

TWENTY-FOUR LETTERS OF
SIR THOMAS HOPE, BART.
OF CRAIGHALL

LORD ADVOCATE OF SCOTLAND, 1626-1646.

1627-1646

Edited from the Original Manuscripts, with

Introduction and Notes, by the

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INTRODUCTION

SIR THOMAS HOPE, the writer of the following letters, is so well known to all students of Scottish history, and played so important a part in the stirring events of the reign of King Charles I., that it is only necessary to refer here, in a sentence or two, to the principal points in his distinguished career. His father, Henry Hope, the grandson of John de Hope, a scion of the family of Des Houblons in Picardy, who was one of the gentlemen in attendance on Magdalene de Valois, the first wife of King James v., on her arrival in Scotland in 1537, was a merchant of some position in Edinburgh. His mother was a French woman, Jaqueline de Jott (or, as some call her, Joanna Juvitot). He was one of four brothers, the youngest of whom, Henry, became a merchant in Amsterdam, and the founder of a family which subsequently rose to a position of opulence and influence there. Thomas devoted himself to the study of law, and was called to the Scottish bar in 1605, while still quite a young man. He first became prominent as an advocate, through his courageous but unsuccessful defence of the six ministers who were tried before the Privy Council at Linlithgow in 1606, for holding a meeting of the General Assembly in July 1605, at Aberdeen, in spite of the king's prohibition. Thereafter he speedily became one of the foremost pleaders of the Scottish bar, and eventually amassed a large fortune, which he invested in the purchase of extensive estates in the counties of Fife, Stirling, Berwick, and East and Mid Lothian. In 1626 Hope was appointed Lord Advocate, as colleague to Sir William Oliphant, and, on the removal of the latter from office soon after, continued to act in this capacity for twenty years; during which stormy period, it may

he said, that there were no proceedings, either public or secret, in connection with the government of Scotland, in which he did not take a leading part. Having been knighted some time previously, he was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia in 1628, and in 1643 was appointed Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, being the only commoner who ever occupied that important and honourable post. He died at Edinburgh about the beginning of October 1646, and was buried in the Greyfriars' Churchyard.¹

Sir Thomas Hope married Elizabeth, the daughter of John Bennet of Wallyford, in East Lothian, and had by her a family of fourteen children—nine sons and five daughters—most of whom died in infancy or early youth, but several of whom rose to high positions on the Scottish Bench, and were the founders of families of nobility and distinction.

With regard to his abilities and character, it may be sufficient to quote here the closing sentences of one of his most recent biographers: 'Sir Thomas Hope was not only a great statesman, but a very great lawyer. . . . Opinions will differ as to the public character of Hope. He was an avowed supporter of the Covenant; and yet he seems to have enjoyed the confidence of Charles the First. Traquair at one time, and Hamilton at another, tried to drive him out of office. They both failed. This was partly owing to the fact that the Court party was afraid to quarrel with him. But the real secret of his strength lay in the fact that he never failed to distinguish between the civil and the religious questions which were involved in the struggle between Charles and his Scottish subjects. He defended the civil rights of the Crown whenever he thought they were in danger; but he refused to support, under any pretext, the policy of forcing on the people of Scotland a system of church government which they detested.'²

¹ The last of the letters now printed was written only a day or two before his death.

² *The Lord Advocates of Scotland*, by George W. T. Omond, Advocate, 2 vols.,

For twelve years Sir Thomas Hope kept a Diary, containing more or less minute chronological memoranda of his official as well as of his private correspondence, and incidental allusions to the passing occurrences of his time. It has been printed and issued by the Bannatyne Club, in 1843, under the editorship of the late Dr. David Laing.¹ In the prefatory note to this volume Dr. Laing remarks: 'A collection of the letters of this distinguished person would probably afford additional illustrations of his own character as well as of the momentous events of his own time. Very few of these are at present known to exist;'—a remark which has suggested the printing of the following twenty-four letters, which have been found since the issue of the Bannatyne Club volume. Nine of these (Nos. I-VIII and XVII) are among the mss. bequeathed to the University of Edinburgh by Dr. Laing himself. The other fifteen have been preserved among the valuable family papers in the possession of Alexander Erskine Murray, Esq., Sheriff-substitute of Lanarkshire, Glasgow, a lineal descendant of Sir Thomas Hope, through his daughter, the wife of Sir Charles Erskine of Alva, to the latter of whom most of them have been addressed. The thanks of the Society are due to the Senatus of the University and to Mr. Erskine Murray, for placing them at its disposal for reproduction in the present volume.

It only remains to refer briefly here to the correspondents to whom these letters are addressed.

John Murray, afterwards Earl of Annandale, was the eighth and youngest son of Sir Charles Murray of Cockpool, in Annandale, Dumfriesshire, and Margaret his wife, the eldest daughter of Hugh, fifth Lord Somerville. At an early period of his life

Edinburgh, 1883, vol. i. p. 146. The notice of Sir Thomas Hope in this work is probably the best and fullest sketch of him, and of the chief events of his official life, which has appeared.

¹ *A Diary of the Public Correspondence of Sir Thomas Hope of Craighall, Bart.*, 1633-1645. From the original in the library at Pinkie House. Printed at Edinburgh, MDCCCXLIII.

he was brought to the Scottish Court by the Earl of Morton, where his varied accomplishments soon brought him into notice, and he was appointed one of the gentlemen of the bed-chamber to King James VI., who conferred on him the honour of knighthood. In 1603 he accompanied James to London on his accession to the throne of England, and continued high in the favour of that monarch all through his reign. He was raised to the peerage as Viscount of Annand and Lord Murray of Lochmaben, but at what exact date is uncertain. It must have been previous to February 1623-24 however, for there is a charter, dated the 20th of that month, conveying to him, by this title, the palace of Dumfries and the lands of Haikheuch and Caerlaverock. In March 1624-25, he was created Earl of Annandale, and the patent conferring this title makes special reference to his long and faithful services to the king. The Earl was equally favoured by Charles I., and dying at London on the 22d September 1640, was buried on the 13th October at Hoddam, in Dumfriesshire. He married Elizabeth, the daughter of Sir John Schaw, knight, by whom he had one son, James, who was served heir to his father 30th March 1641, and who succeeded also, as third Viscount of Stormont, in March 1642, on the death of Mungo, the second Viscount, in terms of the limitations of the patent of that title. On the death of the second Earl of Annandale, on the 28th December 1658, the earldom became extinct, to be revived however in 1661, as a new creation, in favour of James Johnston of Johnston, in Annandale, second Earl of Hartfell. The titles of Viscount of Stormont and Lord Scoon devolved on David, second Lord Balvaird, the ancestor of the Earls of Mansfield. The Earl of Annandale acquired a vast estate in different parts of the country. In 1609 he had a charter of the lands and baronies which had formerly belonged to the Abbey of Dundrennan. He succeeded his brother, Sir Richard Murray, Bart., in the old family estate of Cockpool in 1636; and amongst other properties, became possessed of the lands and

baronies of Nether Kelwood, Granoch, Almorness, Rampatrick, Airikstane, Fangarth, Branchie, Gratney, Holywood, and Drysdale, in the county of Dumfries, and stewartry of Kirkcudbright, Castlehead of Falkland in Fife, Tynninghame in East Lothian, and the offices of the bailliary of the Abbeys of Dundrennan and Lincluden. His lordship appears to have been a personal friend as well as a client of Sir Thomas Hope, whose professional advice and assistance he frequently required in the management of his extensive possessions. Among the Laing mss., in the library of Edinburgh University, there is preserved an original letter to him from Thomas, first Earl of Haddington (to whom he sold Tynninghame in 1627, see Letters III, v, and VI), in which the latter bears very favourable testimony to the character and conduct of Hope. It is dated 8th January 1631, and is interesting as presenting us with an estimate of these, formed by one of his own contemporaries. Referring to certain legal questions between the Earl of Anandale and another, Lord Haddington writes,—

‘Your lordship may be assured that my lord advocat will giue him no advantage against you nor to any other, so far as his great sufficiencie can resist it, and that in your businesse with Sir Richard Graham he will giue that aduice which agries with the dutie of a worthie man, who respects both parties for allowable considerations. For as he will euer acknowledge what he owes you for the help he had from you and your friends to promoue him and establish him in his place, so out of the necessitie of the time that forces men to provide meanes to maintaine them against the envie and calumnies that puts all men to their defenses, he must gain the favour and protection of such as are powerfull to support. But I sall neuer belecue that any man sall be able to moue him to breake any point of dutie to your lordship. Your lordship and I haue long trusted him according to the loue and kindness we found in him, and striue to deserue it. His employments for his Maiesties seruice, wherby he procures to himself much dislike,

which might breed him vexation, if he were not assisted by friends of prime credit, compels him to get and keepe their fauour, so as he must be excused to vse the meanes. But I find him so faithfull, and ame assured that he will be so to you, and considering that he knows more of your estate in this countrie nor yourself does, and that ye are not able so long as ye leëue to find any that can learne [teach] so much, or adwyse your affaires so well, I entreat your lordship to cherish his friendship, and altho' in some particular he giue you not satisfaction to your full contentment, yet it will be supplied by many better offices nor the question for your pasturage with Sir Richard, which concernes the Kgdome as well as yow. Of this I sall speake with my lord aduocat and my brother, and let you know what I learne from them.

Marie Stewart, Countess of Mar, was the second daughter of Esmé Stewart, Lord of Aubigny, a French noble, but of Scottish extraction, and cousin-german to Darnley, the husband of Mary Queen of Scots. Her mother was Catherine de Balsac, a daughter of Guillaume, Lord of Balsac, in the province of Angoumois. She was born at Aubigny, in the province of Berri, about the year 1573. In 1579 her father came to Scotland, and while he speedily became a great favourite with the young king, James VI., was strongly suspected of being a secret agent of the Guises, sent by them to thwart the Protestants, and to promote a plan for the deliverance of Mary from her captivity in England, to reinstate her in the sovereignty along with her son, and to regain for them the influence over Scotland which they had lost at the Reformation. How he gained a complete ascendancy over James, being created by him first Earl, and afterwards Duke, of Lennox, and was intrusted, along with the Earl of Arran, with the whole administration of the kingdom; how he excited the enmity of the Protestant nobles, and was at last compelled by them to leave the country and return to France in

December 1582, is too well known to require recapitulation here. He died the following May (1583), and on hearing of his death King James resolved to extend to his children the same favour which he had shown to their father. He sent for Ludovic, his eldest son, whom he confirmed in the heirship to his father's title and estates, while Lennox's three daughters, Henrietta, Marie, and Gabriella, remained still in France with their mother till 1587, when they were sent for by James. The following year Henrietta, the eldest, became the wife of George, Earl of Huntly; and while Gabriella, the youngest, entered a French convent at Glatteny, in the province of Berri, and became a nun, Marie, the second daughter, was ultimately married to John, seventh Earl of Mar, in December 1592. Several amusing traditions have been handed down about the courtship of the latter, and of the manner in which Lord Mar enlisted the aid of his royal master in the successful prosecution of it. (See *Sketch of the Life of John Earl of Mar, son of the Regent*, by David Stewart Erskine, Earl of Buchan, in *The Bee*, an Edinburgh periodical, in 1792, vol. vii. p. 99).

Though born and brought up amongst those who, on both sides of the house, were strenuous and ruthless opponents of Protestantism—her grandfather, John Stewart, Lord d'Aubigny, and her maternal uncles, taking leading parts in the war of Huguenot extermination—Lady Mar not only embraced the Protestant faith, and succoured some of the leading ministers who suffered for it, during the earlier years of her married life, but ultimately warmly espoused the Covenanting cause, and took a prominent part in the great public transactions of the period usually called that of the 'Second Reformation.' She contributed her money and silver-plate to replenish the Covenanters' exchequer, and sent three of her sons, Alexander, Arthur, and John, to serve in the army encamped under the command of Alexander Leslie, at Duns Law in 1639. Her husband, John, the seventh Earl of Mar, died in December

1634. By his first marriage with Anne, second daughter of David, second Lord Drummond, in 1580, he had a son, John, who succeeded him in the earldom. By Lady Marie, his second countess, he had a numerous family—seven sons and four daughters—to provide for whom King James bestowed upon him, in 1604, the lordship of Cardross, a barony which was then erected by the incorporation of the lands formerly belonging to the Priory of Inchmahome, and the abbeys of Dryburgh, and Cambuskenneth. Lady Mar survived her husband for nearly ten years, dying on the 11th of May 1644, in the house of her friend and correspondent, Sir Thomas Hope, in the Cowgate, Edinburgh, who thus records the event in his *Diary*:—‘11th May 1644. This day being Setterday, betuix 11 hours and 12 befoir none, Dame Marie Steuart, Countes of Mar, deceissit in my hous in the Cowgait, and the dyet of hir Ladyship’s funeralls is appointit to be on Thursday come 8 days, the 23 May, at Alloway.’ She is said to have been a beautiful woman in her youth. An original portrait of her, painted on a wooden panel, and in excellent preservation, which is believed to have been painted about the year 1600, when she was about twenty-seven years of age, is still preserved in the valuable collection of Sheriff Erskine Murray, Glasgow. In 1815, the late Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe printed a selection of *Extracts from the Household Book of Lady Marie Stewart, Countess of Mar*, a thin quarto, of which only a very limited number of copies were issued, and which is now therefore very scarce.

Sir Charles Erskine was the fourth son of John, seventh Earl of Mar, Lord High Treasurer of Scotland, and his second wife, Lady Marie Stewart, just mentioned. He must have been born, probably either at Alloa, or Stirling (of the castle of which his father was hereditary governor), about the very end of the 16th century. He was one of the representatives of the Barons for Stirlingshire in the Parliaments of 1641 and 1650,

and for Clackmannanshire in 1649-50. He was married in the Greyfriars' Church, Edinburgh, on the 5th of February 1639, to Marie, eldest surviving daughter of Sir Thomas Hope.¹ Like his mother, an ardent supporter of the cause of the Covenant, in July 1644, he was elected 'by plurality of woyces,' one of the commissioners from the kingdom of Scotland to the English Parliament,² and about the same time was appointed an additional commissioner to the famous Assembly of Divines at Westminster.³ For the next three years he remained in London, except for a few months in the summer of 1645, when he paid a visit to his wife and family in Edinburgh. He was one of the commissioners sent in January 1645 to Uxbridge to discuss terms of peace between Charles I. and the English Parliament. On his return to Scotland Sir Charles became governor of the Castle of Dumbarton, a commission for putting him in possession of the fortress having been issued by the Committee of Estates in June 1646. He had previously received a commission from his cousin, James, Duke of Lennox, its hereditary keeper. After the battle of Worcester in September 1651, the Committee of Estates sent instructions to Sir Charles to deliver up the castle to Major-General Lambert, an order which, for a time, he refused to obey, till, finding that a sequestration had been entered against his estate, and his plate valued at £400 sterling, he rendered it to Lambert on the 5th of January 1652, under conditions which secured immunity to the garrison, and the free use of his property to himself.⁴ After this he seems to have lived the rest of his life in comparative retirement at his house of Alva, which property he had purchased in March 1649, from Alexander Bruce, brother of Edward Bruce, first Earl of Kincardine, who, in 1662, became the second Earl, on the death of the latter.⁵ He

¹ Hope's *Diary*, p. 85.

² Balfour's *Annals*, vol. iii. p. 205.

³ *Minutes of the Westminster Assembly*, p. 40.

⁴ Nicoll's *Diary*, pp. 71, 79; Irving's *Hist. of Dumbartonshire*, p. 199 seq. *Reg. Mag. Sig.* lxxviii. No. 283.

had, as a young man, received the small property of Bandeath, situated on the banks of the river Forth in Stirlingshire, from his father; and in 1639 the barony and manor of Cambuskenneth, the property formerly of his elder brother, Sir Alexander Erskine, was made over to him by his mother, the countess, to whom the latter had conveyed it in consideration of heavy debts which she had paid for him. He is said to have been her favourite son, and at her death she bequeathed to him the larger portion of her personal effects, including plate, and many very valuable pictures, which are still in the possession of his descendants. As a prominent Covenanter Sir Charles was fined £6000 Scots by Middleton's Parliament in 1662.¹ By his marriage with Marie Hope he had seven children—five sons and two daughters—most of whom died in infancy or youth, and the fourth of whom, Charles, succeeded him, and was afterwards made a baronet in 1666. After the death of his first wife, he was married again, about 1655, to Helen Skene, daughter of Sir John Skene, Lord Curriehill, and by her, who survived him, he had a daughter, Mary, and a son, John. He died at Edinburgh on the 8th day of July 1663, and was buried in the family vault beneath the church at Alva.

Alexander (afterwards Sir Alexander) Hope, the sixth child, and fifth son of Sir Thomas Hope, was born on the 12th of March 1611. In his youth he became, first, Carver Extraordinary, and afterwards Cup-bearer to King Charles I., to whom he appears to have been warmly devoted.² From the tenor of such letters as Numbers XIII and xv, and from various entries in the first portion of his father's *Diary*, it is evident that his extravagance was a cause of grief and embarrassment to Sir Thomas.³ He was married in December 1642 to a wealthy English lady, Anna Bill, apparently a widow, from the mention of her father-in-law, Sir Thomas Bludder, in the contract of marriage, the original of which is still extant,

¹ Wodrow's *Hist.*, vol. i. p. 276.

² See Letter XIX, p. 131.

³ Hope's *Diary*, pp. 44, 64, 65, 68, 73, 77.

dated 22nd November of that year, and in his father's *Diary*.¹ He purchased the estate of Granton, in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, from his nephew, Sir Thomas Hope, 3rd Baronet of Craighall, in 1656, and dying, *sine prole*, 15th February 1680, was buried at Cramond. He sold the estate of Granton, shortly before his death, to his nephew, John Hope of Hopetoun.

