Craigston and Castleton. He married, in 1732, Helen Abercrombie, Daughter to the late Alexr. Abercrombie of Glassaugh, but died in June, 1734,

leaving one Daughter, Helen, who married the late Doctor Clark, an eminent Physician at Edinr., and had issue four sons, of whom two are still alive.

At her father's death, she succeeded to Castleton, as heir of line, and it has been since sold to the present Mr. Urquhart of Craigston, by Doctor Clark.

The Lands of Craigston fell to the next Brother, Archbald Duff, as heir male; he was long in the Service of the Swedish East India Company in Bengal; from thence he went to Cochin China, of which Kingdom it was said in Europe he was made a Mandarin. He sold Craigston to the late Captn. John Urquhart of Cromarty, his uncle, and his son having sold Cromarty now takes that Title.

Archbald Duff died in 1758 while on a trading voyage from Cochin China to Batavia; he compiled a History of Cochin China, which was printed at London.

And now we have gone through the whole Posterity, male and female, as far as there is

now any remembrance of David Duff of Moldavid, the first of that Family upon record, 369 years ago, tho' it appears by his Charter that his Predecessors were Proprietors of other Lands as well as that Estate long before; and, if it is allowed that Duff and McDuff is the same name, which I humbly think, after what is said in the beginning of these memoirs, cannot well be doubted, the Duffs were Proprietors of the whole County of Strathbogie, above a Hundred years before the Gordons left the borders of England, or the Grants came into Strathspey.

For it is clear from the Chartulary of Murray, that Duncan McDuff, Earl of Fife, got Strathbogie from King William the Lion, who died in 1214, and left it to his second son David.

David assumed the name of that Country, as local names had been very common in England before the Introduction of the Feudal Law by Malcom Canamore.

His son John, became Earl of Athol, by marrying Adda, Heiress of that Title.

Their posterity possess Strathbogie till 1326,

when David de Strathbogie, who had joined John Baliol, was forfeited by King Robert Bruce; he then retired to England where he had a great Estate, and the family ended in his two Grand daughters, Co-heiresses, who married two Brothers, sons of Henry Peirce, Earl of Northumberland, Ancestors of the present Dutchess, Sole Heiress of the old Peirce family, as in page 6 before.

Sir William Dugdale, in his line of the Peirce family, mentions only one of these marriages—Sir Thomas Peirce, the Earl of Northumberland's second son, with Elizabeth, eldest Daughter and Co-heiress of David de Strathbogie, Earl of Athol. *Baronage of England*, part I., page 278.

But that valuable & learned Antiquary falls sometimes into mistakes & omissions which deserve pardon because of the multiplicity of his subjects and the obscurity [in] which many of them lay buried before his time.

Upon the forfeiture of this David, King Robert Bruce gave Strathbogie to Sir Adam Gordon, the present Duke of Gordon's ancestor.

As to the Grants, they were a considerable

Family in England before they came to Scotland, as appears from many places of Rymer's *Federa*, in 1224. One John de Grant was Archbishop of Canterbury.

It's true one of that name is said to have been Sherreff of Inverness, about 1240, but no good authority is given for it.

The late Thomas Grant of Arndilly told me that, upon the forfeiture of the Cumines of Strathspay, the Grants succeeded them by a Gift of the same King Robert Bruce, to whom they certainly had done very great service, but that before they obtained peaceable possession of the Country, the Family had contracted three marriages with Ladies of the name of Cumine.

It was Anno 1442, before they were designed, de eodem and of Frouchy, which has been long their Title. Sir Duncan de Grant got a Charter that year under the great Seal upon that Estate.

Their first Charter upon the Lands of Urquhart, belonging of old to the Forbeses, in which several other Estates are united with them into one Barony,

to be called, in all time coming, the Barony of Urquhart, is dated in 1509.

And, in 1609, they got a Charter under the Great Seall upon a great many Lands united into one Barony, to be called, in time coming, the Barrony of Cromdail, in which Ballach Castle, since called Castle Grant, stands.

Upon the whole, the æra of their first entering Strathspey seems to have been the same with that of the family of Huntly coming North—viz., the Reign of King Robert the Bruce.

There was a family of the name of Duff which continued for a good many generations, Duff of Cairnwhelp, likewise in the neighbourhood of Strathbogie, the Estate now belonging to the Duke of Gordon; whether the first of them was of Moldavid or Drumuir, I cannot determine.

