

ACCOUNT
OF THE
SURNAME OF BAIRD,

PARTICULARLY OF THE FAMILIES OF

AUCHMEDDEN, NEWBYTH, AND SAUGHTONHALL.

EDITED BY

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Adm. Baird

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P R E F A C E.

THE following short GENEALOGY of the FAMILY OF BAIRD has been printed for the first time, from a manuscript written by WILLIAM BAIRD, Esquire of Auchmedden, the last male representative of a family which, for several generations, filled the office of Lieutenant and Sheriff-Principal of the County of Banff, and for many years exercised considerable influence in the North of Scotland, particularly during the troublous reigns of the two Charles's.— (*Spalding's Memorials.*)

Mr Baird was the eldest son of William Baird, of Auchmedden, and Mary, daughter of Robert Gordon, of Straloch or Pitlurg, and was born at Auchmedden about the year 1701. From some manuscripts of his which still remain, particularly a translation from the Greek of Thucydides, he appears to have had a taste for literary as well genealogical and antiquarian pursuits, and to have been a gentleman of considerable accomplishments. He was the early patron of James Ferguson, the celebrated mechanist and astronomer, who mentions him in flattering terms in his Autobiography. In the prefix to his Select Mechanical Exercises, Mr Ferguson says :—“ Lady Dipple* had been but a few weeks there (at Durn) when William Baird, Esquire of Auchmedden, came on a visit. He was the husband of one of that Lady's daughters, and I found him to be very ingenious and communicative. He invited me to go to his house and stay some time with him, telling me that I should have free access to his library, which was a very large one, and that he would furnish me with all sorts of implements for drawing. I went thither, and stayed about eight months, but was much disappointed in finding no books of astronomy in his library except what was in the two volumes of Harris's *Lexicon Technicum*, although there were many books on geography and other sciences. Several of those indeed were in Latin, and more in French, which being languages I did not understand, I had recourse to him for what I wanted to know of these subjects, which he cheerfully read to me; and it was as easy for him to read English from a Greek, Latin, or French book, as from an English one. He furnished me with pencils and Indian ink, shewing me how to draw with them; and

* Lady Dipple was the youngest daughter of Sir William Dunbar, of Durn.

although he had an indifferent hand at that work, yet he was a very acute judge, and consequently a very fit person for shewing me how to correct my own work. He was the first who ever sat to me for a picture,* and I found it was much easier to draw from the life than from any picture whatever, as nature was more striking than any imitation of it."

Mr Baird married Anne Duff, eldest daughter of William Duff, of Dipple, and sister of William, first Earl of Fife, by whom he had a numerous family, none of whose descendants now remain, with the exception of those of his youngest daughter, Henrietta, who married Mr Francis Fraser, of Findrack, in the County of Aberdeen.

Mr Baird, true to the traditions of his family, joined the rebellion in 1745, on the Stuart side, and was an officer of the Prince's Body Guard at the battle of Culloden. He continued in hiding for several years after that unfortunate affair, but at length found an asylum at Echt House, Aberdeenshire, then the property of his relative, the late Earl of Fife, till his death, which took place in 1777. His property appears to have escaped confiscation, but it is said that, in consequence of the large sums of money he had borrowed to aid the Stuart cause, he was necessitated to alienate the family estate to Lord Haddo in 1750. At the time of this occurrence, a somewhat curious circumstance happened in connection with the family history, which, incredible as it may be thought, seems to be attested by authentic evidence. This was no less than the fulfilment of a prophecy, attributed to Thomas the Rhymer, that "There would be an eagle in the crags while there was a Baird in Auchmedden." When the estate passed out of the family at this time, the eagles† disappeared from the rocks of Pennan, where they had built for ages.

The Letters appended to the Genealogy will, it is hoped, be found interesting, as

* This interesting portrait is in the possession of Mr Baird's great-grandson, Mr Francis G. Fraser, of Findrack, Aberdeenshire.

† At one period there was a pair of eagles that regularly nested and brought forth their young in the rocks of Pennan; but, according to the tradition of the country, when the late Earl of Aberdeen purchased the estate from the Bairds, the former proprietors, the eagles disappeared, in fulfilment of a prophecy by Thomas the Rhymer,—“That there should be an eagle in the crags while there was a Baird in Auchmedden.” But the most remarkable circumstance, and what certainly appears incredible, is, that when Lord Haddo, eldest son of the Earl of Aberdeen, married Miss Christian Baird of Newbyth, the eagles returned to the rocks and remained until the estate passed into the hands of the Hon. William Gordon, when they again fled, and have never since been seen in the country. Those facts, marvellous as they may appear, are attested by a clond of living witnesses.—(*The New Statistical Account of Scotland*, No. XXV., pp. 261, 262.)

The estate of Aucmedden has again passed into the hands of a proprietor of the name of Baird, having recently been purchased by the late Mr Robert Baird, of Gartsherrie, and is now the property of his brother, James Baird, Esq., M.P. We are curious to learn if the eagles, true to the prophecy, have once more returned to their eyrie.

Auchmedden,—a fair and old court. The name in Irish signifies a wood in a den.—(*Pitcairn's Ancient Criminal Trials*, Vol. ii., pp. 399, 400.—*Description of the Parish of Aberdour*, by William Baird of Auchmedden, *Collections for the Shires of Aberdeen and Banff*, printed by Spalding Club, p. 446.)

illustrating the style of writing which prevailed in private correspondence at that period. They are also calculated to throw some light on the social habits of the time, while the occasional references to events of historical interest are not without considerable value. They commence in 1595, and are continued down to 1720.

Those earliest in date are chiefly from Andrew Baird to his brother Gilbert Baird, of Auchmedden. This Andrew was the second son of George Baird, of Auchmedden, by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander Keith, of Troup, who was brother to the then Earl Marischall. After getting a University education, he was sent to France to finish his studies, and he became Professor of Philosophy at Lyons, but subsequently embraced a monastic life.

His letters from France throw considerable light on the difficulties which persons in his situation, who were then a numerous class, had in communicating with their friends in Scotland. In one instance, it appears that a letter written to him by his brother took two years to reach its destination, and in another he complains that it was "aucht" years since he had heard from home. A visit to his native country was an affair of still greater difficulty, and one which, after due consideration, he had made up his mind not to hazard. In Letter VII. he says:—"As to me to cum into Scotland, as be I haif assurance of the Kingis Majestie, and of the estates baith of England and Scotland, it schymis to be an thing impossible, gif that I will not put myself in danger, for the preists, monks, and friars are not very welcome amang you; but gif there were ony helth, I could wreat to my acquaintance, wha micht do sumthing for me in case of necessity; quhairfore, luiking for sum letter, I am altogider resolvit as yit to remain in thir parts, as it sall pleis my superiors, or else into Italy or Spaine; for, thanks be to God, we haif many fair houses and boothings in thir parts,—God in sa far has provyded for his children; only I pray you, maist weil-beloved brother, to pray God for me, and recommend me to the prayers of your innocent bairns."

The Letters XX. to XXXVIII. are written by James Baird, Sole Commissary of the Ecclesiastical Court of Scotland (an office in those days of great honour and trust), to his brother George Baird of Auchmedden, and to his nephew Sir James. This eminent person was born about the year 1588, and was the fourth son of Gilbert Baird of Auchmedden by his wife Lilia, only child to Walter Baird of Ordinhivas. He was the founder of the families of Newbyth and Saughtonhall,* which still exist, and which at different periods have produced members who have rendered distinguished services to the country; among those may be particularly mentioned the hero of Seringapatam, the late General Sir

* An amusing anecdote is related of the Commissary's grandson, Sir James Baird of Saughtonhall. Sir James had a kirk process before the General Assembly, and the Moderator or a minister having alleged something against his side of the question, which was really not true, Sir James started up in a great passion, set back his wig, and cried out, "Oh, G—d, Moderator, sic a lie!"

David Baird. The letters of the worthy Commissary chiefly refer to matters of business in which the family were concerned, but they also contain frequent allusions to public affairs. They certainly give one a strange idea of the administration of the law in those days, leading to the irresistible conclusion that powerful friends were as much to be depended upon as the justice of one's cause. Of this we find an instance in Letter XXVI., in which he says:—"He had no less solicitors of that interlocutor against you nor my Lord Hay and the Laird of Pitsligo, with all their might and power. My Lord Hay and I altercate upon sum words in the Tolbooth, quhairupon he dortit a day or twa, but we are becum great again, as I shall shew you at meeting. I thoct I wad not give Mr William Hepburn cause of croaking *that he dang me out of it be frindis*. I brocht both the Erle of Buchan and the Erle of Wigton, for whom I am now pro'r, and the Laird of Cluny Gordon, whose friendship and courtesie ye suld never forget, but still remember the same as ye have occasion to see him; always, the matter being disputed and hardly solicited, *your frindis*, and with the little credit that I had, I wrocht (before the interlocutor) that the contract might be productit, quhilk the Lords has fund."

Another instance of the same kind occurs in Letter XXVII., where a person of the name of Cheyne is mentioned as having, by the interest of his "Southland" friends, purchased suspension of a decret at the instance of Auchmedden, but says the Commissary—"I spoke *our frinds* in the Council, and specially the guid Earl of Murray, wha is your true friend. I productit your decret, and shews the Lords the business before himself, and protested that he might be bound to the peace, not that we stood in fear of himself, but that he nicht rather get 'skaith' nor do 'skaith,' quhairof there was some hold takin be *your frinds* in the Council, and what was spoken by me there was tane in guid part. The Chancellor said thir word to him—"Albeit ye be my cousin, Sir, command your carriage, and sick labour as this may readily bring you to the gallows." Quhairupon, we being removed, the Lords ordered him to go to the Tolbooth, and there to remain till he paid your witnesses' expences, and set sufficient caution for your indemnity, under the penalty of an thousand pounds."

Letter XXXIV. mentions the sitting of the Session at Stirling. The Chancellor, Lords, advocates, and writers are described as dependent on the "commodity of horses" for the means of transit, which would seem not to have been very abundant, from the fact, that the various members of the Court could not proceed to their destination at the same time, but had to set out in detachments as the "commodity" in question could be obtained.

The Commissary, who very early turned Protestant, joined the Covenanters, and, according to Spalding, appears to have taken an active part in promoting their interests. In writing to his brother the Laird (Letter XXIX.), he playfully alludes to the mistaken religious views of his uncle and brother, who were greatly attached to the Church of Rome:—"I have ressavit sum word, but no letters, from our uncle Mr Andrew and our brother Mr Thomas; they are both in lyfe and weil, feeding upon fische only, like sea-fowls."

The Commissary purchased the estate of Byth in Aberdeenshire, but it was afterwards

sold by his son Sir John Baird (Lord Newbyth),* who purchased the lands of Foord and Whitekirk, in the shire of Haddington, and got them erected into one barony by the name of Newbyth.

Among the other letters comprised in this collection, the most interesting are two (XLV., XLVI.) from Archbishop Sharp,† and one (XLVII.) from his son, Sir William Sharp of Stonyhill, to Sir James Baird, of Auchmedden. The letters of the Archbishop are those of a man of amiable disposition, who was anxious to promote the welfare of his friends. That of his son is peculiarly interesting, as containing an account of the murder of the Archbishop from the most authentic source. The details given regarding this foul murder are worthy of attention, both on account of the picture they afford of the heroic and christian-like conduct of the venerable victim in his last moments, and the light thrown on the character and motives of his assassins. The defence which has been set up on behalf of the murderers, that they were actuated entirely by religious zeal, can scarcely be maintained in face of the fact, that they committed robbery as well as murder. With such evidence before us, it is difficult to conceive how any apology can be offered for the perpetrators of this deed, even on the ground of mistaken zeal; and surely no sect of Christians would be desirous to identify themselves with a set of ruffians who not only dared to murder, but could condescend to steal.

The original orthography of the Letters has been preserved. In these the writing goes on continuously, without any division into sentences, and without the distinction of capital letters; but in printing it has been thought better to supply these deficiencies, and make an arrangement of paragraphs and sentences.

Mr Baird was at the trouble of making at least two copies of his manuscript, one of which is in the Advocates' Library, and the other is at Findrack, in Aberdeenshire, where also is an amulet or charm which is said to have been in the family of Baird since the year 1174, and bears an inscription to that effect.

W. N. F.

EDINBURGH, 41 ALBANY STREET,
February 1857.

* Sir John Baird was admitted Advocate on 3d June 1647. Upon the restoration of Charles II., he was created a Knight Baronet and admitted an Ordinary Lord, and he was also nominated one of the Justice-Deputes 11th January 1667. He was chosen one of the Commissioners appointed in 1670 to treat with those of England for the then projected union of the countries. Lord Newbyth was superseded in 1681. He entered heartily into the Revolution, and was included in the new nomination then made. He died at Edinburgh on 27th April 1698, in the seventy-eighth year of his age. Lord Newbyth collected the decisions of the Court from November 1664 to February 1667, and practises from 1664 to 1681, with an appendix to 1690, the MSS. of which are preserved in the Advocates' Library.—*Brunton and Haig's Account of the Senators of the College of Justice.*

† Dr James Sharp, Archbishop of Saint Andrews, and Primate of Scotland, was born in the month of May 1613, in the Castle of Banff. He was the son of Mr Sharp, Sheriff-Clerk of Banffshire; his mother was a daughter of the Laird of Kinnivie.

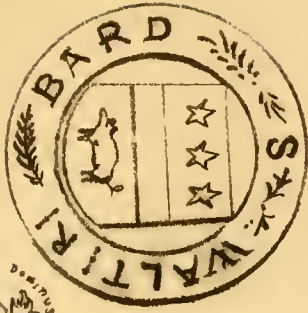
DESCRIPTION OF SEALS.

- I.—The Seal of ANDREW BAIRD, of Lavoroklaw, afterwards of Auchmedden, where he died 10th February 1543. He was the son of BAIRD of Posso, in the County of Peebles. He appears to have carried a “Bear” *passant*, which corresponds with the tradition mentioned at page 10.
- II.—The Seal of GEORGE BYRD, of Ordinhnivas, great-great-grandson to JAMES BAIRD, of the family of Cambusnethan. He married JANET FRASER, daughter to the Laird of PHILORTH, and died in 1557.
- III.—The Seal of WALTER BAIRD, of Ordinhnivas (son of the preceding). He married CATHERINE GRANT, daughter to the Laird of BALLINDALLOCH, by whom he had an only daughter, LILIAS, married 16th August 1578, to GILBERT BAIRD, of Auchmedden.
- IV.—Book-plate of WILLIAM BAIRD, Esq., last of Auchmedden, who married ANNE, daughter of WILLIAM DUFF, of Dipple, and sister of the first Lord FIFE. He died 1777, and his daughter, HENIRETTA, married FRANCIS FRASER, of Findrack, Aberdeenshire.
- V.—Is the Seal of the preceding. It has the addition of supporters—two winged Griffins. On the reverse side there is the head of Charles I., very well cut.

SEALS OF THE BAIRD FAMILY.

For description see next page

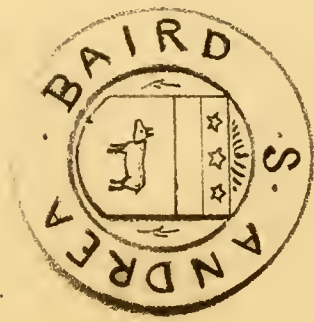
III



III



I



IV



V



INTRODUCTORY NOTES

ON

THE SIRNAME OF BAIRD.

THE Sirname of BAIRD is originally of the South of France, where there were several Families of it in the reign of Louis IV., and it is said are still, but the first of the name mentioned in Britain came from Normandy to England with William the Conqueror.

And, from the time when it first appears in Scotland, there is reason to believe that some of that name came here with King William the Lyon, when he returned from his captivity in England, anno 1174, as it is agreed by all our historians, several English gentlemen did. For it is certain that in less than sixty years after that period, they possessed fine estates, and had made good alliances in the South and South-West counties of Scotland.

And although, in times so remote, and in which most other families, as well as those of that name, have suffered eclipses, or removal from one part of the kingdom to another, whereby their old writings have been frequently lost, it may be now impossible to make out a regular genealogy of any one of them, yet the following extracts, from authors of unquestionable credit, will shew that the name was both ancient and honourable in Scotland, as well as in France and England.

I must first premise that the old spelling was Bard, Barde, Beard, Byrd, and Bayard, and that it was never written Baird till the latter end of the sixteenth century. This is common to all old names, and must have been owing to the different pronunciation between one province of France and another, and in Germany and Holland, and

New York, which was long possessed by the Dutch, I have observed it spelt Bard and Bardt, and Baort.

1066. Le Seigneur de Barde, mentioned as one of William Duke of Normandy's followers to the conquest of England.—(A large old History of Normandy in the Advocates' Library, and *Hollingshed's Chronicle*, who calls him the Seigneur de Beart.)—*Library at Glasgow*.
1143. William Baird, made Bishop of Durham by King William Rufus.—*Anglia Sacra*, pp. 712 and 718, tome 1.
1178. Henry de Barde, Mariscallus aupud Strivelin, witness to a charter granted by King William the Lion to the Bishop of Glasgow, upon some lands in the town of Stirling.—*The Chartulary of Glasgow, sent lately from the Scotch College at Paris*.
1194. *Winchester*, April 17.—In a safe conduct granted by King Richard I. to King William the Lion, in which large appointments of money and provisions, during his going and coming and stay in England, are ordered for him. Hugo de Baird is one of the subscribing witnesses.—*Rymer's Fœdera*, vol. I, p. 88.
1224. Magister Riccardus de Barde, witness to a charter granted by the Bishop of Glasgow.—*Chartulary*.
1228. Richard de Baird makes a donation to the Abbot and Convent of Kelso, dated at Lismahago, (a cell belonging to that abbacy,) and the signing witnesses are William de Maitland, ancestor of the Earl of Lauderdale, Archibald Lord Douglas, William Fleming, ancestor to the Earl of Wigton, Malcom Lockhart, &c.—*Chartulary of Kelso*, p. 160.
1233. Robert Baird.—*Chartulary of Paisley*.
1240. Richard.—*Ibid*.
1240. *May 26*.—King Alexander II. confirms a donation made by Richard de Baird to the Monastery of Kelso; Rudulf de Dundas, and Walter, son of Allan, Justiciarius Scotiæ, witnesses.—*Douglas' Baronage*.
1240. Robert, son of Waldevus de Biggar, grants a charter to Richard Baird, upon the lands of Little and Meikle Kyp, in the County of Lanark.—*Dalrymple's Collections*, p. 397, and *Nisbet's Heraldry*.
1270. Peter Bulkeley, second son to Robert Bulkeley, by a daughter of ———

Butler of Bewsag in Lancashire, married the daughter of —— Baird; Robert Bulkeley, ancestor of this family, was Lord of the Manor of Bulkeley in the county Palatine of Chester, in the reign of King John. His descendant was made Viscount Bulkeley in 1643, by King Charles I.—*Lodge's Peerage of Ireland*.

1292. And following years in the Ragman's Roll or Submission, sworn and subscribed by the nobility and principal gentry of the Scotch nation, to King Edward I. of England, the following three gentlemen are found,—1. Fergus de Baird of Meikle and Little Kyp, according to Mr Nisbet, who says it was a great and very considerable family. 2. John Baird of Evandale, as the same author thinks. 3. Robert Baird. Mr Nisbet thinks that this was Baird of Cambusnethan, and says that estate went to Sir Alexander Stuart, afterwards of Darnley, by marrying the heiress, Jean Baird, about 1360, and that in 1390, he gave it with his daughter to Sir Thomas Somerville of Carnwath, Lord Somerville's ancestor, upon their marriage.

1296. Duncan, Fergus, John, and Nicol Bairds, all mentioned this year as men of rank and property in Pryn's Collections.

1297 to 1305. Jordan Baird was a constant companion of the brave Sir William Wallace, in all his warlike exploits, and mentioned with great honour in all the accounts of that heroic gentleman.

In April 1768, Sir William Johnston of Hilton told me that he (Sir William) saw some years ago a lineal genealogy from this Jordan Baird to Sir James Baird of Auchmedden.

1308. Baird of Carnwath, in Clydesdale, county of Lanark, with other three or four gentlemen of that name, being convicted of a conspiracy against King Robert Bruce in a Parliament held at Perth, were forfeited, and put to death, and the lands of Carnwath given to Sir Alexander Stuart of Darnley by that Prince.—*Dalrymple's Collections*, p. 394.

Carnwath was long possessed by the Bairds, and the late Lord Somerville told me, (Auchmedden), at his own house of Drum, in 1731, that there is a part of the old house still called "The Baird's Tower."

1310. There is a Charter extant, granted by King Robert Bruce to Robert Baird, upon the Barony of Cambusnethan.—*Ibid*.

This estate lies in the Upper Ward of Clydesdale, county of Lanark.

1313. *March 4.*—King Edward II. of England signs a commission to Peter Baird and John Sturmay, conjunctly and severally, to be Admirals of England, and Commanders of his own fleet of Ships of War then fitted out, and of all others that may be afterwards sent by him to annoy the Coast of Scotland.—*Rymer's Fœdera*, tome iii., p. 475.
1317. Edmund Baird, with a great many other nobility and gentry, obtained a pardon from King Edward II. for an insurrection made by them against Pierce Gaveston, and killing him.—*Ibid*, p. 444.
1318. Edward II. gives a commission for levying men to carry on the War against Scotland, which, amongst others, is directed to one Simon Baird.—*Ibid*.
1328. A Treaty of Peace was concluded at Northampton between King Edward III. and King Robert Bruce, by which it was agreed that King Robert should pay to King Edward 30,000 merks in consideration of the damage done last year by his army in England. The last payment of this money, being 10,000 merks, fell due at the Feast of John the Baptist, being the 24th of June 1331. King Edward then assigns King Robert Bruce's obligation to Bartholomew Barde and others of that name, called the Company of the Bairds trading to Florence, and sends them to Scotland to receive the said sum from David Bruce, then King; and in a letter writ two days after, Edward recommends them to David's special affection. That Prince likewise employs them in several other important transactions during the course of his reign, and calls them his beloved and trusty "Bankiers," the Company of the Bairds.—*Rymer*, tome iv., p. 463, *et passim*.
1333. *March 24.*—In a skirmish on the Borders between a Scotch and an English party, Sir William Douglas, Governor of Lochmaben, and Sir William Baird, were routed by Sir Anthony Lacy, and taken prisoners with 100 gentlemen, 160 more being slain on that occasion.—*Cartes' History of England*, vol. ii., p. 414. On March 28, King Edward III., then at Pomfret Castle, being informed that the above two gentlemen were taken prisoners, and in the custody of Ranulph de Dacre, Governor of Carlisle Castle, sends his mandate, of this date, to the said Governor, commanding them to be kept securely till further orders.—*Rymer*, vol. vi., p. 255.
1338. *Kennington, Aug. 8.*—Complaint being made by the Duke of Gelders to

King Edward III., that some of the transports which had carried his Majesty and his forces to France, and on their return met with some merchant ships belonging to the Duke's subjects on the sea, between Blattenberg and Hest, near the Flemish coast, had violently plundered them of goods to a considerable value, the King issues his commission to Peter Baird, Admiral, from the mouth of the Thames over all the west coast of England, of Kent, Sussex, Somerset, Dorset, Cornwall, Devon, and Gloucester, to inquire into the matter, and to arrest all who shall be found to have been guilty.—*Rymer*, tome v., p. 76.

