

MINOR HIGHLAND FAMILIES, No. 5.

THE FRASERS OF FOYERS, STYLED "SLIOCHD
HUISTEAN FHRANGAICH."

The three baronies of Abertarff, Stratherrick, and Durris comprehended nearly all those portions of the great Glen of Albyn which touched the eastern shores of Loch Oich, Loch Ness, and the River Ness, and in all the race of Fraser predominated. Of the once numerous Stratherrick families, that of Foyers long held a conspicuous position.

It is stated, on the authority of the Wardlaw MS., that Hugh, counted third Lord Lovat, who died prior to 1502, had a natural son,

I. HUISTEAN, who, from long residence in France, was called "Huistean Fhrangaich," and his posterity styled "Sliochd Huistean Frangach." It is not known to whom Huistean was married, nor the period of his death, but it is understood that he was portioned by his father in the lands of Easter and Wester Aberehalder, belonging to Glengarry, lying within the barony of Abertarff. Huistean was succeeded by his son,

II. WILLIAM FRASER, who was proprietor of the two Aberchalder, as well as Little Ballichernock and Tirechurachan, in the barony of Durris, his title being "Over Callader," or Aberchalder. In 1537, occurs the first connection of the family with Foyers, for in that year an apostolical warrant is granted by Pope Paul III. for giving in feu to William Fraser, described as "Laici Moravien," the Church lands of Boleskine and Foyers, dated at St Peter's, 4th day of the Ides of March, and 10th year of his Pontificate.

At Elgin, 12th December, 1541, Patrick, Bishop of Moray, with consent of the Chapter, gives a charter to William Fraser, designed as of "Over Callader," and the heirs male of his body, whom failing his brother german, Hugh Fraser, and the heirs male of his body, whom failing Hugh Lord Fraser of Lovat and the heirs male of his body, whom all failing, to the nearest heirs male whomsoever of the said William Fraser, of the lands of Boleskine and Foyers, described as lying within the barony of Kinmylies, Lordship of Spynie and shire of Inverness, at a feu of £8 14s 8d Scots. This document is in fine preservation, has two splendid seals entire with about twelve signatures of Church dignitaries of Moray. Other early deeds of the Foyers Estate, in

possession of Mr Walker of Ness Castle, are in remarkable preservation, clean and fresh as though of yesterday.

The half davoch lands of Boleskine, under the spelling of "Buleske," are found referred to as early as 1226, in connection with some legal questions betwixt Andrew Bishop of Moray, and Gilbert, Hostiarius; the lands of Foyers, on the other hand, not being observed until more than 200 years later, when they, in conjunction with Boleskine, occur in James II.'s Charter of the erection of Spynie, dated Stirling, 9th November, 1451.

Mr Anderson, in his history of the Frasers, says that William Fraser of Foyers was the only gentleman who survived the battle of Blair-na-leine, fought on 15th July, 1544; and, having owed his recovery to the humanity of his foster brother, that person and his descendants got a free grant of the croft they laboured. This would rather infer that Foyers had permanently recovered; but this pleasing anecdote, no doubt founded on tradition, has no foundation, for the retour of his son Hugh service to his father, exped at Inverness on 5th October, 1563, expressly bears that William of Foyers died in the month of July, 1544, so, if he really survived, it could have been but 15 days at the utmost.

William Fraser was also proprietor of Mussady and Mellagie, lands worth three pounds and upwards of old extent; also of Dunterchat and Garrogie, equal to a forty shilling land of old extent, all held of Lovat. William was succeeded by his eldest son,

III. HUGH, who, upon 25th April, 1545, obtains a precept of clare constat from the Bishop of Moray for infefting him as heir to his father William, in Foyers and Boleskine, upon which he was infeft by Gilbert Hay, notar of Moray, on 10th June, 1548. Upon 10th March, 1555, Lord Lovat grants a precept for infefting Hugh Fraser as heir of his father William in Mussady and Mellagie. In 1563, Hugh is served heir to his father William in Aberchaldar, and being an early service occurring at Inverness, it is in part given, on account of the names of the inquest and other particulars:—

"The heid Scheref Curt of Invernes haldin within the Tolbuyth of the samyn be Jasper Waus of Lochslyne and John Ros prowest of Invernes Scheref Deputtis of the said Scherefdom to ane nobill and potent lord James erle of Murray Scheref principal of Invernes coniunctlie and seueralie specialie constitute, the fyft day of october the zeir of God jm vc and saxtie thre zeiris the Snittis callit the Curt lauchfullie fensit and effermit as wse is, etc. That day Maister Alexander Dowglas Procuratour for Hucheon

Frayeser of Aberchallodour, exhibeit and producit ane Breiff of our souerane Ladies Chappell, impetrat be Hucheon Frayeser as ayr to his omqubil fadyr, William Frayeser of Aberchallodour and quhar na persoun nor pairte comperit to obiect nor oppone contrar the pointtis of the said Breive, the said Maister Alexander requyrit Act of Curt, etc.