But I think James Duff, an Officer of the Customs at Dundee, is of Drumuir; he has a promising young family. In 1766, he had four sons in Jamaica, and the fifth just going there. His eldest Brother was Minister at Aberlour, a good natured, worthy man, and has left two sons, both

Clergymen of the Church of Scotland, who are very deserving; one is Author of an elegant & learned Performance in the Belles Lettres, dedicated to Lord Littleton, and is now about publishing another work, to be dedicated to Lord Fife.

There was one Mr. Robert Duff, born in Orkney, a Regent of the Marishal Colledge in Abdn. about 1730; he has writ a part of the History of the Kings of Scotland, in which there are some good things, particularly a description of the manner of building & fortifying the old Castles in this Kingdom; but he was of an ill temper, & fell out with his fellow professors and left the Colledge.

There is one John Duff, present Provost of Elgin, descended, as is believed, of the Family of Drumuir, and I am latly informed that there are a great number of the name of Duff spread over all the County of Murray.

There is a sister of the present James Gordon of Latterfurry, married with one of the name of Duff, a respectable farmer; they have five sons, whom their Uncle is educating, & by his interest

& money providing for in the Army, Navy, mercantile, or other Genteel employments.

A Gentleman of the name of Duff, who possesses a small Estate in the Braes of Angus, was engaged with Prince Charles in his unsuccessful Campaign of 1745.

It is now about 150 years since Clunybeg was beginning to restore the old family of Moldavid, of which his Great-Great-Grandson, the present Earl of Fife, is lineal Heir and Representative.

That Estate is now come to be very great, and will, in all Probability, rise to be among the greatest in Scotland, for it lies mostly in early & fertile Countrys; the farmers are Substantial, have very much of late come into a Spirit of improving their Ground by every method of Husbandry which the situation of their farms admits of, and they are in many places converting heath and barren ground into Tillage.

Such a prodigious property belonging to that family & the other branches of the name must unavoidably excite a vast deal of envy; but they who envy them should keep within the bounds of

truth, and not say that "They are a new family, meer upstarts from the Dunghill;" because there is not the least foundation for saying so.

The family of Drumuir has possest the very same Estate for a great many Generations.

And it would be very bad logic to tell Lord Fife, or any of the Gentlemen lately descended of his family, that they are meer upstarts; because, tho' their Progenitors had good Estates 4 or 500 years ago, it's near 150 since they were stript of them all, and the great Landed interest which they now possess has been all acquired within that period. Every body would be sensible of the Fallacy of this reasoning.

Old Hatton used to tell me, that those of his name in this Country owed their Success in their private affairs merely to their bestowing more attention upon the management of them than many others did.

And I have heard Mr. Hay of Delgaty, who was an exceeding good Judge of men and things, say, that he thought the Duffs were rather well-managers of their own money than covetous of other people's.

I am afraid Alexr. Duff of Braco was an Exception to this Rule; but there is an old musty maxim, *Exceptio firmat regulam.*

To speak seriously, most of their fortunes have been acquired by Husbandry, or Trade, joined with good Economy, both innocent & commendable callings, and two principal Sources of the Population, Prosperity, & wealth of a Nation; and I do not remember that any of the name ever held a lucrative post under the Government.

Follows a short Account of the Progress of the Lordship of Balveny since it belonged to the old Earls of Douglass to the present time.

As Lord Fife now possesses the greatest part of the Lordship of Balveny in Property or Superiority, acquired by his Predecessors in the last hundred years, and that there were some singular & unprecedented Steps in the Transmission of that noble Estate, after it was given away by the Earl of Douglass, and in the manner of parcelling it out to different Purchasers after the Earls of Athol had it; I shall here give a

short abstract of these transactions which made a great noise for a good part of the last Century, tho' they are now entirely forgot.

The Lordship of Balveny comprehended of old the four Parishes of Aberlour (or Skerdustan), Botrifny, Boherm, & Mortlach, except the Church lands in them—I mean those that belonged to the Episcopal See of Aberdeen; for that Bishop resided at Mortlach from the first foundation of the See by King Malcom the 3d in 1010 (upon occasion of a victory obtained over the Danes that year, and near that place) till about 1150, when King David the first, in the end of his Reign, translated it to Old Aberdeen.

The whole Lands contained in this Lordship are just now above £5000 Str. of yearly rent.

In all probability it belonged in the 13th & 14th Century to the Cumines, Earls of Buchan, and upon the Forfeiture of the last Earl of that name by King Robt. Bruce in 1326, was given to the Earls of Douglass; for in the 12th Century the name of Cumine possess a vast property in the Countys of Aberdeen & Banff.