1338. *Windsor*, Sept. 23.—Edward III. being informed that several galleys equipt for war, and filled with armed men to a considerable number from the coast of France, Normandy, and other parts, had attacked some English ships, partly belonging to himself and partly to his English subjects on the coast of Zealand in a hostile manner, and greatly injured both the sailors and passengers on board, gives a commission to his beloved Peter Baird, Admiral, from the mouth of the Thames over all the west coast of England, to go to sea with a naval force, and to pursue, attack, and annoy the said galleys wherever he can find them.—*Ibid.*, p. 83.
1350. Sir Walter Murray, of Tullibardine, ancestor to the Duke of Athol, married Margaret la Baird, and by this lady had a son, his heir and successor, Sir William Murray.—*Nisbet's Heraldry*, p. 52;—and in p. 195 of the Appendix, he says,—“The Lady was of the ancient family of Cambusnethan, which had long continued in lustre.”
1356. *Sept.* 19. Sir William Baird, of Evandale, accompanied the Earl of Douglas at the battle of Poitiers, and his family had been long in use to join the Douglasses on every occasion.—*Informed of this by a letter of Mr James Baird's, in 1767.*
1364. Or about that time Sir Lawrence Baird, of Posso, in the county of Peebles, married the second daughter of Sir Thomas Somerville, Lord Somerville's ancestor, by Lady Elizabeth Douglas, daughter to Sir James Douglas, ancestor to the Earl of Morton.—*MSS. of Lord Somerville's family.*
1377. Ricardus de Barde, (son to former,) witness to a charter of the Archbishop of Glasgow.—*Chartulary.*
1388. *Westminster*, Aug. 11.—In a commission issued by King Richard II. for

observing the terms then agreed on between the French King and him, addressed to Seneschals or High Sheriffs, and other principal officers in the different provinces of his French dominions;—the Sieur de la Barde, and his lieutenants for the time being, are named in the Counties and Marches of Agenois and Gucreyn.—*Rymer*, tome vii., p. 640, and frequently afterwards during the course of that reign.

1398. *October*.—In a treaty concluded between the Commissioners of both nations at Handenstank, it is agreed that Adam de Gordon, William le Barde, and Adam French, being notorious truce-breakers, shall appear in the next day appointed for the meeting of the great Commissaries of “baith Realms,” under the penalty of 3000 lib.—*Rymer*, tome viii., p. 85.
1405. *March 11*.—Thomas de Lancastrc, son to King Henry IV., Admiral of England, and appointed by the King, his father, Lieutenant for the Irish war, is sent to that island with an armed force, viz.—2 earls, 12 barons, 80 knights, 605 esquires, 700 men-at-arms, and 1400 archers, and among the volunteers who accompanied him to that expedition with armed men, paid out of their own money, and for which they had the King’s license to continue in force for six months after that date, is Walter de Barde, of the county of Devon.—*Rymer*, tome viii., p. 389.
1408. *Westminster, Jan. 28*.—King Henry IV. grants letters of legitimation, under the Great Seal of England, to Leonard Baird, bastard son of Sir Anthony de Baird, both living at Bourdeaux, with all the privileges of a son born in lawful wedlock.—*Rymer*, tome viii., p. 510.
1409. *Westminster, Dec. 11*.—In a grant by King Henry IV. to the city of Leybourne, in the province of Bourdeaux, of the tithe of wine and all other commodities that came down the river Dordogne to that city,—a special grant which that King had formerly made to his well-beloved Le Seigneur de la Barde and other three of the noblesse of that county is excepted.—*Rymer*, tome viii., p. 614.
1412. *Bourdeaux, Feb. 12*.—In a charter of confirmation granted by Thomas Duke of Clarence to John du Port, his secretary, of lodgings or dwelling-houses in the city of Bourdeaux, which are there particularly described, it is said that they had been formerly given by his father, King Henry IV., to Bos de la Barde, Esquire, and was by him sold to the said John du Port.—*Rymer*, tome viii., p. 774.
1427. *March 11*.—King Henry VI. being afraid of insurrections from domestic,

and invasions from foreign enemies, sends out his commission of Arroy. *That* for Estrythyngem, a part of the county of York, is directed to Sir Richard Nevil, Sir Henry Piercy de Athel, Sir Richard Hilton, Robert Baird, &c.—*Rymer*, tome x., p. 373.

1460. The lands of Kilkerran belonged to the name of Baird before King James IV., as appears by a charter of that Prince in 1509, upon those lands, (which lie in the shire of Ayr,) to David, Earl of Cassils, in which it is said that they belonged formerly to John Baird, of Kilkenny.—*Nisbet's Heraldry*.
1465. Martin Baird got a charter, under the Great Seal, upon the lands of Halydon Hill, in the Merse.—*Records*.
1487. August 6.—William de Baird, de Posso, witness to a charter upon the lands of Manorhope, in the shire of Peebles, by John Inglis, to his son.—*Douglas' Baronage*.
1490. Margaret Inglis, sister to — Inglis of Murdiston, and widow to John Burnet of that ilk, is served in a terce of the lands of Barns and Burnet Land, before the Sheriff of Peebles and these gentlemen witnesses, viz. : —William Fraser, of Fuird ; Alexander Veitch, of Dawick ; Gilbert Baird, of Posso ; John Govan, of Cardona ; James Sandilands, of Bold ; David Tait, of Pirn ; Thomas Dickson, of Ormistoun, &c.—*Ibid*.
1515. Peter de Torrene, (his land estate,) Seigneur de Bayard, flourished at this time. He was originally of Dauphine, commonly termed the Chevalier de Bayard, but was called by the writers, in his own time, the good knight without fear and without reproach. Upon his giving the Swiss a total defeat in the Milanese, Francis I. did him the honour to be knighted by him. He was born in 1476, at the Castle of Bayard, and his family held a very distinguished rank among the first nobility of Dauphine. It was one of the houses which in that province was honoured with the title of the scarlet nobility, by which the ancient nobility was distinguished from those who were created by Louis II., whom, when he invaded Dauphiny, he made without distinction, if they paid him well. The Chevalier's great-great-grandfather was killed at the battle of Poitiers, September 19, 1356, his great-grandfather at the battle of Agincourt, his grandfather in that of Mont-l'hery, and his father was dangerously wounded at Guinegant. But the military glory of the Chevalier eclipsed that of all his ancestors. He died in April 1524, of a wound

received with a musket-ball in a defeat which the French suffered at Rebec in Italy, when he served with the Admiral Bonneval. All the historians of that celebrated age celebrate his loyalty, valour, and virtue. Therot writes his life.—*Illustres et scavans hommes*, vol. v., and M. G. de Gonvuil, in a late performance, and the Archbishop of Cambray have drawn his character in very flimsy colours, in a dialogue between him and the Constables Bourbon and de Saint Paul, in which the contrast is extremely strong. The Chevalier never married.

In 1701, one Colonel Nicholas Bayard, of New York, was tried for a conspiracy against King William and condemned, but reprieved. Probably he was of French extraction, and settled in that province among the Dutch; and April 12, 1769, Robert Bayard was Major of the 60th Regiment, and sold out.

1526. William Baird has a charter, under the Great Seal, upon the lands of Balnaduthy, Indety, &c. Both these estates lie in East Ross, the parish of Indety and shire of Ross, and are presently possessed by two gentlemen of the name of Mackenzie.
1537. William Baird, of Indety, has a charter, under the Great Seal, on several other lands.
- 1541–1548, &c. Several charters to the Bairds of Glencopock. Besides the foregoing, it appears from the public records that a great many other lands belonged to the name of Baird of Old.—*A Letter to Sir Robert Douglas in 1767.*
1550. One William Baird was Scout or Sheriff of Amsterdam, a man of great abilities, good esteem, and substance, but was suspected of being a Protestant, and a plot laid against his life by the violent party of the Roman Catholics, which, by the address of himself and several friends of power and interest, he narrowly escaped. The story is very remarkable.—*Brandt's History of the Reformation in Germany.*
1580. Sir Anthony Wingfield, of an ancient family in the county of Suffolk, where they had a seat before the Norman conquest; was knighted, and made Sheriff of Suffolk 39 of Elizabeth, and married Mary, daughter to John Baird, of Donston, Esq., in that county. His successor was created Baron Wingfield and Viscount Powerscourt, in 1747.—*Lodge's Peerage.*
1620. Sir William Baird, Dean of the Arches, employed afterwards in several

commissions of honour and trust by King James II. In 1624, he is called Doctor of Civil Law, and one of the commissioners appointed by that Prince for recording petitions from any of the three kingdoms.—*Rymer*, tome xvii., pp. 199, 555, &c.—He was also Judge of Prerogative. *Wood's Athen. Oxon.*, who spells his name Byrd, as it is spelt in an old seal of George Baird, of Ordinhnivas.

1643. Sir Henry Baird, of Stains, left Cambridge and joined the King's army, in which he did very good service. He, with Sir George Lisle, led on the left wing at Naseby, and brought off the whole brigade. He was afterwards created Viscount Bellamont by King Charles I. He is mentioned in the Marquis of Worcester's Apophthegms as a brave commander. He attended King Charles II. all the time of his exile.—*Lloyd's Memoirs*, p. 668. *Heath's Chronicle*, &c.

1644. July 2. Captain John Baird, slain on the King's side at the battle of Marston Moor.—*England's Black Tribunal*.

1648. In Joly's Voyage, or Minutes printed at Amsterdam, in 1670, when he mentions the public ministers at the treaty of Westphalia, he says,—“For the King of France, in the first place, was sent Monsieur de la Barde, *not* in the character of resident, as the lists of the Plenipotentiarys, printed first at Cologne and afterwards at Paris, call him. It is a mistake. For he had been formerly sent by the King as ambassador into Switzerland, and was acknowledged and treated as such at the congress by Monsieur de Longueville.” He has written the History of Queen Anne of Austria's Regency with great distinctness, elegance, and judgment.

1720. About this time — Baird, of Weston, in England, died and left three daughters, co-heiresses, of whom one was this year Countess of Castlehaven.—*Irish Pccrage*.

And there are still some gentlemen of the name in the counties of Buckingham, Gloucester, Hereford, Middlesex, Somerset, Stafford, and Sussex.

And in the south-west counties of Scotland, there are still some gentlemen's families of the name, particularly one in the shire of Lanark, and another in the shire of Ayr, and a number of the Commons of Lanark, Renfrew, Peebles, and the Merse, and about Glasgow; and in Glasgow are several gentlemen of the name in trade, and others in good circumstances and esteem.

There is a tradition that as King William the Lion was hunting in one of the south-west counties of Scotland, and happened to straggle from his attendants, he was alarmed at the approach of a wild bear, and cried for help; upon which a gentleman, of the name of Baird, who had followed the King from England, ran up and had the good fortune to kill the bear, for which signal service the King made a considerable addition to the lands he had given him before, and assigned him for his coat-of-arms a bear passant, and for his motto, *Dominus fecit*; and, if it will contribute to the credibility of this story, one foot of the bear came north with Ordinhnivas' ancestor, and is still preserved, and indeed it well deserves it, because of the enormous size, being fourteen inches long and nine broad, where it is cut from the ankle.*

It is not much above 300 years since the name of Baird was heard of in the north of Scotland, except it may have been the families of Indity and Balmaduthy, whose genealogy I do not know. The earliest writ in which it is mentioned that I have heard of, is among Sir James Innes', of Innes, papers. It is a precept of Sasine by John Lord Lindsay, of the Byres, directed to Beroald, John and Andrew, of Innes, and James the Barde, his bailies, for infefting James of Innes, of that Ilk, son to Sir Robert Innes, in the lands of Aberchrydar, which lie in Boyne in Banffshire, and near the place where this James Baird was settled. It bears date February 1, 1464. Now, to take the account of his pedigree and coming to this country, and of the two first marriages which his descendants made in it, from an old sheet genealogy which Lord Newbyth gave the late Auchmedden about 1695, which is the only instruction I have been able to find,—

One James Baird, descended of the family of Cambusnethan (which had ended some fourscore years before in an heiress called Jean Baird, as mentioned in the public records, married to Stuart of Darnley), was settled in the county of Lanark, with his wife, daughter to Ker, of Cessford, ancestor to the Duke of Roxburgh; but an unhappy difference arising between him and another gentleman in that neighbourhood, which

* This curious relique is in my possession.—W. N. F.

could not be made up by the interposition of friends, so that bloodshed was like to ensue,* and the Earl of Huntly inviting him to the north, and promising his friendship and protection, he accepted of the offer, and the Earl gave him some lands in the Boyne in property, or wadset. This happened anno 1430, and that Earl of Huntly, who lived till 1470, continued his friendship to him and his family all his life. The origin of this was the vicinity of the family of Gordon's first settlements in the Border, to those of the Bairds of Cambusnethan, and other families of that name, and inter-marriages between them.

Anno 1436.—The Earl of Huntly gave his cousin, Elizabeth Gordon, daughter to Sir John Gordon, the first Laird of Pitlurg, (by his lady, Margaret Maitland, sister to Sir Patriek Maitland, of Giecht,) in marriage to this James Baird's eldest son, likewise called James.

This young James attended the Earl of Huntly at the battle of Brieheh, May 18, 1452.

His eldest son was Thomas Baird, who, in 1463, married Helen Urquhart, daughter to Sir William Urquhart, of Cromarty, by his lady, a daughter of Lord Forbes.

Their eldest son was another Thomas, from whose time there are good vouchers to instruct the descent of the family.

Upon the death of Sir Patriek Maitland, of Giecht, his estate fell under preecognition, because of unwary securities given to creditors, and George II., Earl of Huntly, got the gift of it from King James II. Sir Patriek left two daughters by his lady, daughter to Sir Robert Innes, of that ilk. The Earl gave the eldest, Janet, in marriage to Thomas Baird, her cousin-german, and with her the lands of Ordinhnivas, Drumnakeith, and Pittinbrinzian, in the Boyne, and several lands, fishings, and houses about Banff, particularly the lodging formerly belonging to Lord Airly, and now to Lord Fife. Upon that side of which, called Auehmull, there was a stone built into the wall with Ordinhnivas' coat-of-arms cut upon it, and which stood till 1735, when that side was taken down.

This marriage was in 1490, and is instructed by the following writs,†—1. *Special Service*, Janet Maitland, as heir to Sir Patriek Maitland, of Giecht, her father, before the Sheriff of Banff, May 26, 1467. 2. *Discharge*, Thomas Baird and Janet Maitland, his spouse, to William Gordon, of Giecht, upon the payment of 3000 merks, in lieu of some elaims. April

* One account bears that James Baird slew the other gentleman in a duel.

† In the Charter-chest of Giecht.

11, 1505. 3. *Charter* by George Earl of Huntly, upon the lands of Ordinhnivas, &c., to Thomas Baird and Janet Maitland, his spouse. 1506.

The Earl of Huntly gave Sir Patrick Maitland's other daughter in marriage to Annan of Auchterallan, an old family in Aberdeenshire, whose lineal representative is Mr Alexander Annan, merchant in Aberdeen.

The Earl of Huntly gave the present Estate of Gicht to his own third son, William Gordon, and the lands of Pitrichie to Sir Patrick's heir-male; and Lord Newbyth's short genealogy bears, that Sir Patrick Maitland himself was killed by Robert Innes, his brother-in-law, at the Smiddy of Auchindoir, as they were travelling to Edinburgh together.

Janet Maitland died June 6, 1539. The time of Thomas Baird's death is not known.

Their children, of whom any memory now remains, were,—1. *George*, his successor. 2. *Thomas Baird of Sandbay*, of whom no male posterity now remains. 3. *William Baird of Byth*, of whom was lineally descended the late James Baird, of Chesterhall, father to Dr James Baird,* physician at Edinburgh; Mr George Baird, one of the principal merchants in Glasgow; and four daughters, all married in the south; and the late Alexander Baird, town-clerk of Cullen, whose father was a younger brother of Chesterhall's, and who has left several sons now in a good way.

George Baird, of Ordinhnivas, married in 1516, to Janet Fraser, daughter to the Laird of Philorth—her mother was daughter to Nicol Earl of Erroll, and that Lady Erroll's mother was Lady Elizabeth Gordon, daughter to the Earl of Huntly.

Alexander Ogilvie, of that ilk, predecessor to the Earl of Findlater, enters into a mutual bond of manrent with this George Baird and William Baird, his eldest son and apparent heir (who, it seems, died without issue)—his kinsmen and friends, in the strangest terms for all the days of their lives, subscribed at Fyndlatyr, September 28, 1553, before witnesses, Mr Alexander Ogilvie of Glassaugh, and James Ogilvie of Cullen.

* Dr Baird, who studied under the famous Dutch Physician, Boerhave, sold the estate of Chesterhall, and died unmarried. Mr James Baird of Chesterhall's daughters were,—1st. *Jane*, m. Rev. William Smith of Cranstoun, Midlothian, one of whose grandsons is the Rev. Dr George Smith of Edinburgh; 2d. ———, m. Mr Clifton; 3d. *Elizabeth*, m. James Walker of Pardovan; and, 4th. *Janet*, m. James Jackson, Esq., Commissioner of Excise, whose grandson is Alex. Jackson, M.D., F.R.C.P.E.

George Baird died in 1557, and Janet Fraser in 1558. Their children were Walter, who succeeded, and Janet, who was married to Alexander Ogilvie of Glassaugh. They left nine sons behind them, and some of them married and had children, but their male posterity is long extinct.

Walter Baird, of Ordinhivas, married Catherine Grant, daughter of John Grant of Badindalloeh, who was brother to the Laird of Grant. She was widow of Alexander Lesly, second Laird of Kinninvie,* to whom she bore three sons and three daughters. *Robert*, who succeeded his father, *William*, who died without issue, and *Walter*, who went to Denmark, where he married and had children. *Marion*, married to Sir James Stuart of Culeovy, *Jean* to Nathaniel Gordon of Clunymore, and *Isabel* to Nathaniel Grant of Tulloehgorun.

Walter Baird succeeded to a good fortune in those days, and was a man of an active mettled spirit, and of considerable esteem and weight in the country.

February 26, 1559, he got a charter from John Gordon of Findlatyr; and another, July 12, 1560, from John Stuart, Lord Darnley, on Ordinhivas, Auehinkyp, and Burnside. But eight years after, viz., August 12, 1568, George Earl of Huntly grants another charter upon these lands to George Baird of Auehmedden, proceeding upon Walter Baird's resignation. Now, it is said, Walter had unluckily killed a gentleman in chance medley, and was obliged to fly into France, where he staid several years till his peace was made up, and, after his return, sold some lands about Banff. But the above resignation must have been a trust-deed, for their descendants kept Ordinhivas above fifty years after.

Walter had several natural children before his marriage. To one called Mr Gilbert, who was bred a writer, he leaves 1000 marks by his will. This Mr Gilbert's grandson, called likewise Mr Gilbert, was sent, in 1676, by Sir James Baird to oversee Archbishop Sharpe's affairs at Saint Andrews. He married there, and left one daughter, married to — Donaldson, merchant in that place. They left three children, Captain Robert Donaldson, a good sea officer, who has been in most parts of the world, and has lately bought a small estate near the town; another son, who was long in North America, and lately returned home; and a daughter unmarried. Captain Donaldson is married to a daughter of

* The first Kinninvie was a son of Newlesly, about Anno 1500.

Bruce of Powfoulis, great-grandchild to Sir James Baird. Gilbert Baird became a magistrate at Saint Andrews, and left a good character behind him. He left to his daughter several lands and houses in and about Saint Andrews, which now his grandson possesses.

Walter Baird continued Catholic to his death, which happened December 14, 1559, leaving only one daughter by his lady.

Catherine Grant was a most industrious, active woman, and, according to the tradition of the country and some letters which remain, in all respects an excellent wife. Her mother was daughter to Cuming of Ersay.

Catherine died March 15, 1592, and by her last will it appears she then held several large farms in her own hand, and left a great stocking of cows, horses, milk cows, and young cattle, labouring oxen, and sheep upon them.—*See Appendix.*

Walter Baird's daughter, Lillias, was married August 16, 1578, to Gilbert Baird, of Auchmedden, to whose descent we must now return as far as it can be traced back.

Several men and women, descendants of the family of Ordinhivas, besides those mentioned before, are spoken of in old letters and papers, and in the Records of the Sheriff and Town Courts of Banff, but it is now impossible to ascertain their proper generations, nor have they any male posterity now remaining. There is particularly one, Thomas Baird, in Burnside, August 16, 1554. He was setting out *Hibernico bello*, which is explained the war against the rebellious Highlanders, and assigns to his wife, by a parchment deed written in Latin, of this date, at Banff, a great many crofts he had at that place, in property and profitable leases, held by him in Aberdeen and Banff shires. It is very probable that he was a son or grandson of Janet Maitland.

It appears from the preceding extracts that Baird, of Posso, was an ancient and well allied family in the shire of Peebles. That estate came about 100 years ago to an heiress, who married a gentleman of the name of Nasmyth, and his Armorial Bearings are matriculated in the new Register with those of Baird, of Posso; and the present Sir John Nasmyth, of Posso, is lineally descended from them.

I.

ANDREW BAIRD, OF LAVOROKLAW, on the north coast of Fife, opposite to Broughty, was a younger son of Gilbert Baird, of Posso, and born about the year 1475, the impression of his seal being the Arms of Posso.

In Lord Newbyth's genealogy, it is said he was a great favourite of King James V., and that that Prince died in his arms, Dec. 13, 1542.

When or from whom he got the lands of Lavoroklaw does not appear, but, in 1533, he disposed them to William Balfour, and Janet Annan, his spouse; and February 23, 1539, John Earl of Buchan disposed the lands of Auchmedden to him for a sum of money then paid, but under reversion. The disposition is dated at Dundee.

Andrew Baird married Bessy Lermont, daughter to the Laird of Balcomy, a very good old family in Fife—her mother was daughter to Wauchop of Niddry. He died February 10, 1543, at Auchmedden, and left a son, *George*, his successor, and several other children, both sons and daughters, who were married, (some in the south,) and had children; but their posterity, at least, on the male side, is now extinguished, for what I ever heard. He had by one of his younger sons a grandson, called Andrew Baird, merchant at Banff, whose daughter, Janet, was married, January 1537, to Gilbert Mair, of Avads; and their son, William Mair, was settled in business at Newcastle, in 1673, and corresponded frequently with Sir James Baird for many years after, and his posterity may very probably still continue in that country.

II.

GEORGE BAIRD, OF AUCHMEDDEN, married Elizabeth Keith, daughter to Alexander Keith, of Troup, who was brother to the then Earl Marischall. Their contract of marriage is dated 10th August 1550. Her aunt, Lady Anne Keith, daughter to William Earl Marischall, was first married to James Earl of Murray, Regent of Scotland, (to whom she bore a daughter from whom the present Earl of Murray is descended,) and next to Colin Earl of Argyll, grandfather of the Marquis.

This marriage acquired to George Baird the Regent's friendship in a very particu-

lar manner, and it appears that he employed him much in his affairs, and placed a great deal of confidence in him.

For by a deed, dated at Glasgow May 15, 1568, the Regent, then Wardator of the Estate of Buehan, discharges the Reversion of the Estate of Auchmedden, and disposes the same, heritably and irredeemably, to George Baird, and the onerous cause is "for many acts of utility and friendship done to me, and sums of money given out by him in my service."

This was just eight days after Queen Mary's escape from Lochleven, which threw the Regent into a great consternation.

George Baird continued Popish all his lifetime, and (notwithstanding of his connection with Regent Murray) in the friendship that had long subsisted between his ancestors and the family of Gordon. For October 28, 1562, he attended the Earl Huntly at the fight of Corrichie, and endeavoured to get him transported safe to Aberdeen, having, after the engagement, caused set him on a "Cadger's" horse with eroils, being a fat and unwieldy man, but through weakness he died by the way.