“ Nomina Inquisitionis.

“ Robert Munro of Fowlis, John Stewart of Kyncarnie, John Narne of Cromdell, John Innes of Innerbraky, George Munro of Dauchatrye (Docharty), Hucheon Frayeser of Gwshauch (Guisachan), Walt Innes of Terbett, Dowell McFersoun in Essye (Essich), Donald McFarquhar in Dawoet garreocht (Maclean of Dochgarroch), Beane Clerk in Dowllcraig (Dalcrag), Schim McJames Ire (our, or saor) in Ballecharnocht, Thomas Frayeser portioner of Moneak, Alister McVuyll (vic Dugall) in Bontate, Duncan McFersoun in Moy.

“ The Inqueist foirsaid hes seruit Hucheon Frayeser conform to his petitioun and the same pronuncit be the mouth of Robert Munro of Fowlis, Chancellor of the Assise, and quhar na persoun nor pairtie opponit contrar the personis of Inqueist, nor petitioun ; Upon the quhilkis the said Maistir Alexander Dowglas requysit Act of Curt, etc.”

The Inquest found that William Fraser died last vest and scised in all and singular the lands of Little Balecharnoch and Tirchurachan, with the pertinents lying within the Barony of Durris. That Hugh Fraser was his son and nearest and lawful heir, and of full age, that the lands were worth yearly £8 Scots old extent, and in time of peace worth 20s yearly. That the lands were held of Robert Dunbar of Durris for the payment of a white rose yearly on the feast day of St John the Bap^t st, and that the lands had lain unentered for the space of nineteen years since the death of William Fraser in the month of July, 1544.

Hugh Fraser married Margaret Uiquhart, and died leaving issue, one daughter Jane, who, in 1573, was served to the property not limited to heirs male, as heiress of line. Jane—sometimes called Joanna—received a precept of clare constat in Mussady and Mejlagie, as only daughter and heir of her father Hugh Fraser, fro m the Countess of Moray and Argyll, with the consent of the Earl of Argyll, dated 1st June, 1575. These lands afterwards reverted to, or were reacquired by the male head of the family. In the lands destined to heirs male Hugh was succeeded by his brother,

IV. WILLIAM, who in 1570 is retoured as heir of his brother in Aberchalder, and on 1st August 1584 is infest in Foyers and Boleskine on precept of George, Bishop of Moray, dated 14th July 1584, having all his charters confirmed by the Crown, 16th December, 1592. William was succeeded by his son,

V. HUGH, who was infest in Foyers and Boleskine, 31st May, 1607, on precept by Alex., Bishop of Moray, dated 28th April, 1606. James Fraser, brother-german to Hugh, is one of the witnesses to the infestment. This was the Laird of Foyers who by tradition rescued Allan of Lundie from being drowned in Loch Ness when swimming across, fleeing from hot pursuit connected with the invasion of Kilchrist. Hugh was succeeded by his son,

VI. WILLIAM, who made up titles to Aberchalder, but not to Foyers. He was in turn succeeded by his son,

VII. HUGH, who at Inverness on 20th April, 1648, is served heir to his father William before Thomas Schives of Muirtown, sheriff depute of Inverness, and the following men of Inquest:—Thomas Fraser of Struy, William Fraser of Culbokie, Duncan Forbes of Culloden, John Cuthbert of Castlehill, James Cuthbert of Drakies, William Baillie of Torbreck, John Cuthbert of Wester Drakies, David Baillie of Dochfour, John Polson of Bught, Thomas Schives, younger of Muirtown, Alex. Fraser of Abersky, Robert Baillie, burgess of Inverness, David and William Cuthberts, burgesses of Inverness, and John Robertson, also Burgess of Inverness, in the two davochs of Easter and Wester Aberchalder of old extent, with the salmon fishing pertaining thereto in Loch Oich. He received a charter of Foyers and Boleskine dated Edinburgh, 15th August, 1648, and the charter and infestment was confirmed by the Bishop of Moray, 1663. In 1661 it was arranged that Hugh should have a charter of Mussady and Mellagie as heir of his grandfather from Lord Lovat, but the deed was not executed. Hugh's first wife was Jean Gray, who left issue, and he married secondly Katharine Chisholm, daughter of Alexander Chisholm of Comer, contract dated Erchless, last May, 1658. In security of her provision, Katharine was infest in the half davoch of Boleskine, excluding Glenlia, as also in the western third of Mellagy. In 1651 Hugh is pursued for a debt by James Macpherson of Ballachroan, and he incurred considerable debts to others.