Gilbert Neilson, advocate, the son of Thomas Neilson, had sasine of the lands and barony of Craiggaffie, Wigtownshire, in November 1643. The old square tower of Craiggaffie, or Craiggathie Castle is still standing. It is situated in the parish of Inch, three and a half miles north-east of Stranraer, and was once surrounded by a fosse, but never could have been a place of much strength. The Neilsons are said to have traced their descent from Neil, Earl of Carrick, who died in 1526. Gilbert, whose name, strangely enough, does not occur in the official list of advocates of the Scots bar kept in the Library of the faculty in Edinburgh, was succeeded in 1647 by Robert, probably a son. The property continued in the family till 1759, when it was acquired by John M'Dowall of Logan, and in November 1791 the Earl of Stair was infeft in it on a Crown charter.²

Robert Inglis was a Scottish merchant and banker in London, who seems to have acted as a factor or agent for his countrymen there.³ He is frequently referred to in Sir Thomas Hope's *Diary*.

¹ P. 173.

² M'Kerlie's *History of the Lands and their Owners in Galloway*, vol. i. p. 136.

³ Among Sir Charles Erskine's papers, there is a sealed autograph receipt of Inglis's, dated 31st December 1646, for £12,000 sterling, 'according to the order of the commissioners of the Kingdom of Scotland,' of which he had given out £5964, and 'sixteene pounds sterling to Wm. Cuming for his charges to and from Newcastle, according to their warrant of the 22d Decr. 1646.' The balance he binds himself and his heirs to pay, 'according to the order of the commissioners for the Kingdom of Scotland residing at London for the tyme and not otherwise.'



SIR THOMAS HOPE OF CRAIGHALL

from the portrait by Jamesone in Pinkie House, by permission of Sir William Hope, Bart.

I

TO THE EARL OF ANNANDALE.

PLEASS YOUR LORDSCHIP,—I ressaüt this day your lordschipis letteris with your box of wreittis and informatiouns tuiching Brochtoun,¹ quhilk I haif considerit at greit leasure, and I trust thair sall not be mucche bussines of this erand befoir Mertimes. For befoir the ressaüt of your letteris I haif procurit the dyet of meiting to be in November, and thairfoir I haif deteynit the rest of your lordschipis letteris sent to Brochtoun,² Airthour Houstoun,³ and Robert Creychtoun,⁴ with that vther writtin to the bischop of Gallouay,⁵ till the

¹ In the parish of Whithorn, Wigtownshire—a property long in the possession of a family of the name of Murray, who are said to have come originally from Morayshire, in the twelfth century, but were only first known in Galloway in the fifteenth. The present proprietor is Horatio Granville Murray-Stewart, Esq.

² John Murray, son of George Murray of Broughton, and Katherine Vauss, the daughter of Sir Patrick Vauss of Barnbarroch (see note, p. 89). Born in 1606, he was at this time nearly of age, and this and the subsequent letters appear to relate to the arrangements preparatory to his entering upon the full possession of his patrimonial inheritance. The Earl of Annandale, who was his kinsman—the former's great-grand-uncle, Mungo Murray, the son of Cuthbert Murray of Cockpool, being the ancestor of the Broughton family—was probably one of his guardians, and had, at all events, a share in the management, financial and otherwise, of the estate during his minority. John Murray of Broughton married a niece of the Earl's—Marion, daughter of Sir James Murray of Cockpool, his eldest brother, in 1630. M^rKerlie's *History of the Lands and their Owners in Galloway*, Edinburgh, 1870-79, vol. i. p. 476; Douglas's *Peerage*.

³ Probably a cousin of John Murray of Broughton; a son of William Houston of Cutreoch, who was married in 1594 to a daughter of Sir Patrick Vauss of Barnbarroch.—*Ibid*.

⁴ Probably another cousin; the son of John Creighton of Larg, who was married in 1570 to Margaret, another daughter of Sir Patrick Vauss, and widow of John Dunbar of Orchardtoun.—*Ibid*.

⁵ Andrew Lamb, formerly minister successively of Arbroath and South Leith, and chaplain to the King (James VI.); consecrated Bishop of Brechin at London, 21st October 1610; translated to the See of Galloway in 1619; became blind, and died in 1634. He also was related by marriage to the Broughton family,

tyme of our meiting, and sall delyver tham than and no soner, except your lordschip in your nixt gif me warrand vtherwais, and than I sall obey.

And as tuiching your lordschipis ansueris to my douttis, your lordschip takis it as if I had gevin way to all theis demandis of Brochtounis. But it is vtherwais. For in the extensioun of the contract thingis vnclair wes to be made cleir, vtherwais thair neidit no extensioun. And thairfoir, becaus Brochtoun, being present, affirmit that so and so it wes commonit,¹ I did not assert to him, but left ane blank to be fillit efter your lordschipis ansuer, and sua the first done anent the passing of the infestments is to be fillit vpon Brochtouns chargis. Nixt, the entrie (if no vther thing wes commonit), man be at his age of xxi yeris compleit, quhilk is affirmit to be in October nixt; and so he will haif rycht to the half fermes and dewties, 1627, becaus he is maior befoir Mertimes. But I intend to draw his entrie to the crop 1628, becaus apperandlie it wilbe Mertimes befoir the contract be subscriyvit and the writtis interchangit, and so that terme wilbe run.

3. The blank anent the payment of the thrie thousand merks is be the minut appointed to be at the fulfilling of his part off the contract, quhilk he will offer to fulfill befoir Mertemes, and so be apperance, Mertemes will be the terme. But if I can I sall draw it to be Witsonday nixt.

4. The band of fyve thousand merks for the Birchogis is alternatiue, ather to pay or releive.

5. The band of I^m merks for his mothers lyfrent is directlie aggreable to the minut, and I wuld not be misled for want of the minut quhilk wes in my handis, and quhairvpon I causit draw vp the extendit contract. For quhair your lordschipis articles beris that your band of I^m merks sould expyre quhen ather his mother renuncis hir lyfrent or departis this lyf thair is no sik claus in the minut, but your lordschip is bund to disburdene him of his mothers lyfrent, and to that effect to pay to him ane yeirlie annuitie of I^m merks, quhilk is ane express oblischement to pay, and not to releiff

a daughter of his having been married to one of the lairds of that estate; to which of them, however, is uncertain.—Scott's *Fasti*.

¹ Agreed upon.

simpliciter. But I think this hes beine your lordschipsis meaninge as the article proportis, and thairfoir I sall vrge to haif it drawin to that concepioun. 6. Thair is ane blank anent the exceptiouns from the warrandice quhilk I wald not fill. But having this day red over the haill writtis and amangis the rest the minut betuixt your lordschip and his mother, I find sum widsettis expressit quhairof your lordschip is bund to releif hir. But I knaw not quhither if thir widsettis wes takin on be your lordschip or be hir husband; for if takin on be your lordschip thair must be exceptit, but if takin on be his father thair nedis no exceptioun. And to the effect your lordschip may know quhat widsettis thay ar I haif set them down in this inclosit paper as thair ar writtin in that old minut betuix your lordschip and his mother, and I desyre your lordschip in your nixt to informe me quhither tane on be your lordschip or his father, and nixt, if yit lying on or if redeymed. And so mucche for satisfeing of your lordschipsis articles and ansueirs thairof. But, my Lord, I desyre to be informed be your lordschip, quhat if Brochtoun will not aggrie to the solutioun of your douttis, quhilk for my part I think just and ressonabill, and quhilk be law he wilbe forcit to yeild to. In this cace wrytt your lordschipsis advyse, for to my judgement I inclyne to latt him byt on the brydell and sall terrife him with putting the minut in registers and charging him to extend and fulfill the samyn vnder the payne thairin conteynit, quhilk is ten thousand pund stirling.

By thir preceeding articles I haif espyit sum difficulties out off the old minut betuix your lordschip and his mother quhairin I desyre your lordschipsis opinione quhilk ar thir. 1. Quhat rycht had your lordschip to the xx oxin and seid corn quhilk your lordschip disponit to his mother, for if ye had no rycht he may distresse his mother and scho will haif warrandice aganis your lordschip. 2. Be the minut your lordschip is oblischit to mak compt and rekkoning off the debtis auchtand to Brochtoun, and of your intromissioun thairwith, provyding ye be first payit of viij^m v^c merks quhilk ye affirm to be auchtand to your self: quhairupon I ask if your lordschip intromettet, with quhat and how mucche, be quhat rycht, and if your intromissioun be within or above viij^m v^c merks, and last quhat warrands ye haif to prove that his father wes auchtand your

lordschip the soume of viij^m v^c merkis, quhilk your lordschip wilbe bund to prove if the matter sould cum in disput of law, seing your awin affirmatioun betuix your lordschip and Brochtouns mother will not be sufficient to prove your debt. 3. I desyre to know quho hes brukit¹ Kirkcastell ever since that said minut quhilk wes made betuix your lordschip and his mother in anno 1616, now be the space of xj yeris, quhither your lordschip or his mother; for if scho brukit scho must be comptabill seing be the minut thair is no rycht made to hir of Kirkcastell quhill efter hir sones perfyte age of 21 yeris, and if scho be auchtand it still it may releiff your lordschip of ane part of the somes quhilk your lordschip is to gif to hir sone. Off all thir I desyre your lordschipsis generall advyse, and if your lordschip can not gif me ane cleir grund to frie your lordschip of thir particularis quhilk arryis upon that old minut, I intend to vrge Brochtoun to gif ane mutuall discharge of all things he can crave of your lordschip as air or exequutor to his father, and the lyk discharge to be made be your lordschip to him; and if he refuse I intend to superceid the ending with him till he be maid more sensibill of his awin estait, and of your lordschipsis fauor to him.

As to my sone, it is aneugh to me that your lordschip movit it, and it is ane benefit that your lordschip hes acquaint me so quicklie with his Majestys plesur, for nou I am at rest. And thocht he be accomptit ane young man, zit I dar ventur him vpon any of tham that ar aymit to the place, and I know the best of that sait enterit in his age.² But, my lord, if I haif errit in tyme by a peice of festinatioun, befoir full age or maturitie, latt ather my affectioun to him, or my confidence in his Majestys fauor for him, plead my excuse. And I think I haif gainit ane greit point that your lordschip wryttis ye hope

¹ Enjoyed, possessed.—Jamieson's *Scot. Dict.*

² This has reference probably to Sir Thomas Hope's eldest son, afterwards Sir John, second Baronet of Craighall, who was appointed a Lord of Session in 1632. There being two vacancies on the bench of the Court of Session at this time, through the death of Sir William Livingston, Lord Kilsyth, and the resignation of Sir Archibald Acheson, Lord Glencairn, Sir Thomas had evidently applied to the King (Charles I.), through his friend and client the Earl, for his son's appointment to one of them, and the request had been refused because of his youth. He was at this time only twenty-two or twenty-three years of age.

at sum vther tyme to gif me contentment, and both I and my sone, being hopes, will rest vpon that hope, and still hope that his sacred majestie will not disappoint our hope. Sua remembring my humbill and bund service to your lordschip, your nobill lady and deir children, I committ yow all to the mercies of God, and restis your bund servitor till death,

S. THOMAS HOPE.

Edinburgh, 29 September 1627.

My Lord, I think it expedient that at this tyme, quhen your lordschip endis with Brochtoun, that ye ratifie your lordschipsis old rychtis of the Iriche landis,¹ and to that effect your lordschip sall do weill to seek them furth and to send them to me with diligence, for indeed I expectit thaim with the rest of the writtis quhilk ar sent.

In the Minut betuix the Erl of Annandail and Katherine Vauss,²

¹ George Murray of Broughton, the father of the young man mentioned in the letters, had lands of considerable value in Ireland bestowed upon him by King James VI. These are still in the possession of his descendants, and consist of the estate called Whitehouse, Killybegs, County Donegal.—M'Kerlie's *History of the Lands and their Owners in Galloway*. Writing to Lord Binning, Secretary of State, 2d December 1613, the Earl of Annandale, then John Murray of Cockpool, says,—‘Do as your lordschippe will, I shall take the best course I can to settill Brochtones turnes in Eyrland, as your lordschippe shall hear.’—Sir William Fraser's *Memorials of the Earls of Haddington*, vol. ii. pp. 126-7.

² Daughter of Sir Patrick Vauss of Barnbarroch, in the parish of Kirkinner, Wigtonshire, the representative of an ancient family, descended from the Vauxes of Dirleton, in East Lothian. Alexander Vaux, Bishop of Galloway in 1426, was the first known of the name in Galloway, and a nephew of his is said to have been the first proprietor of Barnbarroch. Sir Patrick Vauss succeeded to the estate in 1568, on the death of his elder brother Alexander, and speedily rose to a position of great influence. In 1576 he was appointed an ordinary Lord of Session, and in May 1587 was sent, along with Mr. Peter Young, the King's Almoner, as ambassador to Denmark, by James VI., ‘for treating and concluding upon the headis of his Majesties maist honourable marriage’ with Anne of Denmark. He was also present at the King's marriage at Upslo, in Norway, in 1589. He married, first, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Hew Kennedy of Girvanmains, who died *sine prole*; and, second, Lady Catherine Kennedy, daughter of Gilbert, third Earl of Cassilis, and died 22d July 1597. Since the beginning of the eighteenth century the name has usually been rendered Vans, the present representatives of the family bearing also the name and arms of Agnew of Sheuchan.—M'Kerlie's *History of the Lands and their Owners in Galloway*, vol. i. p. 359 *seq.*; Brunton and Haig's *Senators*, p. 162.

relict of vmquhile Gorge Murray of Brochtoun,¹ thir claussis ar conteynit.

And siclyk the said Erll oblissis him to freth and releiff the saidis landis of thir annuelrentis following, viz.:—Of ane annuelrent of j^c merks to James Twedie out of the landis of Brochtoun, Skoch, Outtoun Chapell, Outtoun Gallows,² and S^t Jons lands;³ one vther annuelrent of

widsett out of the said lands to Lennox of Callie; Item, ane annuelrent of l^cxxx merks wedsett out of the saidis landis to Thomas Melroy; Item, ane annuelrent of

hundreth merks wedsett out of the lands of Kirkcastell to Maxuell, spous to Harbert Maxuell of Kirkconnell, and to caus hir, with consent of hir spous, renunce the samyn.

Attour the said Katherine Vauss ourgifs to the said Erll all debtis auchtand to hir vmquhile husband, and the said Erll oblischis him to mak compt, reckoning, and payment to the said Katherin or hir sone of all somes of money quhilk salbe intromettit with be the said Erll above the soume of aucht thousand fyve hundreth merks, quhilk is the iust soume restand be the said vmquhile George Murray to the said Erll.

And siklyk the said Erll dispones to the said Katherine xx oxin and hail seid corne being vpon the saidis landis. And it is affirmit in the minut that thir xx oxin pertentit to Jon Murray, hir sone.

[Indorsed:] *Nott furth of the Minut 1616 betuix the Erll of Annandaill and Katherine Vauss, relict of George Murray of Brochtoun.*

To the rycht nobill Erll, my Lord, the Erll of Annandaill.

¹ The son of David Murray. He was in possession of Broughton in 1605; was in favour with James VI., and became one of the gentlemen of the bed-chamber, having also bestowed on him lands in Ireland, and superiorities in Scotland.—M^r Kerlie's *History*, vol. i. p. 476.

² These are still the names of farms in the parish of Whithorn, forming part of the estate of Broughton.—*Ibid.*

³ By a charter dated 1602, all the St. John lands in Wigtownshire were granted to George Murray of Broughton.—*Ibid.*

II

TO THE EARL OF ANNANDALE.

PLEASS YOUR LORDSCHIP,—I ressauit your lordschipis, with the box of writtis and informatiouns touching Brochtoun, on 27 September, and efter I had cairfully pervsit all, with the last minut and the old minut betuix your lordschip and the lady, I wreit my ansuer to the hail doulttis contenit in your lordschipis letteris and informatioun of 29 September, quhilk I delyuerit to Capitan Patrik Cokburne, inclosit in ane packet direct to the Secretar, fra quhom I trust your lordschip hes ressauit it.

This day I ressauit ane letter fra your lordschipis cousing Brochtoun, quhairby he desyrit me to direct this inclosit to your lordschip from him; to the quhilk I haif writtin ane ansuer, schawing that your lordschip, being aduertisit be me of the delay of the meiting till November, hes differrit to send the writtis heir in full and perfyt ordour as is requirit, and that I expect tham certainlie befoir November. And becaus I acquaintit your lordschip in my former by Capitan Cokburne that I wes not myndit to delyuer theis quhilk wer directit to Brochtoun, Airthour Houstoun, and Robert Creychtoun,¹ except I gatt ane new warrand from your lordschip to that effect, so now I remayne in the samyn mynd, and will not mak tham wyse that the writtis ar come till I ressaue your lordschipis ansuer and advyse anent the particularis conteinit in my last with Capitan Cokburne. And if your lordschip plessis, I think it fitt that your lordschip renew your letteris to thaim vpon occasioun of this second letter come from Brochtoun, and excuse your not answering of the first in respect of the continuatioun of the dyet be Brochtoun and his freinds be ressoun of the harvest, quhilk wes signifiit to me be Arthour Houstoun, and quhair of I acquaintit your lordschip be letter. And in your lordschipis letteris to tham all schaw that your lordschip must haif ane generall discharge of all that Brochtoun can have of your lordschip as air or exequutor to his father, for I

¹ See notes, p. 85.

find this exceeding necessar for the caussis and douttis quhilk I haif obseruit in the old minut betuix your lordschip and his mother.

I expect within few days to be at the meiting of Bruntiland betuix my Lord Stormonth¹ and Sir Mungo,² and as matteris proceidis thair your lordschip salbe advertisit. So wisching to your lordschip all happines, with the remembrance of my humbill seruice to your lordschip and your nobill lady and children, I committ your lordschip to the blissing of Godis grace and restis, your lordschipsis bund seruitor to death,

S. THOMAS HOPE.

Edinburgh, 1 October 1627.