Anno 1589.—George Baird was at the insurrection at Aberdeen on the Roman Catholic side, and got a pardon for it from King James VI., who is forced to suppose that the allegation of his being present was a mistake, as follows:—

J. REX.

" Justice-Clerk and your Deputys,—We greet you well, forasmeikle as we understand, that our lovit George Baird, of Auchmedden, being an aged and deerepit man, was summoned to the Court of the Sheriffdom of Aberdeen, for assisting the Earl of Huntly and his compliees in the last Insurrection made at Aberdeen, and passing from that to the Brig of Dee in the month of April last bypast, whereof he was conviet by an assyse, howbeit wrongously, seeing, we are assured, that he was not within xxiv miles at the time of the said Insurrection to the Burgh of Aberdeen; wherefore we command you, that incontinent after the sight of this, ye delete the said George's act of conviction furth of the buiks of adjournal, sa that he na ways be call it, troublit, molestit, poindit, or distressit be virtue thereof, and the same be as delete as if he had never been challengit for the said erime in time coming, discharging our Treasurer and Treasurer-Deputy of all extraecting thereof, and of troubling the said George thereby, and your officers in that part, and that ye pointedly fully and sufficiently grant an sufficient bond for deleting of the said Aet of Conviction, subscribed with our hand at Aberdeen, the 4th day of August 1589."

(Signed) " JAMES REX.

" SR. ROBERT MELVILL.

" T. MATHY."

The King came to Aberdeen, about the 27th of July, on his return from the north, as far as Ross and Cromarty, where he held Justices' Courts and deputed Justices every where, and remained there till the 4th of August, upon which day, a little before his Majesty took horse to go to Down, the Earl of Errol, the Lairds of Auchindown, Balquhain, and Cluny, came to his Majesty with full resolution to request his Majesty's pardon, and they, with sundry others of the surname of Gordon, were all at that time received into his Majesty's mercy and favour.*

George Baird died May 29, 1593. His sons were,—1. *Gilbert*, his successor; 2. *Andrew*; 3. *Alexander*; 4. *Patrick*; and 5. *George*.

Andrew got an university education in Scotland, and was sent to France to finish his studies, where he became one of the best scholars in that kingdom. He was made Professor of Philosophy and other Sciences at Lyons. His letters to his eldest brother, which still remain, shew him to have been a man of learning, virtue, and sense. They are writ from 1595 to 1619. At last he embraced a Monastic life. He came over from France, at least, once to see his friends in Scotland. He had a good income by his Professor's chair, became rich, discharged his patrimony to his own family, conferred several liberalities to his nearest relations, and lived in great esteem. The time of his death is not known, only he was alive in 1632, by a letter of the Commissary's, so that many of Mr Andrew's letters must be lost.

Alexander traded from Banff to Norway, married one Helen Kennedy, and left two daughters, Magdalen and Janet, who, for any thing that appears, died unmarried.

Patrick is only once mentioned in a letter of Mr Andrews to his eldest brother, as living in the North of Scotland, which is all now known about him.

George was a wine-merchant, and went frequently to Bourdeaux in that way. He bought the lands of Corskie, married and had three sons, George and Andrew. The last married, and had a son James, and he a son William, but no remains of any of them now.

How many daughters, or if any, this George Baird of Auchmedden had, and their fate, no account can now be got.

III.

GILBERT BAIRD, OF AUCHMEDDEN, his eldest son, who married the heiress of Ordinhivas in 1578, had by her thirty-two sons and daughters, as is the unvaried tradition amongst their descendants, both in the North and South; of these

* Moysis' Memoir.

sons, several went into the Church abroad, whose names are not known; and two went to Orkney and settled there; and of the daughters, one married to a Scotch merchant in Denmark, and two became nuns abroad, neither of their names known. Three sons went to Ireland as adventurers in the beginning of King James VI.'s reign in England; of nine sons, *George*, who succeeded his father, *Branden, Andrew, James, John, Thomas, Walter, Hugh, and Magnus*; and five daughters married, *Elspet, Margaret, Anne, Katherine, and Janet*, some account can be given;—and a sixth daughter seems to have lived in her brother's family and never married, by a letter of the Commissarys.

Branden was an honest, industrious, peaceable man, who followed a country life, and made a good stock by husbandry. He married the widow of Keith of Northfield, who was daughter to Ogilvie of Glassaugh, and purchased the estate of Northfield, which was much in debt, but having no children, left it to his son-in-law, John Keith, who had married his sister, Anne. In 1619, Branden went over to France to see his uncle, Mr Andrew, as appears by a letter his father sent by him, of which a copy remains. Branden died anno 1661, above fourscore years old. Old Troop remembered to have seen him when he was a child, and said he was a worthy, inoffensive, honest man. He left by his will the stocking of the Mains of Northfield, valued at 3000 merks, to his eldest brother's son, Sir James, in place of the patrimony he had got from their common father.

Andrew was bred to the law, and entered writer to the Signet. He married Helen Harvey, daughter to Harvey of Ward of Kilmundy. Their contract of marriage was signed at Banff, Oct. 15, 1619. They had one son, Captain Walter Baird, who was killed at the battle of Dunbar, Sept. 3, 1650.

James—as this was a very eminent man in his time, and the founder of two families still flourishing in the Lothians, a particular account of him and his posterity will be given last by itself, as it was sent me in June 1754, by Mr James Baird, his great-grandson.

John was educated at Edinburgh under his last-mentioned brother's inspection, and by his interest was made Sheriff-Clerk of Banff in 1638, which is all I can find of him. It is probable he died soon.*

Thomas went over to France in 1607, recommended to his uncle, Mr Andrew. But he writes in his letters to his father that he was of a hard "ingyne" as to learning, and incapable of any of the sciences. He became minim Friar 1609 in a monastery of that order at Besançon, in Burgundy, anno 1615. But he had an excellent turn to mechanics, of which a very good sample is still to be seen. It is an oblong, small

* He died in 1649, and Robert Sharp, the Archbishop's brother, succeeded him.

chest of Ivory* 10 inches long, 5 broad, and 4 high, delicately carved in bas-relief, with the chisel upon the top and sides into figures of knight-errants, distressed damsels, and enchanted castles, taken from some of the old romances which were so much in vogue in that age.

Walter died a young lad in November 1613.

Hugh served in the Archduke Albert's troops, got a commission, and was stationed in garrison at Aldemay in 1611, a town in Friseland. He married in that country, but whether he has any posterity remaining is uncertain.

Magnus was settled at North Mawe in Shetland, and married there; he had one daughter, Janet Baird, who was married in 1636 to a merchant at Bergen, in Norway;—she wrote frequently to Sir James Baird, and used to send him presents of the product of that country. She was alive in 1673.

As to the posterity of Gilbert's three sons that went to Ireland to push their fortune, several inquiries have been made in that country, but no account to be depended upon is yet received.

Of Gilbert's daughters, Elspet was married to James Stewart in Newton of Balveny. Their contract of marriage is dated at Aberdeen, August 18, 1614.

Margaret married to James Harvey of Ward of Kilmundy at Banff, December 1, 1618, from whom is lineally descended Mr John Harvey, proprietor of several fine estates in Granada and Antigua, and Mr Alexander and Dr Robert Harvey, his brothers.

Anne married in April 1631 to John Keith of Northfield.

Katharine to Alexander Gordon of Blelack, ancestor of the present Blelack, November 26, 1504.

Janet was married April 1609 to Robert Ogilvie, son to Sir George Ogilvie of Dunlugas, ancestor to Lord Banff, and after his death to Mr John Brown, a merchant of St Andrews, who went frequently to Bourdeaux in the wine trade. There was likewise some old relation between him and Gilbert Baird. Probably he was a grandson of Andrew Baird of Lavoroklaw.

All Gilbert's daughters who were married had issue, except Lady Blelack, who had none.

MR JAMES BAIRD, fourth son to Gilbert Baird of Auchmedden, was brought up to the law, and became a person of great reputation in his business.

* This relique is in my possession.—W. N. F.

He was much trusted by King Charles I., and by him appointed sole Commissary of the Ecclesiastical Court of Scotland, an employment in these days of great honour and trust, in which he continued till the time of his death. He purchased the lands of Byth in the Shire of Aberdeen, which lie not far from the water of Devern, and had King Charles' Warrant for making him Lord Devern, but he died before the patent was expedite. He married Bathia, daughter of Sir John Dempster, of Pitliver, a very old family, in the county of Fife. She was sister to the famous John Dempster, so remarkable for his disputations among the foreign schools.

From this marriage sprung the two families of Newbyth in the Shire of Haddington, and Saughtonhall in the Shire of Edinburgh.

Mr James Baird died in the year 165—, leaving two sons and two daughters, viz.—*John and Robert, Bathia and Euphan.*

The eldest daughter, Bathia, was married to Sir Andrew Ramsay, of Whitehill, in the Shire of Edinburgh, of the family of Dalhousie, but by default of issue-male, these lands are now become the property of — Balfour Ramsay, of Balbirny, by his marrying the only sister of the last Sir John Ramsay, of Whitehill. The second daughter, Euphan, was married to Sir Patrick Murray, of Deuchar, second son to Murray, of Philiphaugh. He was a merchant of good reputation in France, and purchased the lands of Deuchar and Temple, in the Shire of Edinburgh. Their eldest daughter, Euphan, was married to Sir Archibald Hamilton, of Rosehaugh, in the Shire of Lanark, of whom there are several descendants. The second Elizabeth was married to the Lord Somerville, and was mother to the late Lord Somerville.

Mr James Baird's eldest son was also brought up to the law, and having travelled much in foreign parts, became a man of great knowledge in his profession. Upon the Restoration of King Charles II., he was made a Knight Baronet, and soon after one of the Senators of the College of Justice, and known by the name of Lord Newbyth. He first purchased the Lands of Gilmerton, in the Shire of Edinburgh, and Parish of Libberton, from Crichton of Lugton, and as his business prevented him going to his North Country Estate, he sold the lands of Byth in Aberdeenshire, and purchased those of Foord and White Kirk, in the Shire of Haddington, and got them erected into one barony, by the name of Newbyth.

His son, John Baird, married Margaret, only daughter to Sir James Hay, of Linplum, in the Shire of Haddington, second son to the Earl of

Tweddale. By this marriage he had one son, William, and a daughter, who was betrothed to the Lord Balmerinoch, but in going to her uncle, the Earl of Tweeddale's house, at Yester, to be married, was overturned in a coach and died in a few hours after.

Sir John's only son, William, who afterwards became Sir William Baird, of Newbyth, being a member of the Scots Parliament, was sent by them to London, in 1680, on a deputation to King Charles II., and was by that Prince created a Knight Baronet in his father's lifetime, he having executed his commission to the satisfaction of all parties.

Sir William Baird married to his first wife, Margaret, daughter to Sir John Gilmour, of Craigmillar, Lord President of the Council and Session. Her mother was daughter to Sir Alexander Murray, of Blackbarony, by which marriage he had two sons, John and Alexander.

Sir William married to his second wife, Margaret, third daughter to the Lord Sinclair, by whom he had no children. He died in 1737, and was succeeded in his estate and titles by his son, John, who had been elected member of the First Parliament of King George I., in 1715, for the Shire of Edinburgh. He married Janet, only daughter of Sir David Dalrymple, of Hales, fourth son to the Lord Stair, by whom he had no children. Sir John died at Berwick in September 1745.

Alexander, the second son of Sir William Baird, married first Anne, daughter to Mr Wauchope, of Niddry, and afterwards to Margaret, only daughter to the Lord Belhaven; by neither of whom he left any surviving children. He died himself in 1743.

We now come to Robert, the second son of Mr James Baird, and his posterity, who are numberless. He having received a large patrimony from his father, became a merchant at Edinburgh of the greatest reputation and credit in his time. In 1660, he purchased the lands of Sauchtonhall and others, in the Shire of Edinburgh, and in the year 1695 he was created a Knight Baronet. He married Elizabeth Fleming, daughter to Mr Malcolm Fleming, brother to Sir William Fleming, of Fern, by whom he had six sons and five daughters, viz.—*Sir James*, who succeeded him. 2. *John*, who was a merchant at Dantzig. 3. *Robert*, who was an officer in the Dutch service, and was the first Governor of Surinam after the Dutch got possession of it. 4. *Andrew*, who died in the East Indies, also in the Dutch service. These last three sons of Sir Robert Baird all died unmarried. 5. *William*, who, by the extinction of three elder brothers, became Sir Robert's second son. 6. *Alex-*

ander, who retired to New York, married there, and left children. To all these sons, Sir Robert gave large patrimonies in his own lifetime.

Sir Robert Baird's eldest daughter, *Bathia*, was married to Sir Robert Barelay of Pierston, in the Shire of Ayr. The second, *Margaret*, to Sir Patriek Hume, of Coldingham, in the Shire of Berwick. The third, *Mary*, to Robert Watson, of Muirhouse, in the Shire of Edinburgh, and their daughter was married to the Lord Arniston, and was mother to the President of the Session. The fourth, *Elizabeth*, to Sir David Cuninghame, of Milncraig, in the Shire of Ayr. The fifth, *Agnes*, died unmarried. Sir Robert died in the year 1696, and was succeeded by his eldest son.

Sir James, who married to his first wife, Margaret, the eldest daughter, and one of the co-heiresses of Hamilton, of Mountainhall, in the Shire of Edinburgh, by a daughter of Sinelair, of Hermanstoun, in the Shire of Haddington. By which marriage he left two sons and two daughters, viz.—*Robert*, who succeeded him, and *James*, who died a Major of Foot in the Island of Minorea, in 1750.

His two daughters were married—*Agnes*, the eldest, to John Lewis, of Merehilton, in the Shire of Edinburgh; and second, *Bathia*, to John Watson, of Saughton, to whom she had issue, and after his death, to Carre of Coekpen, both in the County of Edinburgh.

Sir James married to his second wife, his first cousin by the mother's side, Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of Sir John Gibson, of Addiston, in the Shire of Edinburgh, by whom he had several children, but none now alive. The last who died, in 1761, at sea, on his return to Britain for reovery of his health, was Captain Patriek Baird,* an officer in the Royal Navy, a brave honest man. In 1740, he was principally recommended to Admiral Anson, as a proper person to attend him in his voyage on the South Sea Expedition, and was the only naval officer in the whole fleet who ever had been in those seas.

Sir James Baird died in the year 1715, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Robert. He married Jane, eldest daughter to ——— Baikie, of Tankerness, in the Shire of Orkney.

Sir Robert died September 8, 1742, and left two sons and one daughter. The eldest, Sir David, was an officer in the Royal Army, and killed at the battle of Fontenoy, in the 17th year of his age; and the second is the present Sir Willam Baird, of Sauehtonhall, who was a Captain in the Navy, and has married the daughter of Colonel James Gardiner, who

* For some account of him, see Appendix.

was killed at Prestonpans, in that battle, in 1745, and Sir William's only sister is married to Colonel Gardiner's son. Sir William died August 17, 1771.

William, the fifth son of the first Sir Robert Baird of Sauchtonhall, was bred in the mercantile way, and having made a competent fortune in land and money, retired from business at the Union. He married the only daughter of Sir William Binny, of Wallyford, in the Shire of Edinburgh. He died in 1737, and left three sons, *William*, *James*, and *David*, besides a fourth, *Peter*, who died in his father's lifetime. He was bred a surgeon, went abroad, and left a daughter, *Sally*, still living.

William, by a particular entail of Sir William Baird, of Newbyth, succeeded Sir John, and married Alice, one of the daughters of Robert Johnston, of Hilton, in the Shire of Berwick, by a daughter of Gustavus Hume, of the Kingdom of Ireland. He died January 4, 1765, at Edinburgh, and left a numerous issue—sons and daughters. The eldest son, *William*, died at Bristol, July 19, 1769. The second, *Robert*, is an officer, and went about that time to his Regiment at Minorca; and the eldest daughter, *Mary*, was married the 2d of February this year, 1770, to Mr Erskine, younger of Dun, grandson to Lord Dun.

David was long a merchant at Edinburgh, and made a competent stock. He died unmarried, anno 1764, at Bath, where he had gone for the recovery of his health.

James died likewise at Bath, May 27, 1768, after a long and painful illness, without issue, and left a large fortune to his nephew, Newbyth. He was married, in 1741, to an excellent woman, Mrs Fox, a clergyman's widow, who died before himself.

This Mr James Baird was a most constant and sincere friend, as I found by correspondence of above thirty years. He was possessed of all the good qualities that make a man amiable and acceptable, which, with a very large acquaintance among the nobility and gentry, gave him uncommon interest, which he indefatigably employed to serve his friends, to whom his death was a heavy loss, and will be regretted by all that knew him as one of the most valuable members of society. He was a banker, got a good fortune with his wife, was paymaster to several regiments, and a gentleman of the Privy Chamber to the present King, being recommended to that office by his intimate acquaintance the Earl of Talbot, who was then Chamberlain of the Household.

This account of the Commissary's posterity ended with his eldest brother's marriage. I have left a blank in it concerning the Commissary himself, viz.—the year of his death, and whether it was King Charles I. or II. that granted him the patent of Lord Devern. Mr Baird has filled them both up in his account, the first with 1647, but that is a mistake, for I have a letter from him to his nephew, Sir James Baird of Auchmedden, written in 1653; but after causing inquiry at Edinburgh, I have not yet been able to learn the precise year of his death. All the old records of the Commissary Court are in the College, and in very bad order, and I got only a promise from the clerks that they would go out and search with their first leisure and let me know. Next Mr Baird says, the warrant to be, Lord Devern was granted to the Commissary by King Charles I., but as he lived long after that Prince's death, *that* must be likewise a mistake. It is more probable it was King Charles II., in 1651, before the Battle of Worcester, who granted the warrant upon which a patent was never expedited, as there might not be time before that battle, and the Commissary died before the Restoration.

Gilbert Baird of Auchmedden continued Roman Catholic all his life. By an old sederunt-book of the Presbytery of Deer, which I have seen, he was fined 500 merks in 1599, because he was a rigid Papist and would not keep the kirk, soon after liberty of conscience took place. Gilbert died February 23, 1620. Lillias Baird outlived him, for her son, Thomas, writes her a letter from France, April 2, 1624.

IV.

GEORGE BAIRD OF AUCHMEDDEN, (Gilbert's eldest son,) was married on the 17th October 1616, to Anne Fraser, daughter to the Laird of Philorth, (Lord Saltoun.) Her mother was Margaret Abernethy, heiress of Abernethy; and the heiress-mother was Lady Margaret Stuart, daughter to the Earl of Athol.

Sept. 17, 1634.—He was made High Sheriff of Banff by King Charles I., then vacant by the resignation of James Earl of Buchan, formerly heritable sheriff of that county. This commission was renewed, September 20, 1637.

A little after the first covenant was set on foot, and when that party had determined to raise an army, the following letter was sent him from the leaders directed to George Baird of Auchmedden.

“Honourable Sir,

“This Trusty bearer will impart to you such conclusions as are agreed here be common advice to be necessary for the good of our common cause, whose relation we are, confident you will not only believe, but likewise follow the ways he will communicate unto you as very expedient for prevention of imminent dangers, and accordingly will join your best assistance in the execution of what is determined, as you would give timeous proof of your affection to religion, the King’s honour, and liberties of the Kingdom. So we shall ever rest.—Your loving friends,

“ARGYLL, MONTROSE, BALMERINOCHE, BURGHLEY.

“MR HENRY POLLOCK, MR THOMAS GIBSON DURY.

“MR ALEXANDER HENDERSON, and MR HEPBURN, Ministers.

(Dated) “*Edinburgh 12th March 1629.*”

The bearer here referred to was George’s brother, the Commissary, who came north at the time with the Earl of Sutherland, Lord Lovat, Lord Rae, and The Master of Caithness, to propagate the Confession of Faith and First Covenant against the Service Book; and the Commissary came twice north after this to promote the Covenanted interest. At this time, all these gentlemen went as far as Inverness, and prevailed on very many to subscribe. They were attended by Mr Andrew Cant and other ministers to Inverness.

However George Baird did not subscribe at that time. On the contrary, he is named in April 1639, among the Anti-covenanters, with Abergeldy, Banff, Haddo, Gicht, Uduy, &c., and was with them at the Trot of Turriff, in May thereafter, where they defeated a party of the Covenanters. But now everybody who would not subscribe was plundered, themselves and their tenants, so *most* complied, and in May 1640, George is chosen member of a committee, with Lord Fraser, The Master of Forbes, and the Laird of Philorth, Monimusk, and Craigievar, who were all Covenanters, for guiding and ruling the public affairs of the town and county of Aberdeen.—*Spalding MSS.*

This George Baird died February 12, 1642, and left behind him three sons *James*, afterwards *Sir James*, *George* and *Walter*.

George studied medicine at Paris in 1645, 6, and 7, in the end of which last year he went to Italy and took the degree of Doctor, at Padua. From thence he travelled with a brother of Niddry’s to Venice, Rome, and Naples, where he was made physician to Colonel Hooper’s Regiment, and attended it to Prague, within three miles of Lander in Catalonia, in Spain. There he was settled physician to an Hospital, but soon after was seized with a pestilential high fever, of which he died in the year 1648, very much regretted.

The other (Lieutenant) *Walter Baird*, was killed at Worcester, September 3, 1651, fighting in his King and country's cause.

V.

SIR JAMES BAIRD OF AUCHMEDDEN, was sent when a boy to Edinburgh, to his uncle, the Commissary, and learnt Latin, &c., with his cousin, afterwards Lord Newbyth. In 1641, he married Mrs Christian Ogilvie, only daughter to Walter Ogilvie, of Boyne. Her mother was Lord Pitsligo's daughter, and that Lady Pitsligo was a daughter of the family of Findlater. Sir James and Dame Christian lived fifty years together.

Sir James was a man of very good natural and acquired parts, and had an air and address that commanded respect. A gentleman, who was well acquainted with him, and outlived him near 40 years, used to say that he bore "bulk" wherever he was. His ability, both for public and private affairs, in which he was as much conversant as any gentleman in the North of Scotland of his time, and always acquitted himself well, and the character he still maintained of the strictest integrity, made all the old people who lived in my days, and knew him personally, always speak of him with a sort of veneration.

The office of High Sheriff of Banff, granted to Sir James' father, terminated with his life in 1642. Sir Alexander Abercromby of Birkenbog, who had joined the Covenanters very early, got then that office. In the end of 1658, it was by General Monk's interest put upon Sir James, and at that great man's desire, he accepted of it February 17, 1664. King Charles II. gives him that commission because "*of his extraordinary loyalty and great qualities of mind,*" and October 1668, at Whitehall, that Prince grants a new commission of High Sheriff of Banff, to Sir James and his eldest son, conjunctly and severally for both their lives, proceeding upon his Majesty's being informed of "the res præclaro gestas of the said Sir James and his son, in suppressing the Highlanders and outlaws in the said county."

After the battle of Worcester, the Parliament of England named eight of their principal members to go down to Scotland and treat with the Estates of that Kingdom concerning an Union between the two nations. The eight English were, the Chief Justice St John, Sir Henry Vane, Jun., Major-General Lambert, Major-General Dean, Lieutenant-General Monk, Colonel Fenwick, Alderman Tichbourn, and Major Solway.

On the 26th of February 1652, the Estates of Scotland met with the English Commissioners at Dalkeith, where twenty of the thirty-two shires, and thirty-five of the then fifty-seven boroughs settled the Articles of the Union, and in their Assembly at Edinburgh, about two months after, the rest of the counties and boroughs did con-

cur. But before all particulars could be adjusted betwixt a Committee of twenty-one then named for Scotland, and the Parliament of England, Cromwell turned that Long Parliament out of doors, which stopped that project.

