



## TAIN

**I**N ancient times Tain seems to have been a place of great importance, and Malcolm Canmore is said to have given it its first charter, but it was first constituted a Royal Burgh by King Alexander II. in 1227. King James VI. granted a charter in 1587, and he granted it a second charter in 1612, which was followed by another one granted by King Charles II. The first charter of King James VI. refers to former charters granted by the ancient Kings of Scotland, and narrates that they "were cruelly burnt by barbarians and certain rebel subjects of Ireland as has been manifestly proved by authentic documents produced before us."

The Seal of the Burgh contains a figure of St. Duthac bearing a staff garnished with ivy in his right hand and an open book in his left. Around is the motto "*St. Beatus est Duthacus.*"

The church of Tain is dedicated to this saint. The history of St. Duthac is very obscure. He is said to have been born at Tain, and to have died in Ireland, from whence his body was brought back to Tain and there buried. His shrine became celebrated and pilgrimages were made to it. Dr Skene in his "Celtic Scotland" says that he can be "no other than Dubhthach who was coarb of Columcille both in Erinn and Alban from 927 to 938. . . . The name of St. Duthac to whom the church of Tain is dedicated, is connected also with the church at Dornoch where he is said to have performed a miracle on St. Finbar's day." [25th Sept.].

From the circumstance that here St. Duthac is represented as bearing a staff garnished with ivy it would appear as if some remote connection can be traced between this saint and Dionysos or Bacchus, the heathen god of wine. The ivy, next to the vine, was sacred to Dionysos, and it appears that the pine was also sacred to him. Mythology relates that after he had found out the secret of making wine from

grapes he travelled in many lands for the purpose of making it known to mankind, and bore a thyrsus

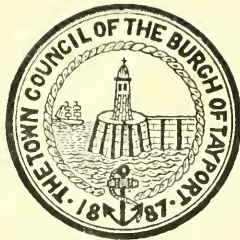
“topped with a cypress cone,  
Round whose rude shaft dark ivy tresses grew.”

The nymphs who accompanied him bore similar thyrsus—staves, and in after ages we are told that during the Dionysian festival the Bacchantes bore staves garnished with vine and ivy tendrils and crowned with a fir cone. Ovid says the vine has an eternal hate to the ivy, and Mrs. Hemans addressing the ivy says—

“Oh, how could Fancy crown with thee,  
In ancient days, the god of wine,  
And bid thee at the banquet be  
Companion of the vine?  
Thy home, wild plant, is where each sound  
Of revelry hath long been o'er;  
Where song's full notes once peal'd around,  
But now are heard no more.”

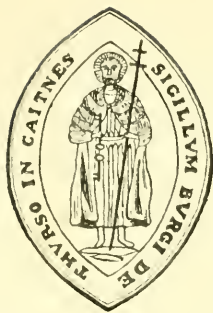
Perhaps St. Duthac was one of the jovial monks of whom we read in the olden times that they were lined within with old sack wine.

The “Old Statistical Account” tells us that the name of the Burgh is very old, being originally *Thane*, and that the adjacent lands belonged to the Thaners of Ross, there being a district of the parish still called *Thaneson*, while in Gaelic the name is *Balduich*, meaning the town of St. Duthas or Duthac.



## TAYPORT

**T**AYPORT adopted the Lindsay Act in 1888, and under the Burgh Police Act of 1892 took for the Common Seal of the Burgh a representation of the end of the breakwater with the lighthouse, at the entrance to the harbour. On the sea, in the distance, a vessel in full sail is seen, and beneath is an anchor. Tacitus tells us that the expedition of Agricola penetrated in its third year as far as the estuary of the Taus, and this has been conjectured to be the Firth of Tay. It has thus been considered that the name of the Tay comes from this Taus of Tacitus, but it is more probable that the name is the British *Ta* or *Taw* which means that which spreads or expands, as the Firth does below Tayport.



## THURSO

**T**RADITION says that Thurso was founded in the twelfth century. Sir John Sinclair, the editor of the "Old Statistical Account" observes that with regard to the ancient history of Thurso the town appears to have been a place of very considerable trade and consequence, many centuries ago; and in proof of this states, that according to Skene's account of the assize of David, King of Scotland, the weight of Caithness was ordered to be observed in buying and selling over all Scotland; which could not, he thinks, have been the case, had not Caithness been distinguished for the extent of its commercial transactions, of which Thurso was probably the centre. The town was constituted a free Burgh of Barony by a charter of King Charles I. in 1633, and in 1850 came under the various Police Acts.