Hugh left at least three children—the eldest and successor being

VIII. WILLIAM, with whom Margaret Mackintosh, daughter of Alexander Mackintosh of Connage, is referred to in 1674 as "his.

future spouse." His sister Elizabeth, with his consent and that of her other brother Hugh, was married to John Fraser of Little Garth, contract dated at Mussadie, 7th April, 1688. William naturally was mixed up with Simon Lord Lovat and his affairs from the time of the death of Hugh Lord Lovat, 1696. By Lord Lovat's memoirs, it will be seen that he, then Master of Lovat, when in Stratherrick in 1698 repelling the attack of the Athole family, says, in reference to the bloodless victory of Altnagour, that four days previous he had assumed the title of Lord Lovat, having heard the melancholy news that his father was dead in Skye. The Baronage gives his death as May, 1699, which is certainly erroneous. I am able to give one of the earliest documents granted by him in his new position :—

"I, Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat, do bind myself for service done and to be done me and for mine by William Fraser of Foyers, to give to the said William Fraser of Foyers and his, the tenth part of the country of Stratherrick, after I have fully conquered it, and am in full possession of it, without debate ; and this providing he continue true and faithful to me as my kinsman and vassal all his life ; and for the more security I consent these presents be registrate in the books of Council and Session or any other books competent, and to that effect I constitute — - my procurators that all sort of diligence pass hereon as accords. In witness whereof I have written and subscribed these presents at Poran, ye ninth day of August, 1698 years.

(Signed) "LOVATT."

It is clear that Lord Lovat was of the mind to divide Stratherrick into ten portions, and bestow one on each of his important clansmen in return for their services in helping him to recover his estates. The name "Poran" was a puzzle, but as the corresponding obligation by Foyers, *vis.* :—a bond of manrent—was granted at Dochcairn (the residence of Dochfour), it was inferred that it must be somewhere not far from either bank of Lochness. Upon enquiring of Mr Alexander Fraser, an old and respected resident at Loinchlerich of Errogie, he was good enough to write on 23rd January, 1890, that there was a place in Gaelic "Phoran," otherwise Forbeg, two or three miles to the west of Foyers Mains, now a part of Knockie Estate, but of old belonging to Lovat, and one time a populous place. The famous yew of Stratherrick is situated on Forbeg. Prior to 1715, William Fraser had given up the management of affairs to his eldest son Hugh, who is placed as head, although he predeceased his father,

IX. HUGH FRASER, whose exertions for Government are narrated in the following petition, declaration, and memorial, to the First Lord of the Treasury in 1716. Hugh Fraser, described as younger of Foyers, who had a charter of Mussady from Roderick Mackenzie of Prestonhall in 1711, died prior to 1720 without having received any compensation from Government. The matter was moved in again 43 years later by his nephew Hugh, also without effect, and two interesting papers bearing on the matter are given at this point although of date 1759. Affidavits much of a similar nature were made, all in 1759, by the Rev. Thomas Fraser of Boleskine, Mr Alexander Fraser, catechist at Durris, and Major James Fraser of Castleleathers. The affidavit of the last is selected as being more full, and is probably one of his latest acts :—

(1. 1716). “To the Honble. Mr David Polson of Kinmylies, Geo. Cuthbert of Castlehill, and Mr Alex. Clark, Provost of Inverness : the petition of Hugh Fraser, younger of Foyers, one of the Deputy Lieutenants of the Northern Counties—Humbly sheweth,—From the beginning of September to the 1st of March, both last past [Sept., 1715 ; March 1716—C. F. M.], I being moved by my affection to the Government, and in obedience to Brigadier Alex. Grant, and other friends of the Government, their letters to me, as well as my own early engagement to the Lieutenancy and friends of ye Government, I did devote myself and my men to the public service by going to the hills and mountains of the country until such time as the said Lieutenancy did gather some of their friends together, among which I and my men were among the first, by which they were pleased to honour me with a commission of being one of the Deputy Lieutenants of the north, whereby I and my men were pointed forth to the resentment of the Rebels, and I and my tenants suffered considerable losses and damages by depredations and robberies, besides the damages of loss of time and the management of our affairs at home, with what I paid for my own and my men, our charges to the month of November, when my chief came to the north, all occasioned by our attendance on the Government service. And I humbly conceive that the said Brigadier and the other Lieutenants are in justice obliged, as well as by their promises, to make up our losses, by representing the same to the Managers of the Government, so I believe that they would not make any difficulty therein, if our damages and losses were ascertained by our oathes.