But Sir James Baird and Udny were the two Barons named by the County of Aberdeen, to meet with the English Commissioners at Dalkeith, and got an ample approbation of their conduct on that occasion, from the freeholders of the County at their meeting, March 28, thereafter. Sir Alexander Cuming of Coulter, Preses.

It was at this treaty of Dalkeith that Sir James was first known to General Monk, who always afterwards esteemed him.

From this period Sir James lived a peaceable and quiet life at home without meddling in public affairs, that I can see, until December 22, 1658, that at General Monk's desire he was prevailed upon to accept of the office of High Sheriff of Banff.

In the beginning of 1662 he went to London, was graciously received and knighted by King Charles II., and received the following honourable declaration and acquittal for executing that office under the usurpation.

“Whereas we are certainly informed, that the office of the Sheriffship of our County of Banff, was by the late usurper put upon our lovite, Sir James Baird, of Auchmedden, and that he only exercised the samen during the years of the great transactions of our Restoration wherein the said Sir James was contributive and active, so we are fully satisfied of his conduct and loyal affection to our person and government, and therefore declare him free of all censure, and that he shall not be questioned for accepting thereof from the said usurper, and that the samen shall in no time hereafter be objected to, or militate against him by, or in any of our Judicatorys. Whereof we will, that all our subjects of that our kingdom take notice.—Given at our Court at Whythall, the 19th day of February 1667, and of our reign the 14th year,”

Superscribed “CHARLES R.,” and subscribed “LAUDERDALE.”

March 1669.—Sir James Baird, and Sir Patrick Ogilvie, of Boyne, were chosen Commissioners for the Scots Parliament.

It is informed that Sir James was employed at that time by the Duke of Lauderdale to draw up a rational plan for an Union between the two kingdoms, and that he accordingly made one after he returned to Scotland, which was sent to Court and well approved of, and that the King was very desirous of having it carried into execution, but that Lauderdale, who was Secretary of State for Scots affairs, and lived mostly at London, was not at heart very forward for an Union.

Sir James' knowledge of the laws of his country, and his capacity for business with his numerous relations and alliances to several of the best families of the kingdom, (ties which were much minded in those days), to which his son's marriage with Lady

Katherine Hay made a great addition, occasioned his being much consulted in the private affairs of other people, who had great confidence in his opinion, and in many civil differences betwixt indifferent persons, who chose rather to compound them amicably than go to Law, he was frequently chosen upon arbitration, and sometimes by both sides.

Some letters still remaining from the Marquis of Huntly, the Laird of Grant, &c., are a sufficient testimony of their trust in his friendship and regard to his judgment.

There was a relation and great intimacy between him and Archbishop Sharp,* and there is a letter from Sir William Sharp to him, giving a very particular account of his father's murder, written a few days after it was committed.

But what was most valuable in Sir James, was a clear conscience before God and a perfect resignation to his will. There still remain some pious reflections and resolutions of his, written with his own hand in the end of July 1681, soon after his eldest son's death. They are continued, June 25, 1682, again July 1683, and July 1684, all in the spirit of a primitive Christian. At this last time he remembers his son's death, with the greatest submission to the divine will, and speaks of Lady Katherine Hay, his daughter-in-law, with the greatest affection and regard.

Sir James died July 17, 1691, in the 72d year of his age, and James Earl of Findlater, succeeded him in the office of High Sheriff of Banff.

What is uncommon, there was not only poems made on Sir James after his death, but likewise some years before he died.

He left *two* younger sons and *two* daughters, his eldest son, and a third daughter, Lady Coclarachy having died before him.

John, who studied the civil law at Leyden, and entered advocate upon his return from Leyden. He married a gentlewoman of the name of Ramsay, but had no children. He died in 1691.

Alexander served an apprenticeship to one Mr Turnhull, a merchant at Edinburgh. He settled there, married his master's daughter, and was chosen one of the bailies of that city. He died about 1709, and left two sons and one daughter very well provided. James married a gentlewoman of the name of Houston, of much beauty but little virtue. He died in 1714. Patrick, bred a surgeon, settled at Phila-

* The Archbishop had a brother, Robert Sharp, who died 20th January 1675. He bought the Castle and Castlehill Lands of Banff from the Earl of Buchan, in 1661 or 62, and several other lands about Banff, and, having no children, left them to Alexander Leslie, of Kinninvie, who had married his niece, Sir William Sharp's daughter; their daughter was first wife to Fraser of Memsie, and next to Provost James Shand, of Banff, to whom she had a son, James Shand, of Cragelly.

delphia, and made Vendue master there, married, but had no children, and his wife died long before him. He returned to Scotland about 1754, having made a considerable stock, and died at Edinburgh in 1759. Bailie Baird's daughter, Jean, was married to James Bruce, of Powfouls, in the Shire of Clackmannan,* and has one son, the present Powfouls, who has been twice married—some younger sons dead, and three daughters all married.

Sir James' daughters were *Elizabeth*, married August 22, 1668, to Sir Alexander Abercrombie, of Birkenbog, and had issue, the late Sir James Abercrombie, Mr Alexander Abercrombie, of Tulliebody, and several other children. After Sir Alexander Abercrombie's death, she married Colonel Patrick Ogilvie, of Inchmartine, brother to the Earl of Findlater, to whom she had one daughter, Lady Tyrie.

Anne married November 15, 1669, to John Gordon, of Coclarachy, but she died in a year after leaving no issue. Coclarachy and Sir James were cousins-german, as their mothers were sisters and daughters of Philorth.

Christian married to George Lesly, of Burdsbank, Sheriff-Clerk of Banff, about 1676, and left issue.

JAMES BAIRD, YOUNGER OF AUCHMEDDEN, was married to Lady Katherine Hay, February 16, 1670. He was conjunct with his father in the High Sheriffship of Banff from 1668, when he was but 20 years of age, "in order to relieve Sir James sometimes of the fatigue." He died of the smallpox, July 20, 1681, in the 33d year of his age.

Lady Katherine Hay was daughter to George Earl of Kinnoul, by Lady Anne Douglas, eldest daughter to William Earl of Morton. That Lady Morton's mother was Lady Agnes Keith, Earl Marischall's daughter. My Lady Kinnoul had four sisters, aunts to Lady Katherine, married to the families of Argyll, Dunfermling, Hume, and Montrose, of whom all the present representatives of these noble families are descended. Lady Katherine had only one sister married, Lady Mary,† to George Earl Marischall, grandfather to the present Earl and General Keith.

* Mrs Bruce died at Edinburgh on the 8th May 1774.

† The Family Bible, now in possession of the representative of the family, Mr Fraser of Findrack, Aberdeenshire, was a present from this Lady Mary Hay, as appears from a note upon it, in the following terms:—"Nov. 1, 1701.—This Bible was given to my Father, by Mary Countess Marischall, his annt. She died a few days after. My Lady Marischall was born the 15th day of May 1633, at Perth, and died at Fetteresso, the 10th of November 1701. She was a woman of a solid head and an excellent, cheerful, and agreeable disposition, charitable and benevolent, and I am persuaded there have been very few so complete a character in any age."

Lady Katherine was born at Perth, Sept. 10, 1541, and died at Auchmedden, January 11, 1733.

This Lady was blest with very good sense, a benevolent disposition, and an upright honest heart. Unconscious of possessing any good quality, she was endowed with every accomplishment that can adorn a woman. She was a treasure to the family in which she was married, and it may be truly said, that in every station of life she was an excellent example for imitation to her sex.

James Baird, younger of Auchmedden, had by her three sons and three daughters. *James*, who died at Edinburgh, October 24, 1689, in the 19th year of his age, when he was going to travel. *William*, who succeeded on his grandfather's death, and *George*, who died an infant.

The daughters were *Mary*, married May 18, 1692, at Inverugy, to Sir James Dunbar of Durn, and had a numerous family of children. *Margaret*, who was married in 1716, to James Gordon, of Fechil, to whom she had two daughters. *Katherine*, married to John Douglas, of Fechil, son to Silvester Douglas, of Whiterigs, and *Mary* to James Irvine, of Kingcaussie, and both had issue. The third daughter, *Christian*, died very young.

VI.

WILLIAM BAIRD, OF AUCHMEDDEN, was born August 16, 1676, and married February 10, 1698, to Mary Gordon, only daughter to Robert Gordon, of Straloch or Pitlurg, to whom she bore five children, *Katherine* and *James*, who died young, *William*, who succeeded his father, *Mary*, and *Jean*. Their mother died the 1st day of August 1710.

Mary was first married to William Gordon of Badinscoth, in 1724, and had issue; 2d, to John Gordon, of Wardhouse, in 1738, to whom she had one son, William Gordon, who died at the College of Aberdeen in February 1755, in the 14th year of his age; and lastly, in 1741, to Jonathan Forbes, of Brux, to whom she has no children.

Jean died at Banff the 23d day of July 1722, in the 18th year of her age, of a high fever.

The said *William Baird* made a second marriage, February 7, 1712, with Elizabeth Abercrombie, daughter to —— Abercrombie, of Glassaugh, by whom he left one son, Captain Alexander Baird, in the Scots Dutch service, who was born after his father's death, and three daughters, besides other three that died in their infancy. *Helen* married in 1737, to Mr William Ogilvie, merchant at Banff, who have a nume-

rous issue, *Katherine*, who died at Banff, September 2, 1729, in the 12th year of her age, and *Clementina*, who died unmarried, 20th January 1771.

The said William Baird died at London, August 22, 1720, and the said Elizabeth Abercrombie at Banff, April 12, 1756.

VII.

WILLIAM BAIRD, OF AUCHMEDDEN, only son of the first marriage, succeeded his father, and married Mrs Anne Duff,* eldest daughter to William Duff, of Dipple, (and sister of William first, Earl of Fife,) by his second Lady Mrs Jean Dunbar, youngest daughter to Sir William Dunbar, of Durn, (sister to Anne Countess of Findlater, mother of the last Earl and of the Countess-Dowager of Lauderdale,) and had by her six sons and four daughters.

William, educated at Westminster School, and Trinity College, Cambridge, of which he was elected Fellow; thereafter he studied the law, was called to the bar and practised, but in Trinity Term 1750 was seized with a pestilential fever, while he attended the trials at the Old Bailey, and died on the 15th day of May that year, after a few days' illness, at his lodgings in the Middle Temple. The same disease carried off the then Lord Mayor of London, several lawyers, attorneys, and other gentlemen who were in Court, and infected with the pestilential air.

Alexander, after being very well educated at home, and taught mercantile accomplishments in an academy at London, went to Fort David as a writer in the East India Company's Service; was first made Resident for the English at Pulacat, then factor at Ingeram, but died in the month of April 1761.

James, educated to medicine and surgery at Edinburgh, went to the East Indies as Surgeon's Mate on board of the Pembroke Man-of-War, and perished with her in the Bay of Poleroon, in the great hurricane on the 12th, 13th, and 14th days of April 1749, by which fifty ships of many different nations and all their crews were lost.

Charles, Comptroller of the Customs at St John's, in the Island of Antigua, and died there without issue.

John, bred in the Navy since he was fourteen years old, made a Lieutenant in 1757, and presently Commander of the Esther Sloop, stationed from Whitehaven to the Mull of Galloway. (*He married, but died without issue.*)

* Mrs Anne Duff died at Aberdeen, on Saturday, January 30, 1773, in the 68th year of her age.

George settled for several years past in mercantile business at Kingston in Jamaica. (*He died there without issue.*)

The daughters were—*Helen*, married in 1759, to Robert Farquharson,* Esq., of the family of Invercauld ;

Katherine died of the smallpox, July 11, 1738, in the fourth year of her age ;

Anne died November 4, 1736, of a consumption, in the twentieth year of her age, after a long and painful illness,—a young woman of rare accomplishments and uncommon merit ;

Henrietta married in 1761, to Francis Fraser, younger of Findrack, descended of the family of Durris, and has issue.

* Father of the late William Farquharson, Esq., of Monaltrie, and several daughters, all of whom died without issue.



LETTERS.

LETTERS FROM 1595 TO 1720.

I. From ANDREW BAIRD, Professor of Philosophy at Lyons, to GILBERT BAIRD, of Auchmedden.

To the richt honourable and weil beloved brither GILBERT BAIRD, of Auchmedden in Scotland.

To Scotland.

Lyons, July 22d, 1595.

MONSIEUR ET FRERE,—Thair is twa yeirs bypast I haif never ressavit any word of you, nather of my father or uther frindis, quhairfore I was very wraith that ye and all uthers has na mynd of me, mair than I if I war deid, or gif I war not your brother, or friend, the quhilk, ye cannot deny unless ye offense God and the veritie; and notwithstanding that ye haif misknawin your duty, hitherto, yit, God of his guidness has preserved me unto this day that I am not deid for hunger; quhairfore I pray you, be so guid as to call to remembrance the instinct that nature has gein to all creatures, and luik gif that I heif any credit to do you any servis in France, seeing that ye heif forgottin me in Scotland, and I shall be as ready as any uther that ye may employ;—or, gif ye thocht that I may do you stead in Scotland, command me, and I shall be reday to obey you with goodwill, as far as I may.

Mr James Browne has wrote an letter to me, by which he has schawin me, that my father is deid, and Walter Baird's wyf, your mother-in-law; quhairof I am very wraith, yet I am very glad, and thankis God greatly, that they departed guid Catholiques, and prays you, and all yours, for God's sake, to continue and leif into the trew religion. I haif thocht guid to gar say mass for my father in sundry pairts, and I will bair the *duleweid* for one year.

I am presently in the town of Lyons, and teaching philosophy, and has fyve hundred merks of wage, but I am myndit to leave my conditon.

I would very gladly see you and all uther guid frindis, to the quhilks, I pray you maik my farther commendation with Walter Baird, and your wyfe my blessing, and to your bairns,—I understand ye haif ten or else alevin. The Lord saiff them and keip you in long life and guid health.

Your brother for evir to serve you,

AW. BAIRD.

I pray you excuse me if I speak not guid Scottis, for I haif forgottin all my mother tongue. Their is aught years that I haif not writtin sa meikil, nor yet spoke.

II. From the SAME to the SAME.

Lyons, last of Octr. 1596.

RIGHT HONOURABLE AND LOVING BROTHER,—After my hearttie commendations of service, quhowbeit, it be long time since I ressavit your letter daitit the 19th day of July 1595, yet, not the less, I haif never had sic opportunity to write unto you as I haif now. To be schort, I am as glaid of your and all frindis helth, as I am sorrowful of my fathers deceiss. As to me, I am presently well in health, and reputation likeways of a scholar, being prefered to an Professor of Philosophy by the citoyens of Lyons, and not without honest recompense. And seeing that my deliberation is always set down to leif by letters, I mynd within a zeir to pass to some famous University, and thair apply my time, either to medicinc, or lawes, to the effect, that I may be profitable to myself and uthers. As, also, being resolved, (for anything I can see presently) to leif into my country, quhairout, I am neither banished, nor expeld. I beseih you, with a most brotherly affection, to consider the moyen by the quhilk I may leif peacable at haim, in an honest vocation in letters, and to advertise me, particularly and diligently of all things, not obmitting your brotherly and tender counsel, by the quilk I will be rulit and governit. And, if so be that my father at his deceiss has had any fatherly memory of me—as I doubt not but he has had—I desyr you maist earnestly to advertis me of the samin, and to haif sic care of me, as your brotherly luif and guid inclination promised me, quilk will be the cause, that I will be the mair diligent in my studys, and direct all my cogitations to honour you, and to merit your luif, being resolvit to leif and to dic in my country.

Having no further at present, I beseih you to recommend me to Walter Baird, your good-father, and to my sister, your bairns, and our brethren and all friends, but chiefly to yourself.

III. From the SAME to the SAME.

Lyons, 8th March 1579.

MONSIEUR ET FRERE,—After my maist hearty and humble commendations, with serviss, having the commodity of this berir, a gentleman dwelling with my Lord Abbot, of Inchaffray, vohm I did meit with, beand in the Town of Lyons, after their coming back from Italy, and schew me that he was to gang hastily to Scotland, I thoct guid to write unto you thir few lines in haist, albeit I did write unto you not lang before with Mr Alex. Boid, secretary to my Lord Cassils, quha is presently into Rouen in France, to quhom I am meikle addebtet, and did unto him all the servis that I could quhile he remained in this town, to wit, Lyons, the space of four months, and was willing to carry me haim with him, the quhilk occasion I did neglect and many uthers like unto that, looking ever for your letters and answers to them that I have written to you of before, the quhilk, tendis not to any uther, and, but to know the guidwill ye beir unto me, and what ye will wishe me to do. For, seeing that it has pleisit to God to call our father before his days, that is to say, over soon for me, who is sa far frae all frindis and kinsmen, and has no great moyen to pay myself except I travel mair nor I may, I am constrained to rin to your wisdom and brotherly affection; quhairfore, to be schort, I pray you maist earnestfully to give me sum resolution and schew me, gif ye think that my coming in Scotland may do unto you, or frendis, any servis or pleasure, and I shall always be ready; gif not, I pray you, also, to advertise me, to the end, I may hippin na mair to you; the quhilk will be to me very hard; yet, notwithstanding, there is na uther remedy but patience. I haif written often to you and to our chief Walter Baird and to Walter Curriour, quhair ye shall understand that there is here in this town, one Mr Andrew Curriour, the Laird of Logy — Dugluis' son whew I louff very weil for Walter Curriour's sake—and has done unto him all the pleasure that I can—I am also by compayine with one Mr Edward Scot, a countryman, quhom with I haif remaind thir two yeirs bypast, and he teachis in Logic this yeir, and I in Metaphysics, and we are baith myndit the next yeir, gif we get na better method, to pass unto Italy, God willing.

As to the news in this country, thair is nane uther but that all things are very deir, and cespacially the quhyt; and that the King of France is to make wcirs against the Duke of Savoye, wha is our neighbour, in the one side. The quhilk cannot be without our great hurt and travel. The bruit is here, that the Kingis majesty of Scotland has had some dispute against his ministers, quhair throw, many men has taken an diverse opinion of him thro' England, France, Italy, and Espaigne. I pray the Lord assist him and give him grace to do well, to the honour of God, profit of his soull, and

consolation of his pair people. As to uther news, thair is na uther, for the present. This prays you to make my humble commendations to all our brethren, and to your wyfe and bairns; as to our chief, Walter Baird, I think he is not in lyf, for gif he war, I doubt not but he would haif had sum remembrance of me, yet I shall not fail to have remembrance in my prayers every day before God of him and uther frindis. I remember not of any mair, yet as the occasion occurs it shall please you to be attending to my good weil, and swa committing you to God.

Be your assured and weil beloved brother to be commandit, gif ye please to write to me, I pray you write before Whitsunday, utherways ye may be na know whair that I may be, if that all reight haldis.

IV. From the SAME to the SAME.

MONSIEUR ET FRERE,—Seeing that I haif written unto you sa many times, and that ye taik no thocht nether of me nor my writing, ye will constraine me at lengthe to forgett nocht only you but all Scottismen; or, at the least, all Kinsmen. I know not quharin I have offendit, nather you nor uther frindis, that, altogether, ye haif conspyrd against me; I marvell greatly that ye consider not, quhow that I can leif in this country without any help of you nor any Scottisman these three yeir bypast, among the men of weir and uther troubles that has be in, and is, yet in France—quhairfor, I pray you to be sa guid as to think sometimes of me, your second brother, gif I be not bastard, *that*, I belief not. I have writtin to the Erle of Cassils, but I know not if he has ressavit my letter, nor yet, Mr Alex. Boid.

Gif ye think that I may do you pleasure or servis in France; or to any uther into your name, beleif, assuredly, that I sall do all that lies in my power, and sall be evir mair as reddy to be commandit by you, as any brither that ye haif.

Gif I could wreat, or speak, any further in Scottis, or, gif ye understood the Frenshe, or Latin, I suld write unto you mair at lengthe, or gif I was assurit that ye wold tack my letters in guid part. Quhairfor, I pray you, excuse me quhil I be farder informed be you. Offre my hearty commendations of servis to your wyf, bairns, and all uther guid frindis. I pray God to keip you in long lyfe.

From Dijon in Bourgoyne Province in France, this VI. of August 1599.

Gif ye pleis to write unto me, address your writing from Paris to Lyons, with this endorissement, "A Monsieur, Monsieur Baird Aux Carmes à Lyons."

V. From the SAME to the SAME.

Rycht Honorabil Sr., and weil beloved brother, after sindrie letters and writings without any answer of you, or any other frind in Scotland, thair is neir aucht years by-past, I haif thoet guid to hazard this, gif, perchance, it sall fall into your hands, to the end ye may be informit of my estait and weilfare, as I desyr to be of yours and of all guid frindis—quhairfore, it sall pleis you to understand, that (betwixt hope and despair evir to see you in this lyf, or our mast deirly beloved father, Walter Baird, and mother, Katharine Grant; spying out the wickedness of this world and the chaingement of men,) thair is four yeirs ago that I haif begun to chainge my lyf, quha, as before, being an wardly man, after the condition and mainer to laif as I did behold in uthers,—now, praissit be God, I am an religieus man, mair content than evir I was of befoir, albeit, our manner to leif be very strict and poor,—*cur nihil habentes, omnia possidemus*,—for the present at Lyons quhair gif ye pleis to wricat, ye may inelose your letter in the Frenshe tongue, this way, without any uther titre—“A mon frere—frere Andrew Baird, Religieux nunime lecteur de Theologie eu convent des minimes a Lyons.” The quhilk condition of lyf I haif not choised rasehly, without gryt consideration and almaist necessary arguments of salut, as maufy of them do say that are not weil instructed in the truth, but be altogether fleshly men,—*animalis autem homo non percepit ea quæ spiritus dei sunt*,—for siclyke men thinks that all religion and Godliness consists to wallow in pleasure, and mak guid chier in this lyf, as an Epieurean saying,—*damur, bibamus post mortem nulla voluptas, sed ah! miseri discunt hic bonos dios iros et in punctu ad inferna descendunt*;—bot, leifing this dispute, that I seem nocht to persuade ony man, but be guid reason when it sall pleis God to gif the occasion.

My helthe, thanks be to God, was nevir bettir than it has bein thir four yeirs bypast, albeit I heif not remained evir still into one place, but has changit sindrie tymes, as our profession and order requires. Since I am in France, I haif seen many Scottismen in this country, sum poor, and sum rich, of all conditions, Eastland, Southland, Westland, and some Northland, and Highlanders, but I heird nevir speak of any man that appertains to us, except of The Master of Forbes, who is a religieus man, a capuehin, quhom to I haif written within thir few days, and of one called Baird, lately at Rouen, as I am informed by Monsieur Drummond, Judge of Vesay, but of what country or house he was, he could not tell me.

As to the Abbot, Mr John Quhyt, John Quhyt, of Ardlyhill's son, thair is half a yeir since I hard he is in guid helth, but Mr Alexander Cheyne, my godfather's son, is deceist thair is neir twa yeirs, and lykways, Mr Alexander Chalmers, the guidman's

son, of the Miln of Sauquchin, gif I haif any remembrance. As to uther news that may be written for the present ye sall not luik for of me, but byding an bettir occasion, and give ye pleise, your luiffing answer, with the estait of yourself, wyf, bairns, brethrin and all uther guid frindis, but chiefly our father, Walter Baird, and his guid wyf our guid mother,—I pray you to luik upon their godliness and halie lyf, think upon your salvation, bring up your bairns and instruct them in to virtue, the feir of God and guid letters; and as to me, albeit, I be outwith at the haly mass and all sorts of prayer, as my duty commands me, I sall pray the Almighty God to keip you in good health and lang lyf, and multiply his benedictions and blessings upon you.