The Seal of the Burgh is oval, and bears a figure of St. Peter holding one key, from which another key hangs, in his right hand, and in his left hand he carries a staff with a double cross known as a patriarchal cross.

In the olden times Thurso, like Wick, seems to have been much frequented by the Norsemen, and the name is said to come from the Icelandic *Thorsaa*, Thor being one of the old Norse Gods, and *aa* the old Norse word for a river, hence the name means Thor's river. This is the most likely derivation of the name, but others derive it from Horsa, who was a Saxon general of the fifth century, and who is said to have ravaged the country here at one time.



## TILlicoulTRY

**P**REVIOUS to 1830 Tillicoultry was a mere village, though even then, and from the days of Queen Mary, it was famed for the making of blankets and serges.

In later times the weaving of tartans and shawls, and the manufacture of tweeds and silks was introduced, and now, owing to these manufactures it is a thriving town. In 1871 the Lindsay Act was adopted, and under the Burgh Police Act of 1892 a Common Seal was designed as follows.

In the centre is a shield divided into four. The first quarter bears a sheep, or hanging fleece, symbolic of the woollen manufactures which are the principal industries of the town. The second quarter bears a spread eagle, which is part of the Wardlaw Ramsay Coat of Arms, Colonel Ramsay being the proprietor of Tillicoultry Estate, and superior of the Burgh. The third quarter bears three crescents, part of the Paton Coat of Arms, and the fourth quarter bears the Coat of Arms of those of the name of Archibald thus described by Nisbet: "The surname of Archibald, *argent*, on a bend *azure*, between two mullets of the second, a crescent of the first." The names of Paton and Archibald are well known and honoured in Tillicoultry. The late Mr James Paton bequeathed £5000 to found and endow an orphanage, and the late Mr James Archibald presented, in 1878, £1500 to the Burgh to erect a tower and spire on the institute built in the northern part of the town. Beneath the shield, on a scroll, is the motto "*Labore et virtute.*"

The name of the place seems to be from the Gaelic *Tulach cuil tìre*, meaning "the hill at the back of the country," which refers to the rising ground called the Kirkhill and the Cuninghar. The writer of the "Old Statistical Account," however, says he is no admirer of the Gaelic, but that in his time Gaelic derivations were fashionable, and he is afraid no attention will be paid to his Latin etymologies. He considers Tillicoultry compounded either of *Tellus culta*, or *Tellus cultorum Dei*, and says that if from the first, the name must have arisen from the introduction of Italian agriculture, as the place was once in a high state of cultivation; but if from the second, it may denote the residence of some of the *Culdees*, or a place appropriated to the worship of God, either by the *Culdees* or the Druids.



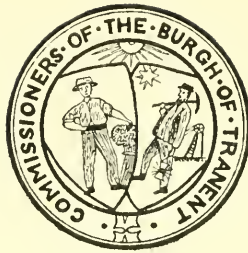
## TOBERMORY

**T**OBERMORY, in the island of Mull, was founded in 1788 by "The British Society for extending the Fisheries and improving the Sea coasts of the Kingdom." In 1875 it adopted the Lindsay Act, and under the Burgh Police Act of 1892 designed a Common Seal as follows:—

On a background of thistles a shield divided into four. The first quarter bears a representation of the Virgin and Child, the Virgin being the patron saint of the Burgh, hence the origin of the name from the Gaelic *Tobar Moire*, the Well of the Virgin Mary. This was originally a fountain which, in the days of popery, was dedicated to the Virgin. In the second quarter is a dolphin spouting water; in the third, an ancient galley with flags on the mast and at the stern; and in the fourth, a fish, probably a herring. These three latter devices are emblematic of the scheme for the foundation of the town, and its subsequent development as a fishing centre.

Regarding the dolphin, we are told by Nisbet: "The dolphin is taken for the King of Fishes . . . for his strength and swiftness in the pursuit of other fishes his prey, and is said to be an admirer of men, so as to be humane, and a lover of music, for which he is often used in arms and devices. Ulysses is said by Aldrovandus to have carried the dolphin on his shield. . . . Hopingius says, that Ulysses carried the dolphin on his shield and signet-ring, upon the account of that creature's humanity for saving his son Telemachus when he fell into the sea."

The motto "*Ceartas*" is a Gaelic word, meaning justice or equity.