My Lord, remember my love to your lordschipsis good cousing Sir James Baillie³ if he be come.

To the rycht nobill Erll, my Lord, the Erll of Annandaill.

III

TO THE EARL OF ANNANDALE.

PLEASS YOUR LORDSCHIP,—I ressaute your lordschipsis of 19, 21, and 22 October this day, being first of November. And for

¹ Sir David Murray of Gospetry, in the parish of Falkland, Fife, second son of Sir Andrew Murray of Arngask and Balvaird, and great-grandson of Sir William Murray of Tullibardine, the common ancestor of the noble families of Athole and Mansfield. He was Cup-bearer, Master of the Horse, and Captain of the Guards to James VI., who knighted him and appointed him Comptroller of the Royal revenues in 1599; created Lord Scone in 1605, and Viscount Stormont in 1621; married Elizabeth, daughter of David Betoun of Creich, Fife, and died 27th August 1631. He was buried at Scone, where a magnificent monument was erected to his memory, which still exists.—Douglas's *Peerage*.

² Sir Mungo Murray of Drumcairn, fourth son of John, first Earl of Tullibardine, succeeded his kinsman, the first Viscount Stormont, who died without issue, as second Viscount, in 1631, according to a deed of entail executed in 1625. He married, first, Anne, the elder daughter of Sir Andrew Murray of Balvaird, the niece of his predecessor, and, second, Lady Anne Wemyss, second daughter of John, Earl of Wemyss, and relict of Alexander Lindsay of Edzell. Died March 1642, *sine prole*.—*Ibid.*

³ Sir James Baillie of Lochend, in the parish of Dunbar, one of the Lords of the Secret Council. He acted as the Earl's factor on the neighbouring estate of Tynninghame, acquired by him in 1621.

Brochtoun, becaus your lordschip referris it to Sir James Baillies cumming I will rest thairupon. And for the nott of the Irische landis,¹ it salbe sent with the securities quhen thay go to Irland, and nothing salbe omittit of that quhilk your lordschip hes gevin in directioun to be done ather be your present letteris or be your lordschipis former. And becaus Sir Archibald Achesoun² is better acquaint with Irische bussines nor I, thairfoir I sall follow his counsell, and advyse thairin. As to George Graham and his complices, I think thai may be persewit for reif and thift; but becaus he is absent furth of the cuntrey he man be persewit on lx dayis; and for his complices Robert Creychtoun hes promisit to bring me thair names betuix and the tent of this moneth, and sa sone as I gett tham I sall ryse criminall letteris both aganis George Graham and tham; and if possibly the complices can be separat from George Graham, quho is principall actor, I sall travell to draw tham to thair tryall within xv dayis, quhilk is the ordinar course of citatioun. But I feir it salbe difficult to separat the principall from the complices, or tham from the principall. But seing your lordschip is so earnest, and that it tuichis your lordschip in credit, it sall haif ane essay, and the worst is to bring tham also in vpon lx dayis if I can not gett tham in apart without George Graham.

As to your lordschipis declarator aganis your brother,³ it is very liklie that the first gift wes takin to your vmquhile brotheris⁴ behove, and be his awin moyen and moneyis, but this man be provin, and it can not be provin but ather be

¹ See note, p. 89.

² Son of Alexander Acheson of Gosford, Haddington; admitted to the Scottish bar in 1607; obtained a large grant of lands in the county of Antrim, Ireland, in 1611, and in the following year another grant in the county of Cavan; raised to the Scottish bench in 1626 as Lord Glencairney; created a baronet by Charles I. in 1628; for many years one of the Secretaries of State for Scotland. Married a daughter of Sir Robert Hannay of Mochrum, Bart.; died 9th September 1634.—Brunton and Haig's *Senators of the College of Justice*; Burke's *Peerage*.

³ Sir Richard Murray of Cockpool, succeeded his elder brother, Sir James, in 1621; created a baronet by Charles I., and died *sine prole*, in 1636.—Douglas's *Baronage*.

⁴ Sir James Murray of Cockpool, the Earl's eldest brother; succeeded to Cockpool in 1605; died in 1620, leaving three daughters, but no son.—*Ibid*.

writt or be the ayth off the assignay to the gift. Writt we haif none, and if it go to ayth I feir it sal lose. But thair is ane vther point quhilk your lordschip hes forgett, and my Lord Chester¹ both—that thai allegit your brother wes relaxt within yeir and day from the Lady Newbies² horning, quhilk is the horning quhairupon your lordschipsis gift is takin. And if this be trew, your lordschips gift and declaratour fallis for the lyfrent albeit thair wer no former gift nor declaratour. And I haif oftentymes writtin to your lordschip that if thai be abill to schaw ane relaxatioun within yeir and day all the earth can not mend it. But, my Lord, if thair can be ony advantage gottin in the following of the process, I sal do it with that cair and fidelity that becomes me in ane erand that concerns your lordschip so nearly, and not only my sone, but myself sall sollice the chancellor and haill lordis thairin.

As to my Lord Stormonth, I haif ansuerit that apart be this vther, quhilk I writt befor the ressait of thir your lordschipsis last letteris.

And for your lordschipsis advyse and judgement tuiching the submissioun, I haif considerit it narrowlie, and intendis to follow it becaus I find it both judicious and sure.

And quhair your lordschip askis if I had letteris of your lordschip from Hamptoun Court of 4 October. My Lord, thay com to me, being in Fyif, vpon the 16 of October, and no soner, and on the 15 of October of befor, and all the daxis of that

¹ Sir Philip Stanhope of Shelford, Northamptonshire, who was elevated to the peerage as Baron Stanhope in 1616, and advanced to the Earldom of Chesterfield in 1628. He was a firm supporter of the royal cause during the civil wars. Died 1656.—Burke's *Peerage*.

² Elizabeth Stewart, sister of the first Earl of Galloway, and widow of John Johnstone of Newbie, an ancient barony in Dumfriesshire, subsequently absorbed in the estates of Johnstone of that ilk. John Johnstone of Newbie, who was Provost of Annan in 1604, died at Carlisle in 1605. His estate being entailed on heirs-male, was claimed by an uncle, Robert Johnstone of Brigholme, but the claim was resisted by his widow and family of seven daughters. For an account of the proceedings which ensued see *The Historical Families of Dumfriesshire*, by C. L. Johnstone, Dumfries, 1889, p. 148 *seq.* The allusion in the text is probably to an action which was raised by Elizabeth Stewart, Lady Newbie, and her second husband, Samuel Kirkpatrick of Hoddam, against Sir James Murray of Cockpool, the Earl's eldest brother, in 1610, for 'non-payment of certain dues.'—*Ibid.* p. 150.

moneth, I wes still in towne, but hard not of theis till I wes gone to Fyif, and than thay followit me vpon the morrow. And vpon the vther morne, efter the ressait thairof, I returnit from Fyiff to Edinburgh to attend that quhilk hes takin suche success (as if your lordschip haif contentment) I sal neuer haif ane croce thocht in respect of the worthines of the personnis to quhom it is bestowit. But indeed I ame sorie that I haiff not hard of your lordschip that ye ar contentit, and hes approvyn the course quhilk nottheles I presum to be sa in respect of the greit bands of affectioun betuix your lordschip and him.

This nycht the Erl of Hadingtoun made me reid your lordschipsis letter tuiching your lordschipsis purpose of Twininghame,¹ and albeit I am sorie that theis lands sould be putt away, yet becaus I find your lordschip so earnest in your desyre I haif drawin vp ane band of alienatioun to be subscrivrit be your lordschip and your lady in fauores of the Erl of Hadingtoun, quhilk is to be sent to your lordschip in the nixt pacquet, becaus it will not be so sone drawin vp as to go with this. But seing it is to be ane Mertimes bargan, we must mak the greter expeditioun that your lordschipsis money lye not vnprofitable in your lordschipsis hands. And thairfoir it wil pleis your lordschip to resolue to quhom ye will pay any moneyis at this terme, and to sett down thair names in ane roll, and to wrytt to tham to ressaue the samyn. And siklyk to sett down ane nott of the wedsettis quhilk presentlie lye vpon the landis, for so muche of the moneyis must be retornit be the Erl of Haddingtoun in his handis as will ansuer to theis wedsettis quhilk ar yit vnredemit; and last, to sett down the takkis and rentalls, if any be maid and sett be your lordschip since ye cam to the lands, to the effect the samyn may be exceptit from the warrandice; for I haif to aggrie with the

¹ The estate of Tynninghame in East Lothian, now the seat of the Earl of Haddington, was an ancient possession of the Bishops of St. Andrews, and was subsequently owned for about a century by the Lauders, the Lairds of the Bass, by whom it was sold in 1621 to John Murray, afterwards Earl of Annandale, for 200,000 merks. He again sold it to his friend Thomas, first Earl of Haddington, in 1627, for the same price.—Sir William Fraser's *Memorials of the Earls of Haddington*, vol. i. p. xxxiii.

Erl of Hadingtoun that your lordschip salbe no further oblischit but from your awin deid, and that thair salbe exceptit thairfra suche takkis, rentales, and wedsettis, quhilk ye haif made yourself. So with my humbill salutatiouns to your lordschip and your nobill lady, I committ your lordschip to the blissing of Godis grace, and restis, your lordschipsis humbill and bund seruitor till death.

S. THOMAS HOPE.

Edinburgh, 1 November 1627.

Pleass your lordschip. The Commissioun sould haif begun this day. N¹ and I attendit tharon at Halyruid hous fra one to fyve at nycht (for during that tyme the Counsall satt) and quhen the Commissioners wer called for thair wes not ane number nather of bischopes nor burrowis. Quhairupon it wes appointit that letters sould be direct to requyre tham to be present vpon Fryday cum aucht dayis, quhilk is the sexteint of November. I persave that it salbe my lott all wynter to attend the Commissioun, and it is the custome at meitingis to prefer bothe Counsal and Chekker, during quhilk tyme I am castin louse, and putt to ane bak rowme to be ane idill onwaiter, quhilk is bothe disgraceful to my charge and contrair to my nature, for I love not jakking nor idilsell. And if your lordschip haif any purpose to amend this (as your lordschip wryttis in your letter) it is necessar now, and I haif not will to cast it off till I be thair to sie your lordschip, for that may be long to and quhen the Lord pleissis.

To the rycht nobill Erll, my Lord, the Erll of Annandaill.

IV

TO THE EARL OF ANNANDALE.

PLEASS YOUR LORDSCHIP,—I now earnestlie attend your lordschipsis ansuer tuiching the bussines contenit in my letter of the 20 October, and remaynis in ane greit vncertaintie and fluctuatioun of mynd till I heir how your lordschip is pleisit

¹ Probably Thomas Nicolson, who succeeded Johnston of Warriston as Lord Advocate in 1649. He was knighted by Charles II. at Falkland, 10th July 1650, and died 15th December 1656. 'Ane excellent and judicious lawyer.'—Omond's *Lord Advocates of Scotland*, vol. i.'pp. 154, 167.

and contentit in that particular. I expect also your lordschipis directioun tuiching Brochtoun, becaus the terme is now instant. And anent the Vicount of Stormonth,¹ I ressauit letteris of 22 of October aduertising that the dyet wes desertit. But I spak the Erl of Hadingtoun² not to acquaint your lordschip thairwith till we sould haif tryit the grundis quhairupon it desertit, and quhat hes followit thairupon. But the Erl hes acquaintit me this day that he writt to your lordschip thairanent in this last pacquett, quhilk ran on Mononday last, the 29 of October, at quhilk tyme I made report to his lordschip of all that I had tryit tuiching the bussines, quhilk is this:—

Sir Patrik Murray³ hes delt betuix the Vicount and the maister, his brother,⁴ and movit the maister, his brother, and his lady⁵ to go in to my lord and schaw his lordschip that thairwald not haif dyettis appointit betuix his lordschip and thaim, but that thay wald cast all in my lords awin hands [to] do thairin ashe plesit himself; quhilk my lord acceptit, and sent for Mr. Andro Murray,⁶ quhom he hes designit lord of Balvard, and for Michall Balfour of Denmyln,⁷ quho is his cheif coun-

¹ See note, p. 92.

² Sir Thomas Hamilton of Priestfield, born in 1563; admitted advocate in 1587; Lord of Session as Lord Drumcairn in 1592; Lord Clerk Register of Scotland, 1612; raised to the peerage in 1613 as Lord Binning and Byres; created Earl of Melrose 1619, a title which he exchanged eight years afterwards for that of Earl of Haddington; became Lord Privy Seal in 1626; died 29th May 1637.—Brunton and Haig's *Senators*; Douglas's *Peerage*.

³ Sir Patrick Murray of Castletown, son of John, first Earl of Tullibardine, who afterwards became third Earl, and brother of Sir Mungo Murray, afterwards second Viscount Stormont.

⁴ Sir Mungo Murray, see note, p. 92.

⁵ Anne, elder daughter of Sir Andrew Murray of Balvard, and niece of David, first Viscount Stormont.

⁶ Andrew Murray, M. A., second son of David Murray of Balgony; graduated at St. Andrews in 1618; admitted minister of Abdie, in the Presbytery of Cupar, Fife, in 1622; by special entail, succeeded David, first Viscount Stormont, in the baronies of Arngask and Kippo, on the death of that nobleman in 1631, and was raised to the Peerage as Lord Balvard in 1641—the only instance in the Scottish Church in which a minister has had a peerage conferred upon him. He married Elizabeth, fifth daughter of David, first Earl of Southesk, and widow of James, second Earl of Annandale, and died 24th September 1644, aged about forty-seven.—Scott's *Fasti*.

⁷ Michael Balfour, whose great-great-grandfather, James Balfour (killed at the siege of Roxburgh in 1460) obtained from King James II. the lands of Denmylne,

sellor be my lords directioun. And in my lords presence the maister and his lady hes takin tham be the hand and thay ar reconcillit. This wes done about the 18 or 19 of October. But as to the bussines itself tuiching that quhilk salbe for the maister, and eftir him to your lordschip¹ that lyeis over as yit vntuichit, and as I heir is liklie to lye over, with the quhilk the maister and his lady ar not weill contentit and hes signifiet thair discontentment to sum of thair freinds, sua that the controversie is not yit weill removit. Quhen my lord writ to me anent the deserting of the dyet, I writ bak and humblie entreatit his lordschip that he wald be pleisit ather to wrytt to your lordschip immediatlie from himself or wrytt to me to be notifiect to your lordschip quhat wer the heids and points of contentment quhilk his lordschip wald bestow vpon the maistir, becaus (I said) I knew that your lordschip wald be exceiding glaid to heir off the samyn, seing your lordschip had declarit be your letter that your lordschip for your part wald rest vpon my lords promises made both to your lordschip and to your freindis. But I haif ressaut no ansuer bak agane, and I scarcelie expect any, having tryit that matteris gois as I haif already writtin to your lordschip. Sua with my humbill and herty salutatiounis I committ your lordschip to the blissing of Godis grace, and restis your lordschipsis humbill and bund seruitor till death,

S. THOMAS HOPE.

Edinburgh, 1 November 1627.

To the rycht nobill Erll, my Lord, the Erll of Annandaill.

in the parish of Abdie, Fife, originally belonging to the Earls of Fife, and which fell to the Crown on the forfeiture of Murdoch, Duke of Albany. He was knighted at Holyrood, 26th March 1630, by George, Viscount Dupplin, Chancellor of Scotland, under a special warrant from Charles I., in whose household he filled the office of Comptroller: 'was equally distinguished for his military courage and civil prudence:' married Jean, daughter of James Durham of Pitkerro, by whom, besides several daughters, he had five sons, all of whom rose to positions of eminence, but the most distinguished of whom was the eldest, Sir James, the herald and antiquary, Lord Lyon King-at-Arms, and author of the *Annals*.—Anderson's *Scottish Nation*.

¹ By the special entail executed by David, first Viscount Stormont, the honours of that title passed to the Earl of Annandale, after the death of Mungo, the second Viscount. When that event took place accordingly, in 1642, the Earl's son James, the second Earl of Annandale, became third Viscount Stormont.—Douglas's *Peerage*.

V

TO THE EARL OF ANNANDALE.

PLEASE YOUR LORDSCHIP,—Becauss the pacquet stayit to this day, thairfoir with it is sent the band of alienatioun to be subseryuit be your lordschip in fauores off the Erll of Hadingtoun, quhilk I causit haist to the effect it may returne the soner, and your lordschipsis moneyis may be ressauit at this terme. Thair is left in it two blanks, ane to insert the takkis and rentals if any be sett be your lordschip, and the vther for inserting the wedsettis, both theis quhilk wer of old made be your authours and theis quhilk your lordschip hes takin on and grantit sence your lordschips rycht. And thairfoir it will pleis your lordschip quhen it comes to your lordschipsis hands to subseryve it and direct it to Sir James Baillie, if he salbe heir or with him if he sall be thair at the subseryving thairoff. And sett down ane trew and perfytt nott off the takkis and wedsettis takin on be your lordschipsis self, or if ye knaw tham not, direct Sir James Baillie and your lordschipsis chamerlane to gif me informatioun thairoff that I may caus fill the blankes of the band thairwith quhen it sall returne. Remember that both your lordschip and your lady subseryve the band in presence of witnessis, both in the end and margines, and sett down ane nott of the place, day, and witnessis, with thair designatioun quaha subseryvis the samyn; And als if your lordschip may have conveniencie, ane judge and clerk brocht to your lordschipsis hous, it wer weill done that my lady befoir thaim, outwith your lordschipsis presence, sould compeir and be hir othe declare that hir ladyship is not compellit to the making off this alienatioun, and that scho sall never cum in the contrair thairoff, and that ane act be made and drawin furth heirupon and sent with the band hither. But if this can not be done convenientlie and with ease, without any trubill or fascherie, or if it requyre delay of tyme, lett it rest till ane vther occasion. This is ane bussines quhilk I do als vnwillingly as ever I did any. But seing it is your lordschipsis plesur I dai not repyne. Only I trust in God to haif this brek fillet vp with ane better quhen it sal pleis the Lord to gif yow your awin place with his sacred maiesty,

quhilk I hartlie and earnestlie wische and wait for as being my gretest warldlie desyre quhairin with your lordschippis preferment standis my fortun vpon earth. As efter my humbill salutatiounis to your lordschip and your nobill lady I committ yow and your nobill children to the blissing of Godis grace, and restis, your lordschipsis humbill and bund seruitor till death,

S. THOMAS HOPE.

Edinburgh, 3 November 1627.