From Lyons this 23d day of January 1603.

Your brother evir to be commandit in Jesus Christ.

AW. BAIRD, Minime,
George Baird's Son, of Auchmedden.

It will pleis you to excuse me if I write in haist, because sodainly I go to Avignon, and prays you taik my Scottis in guid part, for I haif almaist forgottin baith the writing and speaking of Scottis.

VI. From the SAME to the SAME.

Rycht honourable Sir and maist weel-beloved brother, the paix and luif of God, —I haif ressavit your maist hearttie and luiffing writing be the hands of our guid friend William Kircaldy, and thankis you maist arnestfully of the brotherly affection ye beir unto me, praying God to gif me the grace that I may be worthy, at any tyme, to answer to your friendly guid will. As touching the death of our father and your guid-father and guid-mother, I am very wraith, gif it had pleisit to God to do utherways, but I knaw weil aneuch, *omnibus hominibus statutum est semel mori*, quhairfore I think it meikle better to prais and magnify the Lord Almighty, *in cujus potestate est vita et mors*, than to despyt his Majesty in greitting and tires,—*sicut illi qui non habent spem*,—I sall pray God for thair guid saulls nicht and day; and as to the small thing my father left to me of his hereditage, *dominus omnis hæreditatis meæ, et capitis mei ipso est, qui restituat hæreditatem meam mihi*, quhairfore my deirest brother, I love God of your guid faith and uprightfulness, *qua in mensura mensurabis eadem tibi mensurobitur*;—quitting the world, I haif quitted all wordly goods and geir, and luikis after no uther untill the tym that it sall pleis God to call me,—*ubi, oculus non vidit, nec auris audivit quæ præparavit deus diligentibus se*.

Gif ye had written unto me thair is now five or six years ago, I might haif done

utlier to you or yours mair guid, than I may do at this present, except, that I sall evir pray God for you and your household; lyk as, I craif nothing that may in any ways pertain to our father;—do with it as ye think best, after my sister's guidwill, your wyfe. I haif not yet forgottin her father and mother's kyndness to me; all your bairns and childring are all alyke unto me, and wald do them all servis. This gentleman will speik to you mair at length upon this point.

I am very wraith of the disscord that ye heif had with your neighbours and frindis, and that our brother has lossit an air. Gif that I had knawn his being at Bourdeaux he sould haif hard within few days of my newes, and saw gif he comes again, he may write unto Lyons, quhair he sall ever get word of me in ony part that I sall be, and lykwais yourself, unto our convent, for I am of the order of the minnims—an religieus man. We haif also an house into Dieppe—they call it the *bons hommes*; ye may address your letters to Lyons by Mr Alexr. Pearson of Edinbourg, gif it sall pleis him to gif them to that house, or ours, or be Alexr. Ramsay or any uther, quahatsomevir it be, ye may not fail, if ye pleis, by any ways to address your letters to Lyons—the convent of the minnims is to this manner,—“*A mon frere, frere Andro Baird religieus minnime en convent des minimes à Lyons,*” for gif ye wreat not the superscription into Frenshe, your letter sall be tint, and swa unto meeting when it sall pleis God, ye may wreat unto me quhan ye pleis, and swa, committing you to God, your wyf and bairns, brethrin and all guid frindis, I sall remain in France, Lyons, in our convent, this aucht of June 1604.

Your maist humble and weil beloved Brother.

VII. From the SAME to the SAME.

Right honourable, Sir, and maist deirly beloved brother, guid health and weelfare in our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ.

Their is now near fifteen days that I have ressavit an Writing of your by ane Kircaldy, dated the 9th of June 1603, to the quhilk I haif made sum answer by the same bearer, according to my leisure and business, as he may be witnes himself,—how soon it sall pleis God that he may meet with you, quhairfore, seeing that he has takin an langer staying than I belieffit, and finding the opportunity of this gentleman, an auld acquaintance, I thoct guid to write unto you thir few lines of mair freshe dait; to the end it may please you, to wit, that I am presently into Lyons, an religieus man of the order of the minnims, in guid health, thanks be to God, desyring the lyk of you and yours and all guid frindis.

I was truly very glad, and rejoiced meikle to read your letter, and heir of your

weil being and prosperity, and how that ye are cum to end of all your fears and concerns, and how that ye haif always the fear of God before your eyes, following as neir as ye may the footsteps of our haly forbairs, in the quhilk I pray you to remain to the end, looking for sic recompense as they heif already ressavit in hevin in their souls, abyding only the glorification of their bodys, when it sall pleis God to call every one in his last Judgement; thairupon this head I will write you na farther,—nor yet, touehing that point ye wreat unto me, concerning as ye say an Bairns part of Geir, after the decess of our godly father, for I am nocht in power to possess any wardly guid, quhairfore of that nor na uther, sic lyke, I craif nothing, but wald only pray you after your good weil to dispose of that as it sall pleis my good sister, your guidwyfe, in remembrance of so many tymes that I haif offendit her, and provokit her unto anger, albeit, she wisht ever my weifare.

As to *that*, that ye wald speik unto me in secret, gif it be sickin matter thay may be writtin or eommunicated to ony friend, feir not to commit it, either be word or write to this gentilman, quhom to I haif given charge to ressave it, gif it sall pleis you. I an assurit gif it be an matter of conseil, that he will gif you contentment, or else, will cause me to understand the matter.

As to me to cum into Scotland, as be, I haif assurance of the King's Majestie and of the estates, baith of Ingland and Seotland, it schymis to be an thing impossible, gif that I will not put myself in danger, for the preists, monks, and friars are not very welcome amang you, but gif thair war ony helth I could wreat to my acquaintanee, wha micht do sunthing for me in ease of necessity, quhairfore, luing for sum lettir, I am altogider resolvit, as yit, to remain in thir parits, as it sall pleis my superors, or els, into Italy or Spaine, for, thanks be to God, we haif many fair houses and boothings in thir pairts; God, in sa far, has provyded for his echildren, only I pray you, maist weil beloved brother, to pray God for me, and recommend me to the prayers of your innocent bairns.

After the answer that I sall ressave to this gentleman, berir of this, I sal wreat unto you mair at length, as the oceasion sall requyre, and, in the meintyme, I sall not fail to write whensoever any occasion sall be present unto me; quhairfore, be not in noways astonisht, gif I wreat unto you in divers styles, following the divers occurrenees and dispositions of the tymes, and swa committing you to God, your wyff, my sister, and bairns, and brethrin, and all guid frindis. I sall remain to the end.

Yours, &c.

Lyons, this 20th of June 1604.

VIII. GILBERT to ANDREW.

Honourable Sir, and his maist weil beloved brother,—My duty of commendation being maist heartfully recommendit unto you, pleis, I ressavit your letter from your guid frind, William Kircaldy, burges of Kinghorn, daitit at Lyons in France the 8th day of June 1604, and perseves be your letter your present estait, quhairof I thank God gretly of your guid helthe and that ye are presently alyfe, yit I am sorry that ye haif taen you to sic an mein calling, being one of the best scholars, as is reported, in all France, quhairof I wonder gretly, for, if ye had pleased, ye myht haif been promotit to mony mair honourable office, nor the office ye have called yourself to, qulk wald haif been a greater contentment to yourself and your frindis, both,—for your frindis disowns you meikle,—that ye haif taen you to that form of lyfe,—and I will assure you that they think very ill of it, and I, also, for my awin part,—disesteem of it maist heartily; for, gif ye wald haif cum home to your awin native country, I suld haif provydit for you in mair honorabil present lyf afoir the warld, nor the lyf qulk ye have drawn yourself to, sa lang as I had guids, or geir, land, or heritage, for I suspect ye have tane sum apprehension, and displeasure, for the want of your geir, qulk, the Italian tuik from you, qulk was but a matter of ane hundred crowns, or twa, as William Kircaldy informit me, swa, gif ye had tain you to ony uther calling, nor the calling qulk ye haif tane yourself to, ye might have cum be geir again that wald have baith pleased you and your frinds also;—your frindis here esteem you to be an lost man, in respect of your calling that ye have tane you to, for I culd nevir weil understand your calling full now, that this gentleman William Kircaldy spak with you, face to face, quha has told to me, at great lenth, the certainty of your present estait, and ressavit your letter from you the last of July, in this instant yeir of God, 1604, for he was not passing to twa months after he came from you, untill he delivert your letter to me, and I gaif this gentleman, William Kircaldy, gryt gains to cum to that country and visit you, and to know your perfit estait, qulk, I look it for to have been better nor it is,—yet, notwithstanding, gif ye be weil yourself, it matters the less, for it appears be your letter that ye haif quittit the warld and warldly guids and geir, and that you will dispense with that geir, qulk your father left you, to me, or my wyfe, or any of our bairns, qulk we pleis to give to;—I would to God that I had been obleist for twyes as meikil to you, gif ye had tane an uther course with yourself, for I thocht, gif ye had been in an better estait nor ye are into, til have sent over one of my sons to you; and as to that geir that ye dispense with, and that ye will have na geir that appertains to your father, and that ye will dispense with it to me, or my wyfe, we think ourselves the mair obleist to you; yit, I think your gryt necessity suld have ado with it, yit,

seeing your calling is so sempill and has no moyen, but that quik ye get out of uther people's hands for your teaching, swa I thoekt guid to wreat this meikle to you and to advertise again with the next commodious bearer, what is the very course that ye will take with yourself, or gif ye will continue in that estait all your days; write to me the certainty thereof and direct your letter to Dieppe, to the house thair, called the *bons hommes*, and cause the *bons hommes* direct the letter to John Mew in Dicppe, quha is factor to Alex. Pearson, burges of Edinburgh, and he will direct it to Alex. Pearson, in Scotland, and swa your letter will cum to my hands.

I haif also endorsit your letter on the baek, as ye directit me, to the *bons hommes*, with the form of endorsation on the baek as ye wreit—" *a mon frere, frere Andro Baird, religieux minnime au convent des minnimes à Lyons.*"—My wyfe, your sister, and all your frindis heir and brethren has reecommdit themselves heartily to you.—Committing you to God.—From Banff the xx. Sepr. 1605.

Your affect. and loving brother evir to be eommandit at his pouer.

GILBERT BAIRD.

Brother, I luikit that ye suld have rememberd your frind and mine, William Kircaldy, for his painstaking in visiting you, for, as I am informit be him, ye have not acknowledgit him in nothing, quik, I wonder of and desyrs you to advertis me thairof, because he reportit of you to me.

IX. From ANDREW to GILBERT.

Lyons, June 4, 1607.

Richt honorable and maist deirly beloved brother,—After my thinking long to heir of your weelfare, wyfe and bairns, I thoekt guid to wreat thir few lynes unto you being at lcisure, to the end that seeing we are sa far separate, that we may not haif any consolation be mutual presenee, at the least, we may visit the one ane uther be aft writing, gif ye think guid.

I heir that God blessit your house in generation of many blessit children, the quiks gif ye bring up in the fear of God, ye will make into the world and into hevin eternal memorialis eum of you.

I am sory that I am not able to do to you sic servis, to quhom I am so obleist, as I haif done to many uthers without any obligation, but of courtesie and free will; zeit, thanks be to God, I am in no ways miserable, howsover it seems to the world and to them that knawis not what my calling means. I wish to God that a guid part of your and our brethren's children were at sic a point.

I pray you excuse the exceeding luif I bear to my awin bluid; quhairfore, the best part of guidis and geir that ye may leif unto them, is, the virtue and guid intructions that they sall learn in their youth-heid: God gif I might part with them, the little knowldge that God of his goodness has giffin unto me, and if thair war any means to be had, I suld not fail to bestow with all my heart my tyme and travel.

Now presently, God willing, I am bound to a town called *Marigues, en Auvergne*. to preiche this caresme to after pasch: But as soon as God sall give me grace to cum to Lyons, I sall write to Naples to our General, gif I may haif licence to cum and remain at Dieppe, quhair we haif an monastery, to the end, it may be nearer to the country, and offer my servis to all guid frindis. In the meantyme, seeing we are fischemen, and eats na uther sort of meatts, and ye haif a commodity of salmond, I pray you bestow upon us sum barrel of salmond once in the year. I remember that your father Walter Baird provydit to me, every year, three or four. Buit nevir in my lyfe haif I ressavit from any Scotsman any guid deed sens I am in France. I am wraith to put you to charge, but, because I know that costs you nothing, or very small, I am mair bauld. Notwithstanding, ye sall do as ye think guid. Your wyfe, my sister, in remembrance of her guid mother, will not forget me, and I am altogether persuaded that gif it might be her will, its not, that I die in France,—but abyding your answer I will be short, praying you to haif ever before your eies our auld fathers, their lyf and religion, in honouring God and his children. I sall ever remain after my heartty commendations to yourself, wyfe, and bairns, brethren, and all guid frindis.

Your maist affect. brother and servant,

AW. BAIRD.

I heir say it is dangerous mater to write over the sea of matters of religion, or of Estait, quhairfore, unto the time I know mair perfectly, baith of your religion and Estait, I thoct guid to ask your advys before I write anything.

Among many Scotsmen we haif in France, there is ane Courreiar, an unwary *Coureur et vagabond*; he makes £1, or acts the minister, in to an Town called Issoire near quhair I preiche. He has beguild me and himself meikle mair;—he causit me to understand that we were kin and countrymen;—it sall pleis you to ask of him.

X. FRERE THOMAS BAIRD to his Father, GILBERT BAIRD of Auchmedden.

Rouen the 1st of Novr. 1607.

Richt honorabell Sir,—After my heartty commendations made, not forgetting my mother, my Brethrine, and Sisters, and all guid frindis, it will pleis you to wit I am in

guid health, praisit be God, desyrand the same of you and all your guid frindis. After my away cumming out of Leith we fund the wadder and wuand very contrarious, so that we were forst be storm of wadder to gang into divers pairts of Ingland and France, sic as Tynemouth, Newcastle, Yarmouth—pairts of Ingland—and Callis in France, all these pairtis before my cuming to Dieppe.

At my departer from Jhon Pearson out of Rouen, I ressavit fra him the sum of Twenty erowns to transport me to Lyons by the sillar he disbursit for me before my way ganging fra him. Nocht troubling you further, but my heartty commendations to yourself and mother, with the rest of the bairns, and all guid frindis nocht forgetting Walter Lesly.* I rest

Your obedient son at command,

TOMAS BAIRD.

Being in danger coming to France, I promisd fourty shillins to the eoure, quhilk it will pleis yon give at hame.

XI. THE SAME to THE SAME.

Lyons, 9th Jany. 1609.

Rycht honerabil Sr. and maist deirly beloved father, my maist humble serveis being rememberd ; it sall pleis your wisdom to understand, since my euming into France the mettarr has been very hard with me unto the tyme I did meet with my uncle. There is now fyve or sax months past that I haif taken the habit of religion quharin I sall not failzie, niht or day, to pray God for your estait and weifare,—also my mother, brothers, and sisters, and commending you to the protection of the Almighty God.—I remain, &c.

XII. GILBERT BAIRD of AUCHMEDDEN to his BROTHER ANDREW.

Auchmedden, Sept. 6, 1614.

Ryeht honorabill Sr. and Loving Brother,—My affectionate duty with my commendations rememberit maist heartily,—pleis I ressavit an letter of yuirs from an Seotsman, whom they call William blackater, an Kinghorn man, quha died presently after the delivery of your letter to me, quhen he said to me that it was meikle of twa years since he ressavit your letter before the delivery of it to me ; for your letter was

* His Uncle, Kinninvie's son, who settled in Denmark.

dated from Besançon, in Bourgoigne, the 12th of Oct. 1612 yeirs, and I ressavit it not till the 6th of August 1614 years, with anither letter written to you by ane whom they call Mosieur Kircaldy; quhilk letter I have considered, and my awin, both that ye sent me,—and I complain as heavily as ye do, in not writing to me offer nor ye do, for I have writin sindrie tymes within these twa or three years with the young Laird of Schives, and with ane servant of his lykewise sensyue: Quhilk Laird of Schives dwalls within 12 myles to my house, for he cums aft to France because his wyfe is thair, and is an Catholique, and will not grant to cum to Scotland, for she is the Lady Gicht's sister, and remains in France for the religious cause; as also, I ressavit an letter from Mr Adam Scot, an brother of yours, since I ressavit ony of yours, quha dwallis in Paris, as ye knaw, and has an brother in Scotland quham they call George Scot quha dwallis in Persiaw in Buchan, quha wrote an letter to me repertand that ye was in guid health and my son both, but that my son was sumthing hard *ingynd*, and wrote in his letter to me that he had ressavit an barrel of salmond out of Dieppe in the *bons hommes*, and had sent the same to you,—an thing that ye esteem not much worth there, and gat it not half an yeir after I had sent it.

As to this last letter ye write to me concerning William Kircaldy, he has bein in the wrong to you and me both, that has informit you what I sould haif promised him any guid deed for his coming over to France, but having the occasion to gang over both to France and Flanders, sum ados of his ain, I directit my letter with him to give you, as a passenger and as an friend, that he wuld gar convey that letter to you, and not that he will say on his credit that I promisit him any guid deed, but that he promisit to carry it thair in kindness, that, notwithstanding at his hame coming with the answer, I gaif him sufficient recompense for his painstaking, quhairby he had na cause to cumplain, I will assure you; but because he was your *maith*, he thoct to have gottin sum geir of you, and that was an thing that troublit him maist, being an man seeking his fortune, and came haim worse than he gaid a field. For, afoir he came unto you with that letter, he was a whyle in Flanders at the wairs, and that *scheme misgaif* him, and syne he cam over to you with my letter quhen the wairs had failed him.

As to my son Thomas, I persave ye haif an great care of him, and is weil and lives as ye do, and a guid boy, servicable, but has not our great will of letters, nor born thairto, as ye alledged, quhairof I am sorry that he suld be so hard *ingynt* always, God maik him his servant, with your assistance, quhairinto I think myself meikle bound to you that ye haif tane the care of that boy, under God, to make him an schollar, quhilk he may be able to do by himself, quhairin his mother and I baith thinkis us meikle bound to you for the samen, that relieves us of all his charge and expenses, and is very burdenable to you, as I doubt not, in all necessarys, and is not able as yit to do for himself. Swa, S^r, gife thair be ony thing here in Scotland that

I, or my wyfe, can pleis you with, advertis us thair of, it sall not be unsent to you nether for travel nor yet expense, and write to us what manner of ealling our son will be of, or what he is maist inclined to, for I never resavit ane letter fra himself since he came to you; thairfore cause him wreat to me baith in French and Scottis the next commodious beris, for I haif directit this letter of yours with an Scottis man quhom they call William Laing, to Paris, burges of Aberdein, and has wisht him either to deliver this letter to Mr Adam Scot in Paris, or then to Mr James Gordon, the Earl of Huntly's father's brother, quha has remained in Paris thir twa or three years, as I am informed; swa I doubt not gif ony letter cam to their hands, but they will convey them to you with all diligenece, for this William Laing is eum to Paris to bring haim the Erle of Huntly his bairns, twa sons quham his Lordship has thair in Francee.

As also, ye was myndful to write to me touching the heids of religion, quhilk I percave ye haif defered, and has na will to trouble me in that point for the present, but wishes to God that ye war neir to me for an litle tyme, that we might confer together in matters of salvation. All I could wish with my heart that we met ye and I, gif it pleisit God, ere we died, and I wad be content that myself maik the travel, and sall eum to ony part of Francee, either in Paris or in Dieppe, upon your advertisement, with the assurance that I may find you in Paris in speeial, or in ony other town in this side of Paris, as it pleases you to appoint; for ye are the man in the world that I would fainest see and have conferenece with, and I will know be your next letter if ye be as weil myndit to see me as I am to see you. Sua to your advertisement thairin I rest. My wyfe, your sister, has reecomendit her heartily to you, with all the rest of your brethrin and friendis heir.—Yours, &c.

XIII. ANDREW to GILBERT.

Besançon, Feb. 10, 1615.

Rycht honourabill sr. and maist weil beloved Brother, my humble duty being rememberit; it sall please you to wit that I haif ressavit your writing from Lyons, and thankis you maist earnestly and heartily of your guid remembrance. I am very sory that your letter has been taken, and that by the way, and that they are not eum to my handis, quhilk is the cause that I do not write to you sa aft as I wuld, for I feir that my letters being taken do you harm, albeit I have uevir writtin any thing that may displeise ony man, and prays you to assure every where that I am a faithful subjeet of the King's Majesty, and putting asyde matters of religion, thair is not a man that would mair willingly die for his Majesty than I, and swa I am very laith to truble his Majesty's estait and weelfare. As touching the desyr ye have to see me, yeare not so

desyrous as I am to see you ance before I die, gif it sall pleis God for his honour and glory. I thoct within this last month to haif dwalt neir to you, to wit in Sundwert, be moyen of Mr John Brown our guid kinsman, it sall pleis you to ressave him as he merits and your occasion sall be; he will schew you quhat is my estait and quhat meins we may haif to sec us togidder, either this yeir or the next, God willing. I cannot tell unto you the courtesie I haif ressavit from him this fifteen yeirs bypast, that it sall pleis you to treat him as a guid frind, quhairnent I abyd your letters and meating be the first commodity. Your son brother Thomas has writtin to you baith in Frenshe and Scottis, but in truth he is an better man and speiks better nor I, and is a scholler, but not very fine. He will be a good man, God willing, and prays God daily for you and his mother. When I sall go to Flanders I will bring him with me—in the meintyme, commending me heartily to you, to my sister, your childring, and all guid frindis and brethren and uthers, I commend you to God and remain, &c.—Yours, &c.

XIV. Mr J. BROWN to GILBERT BAIRD of Auchmedden.

Saint Andrews, April 4, 1615.

Richt honourable Sir,—After my humble duty, pleis I ressavit sum letters from your brother Mr Andrew, and from your son Thomas, to be sent to you, quhilk I do by the moyen of this gentleman, the bearer of them. Your brother writes to me you desyr to cum over to him, ye sall be wellcome heir to our pair house in S. Andrews, and sall ressaive sic cheir with us *not* as ye merit, but according to my small moyen, as this bearir will tell you. In the mean tyme I sall write for your brother and your son, quha, knawing of your cuming, will cum heir incontinent, for they remain incontinent an hundred leagues from heir in Besançon, quhilk is an town of Bourgoigne, quhairfore I will request you to advrtis me afoir ye cum over, to the end they may be warnit of your cuming afoir the hand. I remit all particulars to meeting, only I will tell you that Thomas, your son, has followed the footsteps of his uncle Mr Andrew, and are all under one master and captain, and lykways under the same servis, albeit—I hald house heir. My commendations to your bedfellow Lillias, quhom I did knaw in her father's house with you quhen ye war new married folks in your father's tyme, and her father and mother's tyme, and was in your house when her mother died. At our meeting, with God's grace, we sall speik of auld fainzian—nocht else but God preserve you.—Your assurit frind to be commandit.

XV. Mr ANDREW BAIRD to his BROTHER, Auchmedden.

Besançon, in Bourgoigne, this 2d of August 1615.