About Anno 1200 Sir William Cumin of Tweedail, 3d Son to Sir Richard Cumin, the fifth of the antient family of Cumin, Lord Badenoch, married Margaret, Daughter and Heiress of Fergus, Earl of Buchan, and became possest of that Earldom. The Lands of Auchmeden, Aberdour, Pitsligo, Crimond, Auchmacoy, Cairnglass, Inverallachy, Rattray, & many other Estates in Buchan, the Castle of Banff, & many Lands in that County were all parts of it.

But about 1458 the Lordship of Balveny was given by Archibald, fifth Earl of Douglass, as a marriage portion with his Daughter, Lady Margaret, Sirnamed the fair maid of Galloway, to Sir James Stewart.

He was eldest son of Sir James Stewart, called the Black Knight of Lorn, by Queen Jean, widow of King James the 1st of Scotland, & daughter to the Earl of Somerset in England; and upon this marriage he was created Earl of Athol, by King James the 2d, his uterine Brother.

May 26, 1460, that Prince grants a Charter to him & his heirs male, by Lady Margaret Dou-

glass, which failing, to his own heirs whatever.

That Lady bore him only two Daughters, one married to the Earl of Huntly, and one to the Lord Forbes, and Balveny went to his son by a second wife, who was Lady Eleanor Sinclair, Daughter to the Earl of Orkny and Caithness.

He was a man of great Abilitys, and a loyal, good Subject in the minority of King James the 3rd

He defeat and brought to submission John, Lord of the Isles, who had risen in Rebellion, and for this good service he got the motto, "Forth fortune & fill the Fetters," & relative to it two Savages in Chains for Supporters.

He or his immediate Successors built the old Castle of Balveny. It stood upon a noble eminence, & had a fine prospect of all the Country round.

Upon the walls of the Castle still standing the Coat of Arms of the Stuarts, Earls of Athol is cut in three different places, & the above motto on the wall of the principal side of the Court.

The family resided there for several Generations, and about Anno 1500 Sir John Gordon of

Pitlurg, married Lady Jean Stuart, daughter to the first Earl, by Lady Eleanor Sinclair. The last Pitlurg, who died in 1747, was lineally descended of that Lady: and the house of Pitlurg, where the family then lived, was but six miles from Balveny.

The Earls of Athol were all faithful, good Subjects, & severals of them men of great accomplishments, & often employed in the public service of their Country.

They were remarkable for their Hospitality, and much beloved by all the neighbourhood. But, like many others of our old nobility, they lived in a very grand, expensive manner, kept a great train of followers and Servants, and frequently attended the Court, and so run in debt, and was obliged to sell, mortgage, or wadset several parts of their heretage, but alwise reserved the Superiority, & by this means their fortune was much diminished towards the end of the 16th Century.

About the year 1580, John, Earl of Athol, then Chancellor of Scotland, gave his Daughter,

Lady Margaret Stuart, in marriage to George, 7th Lord Salton Abernethy, and some years after, having no male issue, he disposed to him the Lordship of Balveny, which was still a very considerable Estate to a man who had money to redeem the wadsetts, &c. But by the perplex situation of the Family of Salton soon after, it appears that it was not in their power to make much of it.

That Earl of Athol died in 1594; and John Stuart, Lord Innermeath, of which family his Ancestor, the black Knight of Lorn, was a younger son, succeeded to the Honours of Athol, and got a Patent upon it from King James 6th, dated March 6, 1596.

But in the year 1625 the last male descendant of that Family, James, Earl of Athol and Lord Innermeath, died without issue, and King Charles 1st conferred the Honours of Athol upon John Murray, only son & Heir of William, 2d Earl of Tulliebardin by Lady Dorothea Stuart, Eldest daughter of John, 5th Earl of Athol, & consequently Heir of line to John, the first Earl,

uterine Brother to King James the 2d; and the Duke of Athol is now Representative of the Earls of Athol, & Tullibardin, & Lords Innermeath.

The Progress of the Lordship of Balveny, after it came to Lord Salton Abernethy, is very complicated, & cannot now be explained in detail without more labour and the examination of a greater number of writs than is of any real use, as the Proprietors of every part of it are long ago secured by Disposition, judicial Sentence, or Prescription.

I shall, however, mention the principal channels of Transmission, after I have given some account of that family once very considerable.

Abernethy of Salton was a very antient Gentleman's family in the South of Scotland, (the Estate now belonging to the name of Fletcher), & was nobilitate in 1445.

Laurence Abernethy, designed Lord of Salton & Rothmay, which is the first time I find any mention of their having lands in the North, succeeded his father in the end of the Reign of King James 1st, and became a favorite of King

James 2d, who created him a Lord of Parliament as before.