The Erll of Hadingtoun inclynes to haiff the lady hir ayth takin be ane commissioun from the lords of Sessioun, and thairfoir latt the vther anent hir ayth to be takin presently cease for this tyme.

To the rycht nobill Erll, my Lord, the Erll of Annandail.

VI

TO THE EARL OF ANNANDALE.

PLEASS YOUR LORDSCHIP,—We haiff mett att diuers tymes with the Erll of Hadingtoun and findis him verie willing and readie to performe his part, lykas he hes payit to William Murray xxj^m merks. But becaus the vther wedsettaris will not tak thair money at this terme, to witt, your nephew, Patrik Inglis, Patrik Eleis, and James Harvies airss, thairfoir my lord vrgis that he mycht be fred of the annuell to Witsunday, seing he hes his money readie, and had it readie at the term, quhilk we think very hard, for so your lordschip sall lose ane termes annuell of the haill pryce of your land, except that quhilk is payit to William Murray, and we expectit that my lord sould haif takin the land with the burding, and quhen this is done your lordschip losis the annuell of the hail rest in respect no moneyis can be gottin imployit heir, for abundance of moneyis. Also my lord allegis sum defectis in the rentall as off one toune sett to Cuningham, quhilk is xxx bollis beir, and another to one Huntar, worth xij bollis beir, and sum vther defectis in the rentall of the fisching and doucattis, quhilk he wald haif your lordschip to supplie. And last, he allegis the schortnes of the tak of the teind, quhairof thair is nott sevin or aucht yeirs to run. I know all thir ar allegit be my lord without intentioun to alter [the] bargan, but to represent to your

lordschip the estait of it as it standis, and to haif redresse according to equitie and ressoun, quhilk I knaw your lordschip will not refuse to him. And for my judgement I think the burdin of the wedsetts sould ly on him, and your lordschip sould be frie of the anuells tharoff till Witsonday. And for this your lordschip may wrytt bak that the conditioun of your band is that my lord sall reteine so muche off the moneyis as will satisfie the wedsettis, and if he retene it your lordschip can not pay annuell for that quhilk he must reteyne. Next, your lordschip will susteine the losse of the entres of the half of the money, and so ye deuyd the losse betuix yow, quhilk is as neir to equitie as it is to equalitie. But if my Lord sal scar at this your lordschip may wrytt that it salbe muche better for your lordschip to mak it ane Witsondayis bargan. But do it in suche sort that it breid no offense, because I find him exceiding readie to pleasur your lordschip, except quhair this vnhappie *meum et tuum* occurris, quhilk spillis the sport in all playis.

As to the defectis in the rentall, I think none ressonabill but theis two takkis of Cunigham and Hunter, and if he wuld be movit to accept your lordschipsis warrandice I wald lyke it weill. But if he refuse your lordschip man tak that to your burding, and we must persew for your lordschipsis releiff.

Thair is four chartours sent vp to be subscryvit be your lordschip quhilk your lordschip may subscryve. But remember to send them bak to me that I may sie all performit to your lordschip quhilk is to be done befoir they be delyverit, and do not in this as your lordschip did in Alexander Maxwells.

As to Brochtoun we haif fallin vpon many rubbis, but can wryt nothing certainlie thairoff to your lordschip till matteris sattill; and quhen he comes vp, quhilk wilbe within two dayis, your lordschip sall haif ane accompt of all. And in the meantyme rest assurit that he can not preiudge your lordschip, becaus I haif fesant that naill be his acquittance vpon the ressait of Wamphras 1^m merkis in part of payment of the contract, quhilk being efter his perfyte age excludis all reuocatioun of minoritie.

As to the rest of your lordschipsis effairs, I haif sent inclosit the copie of your lordschipsis memorandum sent with Sir James Baillie, together with my ansueris to every article as thay ar in ordour.

I haif causit ryse your lordschipsis criminal letteris aganis

Ridkirk and his complices, and intendis to cite him self vpon lx dayis, and his complices quha ar within the country on xv dayis.

Pleas your lordschip, ressaue the doubill off Wamphrayis band of v^c merkis, and so mucche for your lordschipsis privat bussines.

As to publick the matter of the submissioun standis at this point. We as his maiesteis aduocattis did forme the submissioun and delyuer it to my Lord Chancellor.¹ But thairefter the lordis of erectioun and thair aduocattis wer hard, quho hes gevin in sum obseruatiouns for refering of the submissioun quhilk we haif refusit till his maiestie be acquaintit thairwith; quhairupon the Chancellor is to wryt to his maiestie. The pointts at quhilk we stand ar therfoir two—first, the takkis of teindis befoir thair erectiouns sal not be submittit, that thois quho hes coft teindis with warrandice sal haif thair warrandice reseruit. Off quhilk articles my opinioun is, that the takkis aucht to be submittit, vtherwais thai sould sell the erectiouns and keip thair takkis of one and the self samyn teind, quilk is not ressonabill. But indeed I think thair aucht to haif greter consideratioun for thair takkis of teindis, becaus thai fal not within the compas off his maiesteis reuocatioun. And as to the second, anent the warrandice, it apperis ressonabill.² So with my very humbill seruice, I rest, your lordschipsis humbill and bund seruitor,

S. THOMAS HOPE.

Edinburgh, 5 December 1627.

¹ George Hay of Nethercliff, Viscount Dupplin, appointed Lord Chancellor 16th July 1622; created Earl of Kinnoull in 1633; died 16th December 1634.

² One of the first acts of Charles I. on his accession to the throne, was the revocation of all the deeds of his father in prejudice of the Crown, preparatory to a resumption of the Crown lands, many of them previously Church lands, which James VI. had erected into temporal lordships, and bestowed upon his favourites and upon others whose support he wished to secure. The deed of revocation, drawn up by Sir Thomas Hope, was promulgated at the Cross of Edinburgh in November 1625. It recalled all erections of Church lands, teinds, and patronages, and included all deeds executed by Charles during his minority. Naturally, this proceeding was very unpopular, and met with great opposition from the nobility. At a Convention of the Estates held in July following, a commission of four of each estate was appointed to examine the state of the teinds, to ascertain who were the proprietors, and by what tenure they were held. This Commission, of which Hope was a member, sat during the summer of 1627, and decided that all superiorities of erection should be resigned into the King's hands, and that the question of compensation should be left to him.—Omond's *Lord Advocates of Scotland*, vol. i. pp. 102-104; Burton's *Hist. of Scotland*, vol. vi. p. 355 seq.

PLEASE YOUR LORDSCHIP,—Becaus I haif sent ane letter to his sacred majesty, and with it the trew estait of the proceidingis in the Submissioun, with my humbill opinioun and judgement anent the samyn, thairfoir I haif sent to your lordschip the iust copie thairoff heirwith inclosit, quhilk I intreit your lordschip to communicat to no man, but mak sik vse thairof as your lordschip plessis in your conference with his sacred majesty.—
Your lordschipsis humbill seruator, S. THOMAS HOPE.

To the rycht nobill Erll, my Lord, the Erl of Annandaill.

VII

TO THE EARL OF ANNANDALE.

PLEASS YOUR LORDSCHIP,—I never longit so mucche for your letteris, having ressaut none from your lordschip thir fyve or sex oulkis; and heir we haif not mucche matter of advertisement, but drawis all from above, whence we expectit dayly good newis anent the Rochell.¹ God send tham good.

This day the commissioun meitis for ressaving off the takkis befor the erectiounis, the rychtis bering warrandice and the rentalis of few fermes and few males. And if we do this weill befor the ij Januar we will haif than our handis full for the subcommissiounis at that dyet quhilk is designit thairto.

Quhill I heir from your lordschip ane ansuer of all my bygane letteris, I can wryt nothing of your lordschipsis awin particularis, and thairfoir man rest till than.

It is bruttit² that Capitane Cokburne is ded, and I man humble crave your lordschipsis fauor and help to his brother, Jon Cokburne, quho is his only brother, and hes ane family off

¹ Rochelle, a strong town and fortress on the western coast of France, occupied by the Huguenots, then in rebellion against Louis XIII., and whom Charles I. believed he was bound to assist, because the French King had at one time promised him that he would admit his Protestant subjects to terms. A fleet of a hundred ships, with soldiers on board, was accordingly sent to their assistance in July 1627, under the command of the Duke of Buckingham; but, owing to the failure of reinforcements, was unsuccessful, and out of 6800 soldiers, less than 300—worn by hunger and sickness—returned to England. Rochelle, after holding out for thirteen months, finally surrendered to Louis on 28th November 1628, chiefly through a frightful famine, which carried off more than two-thirds of its inhabitants.

² Reported.

nyne childrein, with thair mother. And I must do for him, becaus he is my servand, and hes bene so thir ten yeris bygan. I know no present doing for him. But if any occur I man humble entreit your lordschipsis fauour to him. So with my humble and bund seruice to your lordschip and your nobill lady I commit your lordschip to the blessing of Godis grace and restis, your lordschipsis humble and bund seruitor till death.

S. THOMAS HOPE.

Edinburgh, 1 November 1628.

To the rycht nobill Erll, my Lord, the Erl of Annandail.

VIII

TO THE EARL OF ANNANDALE.

PLEASE YOUR LORDSCHIP,—Your actioun with the Laird Jonstoun¹ lyeis over this yul vacance and thair is a noumber examinat as witnessis anent the tennour of the assignatioun, and amangis the rest Sir James Baillie,² and I am to caus the Laird of Jonstoun and the Maister of Hereis³ to be examinat vpon certan interrogatouris. As for me, seing the money is vpliftit be sentence of the lords I am not curious to haif it callit, but lattis the Laird of Jonstoun vse his awin moyen to that effect.

I long to heir from your lordschip tuiching Roll and Merse seing ye haif ressaut the nott of that indentor quhilk wes past betuix Edward the 6 and our quean Mary in anno 1553, and the clerk of Register and I haif made serche for all vther indentors betuix the kingdomes, but findis none. But I haif

¹ Probably James Johnston of Johnston in Annandale, who was raised to the peerage by Charles I. in 1633 as Lord Johnston of Lockwood, and created Earl of Hartfell in 1643. His son James, who succeeded him in 1653, was created Earl of Annandale and Hartfell in 1661, that title having become extinct by the death of James Murray, the second Earl of Annandale of that name, in 1658.

² See note, p. 92.

³ Robert Maxwell, eldest son of John Maxwell, eighth Lord Herries, and Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Sir Robert Gordon of Lochinvar. He afterwards became fourth Earl of Nithsdale.

causit your nephew Thomas Maxwell¹ draw out ane extract of the hail indentour quhilk he dois send to your lordschip with this pacquet—that if thair be any cullor to be fund in it for strenthening of your lordschipsis rycht it may be made vse of.

The Laird of Balvard² hes past his infestment vpoun my Lord Stormonthis resignatioun quhilk I wald not hinder becaus of your lordschipsis command at parting, and becaus I expect your Lordschipsis signator of the Lowmondis long befoir it. But James Kynninmonth will send to your lordschip the nott of that whilk is conteynit in the signator quhilk may preiudge your lordschip: And efter consideratioun thairoff your lordschip will acquaint me of your resolutioun quhat to do, quhilk I sall follow to my power.

The Erll of Monteth³ is to come vp within 8 dayis at furthest, and quhen he is thair, if ye ply cannely the bussines aganis your party Sir Archibald,⁴ it may be ye find both freindschip and success beyond your expectatioun, quhilk I recomend to your lordschip now as the gretest bussines ye haif ado heir. And so with my humble salutatioun to your lordschip and your nobill lady, I rest, your lordschipsis humbel and bund seruitor.

S. THOMAS HOPE.

Edinburgh, 29 December 1630.

To the rycht nobill Erll, my Lord, the Erll of Annandaill.

¹ Probably a son of the earl's sister, Jean Murray, who was married to John Maxwell of Kirkhouse. James, another of her sons, was, in 1646, created Earl of Dirleton, a title which became extinct at his death without male issue. Douglas's *Peerage*.

² Andrew Murray, minister of Abdie, see p. 97, and note.

³ William Graham, seventh Earl of Menteith, served heir to David, Earl of Strathern, 'abavus attavi,' in August 1630, but owing to his own imprudent conduct, he was deprived of his titles and offices in 1633, and was confined for some time to his house in the Isle of Menteith. Charles I., however, conferred the title of Earl of Airth and Menteith upon him. He was made an Extraordinary Lord of Session in 1628, being at that time President of the Privy Council and Justice-General.—Brunton and Haig's *Senators*, p. 278.

⁴ Sir Archibald Acheson, see note, p. 93.

IX

TO THE COUNTESS DOWAGER OF MAR.

PLEASE YOUR LADYSHIP,—I ressaut youris of last of Februar, and am sorie from my hart that suche contestatioun fallis out betuix your ladyship and the erll, your good sone.¹ Quhat wes done in that particuler of the lawborowis² I know nott, nather can I giv a reasoun of the refusell, or of the desyr thairoff, becaus I wes not acquaint with ather of tham. But I wische I had beine, for I trust with verie good groundis to haif persuadit that nather of tham wes fitt to be hard in publick befor the performing of the last dewtie of youris nobill husbandis honorabill funerallis.³

Madam, I haif pervsit your ladyships memoriall, and gevin my opinioun thairanent in that samyn sort as if I wer to judge on my conscience. Butt I am woo to sie affares to goo in this sort, and I am sure it is againis the will of that most nobill saull that now restis with the Lord, and I am als sure that the contestatioun sall do good to nather of yow, and this is not the way ather to keip peax, or to advance the nobill plantis of so nobill a parentage, or to siste the fall and ruine of that antient and nobill hous quhilk I am persuadit is to your ladyship (nixt to your self and your children) your cheif desyr. And seing thar is sa money ill instrumentis in the world to nurische discord, I besek the Lord to direct the bussines so that befor the funerallis your ladyship may vse that wisdome and authority over him that he may be forcit be the prove of your ladyships prudent affectioun to lay all doun at your feit and to

¹ John, eighth Earl of Mar, the countess's step-son. He succeeded his father, the seventh earl, on the death of the latter, on the 14th December 1634; married Lady Christian Hay, second daughter of Francis ninth Earl of Errol, and died in September 1654. The earl was on very bad terms with his stepmother, as several of these letters of Sir Thomas Hope show.

² In Scotch law, a writ in the name of the sovereign, commanding a person to give security against offering violence against another.

³ Though the countess's husband, John seventh Earl of Mar, died in December 1634, his funeral, which was conducted with great pomp, did not take place till the 7th of April 1635. He was buried in the family burial-place at Alloa, but the most diligent and careful search has, curiously enough, failed to determine the exact spot.

tak vp from you in love that quhilk is dew to him. Sua humblie committis your ladyship to the blissing of Godis grace, I humblie rest, your ladyships humble seruitor,

S. THOMAS HOPE.

Edinburgh, 3 Marche 1635.

To the rycht nobill Countess, the Countess of Mar.

X

TO THE COUNTESS DOWAGER OF MAR.

PLEASE YOUR LADYSHIP,—Now at last the laird of Lugtoun¹ hes offerit to your ladyship securitie vpon condition that your ladyship leid na comprysing againes the president² and the lard of Deirsie,³ quhilk in respect of the Erll of Rothess⁴ his new request for him I think your ladyship sould not refuse, the securitie being good, and some other cautionaris found by the Erll of Rothess (for I think it not resson that ye tak him, albeit he be offerit), and thairwith Lugtoun paying presentlie the expenssis quhilk hes beine warit on the comprysing, and als laying doun the money quhilk is to be debursit for leiding of the other comprysingis.

I haif with some difficultie obteneit the Erll of Rothess his subscriptioun to the declaratioun anent Gargunok quhilk

¹ A barony in the parish of Dalkeith, Midlothian, now incorporated (since 1693) with the property of the Duke of Buccleuch. About this time it was in the possession of Sir David Crichton, knight, who was commissioner to Parliament for the shire of Edinburgh from 1639 to 1641.

² Sir Robert Spottiswood, second son of John Spottiswood, Archbishop of St. Andrews; born in 1596; appointed an Extraordinary Lord of Session in 1622, and an Ordinary Lord in 1626; became Lord President of the Court of Session in 1633. Owing to his royalist proclivities he became obnoxious to the Presbyterians. He fled to England, and remained with Charles I. till the latter's second visit to Scotland; succeeded the Earl of Lanark as Secretary of State for Scotland in December 1643; taken prisoner at the battle of Philiphaugh, and executed at St. Andrews 16th January 1646.—Brunton and Haig's *Senators*, p. 266.

³ Sir John Spottiswood, eldest son of Archbishop Spottiswood, succeeded his father as proprietor of the estate of Dairsie in Fife, and was one of the gentlemen of the bedchamber to James VI. His only son John, having joined the Marquis of Montrose, was tried, condemned, and executed for high treason in 1650.

⁴ John, fifth Earl of Rothes. His lordship was married to Lady Mar's second daughter, Anne.

I haif heirwith sent to your ladyship and desyris that your ladyship do send it with diligence to the Erll of Kinghorne¹ (for he is not in towne) that he may subscriue it also, and then that questioun is removit.

And if your ladyship wer als neirlie clerit in the jowellis² trewlie I wald think your ladyship at greit ease in the controversies with the Erll of Mar, and thairfoir forgett not to try the witnessis [torn] your ladyship and send me a nott of thair depositiounis.