Ryght honourabill sir and maist deirly beloved Brother, my affectionate duty being rememberit, it sall pleis wit I haif ressavit your last letter in date of the first of May bypast, and I shall not weary you with lang letters at this tyme, because our general is to cum presently to this town, and thairanent, we haif meikle ado, and the ordinary of Flanders is upon his returning ——. I may not be long with you, nevertheless, it sall pleis you to understand that I am very glad, and praisis God Almighty, of your guid helthe, wyfe, and bairns, brethren and guid frindis; as to our meeting, when it sall pleis God, I see no means that it may be this year, because I may not travel before Thomas be profest, and that is in the beginning of winter, and it is neir two hundred myles between this and Sandvert, and an very wicked way, and the wars that are in France and uther pairts. Of one thing it sall pleis you to be sa guid as to assure me in truth, of your faith and religion, gif ye hald on with the guid auld faith of your guid auld father, in the quhilk, guid Walter Baird and Kathrine Grant bred us at Bamff, quhair my sister, your wyfe, was very affectionate to receive God's guid servants. That will be a great consolation to me, baith dying and living, unto the tyme I haif that grace from God as to meit with you, and it may be that we may haif great consolation be letters, and of meeting, gif thair be no danger for yourself in the matter, the quhilk, abyding of you at your best commodity, ye sall wit, God willing. I past this day to see your son, *frere* Thomas, and to recommend him to his superior, for he is a little sickly, be reason of the great heat that is this summer in thir pairts, in so far, that the wyne are almost lost and will be very deir this yeir coming.

I sall not fail to write unto you at all occasions, but chiefly by the ordinary of Sandvert, seeing Father Crowe is their, who has done all he may to draw me down there to remain with him, the quhilk, I desyr with all my heart, but our superiors in these pairts will not consent, in any way, and has prayd our General to hear no request nor prayer of ony man for that, quairfore, well-beloved brother, I am constrained to take patience while it sall pleis God to cause sum guid occasion. Quhairupon, committing you to the protection of God Almighty, and hearty recommendations being rememberd to yourself, my sister, and your bairns, with my brethren and guid frindis, I sall ever remain, &c.

XVI. From the SAME to the SAME.

Besançon, Octr. 12, 1617.

Rycht honourabill sir and weil-beloved brother,—Either ye believe that I am deid, or els that I am very negligent, seeing that is over of four yeirs bypast that ye haif not ressavit any news of us. It is trew that I haif evir written by an assured commo-ditie, and as yit is not fully assured that thir few lynes, writing at haist, may cum to your hands. Notwithstanding that I have written them in danger, to the end, ye may know of our estait and weifare, the quhilk, praisit be God, is very guid as it may be amongst men of our condition, and desyrs the like of you and all guid frindis.

As to your son Thomas, who is ever with me, liffis and lys as I do, a good boy, serviceable, but is not of great wit nor turn to letters. He has a very hard *ingyne* and is no great scholar, but I houp he sall be a guid man. He speiks very good Frenshie, but he writts not well. This day he is out of the town about five or six leagues; gif he cum this night before the messenger pairts, quha is prest by the ordinary of Lyons and Rome, ye shall haif of his letters.

Ane Monsr. Kircaldy got an letter of yours thair is seven or aucht years bygone, he brocht it unto me at Lyons and desyrs sum recompense of pains. It is trew that I gave him nothing, because I was uot able, and had nothing; quhairfore it will pleise you content him for his pains, according as ye have agreed with him, for I will not meddle with his ados, and I know not to what end he came in France, or gif ye sent him express or not; howsoever it be, you will do weil to do him sic plesure as ye may. I send you his letter that ye may see, and has writtin also to him. I pray you read my letter I haif writtin to him, and ye will see how I answer.

As to this barrel of salmond ye sent with your son, we ressavit it as I believe half a year after, but a thing of little value in thir pairts. I was mindful very aft to write unto you touching sum heids of religion, but feiring to trouble you unto your reflections, I have ever deferd. I wish to God I war near to you for a little tyme, that we might consider togidder of matters of salvation, for all this warld in respect of he hevin is nothing as it were, therefore gif it pleis you to write anything to me auent this point, I houp in God to gif you a full answer and contentment. Ye may ever address your letters to our messager of Lyons, whence I sall ressave them quairsoever I be.

I think the next yeir, God willing, to go to Rome, and from thence into Spain. Na mair, but committing you and all yours to God, aftir my heartily commendations to my sister, your wyfe, and bairns, and all my brethrin and guid frindis.—I remain, &c.



XVII. From one Mr JAMISON to GILBERT, of Auchmedden, concerning his Son Brandon going to France, to see his Uncle Mr Andrew.

Aberdeen, Octr. 15, 1619.

Rycht Honourabill Sir,—After kind affection, pleis I haif ressavit your letter with your son, togidder with a copy of myne addressit to your brother. I haif satisfied you on that point and has writtin it according to the first.

I would earnestly intreat you, with all possible diligence, to send the bearer away for the tyme draws neir, and haif him in reddiness at my next advertisment. I dout not but ye will provyde all things necessary for his journey. I will assure you he will scarcely do it with ane hundred crowns,—the way is long and expensive, and himself of weak complexion.

Guid Elspet Harvey is with God. I hear say she had sum little plenishing in your custody. I will intreat you retain them, to gif the worth of them to your son Brandon, to be delivert to me, that I may distribute it to those who will pray for her; if not, he will sell the samin to that effect, for it is a matter of conscience, and I pray make no difficulty. So, with my kind remembrance to your guid bedfellow, I cummit you to God.—Your maist assurid frind.

I haif not writtin upon the back of my letter for suspicion till Brandane be reddey to go. I will wish you do the lyke.

XVIII. From GILBERT BAIRD, of Auchmedden, to his Brother ANDREW, and sent by his Son Brandane.

October 1619.

Maist loving brother,—After my kind affection and remembrance.

God knows the dsyr I haif had these many yeirs, but especially since your letters writtin to me, in answer of myne fyve yeirs since, to cum and visit you before my death, to enjoy your presence, to be comfortit by you and be my son Thomas, quha haif taken you to a retired lyfe to serve God Almighty; of this, my guid will, I haif been lütler till hindert be reason of my warldly estait and great business I haif had, partly, in the law, be evil neighbours, quha has conspyrit to cross me, partly, be the iniquitie of tyme, being ehallengit for a favourer of the trew servants of God and his religion, and, since I cannot effectiate my mynd by my actual presence, I haif desyrd my son Brandane, this present bearer, whom I love most tenderly, both for his guid vertuc, but *especially* for his sincere devotion to the Catholique fayth, as also, in respect of the intention he has to see you and to visit sum haly places over sea, to ac-

comply my intention and to offer my kynd affection to you, and to shew you my present estait, which, as God knaws, is sumwhat stressit, and to craif thairin your council, helping-hand, and assistance, gif ye may do it, sens it is a wark of charity to help the standing of your house, and of these that ar maist neir to you.

I am assurit your guid friend and ours, John Jamieson, will wreat at mair lenth to you in this matter, quha knaws, in particular, baith my mynd and estait, as also, has knowledge of all my business, being an eye-witnes of many of my situations and proceedings, to quhom I remit myself and to my son's awin declaration. As for particulars, my son will inform you, so, with my awin, my bedfellow's, and all my children's commendation, I commit you to God, remaining your loving brother.

XIX. From JOHN JAMIESON to Mr ANDREW BAIRD, sent with Brandane Baird.

R. S.—After my kind affection, I am much astonishit of your long silence, notwithstanding of my oft writing to you, but I impute it rather to the laek of commoditie than to your oblivion and forgetfulness of theis, wha is, and sall be, your frinds till death.

You shall understand, I haif met at my first entry in the country with your oldest brother, wha ressavit me maist charitably in his house, then, and after, when occasion did present; an lykways, I haif been more than obleist to kyndness of his sons and daughters, both for your cause and will they bear to the Catholique religion, and not able to render it to them—but be my guid wishes.

Your said brother has had an extraordinary desyr to see you, specially, since he heard your mynd to meit him at Flanders, but the bousines and waighty affairs, quharein he has been evir oocupied, has hinderd the exceution of his guid will; at last he has resolvit to send this bearer, his son, quhom he loves as his own soul, both for his profession and other qualitys and good virtues, to effectuate his intention;—to present his affection and tender love to you,—to crave your counsel and assistance to the fordering of his estait, which, troublit, pairtly in respect of great process he has had in the law with his neighbours, enemys to his house,—partlie be the iniquity of tyme, being suspected and challengit for a favourer and maintainer of the trew servants of God. He is persuadit ye may help him in this business, baith spirituallie and temperallie, as opinon in great credit in thair pairts,—and has requested me to write in his behalf, which, willingly I do, for the manifest courtesies I haif ressavit of him and his bedfellow, a very good lady, and true servant of God, and of his children, pairtly married, but, specially of this bearer, and requests you maist affectiously to receive him and use him charitably, as ye are bound, both be the law of nature and grace, as also,

to contribute your helping-hand and assistance, what ye can or may, for the standing of your house.—I am, &c.

XX. From JAMES BAIRD, Sole Commissary of the Ecclesiastical Court, to his brother GEORGE BAIRD, of Auchmedden, (whom he styles of Ordinhivas, by which title George designed himself, till 1622, when that Estate was sold.)

Edr., the 6th of Nov. 1619.

Richt honorabill,—I received your letter with copies of the obligation granted by my Lord Deskford and graceless predecessour, quhilk, I shall advys with Bruce and acquaint you thairwith.

Ye'll remember of that quhilk I said to you, ryding betwixt Turriff and Banff, the day I came from Banff. I sall remember it to the death and has done it alreddy,—and has causit my brother John writc all these things, and in taiken of my wife's consent. She has writ her commendations and favour to yourself and your wife, and desyrs you to remember my joynt louff to your wyfe, swa, committing you to God's ane best charge, your loving and obedient brother to serve you to my power.

Sir, remember my servis, louff, and duty, to yourself and your wyfe.

Be thou *demiter*.

J. BAIRD.

XXI. From the SAME to the SAME.

Edr., 9th of March 1627.

Rycht honorabill and loving brother,—

I haif ressavit your letters and has considered the samen. I haif read the copie of the reversion quhilk ye sent here, and I think ye are happy that the same has cum to light in your awin tyme. After I advyst with myself, I thocht it best for your guid and our awin credit to acquaint my Lord yair with, becaus it wald not haif been gottin concealed, but my Lord wald haif gottin word thairof afterwards, which had been an imputation to you and to us all, sceing for the present we have the charge of his affairs. I fyud my Lord of that mynd not to do you harm in any kynd, but will strenthen your rycht gif he can, and, in the meantyme, he has gyfted the Laird of Bog's lyferent to you, to the effect, he may have satisfaction for his reversion, and ye, for the prejudice, quhilk, ye may sustain; always that matter will go richt aneuche with you, so that, in na sort, ye settle with the laird of Bog for his lyferent, without my Lord's advyss.

Ressaive an copie of your Sumonds of Declarator against Bog, as lykways, ressaive an copie of your Sumonds of Exhibition for the reversion, and cause summonds those ye think has the same, and Bog for his interest.

As for the Laird of Bamff's service, cause heast the same thro' as fast as ye can ; as for the securitys to be given by him to my Lord, they will be done by my Lord Advocats advyss. My Lord has written particularly to yourself with his awin hand, and lykeways has causit me write to the Laird of Bog, which he has subscribit. As for the comprysing we sall go throw thairwith at the day, God willing. I am very content that ye nicht haif had the reversion for twa or three hundred merks, but ye refusit the same be my Lords advyss, albeit, it nicht import twenty thousand merks to you.

As for Brandane's business, I hope he sall get another superior than my Lord Marischall ere it be long, and thairfore, let him be but wyse and behald, for Bamff is the man.

I sall wreat to you at greater length with the Laird of Bamff out of Cortachy, for, God willing, I am purposit thair presently.

Furder, ye sall wit that I have paid John Duff four hundred merks for David Courour, and, thairfore, ressavit his awin hand registrate with John Duff's discharge thairof, togedder with an obligation made be David Curriour to me for fyve hundred merks, quhilk ye sall deliver to him at your meeting, and shew him that the Laird of Muchal has caused me give Cluny, down, an uther hundred merks ; I thocht to have gone to Cortachie, but am presently interrupted, and thairfore haif sent John. I pray you heast ever the Laird of Bamff's service, with the hail wreats, that all may be endit in this Session, so, committing your to God.—I rest, &c.

XXII. From the SAME to the SAME.

Edr., 12th July 1630.

Rycht honorabill and loving brother, I ressavit your letters with the copies given to your tenants, at the instance of Mr William Hepburn. I see he's enterit anew James Cheyne, but I houpe God sall disappoint him ; as for your tenants, albeit, he would give them an summonds every day they mist not be afraid, for, by God's grace, nather you nor they sall get wrong heir ; as for the action of removing ye mist not be afraid, for, praisit be God, we haif grounds aneuch.

Yit always, in the meantyme, I wish that Philorth would deal with the Lady for her lyferent, which will be the only thing that will settle himself ; as for the reduction of the horning anent Caddell it is not put to an point yet, but I sall have an special care thairof. I pray you nather anger nor fasche yourself for your law business, for I houpe in God we sall haif no cause of anger, but let us anger ourselves that are heir.

Your son James is very weil, praisit be God, as ye will persave by an letter of Mr Robert Rothes. I have no other news, but Mr William Hepburn is committit to ward for his oversyght at my house, and has been thair twa nichts and is not cum out as yet, quhat forder falls out ye sall heir.

I wonder that Brandane has not sent over the letters of horning against his goodson executit, to the effect, we micht go throw with the comprysing, swa, committing you to God.—I take my leave and rest, &c.

XXIII. From the SAME to the SAME.

Edr., 26th of July 1630.

Richt honorabill,—

Pleis, before the ressait of this letter, I had directit baith your awin man and Philorth's away, but I suspect ye gat my letter from Philorth's unsubscribed, for after it was writtin I went to the Abbey, and before I came back he came into my man, said he wad not stay any longer unless he were then presently directit.

I suld haif writtin to you concerning James Middleton's ears; there is nothing so guid for him as to blaw tobaco in his ears, and then stop them with caddiss or wool.

We have an hait process heir with Wm. Ogstoun, but I hope all sall be weil. The Laird of Muchals is very sick, and suspect will not get Philorth's day kept. As for my awin diet, I am not certain gif I cum north at all, but gif ye think it expedient, and that ye have anything to do with me, I sall cum upon a word. I pray you remember the contents of my last letter.

I dout not but Brandane and Ludquharn will agree; but I wonder he has not sent us word anent his comprysing, and let this be his first advertisment.

Seeing ye are bigging your house, I beseech you, cause cork it weil and make your storm windows pleasant, for the erecking of an house that way will be the grace thairof.

The scollars are weil, blessit be God, as I doubt not but ye have ressavit Mr Robert Rothes letter, quha can tell you all this. My deutie rememberit, I wish you all happines and rest, &c.

XXIV. From the SAME to the SAME.

Edr., the last of August 1630.

Rycht honorabill and loving brother,—

I persave by your letter that it has pleasit God to call our guid brother, Blelack, out of this lyfe, whereof I am sorry, for it is the loss of a friend. Always we must rest

As for the Laird of Philorth, I doubt not but he will take any charge that concerns you, as if it did concern himself; but the good man of Tyrie, possibly, will not be angry be Auchmacoy's advyss. Quhat I haif writtin to Philorth, touching Tyrie, allow it or disallow it as ye think guid.

I pray you see if by any means the Lady Essolment and the Laird of Philorth can be settled.

Ye write concerning your marches with Pitsligo, *that*, I am afraid, is not come of himself but is done be Norman Forbes, thairfore, speak with Pitsligo, and in the meantyme, at the first meeting, I sall cause the Erle of Buchan write to him. As to the horning ye wrote of concerning William Hay, we haif na sic horning, but gif your purser, Mr William Sharp, has the same, cause seek it out and it sall be put to execution. Brandane's letter anent the comprysing sall be brought north with myself. Cause deliver this packet to the guid wyfe of Auchintoul. Sa, committing you, and all your affairs, to the grace and government of God, I rest, &c.

Your son is here in Edr., and John Baird, and are very weil, (praisit be God,) and in guid lyking, and sall want nathing that concerns him.

XXV. From the SAME to the SAME.

Edr., 17th of Decr. 1630.

Rycht honorabill and loving brother,—

Pleis I have directit this bearir north to you for sum busines of my awin. Ye sall wit that I haif gottin an wadset from the Laird of Fren draught of Little Fiddes, redeemable upon J. cij. lib., suspending the redemption during my lyfetime, with the richt of this same yeirs duty, presently in the tenant's hands, as the Laird of Fren draught's subscriybed warrant directit to the tenants, quhilk ye sall pleise receive, bears; and as ye will haif leisure after the haly days, I will desyr you to take Brandane with you, ryde to Fiddes, and intimate my richt to the tenants, be producing of this warrant of the Lairds. Sell the farms to ony honest man in Aberdeen, at sic competent pryces as ye pleis, or dispose upon them as ye think expedient. The rental is, as som affirms to me, fourscore and ten, or fyveteen bolls victual, always ye will try it. In the meantyme, deal very gently with the tenants, because I heir they are puir; take quhat may be had, and, gif neid be's, spare the rest. I doubt not but ye will do with that as with your awin. Cause hald an court thair in my name, and thair presents sall be an sufficient warrant to you thairanent. I send my charter north with the Laird of Philorth, with an letter to William Cordiner to take my seasin, quhilk charter and seasin I appoyntit to be delivered to you, and because I haif not sent moneys to him for his pains, quha, I know has been notary to the seasins, and will be clerk to the

court. Ye sall, thairfore, cause give him so much victual as ye think expedient, and cause the tenants carry the same into Aberdcen to him, because they are so obleist. I know this will be fasheous and trublesom to you, and thairfore, take your awin large allowance off the find and of the rent, for I desyr nether you nor Brandane to cum there upon your awin expenses.

Ye sall wit, that I have agreed heir with Redhyth in Edr., and has gottin himself and his oldest son bound to me for VII. merks at Whitsunday next, and I have disponsit my richt to him, and thairfore, let no execution be usit against Redhyth, but let James Wynchester deliver the letters of horning and exhibition to him when he cums home.

We haif no news heir, but Fren draughts tryal gos on slowly against his partie. Thair are sum put in the Tolbuith. We haif few friends, the Lord help us!

I hear Andrew is summond to cum over, thairfore let him make no delay, for he must cum. Show Brandane that thair is not an wrong letter writ in his comprysing as yet, notwithstanding that Ludquharn is heir quha suld be chargit. I find him very willing to settle with Brandane, be your sight and myne. He complains on Brandane, and bids me desyr him to write an sharp letter to John, for his [], and bid him allcedge the fault to be myn in John's letter, always, ye know whair the falt lys, for, as yet, I have not gottin out my awin letter to charge with upon my awin comprysing.

The scollars are very well, praisit be God. We have causit send over thair yool goose to them, but guid Mr Rothes is presently sick in my house.

I pray you cause send ovar my seasin that it may be regrat, and keip my charter amang your awin writes, or send it over with Andrew, as ye think expedient,—so, wishing you all health and happiness, I rest, &c.

P.S.—Forder, Sir, in case the tenants speik to you anything anent yr. teynds, ye may shew them that the Erle Marischall and the Laird of Fren draught are agreed, and when ye cum to Fiddes, send for the Laird of Ranniston, wha is my particular friend and merches with that toon; he will inform you of everything ye stand in need of. I pray you fail not to sell the farms and write your opinion to me, for I can say no mair but dispose upon that, as ye do upon your awin.

XXVI. From the SAME to the SAME.

Feb. 10, 1631. Edr.

Rycht honorabill and loving brother,—

Pleis, having the occasion to send this bearer north, I thoct guid to acquaint you what we are doing heir,—and first,—as concerning your awin particular, ye sall wit,

that Mr William Hepburn has been very vehement against you to haif you removit from your awin kyndolie possession. He proposit meikle upon the contract past bewixt the Laird of Essilmonth and your father, in an : 1601, quik bears relation to an Tack set to your goodsir, but, blesst be God, he is defeit in every poynt. He had no less sollicitors of that Interlocutor against you nor my Lord Hay, and the Laird of Pitsligo, with all thair micht and power. My Lord Hay and I altercate upon sum words in the Tolbooth, quhairupon he dortit a day or twa, but we are become great again, as I sall shew you at meeting.

I thocht I wald not give Mr William Hepburn cause of croacking that he had dang me out of it be frindis. I brocht both the Erle of Buchan and the Erle of Wig-toun, for whom I am now pro'r, and the laird of Cluny Gordon, whose friendship and courtesie ye suld never forget but still remember the same, as ye have occasion to see him,—always, the matter being disputed and hardly solicited, your frindis, and with the little credit that I had, I wrocht (before the Interlocutor) that the contract nicht be producit, quhilk, the Lords has fund,—and thair is nothing in the contract mair nor was discust in the former removing, and sa, Mr William Hepburn will not produce the samen. The gentleman has grown sumthing mair calm and is content to agree, lykeas the Lords has ordaind us to settle the matter, always, he his content, if I wald let Caddel's escheat ly over, to let the removing, multures, and hail ly over also. I haif tane myself to be advysd, so that, be the grace of God, so far as I may keip in my lyfe and helthe, ye sall get na wrang.

I cannot tell how far ye are obleist to Mr Thomas Nicolson, for he has not only pled it for you and refusit Pitsligo fiercely, to be against you, but has solicit Pitsligo to settle with you, as he wald haive him to be his friend, and for all this, the Laird of Pitsligo and I are exceeding great and all his folks; and I protest he is an discreet gentleman, and a weil set ——. I haif defendit John Quhyt in Ardlayhill, in such sort, as Pitsligo is forsit to take up his process, as I haif writtin to the Laird of Philorth thair anent.

I would haif written to Brandon, but I think shame, because thair is nothing done in his comprysing, nor a wrong letter zerin as yet, and ye know that is not my fault, but shew him when it comes to my part, I sall not be more oblivious of him than of myself, for my awin letters of horning, upon my comprysing against Pitsligo, which were given him at Martinmas, are not subscribed yet, and none has the wyte of their laisie forms but ye, only. As for myself, I have resolvit never to speik on that subject. Remember my love to Brandane and his wyfe, and cause him write an letter to me an John both, for ye know I cannot write a comprysing, and gif I could, it suld haif been done cre now; and as for my awin comprysing of Clinterty, ye know I causit another man do the same. Forder, Sr., ye sall wit that I haif written to my Tenants of Fiddesbog to take order with you, or with Brandane, or with any uther with whom

ye sall appoynt with this years farms, and sie customs as are due, quhilk I luik ye will do, for I haif takin order with the merchant, and my men will not be trublit.

I have written to deliver an load of the best meal to William Brebner, with a disson of eapons for his pains in my errande. Patrick Ranking has writtin to him to denounce Mr William Hepburn, quhilk if he do in the mean tyme, ye will hear of a guid sport, for he got the charge in this town, and we impede him from an suspension. The letters are in Aberdeen aucht days before this, and I am daily expeeting them baek fra the Register.

I can precryve na time to you for doing of my business, but take your awin tyme, and let all your chairges, and Brandanes, be on my expenee, utherwise, I assure you, I will not truble you, albeit I suld tyne the samè. Ressave ye my moneys at such tyme as ye pleis, and pay yourself, and gif me that superplus, and let this warrant serve for Brandane and you both, because I know ye will go thair togedder.

I haif no news, but the Erle of Menteith went yesterday to Court, and his credit is thought weak, in regard thair is sum jarr betwixt the Marquis of Hamilton and him. As for this matter of Fren draughts, thair is nothing tried thairin, saif only against John Meldrum. John our brother has been sick, but (praisit be God) he is very well recovered. The Erle of Buchan has been meikle of all this tyme in this town.