They had once a vast Estate in different Counties of this Kingdom.

January 28, 1463, William, second Lord Salton, got a Charter under the great Seal upon the Lands of Rothiemay in Banffshire, Riddrie in Angus, Dalders &c. in Stirlingshire, Glencross, &c. in Midlothian, Salton in Eastlothian, Lilstown and Ugistown in Lauderdale; and the Lands of Plenderleith in the County of Roxburgh; and Janry. 28, 1483, he got another Charter, confirming his Right to all the above mentioned Lands, and upon several others in the County of Fife.

George, 7th Lord Salton, who married the Earl of Athol's daughter, and got the Lordship of Balveny disposed to him, died in the year 1600.

Upon his death, John, Lord Salton, finding himself embarrassed with many great debts, and to prevent further contractions, signed a voluntary Interdiction in favours of his Mother, Lady Salton, John Urquhart of Culby, and some other friends.

This John Urquhart of Culby, commonly called the Tutor of Cromarty, built the house of Craigstown, & was Great-Great-Grandfather to the present Meldrum.

But in 1605, Lord Salton finding his Affairs nothing mended, brought in a Reduction of the Interdiction before the Court or Session, & obtained a Decreet *in foro*, Reducing and Relieving him from it.

In 1612, he disposed Balveny in Trust to James Stuart, Lord Ochiltree, who expedite a Charter under the Great seal upon that Lordship, & was infeft in 1615.

Lord Ochiltree sold it soon after to Robert Innace of Innermarkie, descended of the family of Innace. His successor had afterwards the Title of Orton; but from this time they were for some Generations called Innace of Balveny.

The same Gentleman was made a Knight Baronet of Nova Scotia by King Charles 1st in 1631.

His son, likewise Sir Robert, was a zealous Loyalist, & spent most of his fortune in the

Service of that unfortunate Prince. This obliged them soon after the Restauration to sell Balveny in parcels to different persons.

The Marquis of Huntly got then the Superiority of Auchindown, having had the property long before. The Laird of Grant bought Auchmadies & Balintomb, in Aberlour parish; several parts of the Estate presently belonging to Colonel Grant of Arndilly, were disposed to him before, but they still hold of Balveny.

Kinninvie's Predecessor purchased his Estate about 1530; but I think it was Innermarkie who sold them the Superiorities.

Auchluncart was sold by the Earl of Athol to Robt. Innace, second Laird of Innermarkie, about the same time, and given to his second son, Walter Innace of Auchluncart; from them it came to the Stuarts, but still holds of Balveny.

Drumuir's Predecessor seems to have purchased the Property of that Estate from the Earl of Athol very early, but they reserved the Superiority.

Sir Robert Innace sold all the remainder of

the Lordship of Balveny, still belonging to him in the beginning of King Charles 2d's Reign to Colonel Sutherland of Kinminity.

John, Lord Salton, died soon after the Conveyance to Lord Ochiltree, & all the successive Purchasers of any part of the Lordship of Balveny continued in peaceable possession 33 or 34 years after his death.

But, in 1645, Sir Archbald Stewart of Blackhall, a relation of Alexr., then Lord Salton, John's son, having got a trust Bond of £100,000 Scots from him, & given him a Special charge to enter Heir, led an apprysing upon the Lordship of Balveny, and upon that intented a process of Reduction and Improbation against all persons who possest any part thereof, by virtue of the Conveyance to Lord Ochiltree,

Stuart of Blackhall is a very respectable family in the County of Renfrew, lineally descended from a natural son of King Robert the third, by

, to whom that Prince gave three Estates, Auchingevan in 1390, Blackhall in 1396, and

Ardgowan in 1404, by three different Charters; Sir Archbald Stuart, then of Blackhall, was created a Knight Baronet by King Chas. 2d in 1667. I am informed the family still possesses these three Baronys of Land, & is in a flourishing condition.

Mr. Walter Stuart, a younger Brother of the late Sir Archbald, was King's Solicitor, 1722, & afterwards Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, a comely, Graceful Gentleman. The only particular reason lybelled on in y^e Reduction & Improbation at Blackhall's instance was deathbed of John, Lord Salton, who conveyed to Lord Ochiltree in 1612, & accordingly the process went very slowly on, & with small probability of success; and upon this the pursrs. took a very iniquitous method of obtaining their aim another way.