I haif seine your tutor his letter to your ladyship's sone³ anent the Candelmes dewtie of Bandeth 1639, as for the first termes payment of the crop 1638. And trewlie, madam, if your ladyship find any man of judgement in Scotland quho sall say that it is dew to your ladyship he sall quyt it; and vtherwais I persuade myself that your ladyship will not crave it againis the tennour of your last contract, quhilk your ladyship promisit not to alter in substance or any substantiall point thairoff. And if your ladyship will reid it, your ladyship will find him assignit to the haill crop 1638, quhairof this Candelmes dewtie 1639 is a part. And as it is so in the contract, so it is most aggreabill to equitie and conscience, seing he takkis the burding of Mr. John Cantis soume, and of the annuelrents thairof of the termes of Witsonday 1639 and termes thairafter; and how can he pay that and gett payment of his iiij^m merks of tak dewty and of the j^m merks of Bandeth, except he vplift the haill dewties of the crop 1638 quhilk are payabill in the termes of the year 1639. Or vtherwais that your ladyship intendis to burdeine him with theis, and lay him aff to the

¹ John, second Earl of Kinghorn. He too was son-in-law to the countess, his first wife being her third daughter, Margaret.

² One of the chief points of contention between the countess and her stepson was with regard to the disposal of the late earl's jewels, including the insignia of his various honours.

³ Charles Erskine, her fourth son. He had recently been married (on 5th February 1639) to Sir Thomas Hope's eldest surviving daughter, Marie. The small estate of Bandeth, situated on the banks of the Forth, in Stirlingshire, had been settled upon him by his father for his maintenance. Bandeth was originally part of the barony of Cambuskenneth, which the Earl of Mar gave to his third son Alexander, by charter dated 23d August 1617. The liferent of part of the land was reserved to Lady Mar, and Bandeth was probably included in it.—*Chartulary of Cambuskenneth*, Introd. p. cxxiv.

termes in the yeir 1640 to gett releiff thairoff, quhilk I am sure is contrair to equitie. Butt, madam, as I wreit to the counsel of befor I humblie entreit your ladyship ather latt the contract stand in the substantial heids as it wes aggreit, or latt ws bayth be restorit as we wer befor the 18 of Apryll, quhilk is the dait off the contract.¹

And as to the clering of the doubtis in the formalitie, I haif seine the paper drawin vp be the counsel, quhilk I haif aggreed to except in some particular marginnall nottis quhairof I do refer the equitie thairoff to the counsel himself and vpon his ansuer salbe readie to do all dewtie.

Onlie, madam, thar is one thing quhilk stumblis me (and quhairoff I haif gottin informatioun within thir xxiiij hours) anent a band of viij^m merks quhairin your ladyships sone is bund as cautioner to Mr. David Andersoun, quhilk I am persuadit hes beine out of your memorie; for vtherwais your ladyship wald haif told of it at the contract of mariage als weill as your ladyship did of the vther burdenis. And I haif iust ressoun to blasone² my good sone, for he wes askit and refusit and grantis be his oth that he did not remember of it, becaus he sayis it wes done in his minoritie. But that is not aneugh.

Now, madam, we must haif recourse to the nixt remedie, quhilk is the undoing of that in this contract of explanatioun

¹ The following letter from the countess to her son, Sir Charles Erskine, has reference to this same contract, and to the contract of marriage between him and his wife, Sir Thomas Hope's daughter, to which Lady Mar was a party:—
 'MY DEIR SONNE,—My heart for the present is so overcherged with greifes that hardly can I frem my mind or hand to wreat. I haue sent one informations to yow of what I desire of yow to be dune, since ye will compaill me to byde be that miserabell contrak which I putt my hand to be trust and promeis which ar nott keip to me. I am sorie for itt manie wayes, for itt will force me to doe that which maye greiue yow, and anger uthers heir after. I take God to witnes what my mind is towards yow, bott your good father will nott giue me leaue to doe.

'I praye yow send me all newis with the bearer of south and north, remembering my loue to all your good companie. I rest your loving mother,

'MARIE STEWART.

'Stirling, xxviii May 1639.

'I wold be glaid to see yow heir before ye goe to the Borders that ye maye take my blesing with yow.'

² *Blaze*, to deny, defame, hold up to infamy.—Murray's *New Eng. Dict.*

with the remanent burdeinis; and if this be done I must rest satisfieit, albeit I wische it had beine done at first.

I look to gett my pass for Court¹ ones befoir Mononday at nycht, and I heir that my Lord Duik² is laillie come thair from Londoun, quhair he wes being sent thither be his Maiestie out of York about the xv of Apryll last. And if I go I sall not forgett your ladyships particular. So with my humbil service, I rest, your ladyships humbill seruitour,

S. THOMAS HOPE.

Edinburgh, 10 May 1639.

MADAM,—As I wes about to close this letter I haif rancounterit a just contrary requeist to that off the Laird Lugtoun his desyr. For the Lady president having gottin notice that Lugtoun is to offer your ladyship security, provyding your ladyship go on with comprysing againis hir husband and his brother, the laird of Deirsie, dois earnestlie sollicit your ladyship will not disgrace hir husband be comprysing againis him his lands, but that your ladyship wald adheire to your rycht and comprysing already led and sayis and sweris that your lady[ship] sall ressave reall payment at Witsonday. Now, madam, I could gif no ansuer to this till I had acquaint your ladyship thairwith, and thairfoir advyse with your tutour and send me your special directioun both quhat ye will haif of the Laird Lugtoun ather in securitie or expensis in cace ye aggre with him, and quhat your ladyship will haif of the Lady president if ye resolute to supercid at hir request till Witsonday.³

¹ King Charles I. was at this date at Newcastle with an army which he had raised without the authority of the English Parliament, and was marching against the Scotch Covenanters, then encamped, under General Alexander Leslie, at Duns Law, in Berwickshire. The expedition came to an inglorious end, Charles concluding a treaty with the Covenanters, at Berwick-on-Tweed, a month afterwards—a treaty which at the time he was secretly intending to violate as soon as his power was equal to his will.

² James, fourth Duke of Lennox (son of Esmé, the third duke), and a nephew of the countess; married Mary Villiers, only daughter of George, first Duke of Buckingham; died in 1655.

³ On the 30th July, Lady Mar wrote to her son, Sir Charles Erskine, in the following terms. The original letter is among family papers in the possession of A. Erskine-Murray, Esq., Sheriff-Substitute of Lanarkshire:—'LOVING SONNE, —On Monday last the Erle of Mar went to Edenbroch, as I heare his wife and

XI

TO SIR CHARLES ERSKINE.

SIR,—I haif sent to my dauchter Kerse¹ hir husbandis letter to me anent the woinderfull blissing of God in the victorie off our armie in passing the Tyne,² quhilk I haif desyrit hir to communicat to yow. And I pray yow at your returne hither bring hir with yow, for so I haif writtin to hir.

the minister says his erent is to gett ane suspension for the comprysing which is now denounced, and to seek resolution how to putt me from the seatt of the kirk. That furious ladie says all the Aduocatts law shall nott make me keip that seatt. She said to Mester William Weimes that I was weill knowis, I neuer loued nor respeakitt my husband ; I was the caus of the death of my Ladie Buchane, and was presently duing all I could to ruine the hous of Mar. There is much more malice she uttred, which ware longsum to wreat all she said. I pray yow informe my Lord Aduocatt, and latt him doe whatt he may to keip him from ane suspension, for he will doe what he maye to obtaine one.

'As for the Laird of Lugton his besines, tell your good father, he knowis best whatt to doe in such a besines. Bott I wold forgiue nothing which may be gotten be law, for he hath deserued no faour att anie of our hands. There is six hondreth and fiftie markes from William Graye, according to Mester George Monorgen his note, and assignation mead to yow send with this. I intreat yow to haue a cair of my besines with the Erle of Mar. Latt all my frends there know how I am opprest with him and his wife. He and his sonne have so bostet the officer and witnes who went with him that with great difficultie could I gett anie to goe with him, they were so affrayed of there liues. My ouen seruents refused. Latt the Erles of Rothes and Kingorne know of thir things, and the rest of our frends. If ye can see my Lord Traquare, tell him I doe expeak his halpe in so fare as I haue reason on my syde. Latt him know how he hath broken the arristment consarning the colles. My Lord Aduocatt can best informe to whom I must trust all my besines. I am to goe to Alouay within tuo or thri days. I will stay 6 days. Att my retourne, if itt be neidfull, itt maye be I comme to Edenbroch upon aduertisement. If the Duc of Lenox comme I must be there. This is all I can saye for this time, with the remembrece of my best affections to all your good companie, in spesiall to my best berne, your suitt heart, I doe remaine, your affectionatt mother,

MARIE STEWART.

'Stirling, xxx Julie 1639.

'I praye yow haue a cair to paye Sir Thomas Hope his monies for his hous.

'For my sonne, Charles Arskine off Bandeth.'

¹ Dame Helen Ra or Ray, wife of Sir Thomas Hope of Kerse, second son of Sir Thomas Hope of Craighall, the Lord Advocate.

² The victory of the Covenanting army at Newburn-on-Tyne, 28th August 1640.

'I September 1640, Twysday.—This day I gatt a letter from my sone, Sir Thomas, daitat at Rytounfurd, 29 August 1640, declaring the particulars of thair happie victorie, and intaking of Neucastell.'—Hope's *Diary*, p. 119.

The feirfull accident at Dunglas¹ so astonischis me that I can not wryt of it. Onlie adore providence and rest on the Lord. My service to my lady and all hir nobill companie. With my love to your self and my dauchter, I rest, your loving father to love and serve yow,

S. THOMAS HOPE.

Craighall,² 1 September 1640.

To my much honored and loving sone, Charles Erskin of Cambuskyneth.

XII

TO THE COUNTESS DOWAGER OF MAR.³

PLEIS YOUR LADYSHIP,—I received your ladyships letter yesternicht, and creavis pardon that I borrow ane other hand to this

¹ On the 30th August 1640, by an explosion at Dunglas Castle, Berwickshire, then occupied by a party of the Covenanters, under Thomas, second Earl of Haddington, he and about eighty of his relatives and friends perished. Amongst these was Sir Charles's elder brother, Sir Alexander Erskine, the supposed 'faithless lover' of the old ballad, 'Lady Anne Bothwell's Lament.' The Earl of Haddington was their brother-in-law, having married Catherine, the fourth daughter of John, seventh Earl of Mar, and Lady Marie Stewart, his wife. The catastrophe is said to have been caused by an English page of the Earl's, who deliberately fired the powder magazine out of revenge against his master, and himself perished in the explosion. '30 August 1640, being Souday, att nycht, a part off the place of Dunglas was blowin up with powder and thairin diet Erl Hadingtoun, Robert his brother, Cornel Alexander Erskin, Reidhous, Gogar, Inglistoun; and Sir Gideoun Baillie, and Prestoungrange, hurt.'—Hope's *Diary*, p. 119.

² Hope's principal country residence in the parish of Ceres, Fife. The mansion, now a complete ruin, was originally built by him, and presents an attempt to combine the graces of Italian architecture with the strength then still considered necessary in domestic architecture. In Sibbald's day it was 'a good house, with gardens, great inclosures, and much planting.'

³ This letter is in answer to the following from the countess, the original of which is still preserved among the family papers in possession of Sheriff Erskine-Murray:—'MY VERIE GOOD LORD,—Now when necessitie compellethe me I am forced to haue my recourse to your helpe, and if evrie one had kept als good duetie to me as I ever did and shall doe to all with whome I haue to doe, I niedit not now to be oppressed with such grieffe as this day I am. Your lordship knowes what I have doone to my childrene, but speciallie to your sonne and myne, who hes more nor a double, yea (I may say) a triple portione, in respect off that I am able to doe to the rest, and yit for all my good-will, how spareing he is in my adoes, to concur and assist me, although not to his losse (quhairroff I shuld be sorie), I remitt to your lordship and hym to consider. And seing I

my ansuer thairto, being skairs in dispositioun for wretting quhen I receaved zour ladyships letter, bot much moir indisposit after the reiding thairof, quhilk I tak to be the style of one very far discontented, but salbe loth to imput it to zour ladyship, seing the letter hes not zour ladyships subscriptioun to it, and no resemblance to the goodnes of zour ladyships just and pious desyres.

I am suir, madame, I have never in thocht, word, or deid given zour ladyship occasioun of offense since the contract of mariage, and thair hes beine many chaingis since quhairin I wes not ane agent, but patient and zelded for reverence and respect to zour ladyships pleasour, as the quyting of the four thowsand marks zeirlie to quhilk zour ladyship was bund and takand for it the possessioun quhilk hes not zeilded the half thir two zeris bygain; and quhairas he sould have had aucht thowsand marks in thir two yeiris he hes not gottin four. Nixt,

am both aged and infirme, besyd the grieve I haue off my owne, which postethe my end, God knowethe when, I am loathe to leave any questiones betuixt your sonne and his brother William, whome I leave as yit unprovdyt. And thairfor that my presentt necessities may be supplied be the intromissione with my owne rentis of Ferrytoun, and that Charles may be freed off the soumes for the which he is bound for me, I have resolved to mak offer to your lordship and hym off the thrie thousand and seven hundrethe markis which I haue out of Alloway, and the annuelrent off the fourteen thousand markis recovered for Cardrosse, which wilbe yearlie neare fyve thousand markis in all, and off ye byrunnes thairoff, which att this tyme will extend to tenn thousand markis, ay and whill Mr. John Cant and Mr. Gavin Justice wyf be payit; and for this terme I shall pay the annuellrent off both by my selfe, and befor the nixt terme I am perswadit your lordship, with the helpe off the committie, may atteane payment off the most part off the byrunnes. The doeing of this will shaw my sonnes goodwill to me, which wilbe a greate reliefe to my grieved mynd, and wilbe a more spiedie reliefe to hym, that questiones may be removed betuixt brethrene befor I die, that I may depart in peace when it shall pleas my Lord. If your lordships sonne and myne yeelde not to this, I can pay no annuell off any off these two sommes, except I intromett with the rent off the Ferrytoun, for I am straited on all sydis, so that the burdingis I haue makis me almost unable to live. Thir things I remitt to your lordships consideration, and expectis your answeare with the first, and restis, your lordships affectionnat friend.

‘Sterline the 22 off November 1640.

‘I most intreat your lordship, as befor, to send me hither the richtis grantit to Charles off twentie thousand markis upon the landis off Alloway, it is no reasone he kept them since he hes renuncit in favoures off his brother Johne.

‘To my verie honorable good lord, my Lord Advocatt.’

this wes scarcely weill doine quhen I am vrged to tak Mr. Johne Cants debt for quhilk I ingadged my self and my sones, and tuik Ferritoun¹ and Cardrois for suretie. And laitleie the annuel rent of Allaway in quhilk my dauchter wes infest must be quitt and a personall band taikin from zour ladyships sone Johne² for payment of the nyne thowsand marks—restand thairof, with ane zeirs annuell at this last Martimes, quhairin I must profess that zour ladyships sone did delyver the writtis for quyting of that annuelrent against my expres desyr and directioun; for I feared that the personall band sould breid offense iff I sould seik the performance thairof. And now quhen I doe not creave the principall soume (albeit it be dew at this terme), but only the annuell, I am mett with this letter as from zour ladyship expostulating in very hard termes for myne and zour sones vndewtifulnes in not having regaird to zour ladyships burdings, and except we tak the soumes auchtand be the Erle of Mar that the annuell is not to be expected at this terme.

Trewlie, madame, my heart wes greived to reid a challenge of this straine; and for myne and zour sones cair to obey your ladyships desyres and commands evin with our sensible hurt, I am suir we have given evident pruiiffs be our behaviour in the particulars aboue-expressit, and specially in October last, quhen we disponed the reall richt of Allaway quhilk we had in suirtie both of Mr. Johne Cant and of Mr. Gawin Justices soumes, and hes tain personall bands in place of thame quhilk now occasions this offense.

And for taking the Erle of Mars soumes, it wer a point of great indiscretioun on our pairt and greater prejudice. And quhen these wer offered to Otterstoun for zour ladyships sone Johne, he refuisit, and I am suir we have greater resoun. But, madam, that cannot be a just excuise for not payment of the annuell of this terme; for quither it be takin aff zour ladyships hand or not takin, zour ladyship is alyk able to give the annuell iff zour ladyship be willing, as zour ladyship is

¹ A property in the parish of Clackmannan belonging to Lady Mar.

² Sir John Erskine, fifth son of John, seventh Earl of Mar and the Countess; married Margaret Inglis, the heiress of Otterston, in the parish of Dalgety, Fife.

bund; and be not taking of it on ws, zour ladyship sall nawayes be prejudged. For iff the Lord send justice in the land, I salbe als and moir cairfull of it nor iff I had takin it, and quhensoever it beis payed in hail or pairts, I sall tak it willinglie in pairt of payment. And iff zour ladyship resolve not to pay it, I sall abyd patientlie till Mr. Johne Cant charge me be horning, and then albeit for reverence of zour ladyship I intend not to vse a charge against zour ladyship, zet I am suir in justice and equity I may charge zour sone Johne, quhilk trewlie I wilbe forced to doe. The pretext of removing of a pley betuixt zour ladyships sone William¹ and ws, is insert as a motive to tak thir soumes of the Erle of Mars. Bot trewlie, madam, it hes no contingence with the desyr, for thair cannot be a pley betuixt Williame and ws, iff Mr. Johne Cant and Mr. Gawin Justice be payed; and it is his only best to have thame payed in zour ladyships awin tyme. And as to the marginall nott, creaving the delyverie of the writts, I wald wishe your ladyships sone be as cairfull to pay the moneyis as I to delyver the writts; bot till that be doine, I sie nether reasoun nor conscience to creave thame. So humblie recommending the necessitie and justice of my desyres for payment of the annuelrent for eschewing of farther heiring to zour ladyships wyse consideratioun, I humblie rest your ladyships most humble seruitor,

S. THOMAS HOPE.

Edinburgh, 25 November 1640.