I pray you forget not to remember my love to Mr George Clerk. The scholars are very weil, learning their authors. So leaving to truble you any forder, I wish you all health and happiness.—I am &c.

I pray you cause Corskie* to send the xxvii. lib. that I haif given out for him an year an half since, utherwise I will tyne [] with him. I will give my geir, but will not be reft.

XXVII. From the SAME to the SAME.

Edr., the 17th day of March 1631.

Ryeht honorabill and loving brother,—

I doubt not but before now you have ressavit my letter writtin with an boy of the Laird of Muehals, and will speik nothing of the particulars tharein contained, because there is no uther thing of your business now, nor was at that tyme.

John Cheyne came to this town, and by his moyen of his Southland friends purchaset an suspension of your Decreit till the fifteenth of June next; but I raised an new charge before the Council against him, *prevento termino*, and summond him to

* Corskie was Chesterhall's ancestor.

yesterday the sixteenth of this instant, quhair he compeired with sum of his friends, and my brother John and I spoke our friends in the Council, and specially the guid Earl of Murray, wha is your true friend. I producit your decret and shews the Lords the business before himself, and protested that he might be bound to the peace, not that we stood in fear of himself, but that he micht rather get "skaith" nor do "skaith," quhair of there was sum hold takin be your friends in the Council, and what was spoken by me there was tane in guid part. The Chancellor said thir words to him, "Albeit ye be my Cousin, Sir, Command your carriage, and sick labour as this may readily bring you to the Gallows." Quhairupon, we being removed, the Lords ordered him to go the tolbooth and thare to remain till he paid your witnesses expences, and set sufficient caution for your indemnity, under the penalty of an thousand pounds. He is yet in the tolbooth; his friends are dealing with me to accept of ane Mr Patrick Cheyne, an Shetland gentleman, to be cautioner, but shew the Lords and his friends that I could accept of na sic cautioner, quhairupon Robert Hume, of the Heuch, an sufficient landit discreet gentleman in East Lothian, is become cautioner, and, be my advyss, he has taken disposition from John, as having richt from his father, to all the rights that he can pretend to in the Lands of Pennan and Clinterty, and this gentleman and I have condescendit, that, be my sight, he sall give you an Ratification of all your rights, if ye be here in June. And at Robert Hume's desyr I have taken him debtor for the witnesses expences, because John was poor, besides that he has promisit to be an guid man in tyme coming, quhairfore, seeing the Counsal has taken order with him for his intention against you, see that ye make no motion of any truble with him, quhilk if ye do, ye may wrang yourself, besides that ye know it will not be well done to mix your *soil* with his *sorrow*; for I suspect now he is calm aneuch and seems to be very penitent, as I hear.

The Laird of Pitsligo has got nothing done against John quhyt in Ardlayhills, nor will get anything done in the Session, because we have gottin the first of June to answer for the Laird of Philorth; but I hear for certain they have an decret of Improbation against all Philorth's rights, quhilk, if it be true, will cut him short. They have promisit to let me see it, and to let the Laird of Philorth see the same, friendly, in the vacanca; so this is all that I can write.

Ludquharn and I are lykely to agree either to buy or sell; but for the purpose Brandane has written of touching my sister Anne, I lyke it not in any sort, nor I do not love that man nor his fashions, neither will I be accessary to any dealings that way. Always ye are wyse aneuch, do as ye think expedient. For myself, I rather she was bestowed upon ane of the Quarriers of Pennan, for I am sure she wald haif an mair contented lyfe. This is not to hinder ony guid bargain to be maid, at her awin desyr, be advyss of her nairest friends. Let this letter serve baith for you and Brandane.

We haif no news heir but the great news of the King of Sweden's victory against the Emperor, quhair sen Octr. last, he has taken in all the Baltic coast with an hundred towns. He is within an Scottish myle to Silina, and has takin an number of the Emperor's commanders. He has defeatid Walstein, the Emperor's great general; he has young Count de Mansfelt, with twa or three uther young Counts whose names I do not remember. The Duke of Saxe, wha before was indifferent, is now turned on our side. Mackay, our countryman, is in great honour, and is general over three regiments, and is captain of the King of Sweden's guards, quhilk consists of an hundred horse and an hundred foot, and sall be all Scottismen. Sa, leaving to truble you ony forder, I commit you to God, and rest, &c.

XXVIII. From the SAME to the SAME.

Edr., Dec. 10, 1631.

Rycht honorabill and loving brother,—

I ressavit your letter with John Craigyheid's money, and my rent, quhairfore I render you many thanks, and I am sorry that I can do nothing but to be troublesom to you; yet I houp ye will not be cairless in ony thing that concerns me, as I sall be reddy to acquit you with the lyke to my power. Ressaive an acquittance of your Rent. I profess ye make me better payment than strangers do. The Laird of Carnousie and Redhyth have baith failed to me of my rent at this tyme, but, gif I live till Whitsunday (which God grant), I sall have my sums. I haif gottin nathing fra the Erle of Buchan these twelve months neither. I man complain to you, albeit I cannot help you.

As for that business of the Laird of Ludquharn, Patrick Ranking, I think, has writtin to you at length thairanent, and has sent an copy of an Reduction which we haif intended against Ludquharn, quhair with ye sall cause sunmond him, and send back an note of the Execution of the Summonds, and keep still the principal letters besyd you. I sall be glad that all these purposes go richt, and that all parties may be weil. I sall do what lys in me to keep them in the poynts of my calling, but I will assure you, gif the matter be not cannyly gydat, that earrand will make all our credits crack. My advyss in the mein tyme is, in regard that the Laird of Ludquharn is a religious man and a man of conscience, quha will not taik up quhair he has not sawin, that ye wald thairfore cause ane or two ministers go to him and relait the case, how he has that gentleman's land without any sums of money or true cause, and that now, since the gentleman is married, that he will be pleased to restore the gentleman to his estait, quhilk was given him in trust, and let him be paid of all sums that he can justly exact. And gif this be fairly done, and that ye cum speid this way, it is

well ; if not, the second means must be used, and, in the mean tyme, let not the summons of reduction delay, but send and summons him, and then send the Minister.

I wald be glad ye would cum over, for I lang greattumly to see you ; and as for that matter betwixt the Lairds of Philorth and Pitsligo, it cannot end, neither will I suffer it to end, unless that ye be heir ; for either their agreement will procure you peace and security to your contraverted lands, or utherways we will plea for altogether, for I houp the Laird of Philorth will not leave you, neither will ye leave him, and, thairfore, I would wish the ending of ane, be the conclusion of all your business.

As for the accompt of your son's apparel, I think Patrick Ranking has met with the merchant and he has writtin to you ; for the present your son is neither nakid nor cold, praisit be God. I heir say that the bonnet case, quhilk ye sent me, with your son's shirts, and my salmond, are all lost be sea at Aberbrothick.

I haif gottin the gift of Mr William Hepburn's escheat, as I wrote to you before, but seeing it was only for payment of the debt, quhilk I declarit to the Treasurer, I am thairfore desyrit be the Treasurer to delay the out taking of that escheat for the space of xv. days, that, in the meantyme, he may cause Mr William satisfie me of Your Suns, and gif I be not paid betwixt and that tyme, I will get out that gift, and as matters succeed anent this purpose ye sall be advertiscd.

As for news, I haif informit William Laurie, your Gossip, sufficiently, quha can inform you at great length.

The Lord Ochiltree is arraignd, his process is closit and sent to Court, to the effect the King may be advysit with the relevancy of his dittey, and, in the meintyme, he is continud till the first of February that answer cum back, about the quhilk tyme I houp ye sall be heir yourself. This is all I can write for the present, saif only that the minister of Auchterhouse is deid, and I suspect that Kyrk sall not be provydid without your advyss ; and yair is reason that ye have an care of my Lord's guid in that. Swa, wishing you all happiness, I take my leave and rest, &c.

I pray you remember my love to Brandane, my brother, and all friends. It may be I see you ere Yool. Cause deliver this uther letter to Mr George Bell the minister of Abcrdour, quhilk is a solution of an carnal question.

* Lord Ochiltree accused the Marquis of Hamilton of a design upon the Crown, which, upon trial, was found to be without foundation ; he was confined to the Castle of Blackness for life, and remained there till 1652, when he was liberated by the English after Worcester.

XXIX. From the SAME to the SAME.

Edr., Nov. 20, 1632.

Rycht honorabill and loving Brother,—

George Spence of Tulloch has been here, and be reason that ye haif all my accounts anent the sums owand to me by him, I have remitted him back again to you, quha has promisit be your awin sicht, to use his best means to get me payment or security, and as ye and he condescnds, I sall rest content; so do in this for me as for yourself, albeit, I confess it is not reasonable for me to trouble you with matters of this kind, yet I houp ye will not weary in this little employment, specially be reason the gentleman has promisit to give you satisfaction that may content me.

All friends heir are weil, praisit be God. Your son* has taken a little deffluxion, but is not the worse. I haif causit the Doctor see him, quha resolves to purge his head. He is not the worse, for he eats his meat and gos to the school, neither has he pain. Always I sall be as careful of him as ye wald be.

The miserable news of the death of the King of Sweden and Boham are over true. Our awin King has been sick of the smallpox, but, blessit be God, has perfectly recovered.

I have ressavit sum word, but no letters, from our uncle, Mr Andrew, and our brother Mr Thomas; they are both in lyfe and weil, feeding upon "fische" only, like "sea fowls." I haif writtin to them, and haif delivered my letter to Mr Thomas Abernethy, wha, within a month, has promisit to meet with them. This is all I haif to write for the present. My Lord Buchan is not married; assure yourself that I have learnt that of an sure hand. I have written to his Lordship, and I know that my letters are cum to his hand, but I have ressavit no answer as yet.

Advys me how ye think I may sell my victual. I suspect Mr Robert Farquhar sall be my merchant. So, recommending you to the protection of God, I rest, &c.

XXX. From the SAME to the SAME.

Edr., 3 of May 1633.

Rycht honorabill and loving Brother,—

My Lady Mar sent for me since the writing of my last letter and told me, she wondered that she has not received an answer from you of her letter, neither whether the victual be sauld or no, as she wrote in her former letter, or gif she may expect

* Sir James Baird of Auchmedden is here alluded to.

moneys against the term. Alexr. Areskin being here anent business with the Erle of Mar, upon my Lady's desyr, since his north going, has written back from Aberdeen, offering aucht merks for bear and meal against Whitsundry. Giff William embrace the first condition of my Lady's letter, it is well; if not, my Lady will embrace Alex. Areskin's offer, but chiefly my Lady wonders that she never ressavit any answer from you; quhairfore, spare a boy upon your or thair awin charges, giving her La'p advertisement what she may luik for against the term. I remit all things concerning yourself to my other letter, and my unair information. I directit my man to haif brocht north the decreet arbitral betwixt Pitsligo and you registrate, but he has forgot it, and it is lying in John's haud always. I doubt not but ye will be heir yourself, and then all your meins will end.

We haif no news heir, but my Lord Chancellor and the Erle of Mortoun are both cum home very weil, praisit be God.

Thair is sum intelligence cum, quhairof I am very sory, and am sure so will the Laird of Pitsligo be, that my Lord Airly was to have been dignified with the title of an Marquis, and to have ressavit the order of the Garter, and quhile this suld have been done, and within fyve days of the doing thairof, thair is sum reports maid to his Majesty of certain speeches by my Lord Airly, concerning his title to the Crown of Scotland, allegit spoken by him (quhat the words were we know not), quhair upon my Lord was dischargit of Court, and, as we are informit, is commandit to cum home and keep his house of Airley till his Majesty's heir cuming. We heir said but Hamilton is the man that is his opposite. God mak all weil.

Let not my letter be seen by ony but yourself. I desyr not to be the author of news, altho' these be stale heir. I pray you remember me to Brandane, to Andrew, Mr George Clerk and all friends. So committing you to God, I rest, &c.

XXXI. From the SAME to the SAME.

Edr., 19th of July 1636.

Rycht honorabill and loving brother,—

I ressavit your letter and am very weil pleisit that Brandane has settled his particular, provyding that he had luiked sum better to himself. I protest before God, I rather that he had had to do with the best neighbour about you, than with these fellows, and before ye and your brother had an quarrel, I rather haif twenty of my awin. He is an happy man, to quhom God gives grace and patience to behald; it may be before it be lang ye see wark amongst the *Rufflers* and *Joiners*, and it may be that men, wha dreimis security to themselves, be wakned thro' their sleep. I am bauld to give you my advyss, which is, to serve God, dwell at hame, and hald you with your Buchan

here, or send them. Cause by such horses and oxen as ye think necessary, with such other things as are requisit, and, by God's grace, I sall not fail to reimburse you what is given out on anything that becomes me. One of the reasins of my not north-coming is, as this bearer can tell you, for gold or silver I culd not get a horse, and I am that far dceivit that I gave money to Andro Ker for an horse, and, as yet, can neither get the horse nor money again. Another cause was, ye said to me yourself, that possibly, my harvest nicht be better win in my absence than gif I war present, quhilk I know for certain to be treuth, and that made me the less earnest. I lent Carnousie 100 lib. when he was heir, quhilk is payable to me the 1st of September, as his hand bears, quhilk I haif sent with this Bearer, and haif writtin to Carnoucie to deliver the money to the effect the same may be given to such of those, as I am debtor for corn. I knaw you will not break. I need not desyr you to be careful of anything that concerns me, but I wuld wish ane thing either that that land were set or sold, for I have removit all I lft there now.

Fail not to cause register Craigyvars disposition in James Mouat's register within iiixx. days utherwise it will be null. I sall do my best to get the rest of your securitys performed. Advertise me how it stands betwixt you and the tutor of Pitsligo. I houp they will shew you my part quhilk I have done in everything as I told you at your heir being,—For, God knaws, I love your weil and your peace als weil as my awin, and sumthing better.

As for my son Andro, ye see I am not very careful of him, and sa, under God, I let this burden ly upon you this year as it did the last. I haif writtin to his Master, and has sent him an angel in a letter, quhairin I have willed him to write treuly to me if he will be a scholar, and if not, that I may breed him to sum uther calling.

As to that matter betwixt Laird Lyon and Thomas Robertson, I think the bearer will pay himself of his disbursements and man trust for the rest. Remember to send over the excucution that was sent to you.

As for news I have none, but I heir that the Sheriffs will all be renewd this year. The Treasurer will make them lyable for all the King's dues within the Shires, &c., &c.

XXXIII. From the SAME to the SAME.

Edr., 5th Jany. 1638.

Rycht honorabill and loving Brother,—

I haif writtin at lenth to you with William Mavers, so that I haif na uther thing to write you now, nor what I wrote you then; neither is there any uther occurrence but that I luik not for any session this year, and sa we man live upon our "creische,"

and thairfor if thair be any moneys for the last year's victual of Todlaw cum in, deduct your Accompt, and send over the superplus with William Mavers; and if you can get it set, pray you do it, for it is tryblesom to you and makes no benefit to me.

Thair is no more done at this present anent the kirk affairs, nor was at the writing of my former, saif only, that the Noblemen's Petition is received by the Lords of secret council to be directit to his Majesty,—what answer it gets, ye will heir.

The King of Morocco's Ambassador is still at Court as yct. Receive heir inclosit the copie of the letter that he brought from his Master to the King of England, quhilk is very well worth the reading. So my duty be remembered to yourself, and all our brethren.—I rest, &c.

XXXIV. From the SAME to the SAME.

Edr., 8th of February 1638.

Ryecht honorabill and loving Brother,—

I ressavit your letter and considered them all at lenth, and conform to your desyr I have causit my man write over the Ratification that John Fraser suld subscribe, which Ratification, with the old double, ye sall ressaive here inclosed; but when he have occasion for subscribing thair of, let it be done as privately as ye can. As for my victual money, I pray you send it to me with the bearer with diligence, for ye know be the Session we get nothing to win, and debtors in this troublesum tymes will pay neither annual Rents nor principal Sums, so that those that dwalls here are forced to live upon credit.

As for my horse that ye have, I intendit to have sent him to the Bailzie, but seeing he is provydit, ye sall be pleasit to keep him and take the use of him, until I require him fra you, and in the meintyme if I can be utherways provydit, ye sall dispose upon him at your pleasure.

As for news, thair are nane heir for the present that are guid. The Erle of Traquhair is expectit within these aucht days, but what answer he brings touching the errand he went for, no man knows. Upon Munday last, the 5th of this instant, Proclamation was published at the Mercat cross of Edr. intimating to all the Lieges the sitting of the Session at Stirling, and yesterday and this day the Chancellor with the hail Lords both of Council and Session, with their clerks and sum advocates, are gone to Stirling this day, and the remanent Advocats and Writers, with their followers, mynds to go this week, as they may have the commodity of horses. As for myself, I have been pained xiv. days by gone maist pitifully with the gute, and haif never been over the dore, and am naways able as yet to travel, but man be forced to send my

man to attend, quhile we see quhairto this matter will turn, for if some calm course be not taken anent thir matters in hand, it will raise the hail estait of this Land.

As for the writes ye haif sent heir concerning James Halkheid, ressaive them all back again, for I will be a *scourge* to no man; but as for James Halkheid himself, if he keep the Kingdom, I sall be satisfied of him. If any neighbour of yours lay as neir me and my friends, as he dos you, I would do more than you have done. I have not as yet oft neglectit anything that could do my friends guid. Our Brother John has gottin the sheriff clerkship of Banff. Thair was many plots laid to have gottin that office to another, always as John can tell you. After we had sent away our awin letters, I causit all those to whom that matter was recommendit, and who had writtin from this to Court, write contrair request in their letters in his favour, and declair they had no knowledge that John had any interest, and sa past fra their requests.

I pray you hasten back the bearer with diligence, for I mynd not to go to Stirling till his return, so to the next occasion. My love and duty being remembered to yourself and brother, I rest, &c.

XXXV. From the SAME to the SAME.

Edr., 27th of Feb. 1640.

Rycht honorabill and loving Brother,—

I persave that my last Letters are not cum to your hands, quharin I wrote that Laird Lyon had suspendit and consignd Andrew Baird's money, quhilk, as I haif writtin, sall be giffin up. I writ lykways something concerning that business of Andro Meldrum, but I will give na mair but xxiic. merks for the land, for I think it is na mair worth. I have ressavit an letter from Mr John Abercrombie, quharin he makes an offer of his brother's lands of Montcoffer, or Ordinhuivas, to me. Gif ye think it expedient, send me your advyss of both, altho' I confess it be lang trysting betwixt Edinburgh and you.

As for occurrences, we are all making for the field heir again—we luik for nothing but for the worst. The King will not cum in proper person, but he has made the Earl of Northumberland General both of his land and sea forces. The copie of his patent is cum home heir, which gives him warrant and power to raise all the forces of England, and to invade Scotland with fyre and sword; the copie quhairof will be sent to you all. Ye may luik for advertisement from this, and it may be, I be the first Advertiser myself. We have sent an new Information in thro' all England and Holland, quhairof ressaive an double. Our commissioners are not lyklike to cum in haste.

Thair has been sum practises against the Erle of Argyle be Maclean and sum

wicked people, wha were thocht to have tane the Erles lyff indirectly,—praisit be God, the matter is discovered, and Maclean is lying fast in Inverary, the Erle of Argyll's ane House.

I sall cause try for an horse to you, but they are very evil to be had and very scarce. I thank you for your Buchan pertriches. Ressaive a pair of spectacles for James Middleton, so, committing you to God, I rest, &c.

XXXVI. From the SAME to his Nephew, Sir JAMES BAIRD, of Auchmedden.

Edr., March 12, 1641.

Rycht honorabill and my loving Nephew,—

I ressavit both your letters, the ane concerning you awin particular anent the decreet arbitral betwixt you and the tutor of Pitsligo, quharein both Mr John Gilmour, myself, and my man have taken pains, and have causit my man advance to Mr John Gilmour ane double angel for his pains, quhilk ye man reimburse, and I believe the decreet, as it is mendit, sall be found legal and formal, and see that guid penaltys be put in, in case that ye suld take a startling. Withal I expect you to love peace and quietness, a sober and calm living, for I esteem myself much honoured so long as your House stands. Your letter, concerning the affairs of Buchan, I have sent to my Lady Mar, quhairof I doubt not but you will receive an answer shortly. As for news, our army is divided in two, quhairof one part lys on this side Newcastle and another part at Sunderland, beyond Newcastle. Thair is sum Irish cum over to the west, quhair they have got liberty to profess mass openly. I houp in God's mercy all sall be richt. It may be that I see you before it be long—so my hearty duty remembered to yourself, and to your Lady, and to the Lady Boyn.—I rest, &c.

XXXVII. From the SAME and from Mr RANKING (his Clerk) to Sir JAMES.—

Postscript is not dated, but must have been written a few weeks before King Charles I. Martyrdom.

Rycht honorabill and my loving Nephew,—

I ressavit your letter, and haif conferd with the Laird of Philorth, at length, tuitching your settling with your minister, quhilk he and I wald both wish * * *

I haif no news to write to you, but our poor King remains a close prisoner. Thair is great division in the army of England. The King may be relieved, and both our Kirk and Estate be free of the honour thair of, wha cannot be gottin agreed. Thair

is nothing yet done in Parliament more than was done the first day. So with the remembrance of my best wishes to yourself, your Lady, and children, to the next occasion or meeting, I rest, &c.

From Mr RANKING.

SIR,—Conform to your order I haif dealt with my master and put him in memory anent all your business, and in end he resolvit and writ the inclosit letter, but quhen ye haif occasion to be heir, ye will haif opportunity of large discourse upon your other affairs, for I think my maister means not to see your country in haste. I would advertise you to deal kyndly with your minister and eschew hearing with him at this tyme, for they are all now turned greater and more insolent than the Bishops war, and in short tyme will be universally hated be all men, (except those of their awin stamp), and pryde will have a fall.

Mr Andrew Ramsay, a minister, is proecessit befor the Commissian of the Kirk heir for alledgit preaching of erroneous doctrines, and they intendit to have deposed him, which was lykely to have made a great mutiny among the people, quhair of the Commission of the Kirk complaind to the Parliament, and in end Mr Andro has appealed to the General Assembly. It is thocht that the Parliament intends to curb and set caveats upon the Commission of the Kirk, for if they are not regulate, they will turn independents. Brandane has ever been an evil payer of his agent's accounts as I haif writ oft to him, and he is likely to fall into a new plea, quhair of I have given him due advertizement be the inclosit, which please read, close, and deliver be the first occasion, for howbeit he is not dutiful to me I sall be loath to see him get wrang, so far as I can stop. Sa with the remembrance of my humble serviss to yourself, your Lady, and children, I remain,

Your Servant in the old manner,

RANKING.

XXXVIII. From the SAME to the SAME.

Edr., 15 of February 1649.

Rycht Honourabill,—

I ressavit your letter from Aberdeen, but I cannot get perfyt information quhat the Erle of Buchan has done at this tyme in the north, nor how either of you have behaved yourselves towards either. I am glad that false, bladdering pyke, thank God,

has gottin his reward. Always for the business ye have in hand anent the Laird of Boyn, notwithstanding of my last letter we have got no moneys answered him at London, for all commerce is likely to cease since that vile act of murder, so that I know not what ye sall do; only, this I desyr, that ye luik to yourself, and keep the full hand.