One James Abernethy, Grand uncle to the last Mayan, who died at Dunkirk, Decr. 10, 1771, & a near relation of Lord Salton, an Advocate & manager of the Cause, a sly fellow, went to London in 1657, and, being properly recommended to Oliver Cromwell, got an order from him to

Lenthal, then master of the Rolls, to allow him to inspect the Records & other writs from Scotland, which were lodged in the Tower, upon pretence that some prsnl. papers belonging to Alexr., Lord Salton, had been carried up in mistake; and there he tore out three leaves from the Records of the Court of Session of the year 1605, which contained the Decreet loosing the voluntary Interdiction of John, Lord Salton, in 1600, and brought them with him to Scotland without communicating what he had done to any person. Then he caused cut the summons of Reduction at Blackhall's instance, & about 1660, added a new reason of Reduction, viz. — That John, Lord Salton, had been interdicted in 1600, and therefore the Rights proceeding from him to Lord Ochiltree in 1612, and all the other subsequent Rights flowing from Lord Ochiltree ought to be reduced, i.e., *capite Interdictionis* of Lord Salton, who could give him no power to convey.

The Defrs., who at this time knew nothing of the Decreet loosing the Interdiction which had past upwards of 50 years before, struggled against

this process several years, but in vain : for in Febr'y., 1666, the Decreet of Certification & Improbation was pronounced.

This obliged all the Purchasers to enter into Transactions with Alexr. Lord Salton, & his Doers.

They agreed to confirm all the Conveyances at 1100 mks. for the Chalder of victual, or 100 mks. of money rent, as being conscious of the iniquity of their Claim.

But as to Kinminity's purchase, who was not able to pay the additional price for the whole, Lord Salton & Blackhall entered into a particular minute with him two days after the Decreet of Reduction was obtained, by which he was allowed to retain certain parts of his Purchase, & obliged to dispone in favour of Blackhall certain other parts of it, in which the old Castle is included ; & in August, 1668, Kinminity grants a Disposition in implement of his minute.

At this time Arthur Forbes came in the field ; he was Brother to Alexr. Forbes of Blacktown, who died in 1721, but he had been formerly a common Trooper in the Guards.

All that then belonged to Lord Salton of the Lordship of Balveny was only what Kinminity had disposed in consequence of their minute, being 17 Chalders & 10 Bolls of victual rent, and several Superioritys, besides some others flowing from Lord Ochiltree and Sir Robert Innace, while he remained in the Right of Balveny. And when Arthur Forbes appeared, all this was wadset by Blackhall to Fraser, younger of Philorth, for £38,000 Scots.

What induced Arthur Forbes to attempt this Purchase, for which he never had a sufficient stock of his own, nor, it would appear, a great Capacity for business, is not very clear; but he was supported in it at first by several very able friends, and favored in that design by Lord Salton himself.

For, in Sept., 1668, that Lord assigned to him Blackhall's Backbond, declaring the Trust; and Blackhall himself granted to him a Disposition of all the Subjects comprehended Under his Apprissing, but which were their wadset to Philorth.

However, upon this, Arthur assumed the Title of Balveny, and in 1670 expedite a Charter under the great seal upon it, & was Infeft in 1671.

When Blackhall wadset this remainder of the Lordship of Balveny, he got from him a Bond of Reversion, obliging himself to denude in his favours on being paid the wadset sum by the Land rent, the Compositions which he was allowed to make with the vassals for Blackhal, confirming their Property, & with the Wadsetters (who claimed under Ochiltree's Right) at certain rates mentioned in the Bond. This Bond was likewise made over to Arthur, and upon it he brought a Declarator of redemption agt. Philorth (who, during the dependance, became Lord Salton by the death of his uncle), and having adduced from his own Receipts to the Tenants, Vassals, and Wadsetters that the £ 38,000 & interests were paid, he obtained a Declarator of Redemption in 1679, & got possession of the Lordship of Balveny.

But now Alex. Duff of Braco had entered the Lists as a Competitor for the Purchase of that

Estate, & soon became too tough a Combatant for Arthur.

He had attended for some years a writer's Chambers at Edinr. after his School & College education was over, but settled in the Country in 1675.

While Arthur Forbes was carrying on his Purchase as well as he could, he became acquainted with Braco, & his father, Keithmoir, who lived in the neighbourhood of Balveny, & was employed as his Agent at first, but they soon parted. And it's reasonable to think, from what followed afterwards, that Braco had formed pretty early a design on the Purchase of Balveny, which a man of much less Sagacity than he would easily see, Arthur Forbes had neither money nor ability to conduct.

With this view, he & his father had advanced Arthur several small sums of money before 1676, & in June that year Arthur disposed to them Bellyhaugh, Milntown, & Waulkmiln thereof; Riddrie Miln, Waulkmiln, & Collargreen, all Farms in that Estate, in Security, & for payment of two

Heritable Bonds, extending to 800 mks. & £7 13s. 4d. Scots, but under Redemption on payment of that sum. And in case Arthur did not chuse to Redeem these Farms, Braco was to pay 2400 mks. more for the Reversion.