Indorsed—*Sir Thomas Hope to Lady Mar, 1640.*

XIII

TO MR. ALEXANDER HOPE.

SONE,—I ressauid youres of ii February on 17 thairoff,² with

¹ The Honourable William Erskine, Lady Mar's seventh and youngest son; Cupbearer to King Charles II.; appointed Master of the Charterhouse, 29th December 1677, an office which he held till his death on the 29th May 1685.

² '17 Februar 1641, Weddinsday.—Item, this 17 February, ressavit letters from L. Panmuir and my sone, daitit 11 February 1641, and ansuerit immediatlie in this samyn pacquet, quhilk wes not zit away quhen thir letters cam.'—Hope's *Diary*, p. 128.

ane other to your brother James,¹ quho is absent at the leadmynes taking possessioun so far as the malice and power of his partie will permitt him, and sa sone as he returnes ze sall haif ane direct ansuer. And in the mean tym secrecie and silence. As to your proceeding in the escheit, I lyke weill of your course in acquainting his maiestie and making vse of Sir James Galloway, to quhom I do remember my seruice, and thairwith desyres zow to assure him that I salbe readie to ressave his commandes, and intertany a faythfull correspondence, iff he pleissis to mak vse of me heir. And as to the bussines itself, I haif writtin to zow be packet of 13 Februarij, quhairin is a letter and informatioun to the Erle Stirling,² to be made vse of be yow as ze find convenient, be advyse of the laird of Panmur.³ As for the last part of your letter concerning zoursel, it hes gevin me so deep a wound to my hart, that I must take tyme to gather my spirit. The Lord pittie me, and direct yow in a more prudent way, and keep yow from tempting the Lord by distrust and diffidence in not waiting patientlie for a releiff of your distresses from him, and in crocing the wearie hart of your aged father, and bringing his gray haire to the grave

¹ Sir James Hope of Hopetoun, sixth son of Sir Thomas, born 12th July 1614; appointed Governor of the Mint 1641; raised to the bench of the Court of Session by the title of Lord Hopetoun, 1st June 1649; died 23d November 1661, and was buried at Cramond. He married, 14th January 1638, Anne, only daughter and heiress of Robert Foulis of Leadhills, in the county of Lanark, and carried on extensive and lucrative mining operations on his wife's property. He was ancestor of the Earls of Hopetoun.

² William Alexander, son of Alexander Alexander; born at Menstrie, Clackmannanshire, about 1567; accompanied Archibald, seventh Earl of Argyll, in his travels abroad; knighted by James VI. in 1609, and appointed Master of Requests in 1614, and Secretary of State for Scotland in 1626; created Viscount of Stirling, and Lord Alexander of Tullibody, 1630; and Earl of Stirling 1633. A contemporary and friend of Drummond of Hawthornden, he was himself the author of various dramatic pieces and sonnets, a complete edition of which appeared at Glasgow, in 3 vols., in 1870. He ultimately became very unpopular in Scotland, and becoming insolvent, died at London, 12th September 1640, and was buried at Stirling in the following April. See Rogers' *Memorials of the Earl of Stirling and House of Alexander*, 2 vols., 1877.

³ Patrick Maule of Panmure, Forfarshire; accompanied James VI. to England in 1603, and was appointed one of the gentlemen of the bedchamber to that king, an office which he continued to hold under Charles I. Created Earl of Panmuir, 3d August 1646; died 22d December 1661. He was an ardent and devoted royalist.

with sorow. Butt of this at greter lenth quhen I haif digestit in some measur the excess of my present greiff.

So zet, with my blissing, I committ yow to godis grace, and restis your loving and greivit father,

S. THOMAS HOPE.

Edinburgh, 17 February 1641.

Indorsed—*To my sone, Mr. Alexander Hope, Carver to his sacred maiestie.*¹

XIV

TO SIR CHARLES ERSKINE.²

MY HONORABILL AND DEIR SONE,—I can not excuse my self of my bygane negligence in not wryting to zow, vtherwais nor be renewing of my grevous wound,³ quhilk wes the caus thairof, and since it, the Lord hes beine pleasit to visit me in ane other, quhilk hes increseit both myne and your greiff, in the sorowfull conditioun of my dauchter, your bedfellow. Butt we haif a merciefull and wise Lord, for on the day zour sone John wes buryet,⁴ the letteris cam from zow to hir of your helthe, quhilk wes a gret confort. And albeit I had none

¹ '12 December 1634, Fryday.—Being at the Justice Court aganis Lord Balmerinoch, pacquet cam to Erl Traquhair, quhairin letters to me from Erl Stirling, Lord Panmuir, and my sone, of 3 December, advertising me off the Chancellor's deidlie palsey and the Erl Mortoun's siknes. Item, that my sone at Windsor wes sworn be his Maiestie in extraordinar Carver.'—Hope's *Diary*, p. 16.

² Sir Charles was at this time in France, where he had gone with his nephew, Thomas, third Earl of Haddington, and his youngest brother, William Erskine, to be present at the marriage of the Earl to Henrietta de Coligny, daughter of Gaspard de Coligny, the grandson of the celebrated Huguenot admiral of the same name. In his *Diary* (p. 189) Sir Thomas Hope records his departure:—'12 Junij 1643, Mononday. This day my sone Sir Charles went to Leyth to tak his journey to France, with the Erl of Hadingtoun and William Erskine, his brother-german.' The marriage took place at the bride's ancestral home, Châtillon-sur-Loing, in the modern department of Loiret, on the 9th August (1643). Sir Charles remained in France till the following spring, and returned to Edinburgh 7th May 1664.—Hope's *Diary*, p. 205.

³ The death of his second son, Sir Thomas Hope of Kerse, on the 23d of August (1643).

⁴ Sir Charles's second son, John Erskine (born 4th July 1642), died on 5th October (1643).—Hope's *Diary*, p. 196.

from zow, zit the reading of hiris did work in me patience, submissioun, and thankisgeving.

Zesterday also I saw zour renewit letteris to hir, quhilk hes castin hir in sik a golph of greiff, as I do feir hir helth very muche. For scho takkis so heavilie the want of zour presence, that scho admitts of no confort, but lodgis sorow in hir breist all day, and deludgis it in the bosome off hir teiris all nycht.

Sir, ze knaw it wes my awin opinioun quhen ze went, that ze mycht stay till ze gott a grip of the language, and I am loth zit to change it, if I had expectatioun that hir greiffis could be keipit within thair awin just channellis, and nott ourflow so immeasurabic as thay doe. And I am laboring to work hir to the consideratioun of the tymes and seasones heir, quhilk ar liklie to be verie calamitous, and that scho hes just resoun to blisse God, quho hes gevin to zow (quhois honor and saiftie is deirer to hir nor hirsself) so iust a caus of absence from this till the Lord be pleisit to calm the stormes and tempestes quhair-with the land is threattint.

If ze come nott yourself, I pray zow in zour nixt (quhen ze haif confortit hir be sik insinuating reasones as ar best knowin to zour self) say that ze ar so takin with the sense of hir sorowis, that albeit the seas be now turbulent and dangerous, zit ze will hazard home vpon the ressait off hir letter, and betuix and then I trust the Lord sall oppin a doore off confort, patience, and resolutioun to byd out the tyme of your stay to Spring.

Remember my humbill seruis to the Erl of Hadingtoun and his Countes, and to all your honorabill companie, and so with my best blissing I rest your loving and affectionat father to serve yow,

S. THOMAS HOPE.

Edinburgh, 9 October 1643.

Quhen ze wrytt herefter latt me haif a lyne from zow, and punische me nott for my former neglect, for I sall not fall in the lyk if the Lord do not bring on me the lyk occasioun of sorow.

To the rycht honorabill Sir Charles Areskin of Cambuskyneth, knyght.

XV

TO SIR CHARLES ERSKINE.

SIR,—I ressaut zoures of 15 and 17 Merche this 24 thairoff, and albeit manie of the passages thairoff gives me satisfioun, zit the feir I conceave of the occasional distemper of your helth dois muche greive me, and I pray the Lord to cure and recover it; and intreatis zow with the first occasioun to acquaint me with Godis mercie bestowit on zou heirin, quhilk salbe most weilcome newis to me.¹

As for the diuisiounes quhair of ze wrytt thair is to muche rumor ef it heir, and I beseik the Lord to prevent the ill of it. But ze do wyselie to hold zow be your maik and syde with nather. And for the nobil man quhom ze name to me, his freindschip is worthie to be interteynit. But trust to none but to the Lord. And quhen be Godis mercie I sall sie yow heir I sall speik to zow plainlie quhat I think.

I did acquaint zow with myne of 22 Merche that zour bed-fellow wes about two efter midnycht, being Setterday, happilie delyuerit of a fair boy, quhom God blisse; and he is to ressave his second and new birth, God willing, tomorow with the name of James,² quhilk wes zour pleasure signifeit to hir, and weil chosin for the memorie of your nobill brother, the Erl of

¹ Sir Charles was at this time in London, acting as one of the commissioners from the Scottish Parliament in the difficult and delicate negotiations that were then going on between the king, the English Parliament, and the Scots.—Balfour's *Annals*, vol. iii. p. 205; Baillie's *Letters*, vol. ii. p. 217. He was also appointed an additional Scottish commissioner to the famous Westminster Assembly, the minutes of which bear that on 20th January 1644, he was welcomed by the Assembly, and addressed by the Prolocutor.—*Minutes of Westminster Assembly*, edited by Drs. Mitchell and Struthers, session 364. During this period, as his letters to his wife, still extant, show, he was in indifferent health, owing chiefly to his arduous and anxious labours.

² '25 Merche 1645, Twysday. This day my oy baptizit James, witnesses James Erl Buchan, James Hamiltoun, brother to the Erl of Hadingtoun, Sir James my sone, and James Steuart, Mr. Mungo Law, minister.'—Hope's *Diary*, p. 215. The expression 'his second and new birth,' applied to the rite of baptism, is a strange one on the part of so staunch a Presbyterian as Hope.

Buchan ;¹ and if the Lord salbe plesit to give hir the happines to sie zow heir (quhilk is hir greatest earthlie happines, and myne almaist more, be ressoun of that distemper of your helth quhilk scho knawis not off) it will incresce our joy exceidinglie. And I doubt not if ze be earnest for zour returne but ze will haif it, and for ocht I vnderstand my sone Sir Alexander will be your convoy home.²

For the vther bussiness with zour nephew³ the ansuer from his grandmother⁴ to him cam from this in a packet delyuerit to my Lord Waristoun⁵ be sea, and I sent ane other be land, making mentioun thair of in a packet delyuerit to Benjamine, servitor to my Lord Chancellor ;⁶ but I sie that nather of

¹ James Erskine, eldest son of John, seventh Earl of Mar, and Lady Marie Stewart, his second wife ; became Earl of Buchan, *jure uxoris*, Mary Douglas, Countess of Buchan in her own right. He died in 1640, and was succeeded by his only son, James.

² Sir Charles received a brief leave of absence from his post as commissioner at London, and came to Edinburgh on 1st May 1645, returning again to London in July.

³ David Erskine, second Lord Cardross. He was the son of Henry Erskine, the second son of John, seventh Earl of Mar, and Lady Marie Stewart, and succeeded his grandfather the earl as second Lord Cardross in 1634. He was at this time in terms of marriage with Anna Hope, Sir Thomas's second surviving daughter (born 19th April 1625), and sister of Lady Erskine, his uncle's wife. The marriage took place shortly after in the month of August, this same year (1645). The concluding portion of this letter refers to their marriage settlements. See also Letter XVIII, p. 125.

⁴ The Countess Dowager of Mar.

⁵ Archibald Johnstone of Warriston, son of James Johnston, merchant, Edinburgh, and Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Craig of Riccarton ; passed as advocate in 1633 ; clerk of the famous Glasgow Assembly of 1638 ; appointed Procurator of the Church of Scotland that same year ; raised to the bench of the Court of Session by the title of Lord Warriston 1641 ; knighted by Charles I. 15th November 1641 ; a lay member of the Westminster Assembly of Divines ; succeeded Sir Thomas Hope as Lord Advocate in 1646, and became Lord Clerk Register in 1649. An ardent Covenanter, Johnston fled to the Continent on the restoration of Charles II., but was arrested at Rouen in 1662, and after being confined in the Tower of London for some months, was brought to Edinburgh, and executed there on 22d July 1663.—Brunton and Haig's *Senators*, p. 306 ; Omond's *Lord Advocates of Scotland*, vol. i. pp. 148-185.

⁶ John, Earl of Loudoun, eldest son of Sir James Campbell of Lawers, and Jean, daughter of James, Lord Colville ; born in 1598 ; created Earl of Loudoun 1633 ; appointed Lord Chancellor in 1641, of which office he was deprived at the Restoration, and fined £12,000 Scots ; died at Edinburgh 15th March 1663.

them wes come to your hands at the wryting of your letteris to me, albeit I think or now ze haif them. And thairfoir I haif, according to zour desyr set down in this inclosit paper the principal heidis of that contract to quhilk I crave humblie the Lords blissing. And albeit I be not so abill nou as quhen the Lord offerit zow to me (for quhilk I humblie blisse the Lord) to do in that measure as then I did, quhair of ye ar not ignorant of the caussis, partlie arrysing from my sone Sir Alexander¹ his wast spending, and partlie from the surcease of my calling, and with it the trubles and burdingis of the tyme; zit the hope I haif that he salbe of your douce and sweet dispositioun, makis me to resoule to do above my power. And thairfoir in the paper I speak no les nor that quhilk ze ressauit, but ze must haif ane cair of the termes of payment. And I wische that the third part of it may be payabill at my decease, quhilk I trust sall not be long to, albeit (if so be the Lords plesur) I could be content to leive the longer for zour and thair saiks. But this neidis not to be spokin to zour nephew, but keipit in your awin bosome, and I am hairtlie content that in the consideratioun off the articles contenyit in the paper ze sway (as I thinke both natur and honor bundis zow) to zour nephewis part thair off, and that ze challenge me quhair ze think I deill sparinglie, and with this I close, humble praying the Lord for zour happie recoverie and to heir from zow thairanent with the first opportunitie and restis, youris in all fatherlie affectioun to honor and serve yow,

S. THOMAS HOPE.

Edinburgh, 24 Merche 1645.

SIR,—I pray yow haif a speciall cair of the termes of payment, and if ze haif any scrupil tharin, differ your opinioun tharin till we meit.

Or this could be dispatchit with the pacquet, the babie wes baptisit James on Twysday, 25 Merche, and efter sermone the

He married in 1620, Margaret Campbell, granddaughter and heiress of Hugh, Lord Loudoun.—Douglas's *Peerage*; Brunton and Haig's *Senators*, p. 300.

¹ See Introduction, p. 82.

Erl of Buchan,¹ the Countes of Hadingtoun,² and Lady Marie³ drank zour helth quhilk I pray the Lord to blisse.

To the rycht honorabill Sir Charles Areskin of Cambuskyneth, knyght.

XVI

TO SIR CHARLES ERSKINE.

SIR,—I entreat zow to remember to wrytt zour letter to the Erle of Mar, zour brother, befoir yee part, and delyuer it to Mr. George Noruell, together with the memorandum drawin vp for zour effares.

This inclosit (anent a warrand to be signit be his Maiestie for payment to me off the allowance dew for the generall Assemblie⁴) is the just doubill of that quhilk I send vp with my sone Sir Alexander, and quhilk he delyuerit to Sir James Galloway,⁵ to be presentit to his Maiestie, quhilk he did; and his Maiestie doutit if the daylie allowance wes £60 stirling per diem, for quhilk I haif no more but the testimony of theis quho wes imployit in the lyk seruice, and I schew zow a letter from the Erle of Lanerk, secretary,⁶ bering so muche.

Thair wes ane other doubt movit that his Maiestie had some things to be resoluit of with me anent my cariage in that commissioun quhilk his Maiestie behovit to know befoir his Maiestie

¹ James, second Earl of Buchan, nephew of Sir Charles Erskine.

² Henrietta de Coligny, widow of Sir Charles's nephew, Thomas, third Earl of Haddington, who died shortly before this, on the 8th February (1645). See note, p. 117.

³ Marie Hope, Lady Erskine, wife of Sir Charles.

⁴ Hope was Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly which met on 2d August 1643, the only commoner who ever filled that office.

⁵ Master of Requests.

⁶ William, second son of James, second Marquis of Hamilton; created Earl of Lanark in 1639; appointed Secretary of State for Scotland, September 1641; succeeded as fourth Marquis and second Duke of Hamilton on the execution of his elder brother James, in March 1649, who had espoused the cause of Charles, and was taken prisoner at the battle of Preston. He died from wounds received in the battle of Worcester, 3d September 1651. He married in 1638 Lady Elizabeth Maxwell, daughter and co-heir of James, Earl of Dirleton.—Douglas's *Peerage*.

wold sign my warrand. As for this, it may be that some malicious sycophantis hes calumniat me to his Maiestie herin. But I know quhatever it is, and quhatsomeuer he be that hes spoken it, hes spokin vntueth. For I am conscious to myself, and hes the conscience of faythfulnes in my walking thairin so sircumspectlie, that as I did preciselie follow my instructiounes, so no leiving creatur wes acquaint be me with them or any of them; and I did not directlie nor indirectly communicat the samyn to any quhom his Maiestie suspectis. Butt now trusting the Lord sall give some happie occasioun of a blissit peace, I haif gevin zow heirwith the doubill thairoff, that if ze find any opportunity ze may vse zour best cair and fauor to obtaine his Maiesties hand thairto. And I salbe readie vpon zour aduertisement to wrytt ather to Mr. Mauld,¹ Mr. Levingstoun, Sir James Galloway, Mr. Murray, or any other quhom ze direct to desyre thair assistanc thairin.