“ May it therefore please your Worships to allow us to appear before you, and to make affidavit upon the extent of the loss and damages sustained, to the effect we may ascertain our claims as accords.

(Signed) “ HUGH FRASER.”

“ Inverness, the twenty-sixth day of May, one thousand seven hundred and sixteen years,—We grant the desire of the petition, and allow the petitioner and his tenants to appear before us and make oath upon the extent of their damages which they have sustained.

(Signed) “ ALEX. CLARK, J.P.,”

(„) “ GEORGE CUTHBERT, J.P.”

Eodem Die.

“ Compeared Hugh Fraser, younger of Foyers, one of the Deputy Lieutenants of the north, who being solemnly sworn and interrogate in the terms of the within petition, maketh oath : That from the beginning of September last to the close of November thereafter also last bypast, being the time at which his chief came to the north : That he and about one hundred and sixty men were obliged to stay in the hills and braes of the country and elsewhere as the lieutenancy did direct us upon our own proper charges, and he had not any of the friends of the Government within twenty miles distant from him to any airt ; by which, and his own personall charges, he did truly expend of his own proper moneys and effects to the extent of the sum of three thousand and forty pounds Scots money, and the rebels did violently carry and rob away from his townes and lands the number of seventy-seven cows and oxen which he values at one thousand five hundred and forty pounds money foresaid ; nine horses at two hundred and seventy pounds foresaid ; fifteen wedders and sheep at thirty pounds foresaid ; and plaids to the value of twenty four pounds money foresaid. In all, extending to the sum of four thousand nine hundred and four pounds Scots money : And that he and his men, by their attendance on his Majesty’s service from the said first of September to the first of March last, when the regular forces came to Inverness, have sustained considerable losses and damages in their affairs and labouring. But they cannot declare the true extent thereof upon oath, and they submit the same to discretion, which is truth as he shall answer to God.

(Signed) “ HUGH FRASER.”

“ *Jurat Coram.*

(Signed) “ ALEX. CLARK, J.P.,”

(„) “ GEO. CUTHBERT, J.P.”

“To the Right Honble. Robert Walpool, Esquire, First Lord of his Majesty’s Treasury, The Memorial of Hugh Fraser of Foyers, one of the Deputy-Lieutenants of the county of Inverness— Humbly Sheweth, That the time of the late Ministry, when the pensions were given to the Highland Clans, Alexander Mackenzie of Fraserdale, who pretended to represent the name of Fraser, was one of these Pensioners, and offered the Memorialist a share of that Pension to go in to his measures, which he absolutely refused, because he understood the design was to support the Pretender’s interest, whereupon the Memorialist convened several gentlemen of the name of Fraser, and acquainted them with the same, and he and they signed a letter to his Grace the Duke of Argyle, giving full assurance of their resolution to join with his Grace in defense of the Protestant succession as by law established, and likewise sent two of their number to Sir Peter Fraser of Doors, to acquaint him of their resolution, who advised them to send for my Lord Lovat to France, to strengthen them in that design. And accordingly one of their number was sent to France, to bring him home. All which happened in the last two years of Her late Majestie’s reign. That when Alexander Macdonald of Glengarry, and Colin Campbell of Glendaruel were going about in the Highlands to procure subscriptions to an address to the Pretender, and had imposed upon some of the name of Fraser to sign the same, the Memorialist convened the well affected gentlemen of that name, and signed an address to His Majesty King George, with an offer of their lives and fortunes. to support His Majesty’s just title to the Crown, which address was presented by His Grace the Duke of Argyle. Agreeable to which address, when the rebellion began in Scotland, the beginning of September last, the Memorialist convened 160 men, though he was sixteen miles distant from any of the King’s friends, and the Highland clans convening all round him, and kept them in a body, though he was once attacked by seven hundred men of the Earl of Seaforths, whom he repulsed, and continued these men upon his own proper charges till the middle of November, that my Lord Lovat came to the country, who then convened all the rest of his name for His Majesty’s service; in which the memorialist continued till they were relieved by the regular forces in March last. The memorialist was obliged to maintain these men on his own proper charges, which, with the damage sustained by him and his lands by the Rebels, amount to six hundred pounds sterling, besides the loss of his time conform to ane affidavit made before the justices of Peace of Inverness county. Besides all what’s above, the memorialist was sent, when