In Nover., 1682, Keithmore & Braco led an adjudication agt. Arthur for the two heritable Bonds & some other debts, extending in all to £4000 due to them, and expedite a Charter, & were infest upon it.

In 1686 & '87, Braco bought up a great many debts of Arthur's from Craigievar, Ludquharn, Brux, one Forbes, Sherriff of Abdn., Gordon of Rothiemay, Grant of Leuchars, and others. He likewise bought from Craigievar an apprysing of Balveny, led by one Laurence Mercer, & some other adjudications & universal Titles on that Estate from different Creditors.

Upon all these, extending to £21,000 Scots, Drumuir as Braco's Trustee, adjudged Balveny in 1687, & obtained a Decreet of Removing, and mails and duties against Arthur Forbes & his Tenants, and so got possession of all his part of the Estate.

Arthur raised a process of Reduction & Improbation agt. Braco before the Privy Council, because of some Acts of Riot & violence committed by him in executing the decret of Removing upon Arthur & his Tenants. But, as Braco was in possession of all his Rents, that process went heavily on, & Arthur died himself in 1694 or '95.

After this Braco Redeemed the wadsets upon that Estate as soon as they expired.

There were likewise at that time a great number of small heretors of parcels of the Lordship of Balveny, mostly in the parish of Mortlach. All these Braco deprived of their Heretage at as little expence as he could. Some he forced to sell by threatning them with slump Rights, which comprehended their small property, others by buying up their debts. And it is too well known, and much to be regretted, that if he could but get possession, he was not very ceremonious either as to the Legality or Equity of the method; and I really believe his severe & oppressive treatment of those little Proprietors, both

in Mortlach & Strathisla, who were not able to defend themselves, brought a great deal of Odium upon his name (notwithstanding that his son & the last Lord Fife compromised all their Claims in an amicable manner), and made John, Earl of Kintoir, add a new Petition to his Prayers, "Lord, Keep the Hill of Foudlin between me & Braco."

Every thing continued in the same situation as to Braco's Rights upon Arthur Forbes' parts of Balveny, and a few years longer would have put them above Challenge by Prescription, when, in Anno 1732, Miss Mally Seton claiming Right to Arthur Forbes' Estate by a Disposition from him, to which she had Right by progress, wakened his Reduction & Improbation agt. the last Lord Fife, and calling for a production of all his Rights, Lord Fife & she entered into a Submission; but, before it was determined, Arthur Forbes' Nephew & apparent Heir, the late William Forbes of Blacktown, granted a Bond to William Keith of Bruxie, who, upon a Special Charge, adjudged Arthur's whole Estate, & brought a Re-

duction and Improbation agt. Lord Fife: and the process, in which both their Titles were united, lasted 22 Sessions before the Court of Session, & at last was agreed amicably in 1743.

4 | James Abercrombie's villiany was never discovered till Martimas, 1691. His Brother Alexander, who married the Daughter & Heiress of Walter Hacket of Meyan, found the three leaves among James' papers after his death, but concealed the thing to save his Brother's memory, & enclosed them in a box of wood which he fixt under a Couple in a new house which he was then building; but, at his own death [he] imparted the whole under Promise of Secrecy to one James Ogilvie, his Nephew; and he, when on his own death bed, being toucht with remorse of Conscience, & under great Agony of mind for having concealed it so long, acknowledged the whole, & signed a Declaration of all the Circumstances, write by John Abernethy of Meyan, the last Meyan's father, which was sent to Edinr.

Upon this, Exhibition was raised agt. all concerned, a Search made, the box found & sent to

Edinr., the three leaves tallyed exactly with the place from which they had been torn, & were writ on paper of the same stamp. The Lords ordered them to be replaced & accounted as a part of the Record in' all time coming. But this replacement was of no great consequence at that time; for the family of Salton & their Trustees had several years before surrendered all their Rights upon Balveny.

William Duff of Braco and the late Lord Fife purchast several parts of the Lordship of Balveny, which came in the market in their time in a fair & candid manner, & most of them at high prices, so that the present Lord Fife now possesses a very great part of that Estate; and I believe he and his predecessors have, considering every thing, paid an adequate price for the whole of the Rent at which it was bought. It is a pleasant, fertile Country, & as well accommodated for all the conveniences of life, and where the Farmers live as happily & undisturbed as in any place of Brittain.