Sir, becaus of the purpose of mariage betuix zour nobill nephew, my Lord Cardros, and my dauchter, my wyff hes delyuerit zow a nott of some furnischings to be coft at Londoun and sent home. I do intreat zow to haif ane cair thairoff, and to caus send the samyn home with all possibill expeditioun, and draw on me the bills for payment of the monyis to be payit thairfoir, quhilk I trust sal not exceid tuo hundreth pund stirling; and with Godis grace I sal sie the samyn thankfully payit, and for that and all zour fauors, rest yours affectionat father and humbel seruitor,

S. THOMAS HOPE.

Craghall, 23 Junij 1645.

To the rycht honorabill my nobill sone, Sir Charles Erskin of Cambuskynmeth, knyght. To be oppenit at Lundoun.

XVII

TO GILBERT NEILSON, ADVOCATE.

SIR,—According to the desyre of your letter of 9 August, I haif (efter reiding of the forme off the Contract contening sex

¹ See note, p. 116.

scheit of paper, and comparing of it with the forme drawin vp at first, and with the writtis maid at S^t Jonstoun in presence of the Erll of Lanrek and off his father in law, the Lard of Innerweik,¹ and thairwith remembring the conference had betuix zow and Thomas Maxwell² befoir me at Craighall, together with that quhilk past apart betuix zow and me in our way to Falkland), drawin vp ane forme of the Contract, consistin of thrie scheitis of paper befoir the claus of registration, quhilk in my judgement sall satisfie both parties. For in it all your scrupills ar satisfieit, and the way of the obliscement for successioun of the airs mail of the mariage qualifeit according to youris just and necessary reservatiounis quhairvpon ye and I commonit in the way to Falkland, and to quhilk I trust my Lord the Erl of Cassills³ (to quhom I remember my humbill service) will assent, being assurit of his lordschips just and equitabill dispositioun, that he will vrge no moir of the Erll of Annandail,⁴ nor that quhilk he wald be content sould be vrgit of himself, iff he wer in the Erll of Annandailis cace. And I am sure his lordschip wald never aggrie to bind himself that the airis of his first mariage, or second, or any vther, sould succeid to his hail lands and estait present and to be conquiest, without reserving power to himself to burdene the samyn for payment of former debtis contractit be him or his predecessors, and for provisioun of his vther children by⁵ the air. I haif also causit draw vp the forme of the rental of the lyfrent lands provydit to the lady, quhilk is to be subscriyvit at the tyme of the subscriyving of the Contract, bering this claus in the end that it sall not infer warrandice aganis

¹ Sir James Maxwell, son of John Maxwell of Kirkhouse and Jean Murray, the Earl's sister; gentleman of the bedchamber to James VI. and Charles I.; created Earl of Dirleton in 1646. He had parliamentary ratification of the barony of Innerwick to him and Elizabeth Boussoyne his wife in 1633, and along with John Cunningham of Barns had a pension settled on him for keeping a light on the Isle of May.

² See note, p. 105.

³ John, sixth Earl of Cassilis, generally called 'the grave and solemn Earl;' succeeded his uncle John, the fifth Earl, Lord Treasurer of Scotland, in 1616; married Lady Jean Hamilton, daughter of Thomas, first Earl of Haddington, and died in April 1668.—Douglas's *Peerage*; Brunton and Haig's *Senators*, p. 342.

⁴ See Introduction, p. 75.

⁵ Besides.

the Erll of Annandaill, the setting of takkis or rentalls, ather bygane or herefter, provyding the samyn be sett for no les dewties nor the dewties contenit in the rentall. Sua, with my best affectioun, I rest zour loving and affectionat freind and brother,

S. THOMAS HOPE.

Craighall, 13 August 1645.

SIR,—Fering to insert the claus of successioun as ye and I commonit vpon till it wer aggreit to betuix the twa nobilmen, I haif onlie caus wryt it in a tikket apart, and hes left a blank in the Contract for inserting thairoff.

*To my worthie and muche respectit freind and brother, Gilbert Neilsoun of Craiggaffie, Aduocat.*¹

XVIII

TO SIR CHARLES ERSKINE.

SIR,—I wreit to zow with zour worthie brother, Scottiscraig,² on 9 August, on quhilk day he did me the fauor to come to me and put ane end to all differences of that matche³ quhilk so cairfullie ze haif offerit, as the paper subscryuit be zour nephew and him propertis. Quhairupon the banis wes proclamit on Sounday, 10 of August, and I trust the mariage salbe consummat, with the blissing of God, about the 25 of August. Bot zour nephew wes so punctuall to follow the advyse gevin be zow to him in zour last letter, that he made scrupill to sub-

¹ See Introduction, p. 83.

² Arthur Erskine, sixth son of John, seventh Earl of Mar, and Lady Mary Stewart, his second wife. He became proprietor of the estate of Scotscraig, Fife, *jure uxoris*, Margaret Buchanan, eldest daughter and heiress of Sir John Buchanan of Scotscraig. Like his elder brother Sir Charles, he took a leading part in the counsels and enterprises of the Covenanters. See Balfour's *Annals*; Baillie's *Letters and Journals*, etc. He died about 1652, when his son John was served heir to him. His affairs were greatly embarrassed at the time of his death, and his estate of Scotscraig was ultimately bought by Archbishop Sharpe in 1664, for about 'fourscore and fiftene thowsand merks or therby.'—Lamont's *Diary*, p. 221.

³ The marriage between Lord Cardross and Anna Hope, Sir Thomas's daughter, see note, p. 120.

scrive the contract of mariage, quhilk wes precislie drawin vp according to zour last articles subscriuit be him and his vnclé, Scottiscraig, till the contract wer seine be his vther curatours. And quhen I schav to him the preiudice quhilk mycht aryse to himself be delays, he aggriet to subscriue the samyn provyding I wald refer the differences betuix the first articles subscriuit be his curators at Stirling and theis subscriuit be himself and zour brother, Scottiscraig, to zow, quhilk I aggriet thairto, and gevin writt thairupon, knowing that ze will not do that wrong to zour brother and zour self, as to preis me to alter a jott of that zow both haif aggriet to. And quhen ze sal heir the differences ze will compt some of them absurd and vtheris vniust, as to haif me bund to intertany my lord in hous so long as he pleissis, and iff he remove from my hous to augment his tocher; and to haif the portiouns of the femel (failzing of airs maill) to be referrit to my lord himself. And as to the claus quhilk is in zour contract anent the quyting of 2000 merks of the jointure, it wes vrgit be Scottiscraig, and I aggriet to it, thair making hir rycht to ane manor place as in zouris. And herein efter debait it wes resoluut that quhair in zouris my dauchter is to quyte 2000 merks, in this of hir sisteris scho is to quyte onlie 1000 merks. And for vther differences I know nott, so that this bussines is finally closit with the blissing of God. And for the promisse quhilk ze vrgit of me for fyve thousand merks more, and quhilk I refuset, I trust that ze sall find that quhat I spak thairin salbe als good as promist, for on the morow efter the mariage I intend to giff him in hand ane hundreth doubill angels. And for the vther thrie thousand merks thairof, if I do not procur to him a benefic ansuerabill thairto in my tyme, I intend to assigne him to so muche, or leive as muche to him in legacie at the tyme off my deceise.

The publik bussines here gois very croceley, for the Irische¹ crosit Ern² on 7 August, and offerit to joyne battell with our

¹ Under the Marquis of Montrose. His army, which defeated the Covenanting forces under General Baillie at Auldearn, in Aberdeenshire, in May, and at Alford, in the same county, in July 1645, was largely composed of Irish caterans, the descendants of Highlanders who had emigrated to Ireland.

² The river Earn in Perthshire, which flows into the Tay seven miles south-east of Perth.

armie lyand thair,¹ quhilk thai wyselie schonit till the countrey wer gatherit to thair supplie. But in the mean tyme the ennemie went toward Burley² and herryit Kinrosschyr and his landis and thairfra wan to Castel Campbel and the vther landis lyand about it pertenyng to the Marques of Ergyll and herryit them.³ And this last nycht thay wer at Alloway, quhair as I

¹ The Covenanting force was at this time assembled at Kilgraston, in the neighbourhood of the Bridge of Earn, and not far from Perth, where the Convention of Estates was then met. They had ordered a new levy of ten thousand men generally throughout the kingdom; but, while it was being raised, Montrose marched southwards through Glendevon, and ravaged Kinross-shire and Clackmannanshire, and finally defeated Baillie and his troops at the bloody and disastrous battle of Kilsyth, in Stirlingshire, 15th August 1645.—Gardiner, *Hist. of Great Civil War*, vol. ii. p. 263.

² Burleigh Castle, in the parish of Orwell, about a quarter of a mile south-east of the village of Milnathort, and not far from the northern shore of Lochleven. Though now in ruins, it was once a place of great strength, consisting of a square, surrounded by a wall ten feet in height, a deep moat, and a redoubt. It was at this time the property, by inheritance, of Michael Balfour, who was created Lord Balfour of Burleigh by James VI. in 1607, while acting as his ambassador to the Dukes of Tuscany and Lorraine. In 1644 Lord Burleigh was President of the Scottish Parliament and a General of the forces. He was also one of the Committee of Parliament attached to the army under Baillie that was defeated by Montrose at Kilsyth.

³ On this occasion, besides Castle Campbell, every house in the parishes of Dollar and Muckhart, with two exceptions, was destroyed. The parties in Montrose's army who were most active in the work of destruction are said to have been the Ogilvies, the retainers of the Earl of Stirling, and of Graham of Braco, whose respective houses of Menstrie and Airthrey had shortly before been burnt by order of the Marques of Argyll, and the Macleans, who had long-standing feuds with the Campbells in Argyllshire. This act of revenge occasioned great suffering and want in both parishes, and the inhabitants petitioned Parliament for assistance. The matter being referred to a committee, on their report, an Act was passed, dated 25th December 1645, granting warrant to the lairds of Sauchie, Duncrub, and Cleish, together with one James Crichton of Wester Aldie, to cut down wood at Hairshaw, in the parish of Clackmannan, the property of the Laird of Rosyth, 'presently incarcerated as a delinquent,' to be given to the people of Dollar and Muckhart to repair their houses. In addition to this, a sum of twenty thousand merks was intrusted to the Marquis of Argyll, to be distributed amongst the most necessitous. About a year after this, on the 20th November 1646, another Act of Parliament was passed, ordaining 'the supplicants of the parishes of Muckhart and Dollar to be free of maintenance and quarterings, and discharging the inhabitants of the same, and all exacting of maintenance money from the heritors, tenants, inhabitants, and possessors of the same.' It is very doubtful, however, if they ever received the money voted to them, as up to June 1651 we find them repeatedly petitioning Parliament for its payment.

heir Montroiss wes resett be zour brother,¹ quhilk I will not beleve. And this day he hes past Forth at a foord neir the Keir,² and quhair thay go none knawis. But ouris ar following them at the heills; and the numbers of both armies ar affirmit to be on our part fyve thousand futt and fyve hundreth horse, and on the vther thrie thousand fyve hundreth futt and sex hundreth horse. Thir sturris or feares so amasit my dauchter your bedfellow that scho wald necessarily go to the Kerse³ with my barne Charles,⁴ to quhilk thai went on Mounday xi August. But I haif writtin to hir to returne, quhilk I trust scho sal inclyne to, seing the ennemie is on that syde of Forth. The Lord give ws releiff from thir troubles, and from the plaig quhilk daylie increscis. So with my best blissing, I rest, your affectionat father and bund servitor,

S. THOMAS HOPE.

Craighall, 15 August 1645.

To the rycht honorabill my nobill sone, Sir Charles Erskin of Cambuskynneith, knyght.

XIX

TO SIR CHARLES ERSKINE.

SIR,—I had youres of last September on this 9 October, quhilk did wonderfullie refresche my sad and weary spirit, bothe in the publik be that lait victorie of Maior Poyennes⁵ and be the

¹ John, eighth Earl of Mar. After burning Castle Campbell, Montrose quartered his main army in the wood of Tullibody, and allowed his wild Irish followers to pillage the neighbouring town of Alloa and its vicinity, while he himself, with the Earl of Airlie, and his chief officers, were next day magnificently entertained in the castle there by the Earl and Countess of Mar.—Guthrie's *Memoirs*, p. 193.

² A few miles west of Stirling.

³ In Stirlingshire, the property of her nephew, Alexander Hope, son of Sir Thomas's second son, Sir Thomas, who had died two years previously.

⁴ Charles Erskine, third but eldest surviving son of Sir Charles, born 1st July 1643; succeeded his father as proprietor of the estates of Cambuskenneth and Alva, 1663; created a Baronet, 1666; married Christian, daughter of Sir James Dundas of Arniston, in 1664; died before May 1694.

⁵ The victory of the English Parliamentary general, Poyntz, over King Charles's forces at Rowton Heath, near Chester, on 24th September 1645, when

propositiounes of peax movit be the prince his highness to quhilk I pray the Lord to give a prosperous successe. And als in the privat anent the liberatioun off my vnfortunat sone, Sir Alexander,¹ begun by your procurement and quhair of I expect to heir from yow ane happie successe with the first opportunity; and to compleit all, the saiff arryvall of my dauchter, your bedfellow, and babie Charles, with my sone, Sir James, and his bedfellow,² quhilk hes in great measur confortit me; and for quhilk all I pryse the Lord from my hart. And for ws, blissed be the Lord, we ar all in saiftie as yit be the mercie and patience of our good Lord, but the plaig dois spread in all the partis of the countrie,³ and we ar not frie of

the latter were utterly defeated, with a loss of 300 killed and 1000 prisoners. This disaster, added to that of Philiphaugh, which occurred shortly before, on the 13th of the same month, deprived the unhappy king of his last hope. 'The King's totall rout at Chester,' writes Baillie, in a letter dated 14th October 1645, 'by Poins, wherein the Duke of Lennox's brother, Bernard, the captaine of the guard, was killed and Sir Thomas Glenham taken, hes put the King in that condition that he neither hes, nor is like to have, any more the face of ane armie in England.'—Baillie's *Letters and Journals*, vol. ii. p. 316; Gardiner's *Hist. of Great Civil War*, vol. ii. p. 321.

¹ From a letter written by Sir Charles Erskine, from London, dated 9th September 1645, to his wife in Edinburgh, preserved among the family papers of Sheriff Erskine-Murray, Glasgow, it would appear that his brother-in-law, Sir Alexander Hope, and his wife, who were on their way from Edinburgh to London, were taken prisoners by the Scottish forces in the north of England. He says:—'I dout not befor this thou hes heard of the tacking of your brother, Sir Alexander, and his Lady, whoe wes striped nakaed and sent to Linckon and he to Neuwark. I hed ane letter from hir desyring sume Monie, which I knoe not what way to send, shoe being as shoe wreates going to hir husband at Newarke, bot I shall doe my best for it and his relesment. I heir he hed 400 lb. Strling in gould bay [besides] Julies [jewels] tacken from him.' Sir Alexander was a royalist, and cup-bearer to King Charles.

² Sir Charles was joined in London at this time by Lady Erskine and their infant son Charles, accompanied by her brother, Sir James Hope and his wife.

³ It is said that the plague was brought to Scotland by the soldiers of the Scottish army who were engaged in the siege of Newcastle, after the taking of that town in October 1644. During the years 1645-46 it took deadly hold of the country, and was widely spread. In April 1645, it broke out in Edinburgh with great virulence, necessitating special precautionary measures on the part of the Town Council, while it was still in full force in Glasgow and the west towards the close of 1646. This was the last occasion of its visiting Scotland, which was entirely free of it in 1665, when it raged so terribly in London.—Chambers's *Dom. An.*, vol. ii. pp. 156, 163.

it heir in Fyiff, and knowis not how long it salbe the lordis pleasur to spair ws.

Ye desyrit me in your former (ressavit on 6 October and ansuerit be me immediatlle, and sent to Bervik to find opporitie of the paquet) to knaw if the Committe of Estates be fixit in some constant place and desyrit to haif the notice thairoff from my sone Craighall,¹ quho at that tyme wes at the Committe off Duns, quhilk mett on Thursday the 2 October; and quhen I wreit my ansuer I could not gif satisfaction to zow in that point be ressoun of his absence. And quhen he come home, quhilk wes the samyn day on quhilk I ressaut zour last letter, he told me that thair could be no fixit place be resolut on in respect of the spreading of the plaig, but that thair nixt meiting is appointit to be at Sanct Androis on Twysday nixt the 14 off this instant, at quhilk the commissioners of the houssis of Parliament ar to meit with our Committe and resolue vpon sik pointis as ar necessar for the commoun saiftie off both kingdome,² to quhilk I pry the Lord to give a blissing. [Piece of the letter cut off.]

And if ze be willing to haif Sir William Dick³ his band for it vpon zour advertisement I sall procure it. As for my sone

¹ Sir John Hope, eldest son of Sir Thomas; knighted and raised to the bench by the title of Lord Craighall, 27th July 1632; married, first, Margaret, daughter of Sir Archibald Murray of Blackbarony, who died in child-bed, 3d October 1641; and, second, Dame Rachel Speir, Lady Curriehill, on 7th December 1643. He died at Edinburgh, 28th April 1654.—Hope's *Diary*; Douglas's *Baronage*.

² See p. 131, note ³.

³ A successful merchant and banker in Edinburgh, who was at one time reputed to be the wealthiest man of his time in Scotland. In 1618, he is said to have advanced £6000 to King James VI. to defray his household expenses in connection with a meeting of the Scottish Parliament. In 1628, he farmed the Scottish Customs and Excise, as well as the Crown rents in Orkney. Elected Lord Provost of Ediuburgh in 1638 and 1639; after being previously knighted, he was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia in 1646. He advanced large sums to the Covenanters, the public debt owing to him in 1647 amounting to £28,131 sterling; while the English Parliament also borrowed from him to the amount of £36,803. Notwithstanding repeated efforts on his part, he was unable to gain restitution of these sums, and visiting London in 1652, to urge his claims, he was eventually thrown into prison in Westminster for debt, and died there in great misery and want, 19th December 1655. All the compensation which his son, Sir Andrew, could ultimately obtain was a pension of £132 sterling, which was only continued, however, for a few years.—Chambers's *Dom. An.* vol. ii. 236 seq.