## TRANENT

**T**RANENT came under the provisions of the various Police Acts in 1860, and under the Burgh Police Act of 1892 adopted as a Common Seal the following device :—

Two shields, the one on the right bearing a harvester with his hand resting on a corn stook, and the one on the left bearing a miner with pick and lantern; in the background a pit-head, and in the corner of the shield a star. The harvester and the miner represent respectively the agricultural and mining interests of the district, while the star probably indicates that the miner works in darkness.

George Chalmers, in his "Caledonia," says—"The village is said to have acquired its appellation from a tradition which is not yet forgotten on the opposite shore of Fife; and which supposes that a party of *Danes*, once landing on that shore, were immediately repulsed by the natives, who exultingly shouted Tranent! Tranent! The mere mention of such a tradition implies a total want of knowledge, etymological and historic. The name of the village is significant, in the speech of the first colonists, on the banks of the Forth. In the charters of the 12th, 13th, and 14th centuries, the name was written *Travernent*. The popular name of more recent times is *Tranent*, which seems to be contracted by colloquial use. Now *Trev-er-ment*, in the British speech, signifies the habitation, or village, on the ravine or vale. *Trenant*, in the same language, signifies the habitation, or village, *at* the ravine or vale. Both these forms of the name are equally descriptive of the situation of Tranent on the eastern side of a deep narrow valley, or ravine, in the bottom of which there is a brook."

The writer of the "Old Statistical Account" mentions the above tradition, and says that Tranent or Travernent was the cry of the victorious natives, and meant *Let them swim over*, or, *right across*, which they did, and landed in this neighbourhood.



## TROON

**T**ROON came under the provisions of the Burgh Police Act of 1892 in 1896, and adopted as its Common Seal the following: In the centre is a representation of George Stephenson's engine "The Rocket." George Stephenson constructed the "Rocket" in 1829, it being the development of his first crude locomotive which he had built about 1813. The "Rocket" was built for the Manchester and Liverpool Railway, the directors of which had at first been in favour of haulage by means of fixed engines along the line. Owing to Stephenson's strenuous advocacy of the locomotive, they decided to give it a trial by means of an open competition, a prize of £500 being offered. They laid down as a principal condition that the mean speed of ten miles an hour was to be obtained with a steam pressure not exceeding fifty pounds per square inch. This engine, after Stephenson's designs, was built at the Newcastle works under the supervision of his son, and after a number of failures the hitherto difficult problem of securing the tubes to the tube plates was overcome. The boiler consisted of a cylinder six feet long and forty inches in diameter, with twenty-five three-inch copper tubes, and the fire-box was two feet by three feet, and was secured to the front and surrounded by water. The cylinders were two, placed obliquely to the axis, and the whole weighed four and a quarter tons. Three other engines entered into competition with this, and the contest began on 6th October 1829 at Rainhill, near Liverpool, on a two mile long, level piece of line. Each engine was to run at least seventy miles in a day backwards and forwards, and on the opening day the "Rocket" easily proved the winner by running twelve miles in fifty-three minutes. Thus Stephenson's triumph was assured, and the railway systems of the world date from that day in October 1829.

In 1812 a railway, the first constructed in Scotland, had been completed between Kilmarnock and Troon, which was used for the conveyance of coals, by means of horse haulage, from the Duke of Portland's coal-fields to Troon harbour. The "Rocket," after the above trials, was brought here and used for drawing the coal trucks, and was the first locomotive engine which ran in Scotland.



On one side of the engine on the Seal is an ancient galliot, as in former days Troon was famous for shipbuilding, and on the other side is an anchor, both indicating that the town is a seaport, and it is considered the safest and most easy of access of all the Ayrshire ports. Above is a bee-hive, representing industry, while below is the motto "*Industria ditat*" (Industry enriches).

The Duke of Portland, on 30th April 1897, presented to the Burgh a chain and badge of office, to be worn by the Provost for the time being, and a photograph of which was kindly sent to me by the Town Clerk, who also furnished me with the following description of it: "The style of the chain is Gothic, and the principal links have a shield surmounted by a civic crown for the names of the successive Provosts and date of office. The connecting links are composed of sea horses and Neptune's trident. The centre link is made up of the Duke of Portland's Arms. On each side of centre link is an anchor and the letter 'T' entwined, significant of the Burgh. The Badge contains the Arms of the Burgh, is circular in form, with scalloped outline ornamented with the Thistle, etc., terminating with dolphins and trident. It is connected with centre link by the crown and lion of Scotland. All the Arms are enamelled in proper heraldic colours. The chain and badge are made throughout of 15 carat gold."