I am sorry I cannot give a Genealogical

Account of the family of Drumuir since they first settled in the Parish of Botrifny, & of their descendants; they have continued long & made good alliances.

But my worthy friend, Mr. Duff of Muirton, has sent me Copys of two Genealogical Tables, one containing the alliances of the family of Drumuir (of which his mother was Heiress) for near 200 years preceeding the date; and the other, those of Moldavid, of which his Grandfather, Provost Duff, was a younger son.

The originalls were most accuratly drawn up above four score years ago, and have the armorial bearings of all the familys with whom these two were immediatly connected during that period, beautifully blazoned in their proper colours, the whole making two large sheets of Parchment. I shall here transcribe the Genealogical part of both:—

1ST TABLE.

The Coat armorial of Adam Duff of Drumuir & Catharine Duff, his Daughter, who was married

to Alex. Duff, Provost of Inverness, son to William Duff, late Provost, by Mrs. Christian Duff, his first wife, Daughter to Alex. Duff of Kinloss, Town-Clerk of Inverness.

The Armorial bearings of Drumuir, a square shield, three escallops placed in a Triangle, a Buck's head between them. Motto, "Be true, and ye shall never rue." Crest, a heart, round it, "Kind Heart."

Catharin Ruthven, daughter to Provost Ruthven of Perth, Brother to the Earl of Gowrie, mother to Jean Gordon, and Grandmother to Mr. Rob. Duff of Drumuir, the heiress' Grandfather.

Margt. Irvine, Daughter to the Laird of Drum, Grandmother by the father to Mr. Robt. Duff, & great Grandmother to Mr. Adam Duff.

Mary Young, daughter to the Laird of Auldbar, mother to John Lyon of Cossin, and Grandmother to Adam Duff.

Catharin Carnegie, daughter to the Earl of Southesk, mother to Eupham Lyon, & Grandmother

Margaret Ogilvie, daughter to the Earl of Findlatyr, Lady Birkenbog, Great Grandmother to Anne Abercrombie, of whom descended Abercrombie of Glasgow.

Mary Ogilvie, daughter to the Earl Airly, mother to Eupham Beaton, Great Grandmother to Ann Abercrombie.

Jean Ogilvie, daughter to the Lord Banff, mother to Sir James Gordon of Lesmoir, Grandmother to Anne Abercrombie.

Helen Urquhart, daughter to the Laird of Cromarty, mother to Catharin Gordon, and Grandmother to the said Ann Abercrombie by the mother's side.

to Adam Duff by the mother's side.

Jean Gordon, daughter to the Laird of Abergeldy, Grandmother to Adam Duff, by Mr. Rob. Duff of Drumuir, the said Adam Duff's father

Eupham Lyon, daughter to John Lyon of Cossin, second son to the Earl of Strathmore, mother to Adam Duff.

Adam Duff of Drumuir, father to the said Catharin Duff, the Heiress.

Eupham Beaton, daughter to Cardinal Beaton, by Lady Mary Ogilvie, daughter to the Earl of Airly, Grandmother to Anne Abercromby by the father.

Catharin Gordon, daughter to Sir James Gordon of Lesmoir, mother to Anne Abercromby & Grandmother to Catharin Duff.

2ND TABLE.

Christian Duff, eldest daughter & heiress of Alex. Duff of Kinloss, & wife of Provost William Duff, her coat of arms, a single Buck's head, no crest in the Table.

William Duff, Provost of Inverness, son to Adam Duff of Clunybeg, descended of the ancient family of Moldavid or Craighead. His coat of arms—in the upper part of the Shield, a Buck's head, cabosed in Chieff & a mullet in the middle, a Fesse daunzatta ermine, and, in the lower part, two Escallops on a bend vert.

Helen Hay, daughter to the Earl of Enzie, Lady Craighead, of whom is descended the family.

Elizabeth Abercrombie, daughter to the Laird of Skeith, mother to Margaret Gordon, & Grandmother to Provost Duff.

Margaret Gordon, daughter to the Laird of Cairnbarrow, mother to Adam Duff of Clunbeg, & Grandmother to Provost William Duff.

MEM. The last Sir Peter Fraser of Durriss' Grandmother was a daughter of Drumuir's, my Lady Peterborro', Sir Peter's Sister, being mother to the late Henrietta, Dutchess of Gordon, makes a Relation between that family & Drumuir's.

Beatrix Gordon, daughter to the Laird of Birkenburn, mother to the said Provost William Duff.

Margaret Urquhart, daughter to the Laird of Cromarty, Grandmother to the said Beatrix Gordon.