Sir Alexander I can say no more but give zow humbill and hartie thankis for zour cair of him, and wischis that this his visitatioun may work to his good to mak him feir his Lord in ane other sort nor as zit he hes done. And I haif ressoun to expect it, seing as ze wrytt the kings Maiestie (quhom he idolit as his god) hes desert him. And if he be wyse he will fix his trust on the Lord, quho will not fail him. However I expect to heir from zow the success off your paynes ze haif takin for his releiff. So with my best affectioun to my dauchter and to babie Charles, I rest, youris affectionat father and oblischit seruator,

S. THOMAS HOPE.

Craighall, 9 October 1645.

Babie James is in good helth, blissit be God, and is so brouden¹ on me that quhen I preis to tak any of the barnes in my armes he skirlis² for impatiencie.

My Lord Cardrois wes to wrytt, but thinkis this quhilk goes be sea sall not be so sone, and hes defferrit till the pacquet go from St Androis, quhair the Committe of Estates meitis with the Commissioners of England.

To the rycht honorabill and my nobill sone, Sir Charles Erskine of Cambuskynmeth, knyght.

XX

TO SIR CHARLES ERSKINE.

SIR,—Efter I had closit my pacquet to zow and sent it to Sanct Androis (quhair the Committee of Estates wes mett with the Commissioneris of Ingeland)³ I ressaut from Sanct Androis

¹ Enamoured, fond.—Murray's *New Eng. Dict.*

² Shrieks.

³ 'The Englishes contemn us much the more. They have sent Commissioners to craue Newcastle and Carlisle from us, and all our places of garrison but Berwick. They are angry that yet we have not given them a meeting. At this very time we are treating with them at St. Andrews. What to doe with them we know not. If we now give up these places, it will make them the more insolent; if we refuse them on never so fair terms, it will encrease the occasion of them who are seeking a quarrell.'—Baillie's *Letters and Journals*, vol. ii. p. 322 (under date 17th October 1645).

a packeit from zow and my sone, Sir James, of dait 7 October. And albeit I grant ze haif ressoun to complane that ze haif writtin so oft to ws heir and hes ressaut no ansuer this month bygane, and that thairwith I acknaulege zour respect and affectioun in expostulating for not intertanyng correspondence ansuerabill to zour diligence, zit I assure zow that no letter cam from zow hither quhilk wes not ansuerit the day of the ressait or the morrow and sent to seik for commoditie of transport to zow. But many, having wanderit long, cam bak, and theis quhilk gatt a berar hes beine liklie miscaryit, vtherwais ze could not haif missit letters from me. And now I thank God we ar all in helth, and blissis the Lord that we haif the lyk from zow of zour awin, my dauchters and sueit bill Charles all zour helthis quhilk I pray the Lord to continew, and quhilk with the prosperous success of affares thair quhair of ze wryt, is and salbe the gretest desyr of my hart. And for my sone Sir Alexander I waite to heir from zow how it hes pleisit the Lord to blisse zour labouris for him, and till then and ever, restis, your affectionat father and bund seruitor,

S. THOMAS HOPE.

Craighall, 16 October 1645.

SIR,—Lett my dauchter reid this postscript in excusing my not wryting to hir becaus scho wryttis not to me, and tell hir that albeit scho hes no matter, zit it salbe matter aneugh to hir to wryte that hir self and bill Charles is weill, and I sall not fail to meit hir with the lyk for billie James.

To the rycht honorabill and my nobill sone, Sir Charles Erskin of Cambuskynneth, knyght.

XXI

TO SIR CHARLES ERSKINE.

SIR,—Except zour bedfellow had told me that ze wes easit of your defluxioun I wold haif suspectit zour not wryting to me with this post. But the assurance from hir with a letter from my Lord Warristoun¹ acquainting me with the comissioners

¹ See note, p. 120.

pleadingis with the parliament, hes muche refreschit me. And I blisse the Lord that ze ar quyt of the trubill of your eyis: and I trust the diuersioun of the parliament at this tyme from extremities sall in Godis mercie produce some confort to the distressit estat of this kirk and kingdome.

I haif ressaut from Mr. John Rollok¹ a letter bering the lachest pryce off Tullibody,² and it is 2500 merks for ilk chalder stok and teind, deducing the minister of Alloway his locall stipend furth off Tullibody, and als the laichest pryce off the ludging in Stirling³ quhilk he callis ten thousand pundis. And he wryttis that thai must haif money to pay particular creditours, and not to tak assignement to the Laird of Glenvrquhis⁴ or Sir William Dicks band. Butt I haif writtin ane ansuer to it neir 8 dayis since of quhilk I haif not gottin ansuer, quhairin I refuse to mak the pryce off stok and teind equall, and the teind to be onlie 2000 merk the chalder. And for the aucht chalder promisit to the kirk of Tullibody being disioynit from Alloway, he wreit that it wes only ane intencion quhilk wes never perfyte, nor can not be perfytit without

¹ Commissary of Dunblane. He resided in Stirling, and acted as agent for Sir Charles Erskine in the management of his estates of Cambuskenneth and Bandedeath, in that neighbourhood.

² The estate of Tullibody in Clackmannanshire, hitherto the property of the Earl of Stirling (who had died insolvent in 1640), was now for sale, and Sir Charles Erskine was making inquiries about it with a view to purchase—a transaction, however, which was never carried out. It was bought in 1648 by Robert Meldrum, who was succeeded by his brother Major George Meldrum. He sold it in 1662 to Sir William Sharpe, brother of Archbishop Sharpe, who in turn disposed of it, in 1679, to George Abercromby of Skeith.—Rogers' *Memorials of the Earl of Stirling*, vol. i. p. 196.

³ Sir Charles had also some thoughts at this time of buying the house of the Earl of Stirling on the Castlehill, Stirling, as a permanent family residence. Ever since his marriage in 1638 his wife and children had lived, during his frequent absences, with his father-in-law in his house in the Cowgate, Edinburgh. The Stirling mansion was afterwards purchased in 1666 by Archibald, ninth Earl of Argyll, for £1000, and largely added to and embellished. At the beginning of the present century it was acquired by the Crown, and has been used, ever since, as the hospital of the castle.—*Ibid.* p. 199.

⁴ Sir Robert Campbell, Bart., second son of Sir Duncan Campbell of Glenorchy, succeeded his brother Colin, as third baronet on the death of the latter, *sine prole*, in 1640; married Isabel, daughter of Sir Lauchlan Macintosh of Torcastle. His grandson, Sir John Campbell of Glenorchy, was created Earl of Breadalbane in 1681.

the consent off the heretour for the tyme; quhilk albeit I think liklie, zit I haif writtin to Mr. John Rollok that propositouns made to the kirk, albeit conditionall, ar so grippit to, that quhat he thinks arbitrary becomes necessar. And as to the ludging I haif writtin that the pryce of it wes ten thousand merks and no more; and for the moneysis that thai sould not mak a stop of that seing thai ar auchtand to Sir George Moresoun¹ als muche if not more nor the somes auchtand to zow be the Laird Glenorquhy and Sir William Dick; and for the vther particular creditouris that ze salbe ready to tak them of. Quhen I heir from Mr. John heiranent ze sallbe acquaint thairwith and I desyr to know be your nixt how ze ar affectit heirin, to quhilk tyme and ever, with my best blissing, I rest yours affectionat father and vnchangeabill seruitour,

S. THOMAS HOPE.

Edinburgh, 25 August 1846.

SIR, delyuer this inclosit to my Lord Waristoun.

To the ryght honorabill and my nobill sone, Sir Charls Erskin of Cambuskyneth, knyght.

XXII

TO SIR CHARLES ERSKINE.

SIR,—I ressauit zouris of 15 September on 22 thairoff and saw one of 8 September from zow to my sone to quhom I haif gevin ansuer according to that quhilk I sent zow on 15 September advysing him to close with his good brother Jaks bill conforme thairto.

I am exceiding sorie for the breache quhilk the Lord hes beine pleisit to cast in be occasioun off the death off the Erll of Essex,² and zit I trust the Lord sall heill that breache.

¹ In consequence of the misfortunes which overtook the family of Archbishop Spotswood (see notes, p. 107), the estate of Dairsie was sold to a family of the name of Morrison. Sir George Morrison married Agnes, daughter of Robert, sixth Lord Boyd.—Leighton's *History of Fife*, vol. ii. p. 262.

² Robert Devereux, the son of Queen Elizabeth's favourite, who was appointed General of the Parliamentary army in 1642. He resigned his command in April, and died 14th September 1646. His death was regarded, though mistakenly, by the Parliamentarians, as a great loss. Writing to his friend, William Spang,

Zour quæres to the Committee of Estates ar ansuerit, and if ze can not work the parliament to zour desyres, the treatie for removell from Neucastell is to go on.

I sall labour quhat lysis in my power to bring Robert Steuart to zour desyr anent the ludging in Stirling and to supercid the bargen of the land to zour awin coming.

My dauchter told me zour desyr of payment or a letter off exchange for two hundreth pund stirling quhilk ze debursit on furnishingis to my dauchter the Lady Cardrois for hir mariage, and I am readie to do ather of them ze pleis vpon zour advertisement. And becaus money is not yet taken, and that I haif delt for the letter of exchange and could haif none readie I haif writtin to Robert Inglis to furnische it to zow, and hes sent the letter of exchange to that effect; and I trust he sall be willing to furnische zow and quhat ze aggrie with him for the entres or exchange I awne. So with my best blissing, I rest zour affectionat father and vnchangeable seruitor,

S. THOMAS HOPE.

Edinburgh, 22 September 1646.

The letter to Robert Inglis is vnseillit. Reid it and tak the letter of exchange furth of it, and then stamp and delyuer it to Robert. And quhen ze haif schawin to him the letter of exchange, aggre with him for the entres, or if he accept not advertise that I may provyd vtherwais for the money.¹

To the rycht honorabill and my nobill sone, Sir Charles Erskin of Cambuskynneth, knyght.

SIR,—Caus delyuer this vther to my Lord Waristoun.

on the 2d October (1646), Robert Baillie, a fellow-commissioner of Sir Charles Erskine, says:—‘The unexpected death of the brave Earle of Essex hes wounded us exceedingly. He wes the head of our partie here, keepled all together, who now are like by that alone to fall in pieces: the House of Lords absolutely, the city very much, and many of the shyres, depended upon him.’—Baillie’s *Letters and Journals*, vol. ii. p. 401.

¹ To this letter Sir Charles returned the following reply, which, with the bill of exchange, has been preserved among his correspondence:—‘MY LORD,—I receaved yours bay the last post, with ane bill of exchange, which I can not Mack use of without Much los to your lo. I will forbear to tack it wp without

XXIII

TO ROBERT INGLIS.

SIR,—My sone, Sir Charles Erskin, did at my desyr send home to Scotland a yeirs since some furnishingis and abill-zeamentis to my dauchter, the Lady Cardrois, hir mariage quhilk cam to two hundreth pund stirling, and if he have ado tharwith I desyr that ze may ansuer him, for quhilk I haif sent to him a letter of exchange to be presentit to zow,¹ quhilk I intreit zow to ansuer, and quhat ze and he aggreis vpon for the entres I sall thankfully repay, and for zour fauor heirin rest, Zour affectionat freind to serve yow,

S. THOMAS HOPE.

Edinburgh, 22 September 1646.

To my worthie and muche respectit freind, Robert Inglis, merchand at Londoun.

nessesitie compell me to dou it. I wes tacking wp sume Monies for my oune use from Johne Johnstone. he that receaues the Monies heiar for our Armie, and he wold not giue me ane 100 lb. pound wnder les nor 11 for the hundreth onlie for exchang. what Robert English will dou I knoe not yet for I haue not sein him since the receat of your lo. I thank your lo. for your cair in my particular with Robert Steuart. I shall be gled to heiar of it from your lo. if ther be anie apeirence of agriment with him for the hous which is all my deseyer; the publick affers heiar doeth depond wpon some satisfactorie ansuer from his Ma. to the propositions of peas without which he will neuer be admittit heiar; We are to haue ane Conference with boath houses on thursday nixt concerning the disposal of the Kings person. I pray god grant a hapie close. this is all the trubell shall be giuen to your lo. at this tyem bay,—Your lo. affectionat sone and seruant,

CHARLES ERSKINE.

'London, 29 Sep. 1646.'

Addressed on the back—'for My honored lord and father My lord Aduocat.'

¹ 'Edinburgh, 22 September 1646.—SIR,—At ten dayis sight be pleisit to pay to Sir Charles Erskin of Cambuskynneth, knyght, or any be his ordour the soun of two hundreth pund stirling money. At the day mak thankfull payment and pas the samyn vpon my accompt as be adyve from your affectionat freind,

'S. THOMAS HOPE.'

'To his worthie and muche respectit freind, Robert Inglis, merchand in Londoun.'

Indorsed—'Letter of Exchange for £200 stirling, 22 September 1646.'

XXIV

TO SIR CHARLES ERSKINE.

SIR,—I ressaut zouris of 25 August on last Thurisday and blissis the Lord for zour recoverie from the defluxiou in zour eyis and intretis zow to spair zour looking downe or to muche wryting, leist it procure ane new defluxiou ; for the eyis ar a tender part of the bodie.

I haif writtin to my sone, Sir Alexander, to follow zour advyse in going vp to attend his wyffis bussines sa sone as salbe possibill.

For Tullibody I can wryte no more till I ressave from Mr. John Rollok ane ansuer of my doubtis arrysing to me on his letter and the rentall he sent me ; of quhilk rentall and my doubtis I send zow heirwith the copie.¹

¹ The Rentall of the Barroney of Tullibody, orchyard and pertinentis thairoff.

	bollis. firloittis. pekis.		
Imprimis—It payis yeirly of wheat,	39	00	00
Item—Of beir and meill,	501	1	00
quhilk extendis in the haill to	540	1	00
	chal. bollis.		
and ammontis to in chalders to	33	12	1 fir.
Item—It payes in silver dewtie,	313	lb. 14	00
Item—In capons and henes 14 dissane at 5 ^s the peice is	42	0	0
So the haill rentall being 33 chalder 12 bollis ane			
firloitt victuall at 2500 mark ilk chalder is	84528	1 ^s	8
Item—Of silver dewtie 313 ^{lib} 14 ^s at 3000 markis ilk 100 mark is	09,420	0	0
Item—The kynne foules 42 lib. at 2000 markis ilk 100 is	01260	0	0
Suma is	95208	1	8
Item—The pryce of the ludging of Stirling is	10000 lib.		
To be deducit for 2 chalder victuall payed to the minister yeirly,	5000 markis		
Item—For 200 mark payed to him also	4000 markis		
Suma	9000 markis		
	markis.		
Which being deducit from the former sowme of	95,208	1	8
Ther restis of frie monies	86,208 merkis 1 ^s 8 ^d		

For the publik bussines I am glaid ze ar of so good opinioun off the happie success tharoff, and I trust no lett sall arryse thairto from this, if his Maiestie can be movit to inclyne to thair mitigatiouns of the last propositiouns, quhilk in many menis opinionones wer too rigid so far as concerns soueraintie. The Lord inclyne them on both sydis to suche a moderatioun as may produce trewth and peace.

Zour bedfellow hes takin hir to hir chamber. The Lord send hir ane happie delyuer.

I give zow humble thanks for zour and the gentilmanis offer, quhilk never cam in my mynd, and thinkis the tyme not proper; nor my conditioun nott ansuerabill thairto. Yet I will think vpon it as coming from so kynd and hartie ane mynd as zours is. Butt I wische it wer bestowit on zour self, iff it sould pleas the Lord to still thir stormes and increse your rent ansuerabill thairto. And in the mean tyme lett ws both possesse our soules in a holy contentment with the con-

I saye thair restis Fourscoir sex thousand tuo hundrethe eight markis, ane schilling eight penies Scotts.

COPIE of the Objections aganis this rental sent to Mr. Johne Rollok—

First—The teind is prysed alyke with the stoke to tuo thousand fyve hundrethe mark for ilk chalder quhilk at the most aucht to be according to the pryce of 100 markis quhilk is 2000 mark.

Nixt—The customes of capones and henes ar prysed apairt, quhaires they aucht to be prysed with the chalder, or with ane hundreth mark of rent.

Item—Thair aucht to be deducit aff the teind 8 chalder victuall quhilk is be the act of Comissioun appointed to be the constant stipendis of the kirk of Tullibodie.

Item—Quhair the pryce of the ludging in Stirling is made ten thousand poundis, it aucht to be only ten thousand markis, for so it wes estimat to Sir George Morisone; and Mr. James Gordone told me it wes so estimat be the lordis decret.

Item—I wrott to yow that my sone wold not embrace the bargane except the monies aughting to him be the Laird of Glenorchye and Sir William Dick wes taken in the first end thairto.

And for the letter sent to me ye wreatt that they cannott take these bandis in part of the pryce, because they most haife the monies to pay the particular creditouris.

Bott this most only be a pretence, because they ar aughting als much to Sir George Moresone as the sowmes of these tuo bandis will extend to. And my sone hes wreatten to me that he will nott medle with the bargane except the sowmes of these tuo bandis be taken in part of payment of the pryce.

Indorsed—Copie of the rental of Tullibody.

ditioun in quhilk the Lord hes placit ws, and blisse him for the samyn. So with my best blissing, I rest, youris affectionat father and vnchangeabill servitor,

S. THOMAS HOPE.

Edinburgh, last September 1646.

Delyuer this vther to my Lord Waristoun.

To the ryght honorabill and my nobill sone, Sir Charles Erskin of Cambuskynneth, knyght.