## TURRIFF

**W**HEN, or by whom, Turriff was founded it is now impossible to say, but it must be of very ancient date, and of great importance in the past. The old name *Torra* or *Turra*, still commonly used, was said to be a Gaelic word, meaning a height, which applied to the situation of the town, but we are told that the modern name, *Turreff* or *Turriff*, is also derived from the Gaelic, and means *turrets* or *towers*, and that so recently as 1842 the ruins of towers were to be seen, and also the gateway and vaults of an old building known by the name of Castle Rainy. What the reason for the erection of these towers we have no information.

Turriff was made a Burgh of Barony by King James IV. in 1511. In 1858 it adopted the various previous Police Acts, and in 1874 came under the provisions of the Lindsay Act. Under the Burgh Police Act of 1892 a Common Seal was adopted. This Seal shows the Market Cross of Turriff, with the motto "*Serva jugum*" (Preserve the yoke).

The cross occupies the site of the original Cross of Turriff, which was of very ancient date. Indeed we know that the Earls of Erroll were made Lords of the Barony of Delgaty, which included the town of Turriff, by King Robert the Bruce, who authorised them to hold a market every Sunday, and on certain feast days, at the Market Cross of Turriff. The original cross, having become delapidated, was repaired in 1842, and the present cross was erected in 1865. Turriff being half way between Aberdeen and Elgin, an old rhyme says:—

"Choose ye, choise ye, at the  
Cross o' Turra,  
Either gang to Aberdeen or  
Elgin o' Moray."

The cross measures twenty feet from the ground to the top.

The motto is that of the Earls of Erroll, who for 350 years after 1412 were superiors of the Burgh, lived at Delgaty Castle and had a residence in the town.

The supporters of the Erroll Arms are two peasants, in russet habits, each holding an ox-yoke on his shoulder, and the origin of these, and of the armorial bearings, which are three shields, is said to be as follows: The family of Erroll "is of ancient extraction, and likewise famous on account of their rise and arms; for in the reign of Kenneth III., and the year 980, when the Danes had invaded Scotland, and prevailed in the battle of Luncarty, near Perth, the Scots were worsted and gave way; and in their flight through a narrow pass were stopped by a countryman and his two sons, who encouraged them to rally and renew the fight; telling them, it was better and more honourable to die in the field fighting for their King and country, than to fly and be afterwards killed by the merciless Danes; and upbraided those who would fly like cowards, when all lay at stake: the more timorous stood still, and many of the stout men, who fled more by the desertion of their companions than want of courage, joined with the old man and his sons to stop the rest, till there was a good number together. The countrymen, who were armed only with what their ploughs furnished, leading them on, and returning upon the Danes, made a furious onset, crying aloud, help is at hand; the Danes believing that a fresh army was falling on them, the Scots thereby totally defeated them, and freed their own country from servitude. The battle being over, and the victory won, it is said that the old man lay on the ground wounded and fatigued, and cried *Hay, Hay*, which word became the surname of his posterity. He was brought to the King, who, assembling a parliament at Scone, gave to him and his sons, as a just reward for their valour, so much land on the River Tay, in the district of Gowrie, as a falcon from a man's hand flew over till it settled; which being six miles in length, was afterwards called Errol. And the King being willing to promote the said Hay and his sons from the rank of plebeians to the order of nobility, he assigned them a coat of arms, which was, argent, three escutcheons, gules, to intimate that the father and the two sons had been the three fortunate shields of Scotland." The above is purely legendary, the true origin of this family being given in "The Record of the House of Gournay," by Mr Daniel Gurney, as follows: "The first of the family of the Hays who occurs in Scotland is William de Haya, who possessed estates in Lothian at the end of the twelfth century, and was *pincerna regis* to Malcolm IV. and William the Lyon. He had two sons, William and Robert—ancestor to the Marquess of Tweedale. William, the eldest son, had a grant of the manor of Herol or Erroll, who, being a faithful adherent of King Robert Bruce under all the vicissitudes of his fortune, was, about the year 1308, created by him hereditary Lord High Constable of Scotland, and the King moreover granted to him the lands of Slains, in Aberdeenshire. Sir Thomas Hay, his grandson, married Elizabeth, daughter of King Robert II. by Elizabeth Moore; and from him descended William Hay, Constable of Scotland, who was created Earl of Erroll, in 1452, by James II."