Barbara Barclay, daughter to the Laird of Gartley, Grandmother by the father to Beatrix Gordon, & Great Grandmother to Provost Duff.

Margt. Gordon, daughter to the Laird of Lesmoir, mother to the said Beatrix Gordon, & Grandmother to Provost William Duff.

One Thomas Duff was Mayor of Coventry 400 years ago.

Sir William Dugdales' Antiquities of Warwickshire.

From a letter of Mr. Duff's of Muirton, containing an Account of the Relation between the family of Gordon & Drumuir, & some other Anecdotes of the last named Family:—

MURTON, APRILE 22, 1773.

1st. Sir Alexander [Fraser] of Durris, Physician to King Charles the 2d., and his Chieff confident & Guide while in Scotland before the fatal battle of Worcester, was son of a Daughter of Drumuir's, most likely of Mr. Robert Duff, commonly called The Gallant (who was killed at the Battle of Alford, 1645, fighting beside the Lord Gordon for his King), and of course Grand Aunt to my Mother, the said Sir Alex. Fraser was Father to the late Sir Peter and the Countess of Peterborro', mother to the late Dutchess Dowager of Gordon. 2d. The Arms of Duff of Kinloss are to be found in the Church of Inverness (if not covered by a very late rebuilding of said Church) on three different Grave-stones of John, James, & Alex. Duffs, the immediate Predecessors of Christian Duff, 1st Wife of Provost William Duff, & mother of Alex. Duff of Drumuir (Muirton's father), and are designed by many writings in the Town Clerk of Inverness's Office, de Kinloss. I am told Drumuir will be in Botrifny this ensuing Sum-

mer, & will, I dare say, communicate to you what further you want to be informed of from his Charter Chest, or Tradition, if you desire the same.

Follows some addenda relating to the preceding Memoir, noted as they came to my knowledge.

I am informed that Alex. Duff of Keithmoir was a great Favorite of the Family of Huntly & Bailliff of Regality to them, which was a Post of Honour and Trust, and never given by Lords of Regality but to Gentlemen of Rank & Character.

Craigston bought Castleton from Sir John Guthrie before he bought Craigston from the Duke of Gordon, and lived at it in a close of laigh bigging.

He got the Tack of his Brother Braco's fishing on Dovert in 1699 or 1700, and at that time brought the last Corsenday to Banff to assist him in the management of it.

Craigston bought Castleton from Sir John

Guthrie about 1695, the land being of a dry, warm, rich soil, the Tenants had good crops, & paid their rents well in the dear years. Sir John Guthrie's other Estate of Fishery failed much during these calamitous years, and, in one of them, Sir John offered to give Craigston Fishery in Exchange for Castleton.

Gordon of Coynach, I suppose Dr. Gordon at Peterhead his father, lived at Craigston in 1687, & had a son born there that year, who was nursed by the same woman, who, in the four succeeding years, nurs't Craigston's four sons of his first marriage, & all on the same milk.

A Gentleman of a small Estate in the parish of Tannadis, County of Angus, McDuff of Tarfaichies.

An Irish Lady, married to William Lesly of Melross' second son, an Officer in General Abercrombie's Regiment, a woman of very good sense, who was lately in the North of Scotland, says—

“That there are some old Castles in the South of Ireland, Province of Leinster, upon good

Estates, which belonged to Familys of the name of Duff.

“That there are still several Gentlemen’s familys of that name, in that Country, possest of good Estates and in good Esteem.

“That some of that name were in great favor with the old Kings of Ireland, nearly allied to the Royall Family, & possest of an heretable Office, which was called the Crowner, and made the Representative of that particular family to be called Crowner Duff.”

The Office of Crowner in Scotland is the same with that of Crowner in England (*Skene De Verb. Significatione*); but I reckon [it] has been a higher Office in Ireland.

This Mrs. Leslie, our informer, is a great Grand Child of Mrs. Jane Lane, who rode a good many miles on horseback behind King Charles the 2d, and contributed greatly to his escaping in Sept., 1651, after the Battle of Worcester.

Duff of _____ was a family of the name that had lasted for several Generations; the Lands lie some where near Strathbogie.

London Packet, May 29, 1773; Portsmouth, May 25, Arrived the *John & Mary*, Duff, from Scilly,—a Shipmaster of that name, originally from Scotland, and settled in the West of England.

About an. 1750, one John Duff was sovereign of Belfast, in the Province of Ulster, north of Ireland, and Mr. Duff of Cromby us'd to correspond with him from the shire of Air. This is an heritable office belonging to the Earl of Donnegal, and to which that family always appoints a deputy.

THE END.