* * * * *

As for my awin particulars, I profess I was never so scant of moneys in my tyme, so they will be vry welcome when they come; but these moneys will fill but a small hole to me. I shall desyr that ye take course with this ycir's rent likewise, and I craif your pardon for troubling of you. I lykeways intreat you whatever cums of Mr Andrew, be careful that James Wilkie be honestly satisfied for his pains, and that he have no cause to complain. As for news, yesternight word came that the Secretaries of England are turned to a confusion among themselves. It seems thair is sum great terror striking in their hearts, for thair are sundrie Towns and cinque ports resolvit from that pretendit Parliament. They have proclaimed the young King, King of England, France, and Ireland, backed with viii. or xiii. men. I pray you remember my servis to yourself, your Lady, the Lady Boin, and to my dcir brother Brandane. Sa taking my leave, I rest, &c.

XXXIX. From THE COMMISSARY to WM. WATSON.

Edr., 20 July.

William Watson,—

I perceive your simplicity is turned to ingratitude, that ye now having got, at Auchmedden's desyre, a discharge of all your bygone farms, ye would now take the advantage and put away the boy that waits upon Mr Andro. I perceive you be but an unthankful man, who has breakit my bread these aucht or nyne years bygone and have never payd a groat, and this is my thanks. Always be ressolvit ye sall flit before that man flit, for ye have been shooting at that thir twa yeirs, but ye sall not mend yourself so long as my son lives.

I rest your friend as ye deserve at my hands.

XL. From LEWIS MARQUIS of HUNTLY to Sir JAMES BAIRD of Auchmedden.

Huntly, last of Octr. 1651.

Much respected friend,—

Having a purpose to make use of the advyss of our friends in relation to the present difficulties of these dangerous tymes, and being confident of your affection

and respect to us and of your abilities on such occasions, these are therefore to desyr you to take the pains to keip at the Kirk of Culsamond upon Thursday the sixth of November, be ten o'clock before noon, whair you sall find me ready to impart to you our resolutions, and to prosscute the same be advyss of our friends, in relation to the present occasion.

Till then we rest.

HUNTLY.

XLI. From the DUKE OF GORDON to the SAME.

TO OUR MUCH RESPECTED FRIEND THE LAIRD OF AUCHMEDDEN.

Paris 9 of Nov. 1664.

Much Honoured,—

As I did informe you at my departure from London of my resolution for France, where I am now, and recommendit my affairs to your care, so I esteem it my duty now to thank you most heartily for the great care, I am informit, you have of them whilst I am at such a distance, whereanent I received a letter from Mr Lesly, my agent, of the 20th of Septr., giving me an account of my curators' meeting at the Bog for settling a way to supply me with money during my absence, which I wish may come tymeously, that I be not necessitated to engage with bankers to borrow from them before hand, which would be at too great disadvantage, for which I should be sory, being resolved to be as merciful to my estait in my absence as I possibly can, which hath moved me at present to send home my servant, John Gordon, servants being of necessity very chargeable; so I thought it more convenient to allow him something at home as to keep him here at so great expences, which I hope you will approve. The former experience I have of your care in the management of my affairs gives me full assurance that it will encrease during my absence, which shall be as short as conveniently I can, and shall never be unmyndful of the many obligations. I have to remain,

Your most obliged and humble servant,

GORDON.

Let this present my humble services to your son. I intrcat you to get back my discharge from Artloch concerning his wadset, since, upon your solicitation, I did pass from his bond of Annuitie.

XLII. From the LAIRD OF GRANT to the SAME.

Ballachastall, the 6 of April 1668.

Ryght Honourable,—

I resolve, God willing, to have an meeting of my noble friends and curators at Elgin on Monday the fourteenth of this instant, April, for settling of my affairs, seeing that I find an intricacie therein, and my Uncle unwilling to meddle any more, and seeing it pleaseit your honour to accept of the title to be one of my chiefest curators in whom I repose, I earnestly desyr you may be pleasd to keip the tyme and place aforesaid, that I may have your advyss among the rest of my noble friends, whereby you will oblige,

Your affectionate friend and humble servant,

(Signed) LUDOVICK GRANT of Freuchie.

XLIII. From the DUKE OF GORDON (when a Minor) to Sir JAMES BAIRD of Auchmedden.

Rochelle, 9 of Aug. 1670.

Honored Sir,—

Having rescavit a letter from the Laird of Boyn shewing that you war to daill with him, I judged it fit to assure you by these that I shall be well satisfyd with any condescension, you, and any other of my curators, shall make with him, as I shall always approve what *also* you shall do in my affairs, which I am assured they put both you and them to a great deal of pains, and on me an singular obligation to acknowledge myself

Your most faithful friend and humble servant,

GORDON.

XLIV. From the LAIRD OF GRANT to JAMES BAIRD, Yor. of Auchmedden.

Ballachastel, 26 of Oct. 1680.

Much Honoured,—

I am glad yours has come to my hand this day, for I am to take journey to-morrow for Edr. Sir, as I told you when you was at this place, if the Master of

Saltoun be free to deal, I am content to deal by your father's sight and the Laird of Boyn's, and how soon I come home shall in your advertzement wait upon the Master of Saltoun, but I should wish to discharge with Huntly eer he draw me to a meeting, since you say he has promised to give Huntly an offer of it. I am very sensible of your father's kindness and yours both, in this, and whatever else I have been concerned in, and I entreat now in my absenee you will take your own way to hold things tight till I return, which I hope (God willing) will be in the beginning of December. If I overtake Boin at Edr., I will speak to him of this affair; if not, I must lay it on you to inform him of my inclinations. As to your timber, you may cause Mr Alexr. Grant be making them ready in the wood. I mean to cause eut them, and as to the carrying of them to the water, ye shall not want my assistanee. This, with my humble service to your father, is all at this time from,

SIR,

Your most affectionate Cousin and humble servant,

LUDOVICK GRANT of Freuquhy.

XLV. From JAMES SHARP, afterwards Archbishop of St Andrews.

Banff, 17th Sept. 1658.

Much Honoured Sir,—

It hath been in my desire and purpose to have seen you at your own house since my coming to this place. The last week the unseasonableness of the weather, with my own indisposition, put off my intended visit to Auchmedden, and after, in the beginning of this week, I had seen a friend towards Strathbogie, to which I was preingaged. I made a full account this day to have been with you, and paid my acknowledgments of the many respects I owe to you; but upon my return this last night, I have a notice of the Protector his death, and advertisment from Edinburgh to hasten southwards, and a necessity laid upon me of dispensing with the satisfaction I could have taken in paying this duty to you, and your Lady and children. It is a trouble to me that this unexpected emergent should have caused such a neglect in me, which may be otherways construed by you than I do wish; but I must rest myself upon your pardon, and shall hope you will not impute it to any change or abatement of the sense I have, and shall always keip, of the obligation you have put upon myself and those related to me. I shall always take no small interest in you, Sir, and shall be glad of any opportunity whereby I may evidenee, how much I tender you and your concernments, and shall entreat the favour that when any

occasion is offered, wherein my brother, Mr William, or I, (whose lot is to live at such a distance from you) can be of any use to you, you may signify it to us, and you will find none more ready to receive your commands. This juncture of time looks very cloudy, and is like to be very ticklish; but the great and loving Protector of his people is to be eyed and waited upon: to his only wise and good guidance, favour, and grace, you are committed. All mercy and happiness attend you and all yours. The prayer for this purpose shall not be wanting of,

Sir,

Your most affectionate friend and humble servant,

JAMES SHARP.

Permit me to tender my humble respects to your Lady, and believe I am grieved that I have not, before my return, had the content of having some time with you. Nothing but this necessity should have deprived me of that satisfaction. I suppose before this come to your hands you will have heard of the Proclamation of Lord Richard, the eldest son of the deceast, to be his father's successor.

XLVI. From the SAME (after he was Archbishop) to the SAME.

Duddup, Sept. 27, 1676.

Honourable Sir,—

This is to pay my humble acknowledgements for the favour of your obliging letter by the bearer, with whom I have spoken, and told him of the employment I design for him, and he is received at present until by experience of his serviceableness, after some time, I may know how to use him in my affairs, so as he may deserve better encouragement. The character you give him makes me hope he will be useful to me, and I shall be obliged to be careful of him. I must again acknowledge the special act of kindness in parting with your own servant; and now seeing about Martinmas I go for Edinburgh, where I stay usually all the winter, I shall be at a loss if he do not come some weeks before the term, that I may shew him what he is to do, and have some time with him to acquaint him with the way of his employment. He says to me, within 8 or 10 days after his return, he shall be ready to come to me, if you will dispense with his attendance, which would be an additional favour, if, by asking it, I do not trespass too much on your goodness. My brother, ten days ago, took journey to London, where I hope he is, and that he shall return in

2 or 3 weeks' time. I shall be mindful of the business you mention with him; and now that you have rid yourself of the intensity of following your private affairs, by devolving that care upon your son, nothing would be more satisfying to me, than to have an opportunity to serve you, in helping to an employment, which may exercise the useful parts God has given you, for the King and your country's service points out. Your interest and prosperity shall be tendered, by all the manner I am capable to improve for your service, ever remaining,

Dear Sir,

Your most affectionate faithful servant.

XLVII. From Sir WILLIAM SHARP of Stonyhill (giving an account of his father, the Archbishop's murder), to Sir JAMES BAIRD of Auchmedden.

*Saint Andrews, 10 of May 1679,
(Half an hour after the receipt of yours.)*

Honoured Sir,—

This horrid and stupendous murther has so confounded me, that I am not able to give an suitable return to your excellent and kind letter.

What I have learnt of that execrable deed is, that on Friday the 2d of this instant, my worthy father crost the water, lay at Kennoway all night, and next morning set out for Saint Andrews; being 2 miles off, 27 of these villanous regicides had a free view of the coach, but not finding the opportunity, divided into three partys, which took up the three ways he could take homewards. Nine of them assault the coach within 2 miles of this place, by discharging their pistols and securing his servants. The coachman drove on for half a mile, until one of his horses was wounded in three places, and the postilion wounded in the hand: then they fired several shots at the coach, and commanded my dearest father to come out, which he said he would. When he had come out (not being yet wounded), he said, "Gentlemen, I beg my life." "No,—bloody villain, betrayer of the cause of Christ." "Then," said he, "I ask none for myself, but have mercy on my poor child" (his eldest daughter was in the coach with him), and holding out his hand to one of them to get his, that he would spare his child, he cut him in the wrist, and falling down upon his knees and holding up his hands, he prayed that God would forgive them, and begging mery for his sins from his Saviour, they murdered him by sixteen great wounds in his baek and head, and one above his left eye—three in his left hand when he was holding them up, and a scar

with a shot in his back above the right breast, which was found to be powder. After this damnable deed, they took out some papers out of his pocket, robbed my sister and their servants of all their papers, gold, and money, and one of these hellish Rascals cut my sister in the thumb when she held him by the bridle begging her father's life. God, of His infinite mercy, support this poor family under this dreadful and unsupportable loss and stroke, and give us to know why God is thus angry with us, and earnestly to beg not to consume us in His wrath, but that now His anger may cease, and that He may be at peace with us through the blood of a reconciled Saviour, and also may have pity upon this poor distressed Church, and that He may be the last sacrifice for it, as he is the first Protestant martyr Bishop in such a way.

Dear Sir,—As my worthy father had always a kindness and particular esteem for yourself, son, and family, so I hope you will be friendly to his son, who shall ever continue,

Worthy Sir,

Your and yours most faithful humble servant,

W. SHARP.

My humble service to your Son and his Lady, and all the family.
On Saturday next is the funeral.

XLVIII. From Sir JAMES BAIRD of Auchnedden, to the COUNTESS of
MARISCHALL.*

Auchmedden, March 18, 1691.

Dear Madam,—

My condition now being so far altered, I cannot but give your Ladyship and your noble Lord some account of it, whose friendship I have always honoured. The truth is, I find myself out of any capacity, or probability, of afterwards going abroad or entering in the world, so that I have given over thoughts of waiting on your Ladyship or yours, and I must confine myself and my thoughts to the prospect of a glorious eternity to be purchast by the merits of Christ. Oh! that it could have been much sooner

* This Countess of Marischall was the sister of Lady Katherine Hay, wife of James Baird, younger of Auchmedden.

done, the work had been easier—and happy they who can do it in time, and even break off from the incumbrances of the world timeously; for going about of this great work, I pray God enable me and every good Christian for it, and for this, Madam, I beg your prayers. Your Ladyship and my dear Lord, your son and family, shall never want my best wishes and prayers for you whilst time continues me here; your worthy sister I do much honour, they have my best wishes;—but your sister, Lady Katherine, ought to be apprised by me above the world, for by and attour all her former traicts of friendship and goodness to this poor family, she has now in our extremity shown herself a tender mother, an careful nurse, a skilful physician, and a sound divine; so that God may recompence her accordingly and bless you all, is the fervent prayer of,

Dear Madam,

Your Ladyship's most faithful and humble servant,

JAMES BAIRD.*

Your kiudness and your dear Lord's to the children here, particularly to Mary, are above all the verbal thanks I can render; the Lord requyte it to your Ladyship and yours. I cannot but particularly mention your sister, Lady Jean, upon that same head of kindness, whom I also pray the Lord may recompense, bless, and preserve.

For the Right Honourable and my very
Noble good Lady the Countess of
Marischal,

These.

XLIX. From Mr ALEXANDER HAY,† Husband of MARY, Countess of
Erroll to ———.

Slains, 28th Octr. 1720.

SIR,—There could have no newes more acceptable to my Lady Errol and me than that which I have by your favour this day, of the Lady Auchmedden's being

* Sir James died on 17th July, after this letter was written; and Mary, mentioned here, was married in February next year, to Sir James Dunbar of Durn.

† Mr Hay was son of Sir David Falconer, and brother of Alexander Falconer, Lord Halkerston, one of the Seutors of the College of Justice. His wife the Countess died without issue 1758.

safely brought the bed of a son.* We pray God that her recovery may proceede in the most speedy and best manner, and that this poor child,—tho' he has not had the happiness to see his most excellent father yet,—may so copie after his virtues, as every body will declare to him, that he may be the living Transcript of such ane originall.

SIR,—Tho' I scarce thought, I could possibly be more obliged to all the offices of friendship, and kindness, that providence could put in my power to do, to any, that had the least concern in that good man, the late Auchmedden (so much I thought myself bound to before), yet I admitte of this young one his son, being called by the same common name with me, is a further addition of having a particular regard for him. May God blisse him!

I offere my humble service to the two Noble Ladies, and to all in family; and am,

Sir, your most humble servant,

(Signed) ALEXR. HAY.

* Captain Alexr. Baird, of the Scots Dutch Service, is here referred to. He was the son of William Baird, of Auchmedden, by his second wife, Elizabeth, daughter to Abercrombie, of Glassaugh.

A P P E N D I X.

THE Commissary, Mr JAMES BAIRD, as appears from the following Act, recovered for his brother Auchmedden, Sheriff-Principal of Banff, the monies expended by him in recovering the House of Rothiemay from the rebels by an armed force in 1635, referred to in Letter XXXI., page 67.

Apud Edinburgh, 8th July 1636.—Anent the supplication presentit to the Lords of Secrett Counsell be George Baird of Auchmedden, Shiref-Principal of Bamf, makand mentioun that, whereupon the second day of April last, be warrand from the said Lords, he manned and fortified the Hous of Rothiemay with powder, bullet, and 24 soldiours, with thair necessar furnishing, who remained there be the space of seviu weekes, and for the space of four weekes thereafter, till the fyfteneth of June ; that the Marques of Huntlie, by warrand from the saids Lords, received the hous, the same, was kept by six souldiours, all furnished in maner conteanit in the supplicant's compt, quherby it will appeare that, besides the dewteis lifted from the tennents of Rothemay, the supplicant has beene at the charge and debursement of nyne hundred fourescore three punds, nync shillings of his owne proper moneyis, by and attour the charge of the taking and transporting of the Ladie Rothemay, and others rebellis, fra time to time, as alsua in the persute and searching for the brokin men and other employments, as his Maiestie's service required: And whcreas, by Act of Counsell of the 15th of Januar last, and by ane letter direct to the supplicant for delyverie of the hous to the Marques of Huntlie, the saids Lords hes declared that the charges bestowed be the supplicant, upon taking and keeping of the said hous, sall be thankfullie repaid upone his accompts ; and seeing he hes used his best moyen, friendship, and endeavours to approve his dewtie and obedience to the said Lords in this service, humbelie desyring, thairfor, the saids Lords, be Act of Counsell, to approve and allow of his said service, and to give order for recall and tymous payment to him of his debursements, according to his accompt, lykeas at more lenth is conteanit in the said supplication ; quhilk being read, heard, and considerit be the saids Lords, and

they advised thairwith, the Lords of Secret Counsell allowes and approves of the said supplicant his service foresaid, and hes recommendit, and be the tenour heirof recomends, to Johne Erle of Traquhair, deputie thesaurar to this kingdome, the payment and satisfioun of the supplicant, according to his accompt, after tryell and consideration of the same, and warrands thairof.

HAMESUCKEN—BESIEGING HOUSE OF AUCHMEDDEN.

Jul. 20, 1602.—James Chene in Pennan.

The quhilk day, James Chene being enterit as pannel, dilatit, accusit, and perswit of the crymes efter specifeit—they are to say,—

For contravcning of our Soueranc Lordis Actis of Parliament, in beiring and weiring hagbuttis and pistolettis upone his personne, and in his cumpany, oppinlie outwith houssis, in the moneths of September, October, November, December, Januar, Februar, and Marche, the yeir of God 1597, upon the landis of Pennan, Auchmedden, and diverse utheris boundis within the Sherefdom of Abirdene: *Item*, Forsamekill as he accompancit with diuerse utheris, his complices, sorncris and brokin men, all bodin in feir of weir with hagbuttis, and pistolettis, and utheris wappyunis *inuasiue*, in contrair to the tenour of the Acts of Parliament, laithe in the moneth of March, the yeir of God 1597, haifing consuat ane deidlic feid, rancour, and malice agains Gilbert Baird of Auchmedden and Liliis Baird his spouse, cam by way of Hamesucken, under sylence and cloude of nycht, to the said Gilbertis dwelling-place of Auchmedden, quhair the said Liliis Baird was for the tyme, in sober and quyet maner, accompaneit with her bairnis and servandis (her husband being absent), and there clam the cloise dykes of the said place, pullet out the stanchellis of the kitchen wyndoys, brak up sum duris, and assageit the said Liliis and her servandis within the said place be the space of thre houris or thairbye; clam up to the tops of thair houssis, kaist in stanes at the chymney, and shot in hagbutis and pistolettis at the duris and wyndoys of the said place; schot the said Liliis throw the claythis, sche being grit with barne; for feir of the quhilk schot she schortlie thairafter pairtit with the said barne, quhilk was cruellie slane be the said James; and swa ye committit Hamesucken, Assageing of houssis under sylence and cloude of nycht, and hes contravenit the tenour of the saidis Actis of Parliament in beiring, weiring, and schuting with hagbuttis and pistolettis.

Jul. 30.—The Justice produced his Majesty's will, which was to the effect that James Chene "sall be banisht."—Subscribed at Falkland, the 27th July 1602.

JAMES REX.

BAIRDS OF CHESTERHALL.

Mr JAMES BAIRD, of Chesterhall, East Lothian, mentioned at page 12, was of the family of the Bairds of Ordinhivas, in the county of Banff, which family in the direct line ended in an heiress, Lilius, who, on 16th August 1578, married Gilbert Baird, of Auchmedden. He married Jane Watson, of Bilton Park, Yorkshire. The property of Bilton Park is still in the possession of this family, who now take the name of Wood Watson, and reside at Malton Abbey. Mr Baird's son was in the habit of visiting his relations in Yorkshire, and used to relate that when he did so, the best buck in the park was killed for him.

Mr Baird was secretary to Lord Seafield, Chancellor of Scotland. He was subsequently appointed Keeper of the Queen's Wardrobe. Mr Baird is stated to have been an able man, and being a great friend of the First President Dundas, they were understood to take a considerable lead in the management of the affairs of the country.

He was married three times,—first to Miss Anderson, by whom he had issue one daughter. His second wife was Jane Watson, as above mentioned, by whom he left two sons and four daughters. His eldest son, Dr James, who was a physician in Edinburgh, studied under the famous Boerhave. Dr James held the property of Chesterhall, burdened with provisions for the rest of the family, and being annoyed at the trouble this caused him, he sold it for a price far below its value, or as he himself expressed it, he “threw it away in a pet.”

James Baird of Chesterhall's second son was called George. He was a partner of the house of Oswald & Co., Glasgow, and was secretary to the second President Dundas.

His eldest daughter, Jane, married the Rev. William Smith, of Cranstoun, Mid-Lothian, one of whose grandsons is the Rev. Dr George Smith of Edinburgh. His second daughter married a Mr Clifton, an Englishman. His third daughter married the grandfather of James Walker, Esq., Queen Street, Edinburgh; and his fourth daughter was the wife of the late Commissioner Jackson, whose grandson is Alexander Jackson, M.D., F.R.C.P.E.

Mr Baird, of Chesterhall, was possessed of a fine breed of cattle, which he had brought from England, but being a zealous adherent of the House of Hanover, they were all slain or removed in 1745, lest they should afford food to the rebels.

Mr Baird's third wife was of the Scotstoun and Auchencruive family. By her he had no children.

Captain PATRICK BAIRD, mentioned at page 22, was a Lieutenant of the “Gloucester” when she circumnavigated the world, under Commodore Anson. He was

afterwards appointed Commander of the "Fly," in which he maintained a very gallant encounter with a French privateer of superior force, and received a desperate wound. After his recovery, he was successively appointed Captain of the "Rainbow" and the "Portland." The last-mentioned ship, of fifty guns, was one of those employed under Admiral Edgecumbe, and afterwards under Admiral Byng, in the Mediterranean station. His conduct was intrepid during the action,—was one of the witnesses on the trial of his unfortunate commander, and gave evidence which might be construed in his favour, declaring, in express terms, that when the French fleet bore away, that of the English was in no condition to pursue them, or even to renew the action on the succeeding day. It is said, that when the Court asked his opinion with respect to the practicability of throwing succours into Minorca, he replied with a roughness naturally peculiar to him,—“If I had been ordered to throw relief into hell, I would at least have attempted it.” Soon after the trial of Admiral Byng, he was promoted to the "Defiance," of sixty guns, one of the fleet under Admiral Holburne, on the unsuccessful expedition against Louisburgh, as well as that more unfortunate one in 1758, conducted by Admiral Boscawen, against the same place. In 1759, he served in the Channel fleet under Sir Edward Hawke, and greatly distinguished himself in the defeat of the French fleet under the Marquis de Conflans. Being afterwards ordered to the West Indies, he died at sea in 1761, being on his return from thence, for the recovery of his health, as a passenger on board the "Enterprise" frigate.

Lieutenant JOHN BAIRD, mentioned at page 31, served in H.M.S. "Prince George," from 12th August 1757 to 10th May 1758; "Saint George," from 14th May 1758 to 12th June 1758; "Prince George," from 13th June 1758 to 25th January 1763. He was paid off at this latter date, and was not again employed afloat. He died in 1796.

Edinburgh, 23d July 1646.—By a Report signed by Sir David Hay, clerk to the Committee for receiving of Reports, it appears that the loss sustained by Sir James Baird of Auchmedden and his tenants by the Covenanters anno 1644, by a clear proof, extended to £5,828, 5s. 4d. Scots.

16th Sept. 1532.—The Carmelite friars at Banff, then proprietors of the *Dow-haugh*, grant a charter of lease upon it for nineteen years to Sir George Baird of Ordinhnivas, the rent twenty bolls of meal and twenty bolls of malt.

Bayardo, an Italian poet, wrote "Orlando Inamorato," which Ariosto made the groundwork of his "Orlando Furioso."—*Ariosto's Life*.

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