none other would undertake it, by my Lord Lovat to Stirling, by way of Fort-William, to get intelligence from the Duke of Argyle, which was a very expensive and dangerous journey, several of the clans being in wait for seizing the memorialist, which is known by Sir Robert Pollock, governor of Fort-William."

(2. 1759). "At Inshoch, the nineteenth day of February, one thousand seven hundred and fifty-nine years, in presence of Alexander Inglis, Esquire, Sheriff-Substitute of the Shyre of Nairn, compeared Major James Fraser of Castleleathers, aged eighty-eight, and going on eighty-nine, who being solemnly sworn, maketh oath, and says That he was well acquainted with the deceased Hugh Fraser of Foyers, and that he knows when, in the end of the late Queen Anne's reign, pensions were distributed among the Highland clans, and that Alexander Mackenzie of Fraserdale, who then possessed the estate of Lovat, and was married to the eldest daughter of Hugh Lord Lovat, had one of those pensions, and made an offer of part of it to the said Hugh Fraser for coming in to his measures. The said Hugh Fraser refused to accept the same, as he understood it was to support the Pretender's interest; and that some time after, the said Hugh Fraser, and the deceased Hugh Fraser of Struy, and Alexander Fraser of Culduthel, and he, the said James Fraser, met together and wrote a letter to the late Duke of Argyle acquainting him of what had passed, and that they were ready to raise the greatest part of the Clan Fraser, and join with his Grace in support of the Protestant succession. That the said Hugh Fraser went afterwards to Edinburgh by advice of the well-affected gentlemen of the name of Fraser, and was by the deceased Mr James Cuthbert, who was minister of Culross, and a relation of the Family of Lovat, introduced to such as were in concert at Edinburgh to support the Protestant succession. That he likewise knows when the late Alexander Macdonell of Glengarry and Colin Campbell of Glendaruel were, after the death of the late Queen Ann, soliciting an address among the Highland Clans to the Pretender. The said Hugh Fraser of Foyers refused to sign the same, and that he and the other gentlemen of the name of Fraser who were above mentioned drew up an address to his late Majesty, which they sent to the late Duke of Argyle; That he likewise knows when, after the accession of his late Majesty, the Rebellion broke out in the year one thousand seven hundred and fifteen, the said Hugh Fraser of Foyers (who had then been appointed by his Majesty one of the Deputy Lieutenants in the north) did, at his own expense, raise a body of men for the King's Service when the other Highland Clans were gathering around to

go to Perth, and that the body of men which he raised joined the Earl of Sutherland and the late Lord Lovat when they got to the country, and raised their men for the King's Service, and that, at the request of the late Lord President Forbes and his brother, the late John Forbes of Culloden, the said Hugh Fraser put a garrison of his men in the house of Culloden, and defended it against the Rebels who were then in possession of the town of Inverness, within two miles of the said House, and when the Earl of Sutherland and the late Lord Lovat, after they came to the country and had raised so many men for the service of his late Majesty, and wanted to send some intelligence to the late Duke of Argyll, then at Stirling with his Majesty's Troops, the said Hugh Fraser was the person singled out to go with their Dispatches, and that he remembers he went and returned in the winter tyme from Stirling to Perth, where the greatest part of the Clan Fraser were with Fraserdale then in Rebellion, and by the said Hugh Fraser of Foyers' connection with and influence on that part of the Clan made about three hundred of them desert in one night, who, upon their home-coming, joined the late Lord Lovat and the Earl of Sutherland, who were then in arms for his Majesty King George : That he knows the said Hugh Fraser was, during the said Rebellion, at a considerable expense in the service of the Government beyond what his small estate could afford, and that he run in debt on that account. That he lykeways knows he and his tenants did suffer damage in that tyme of the Rebels, tho' he does not at this distance of tyme remember the particulars. That he lykeways knows the said Hugh Fraser after the Rebellion (was suppressed) made out a state of his case and an affidavit of his losses, in order to be laid before Sir Robert Walpole ; and Furder, that the said Hugh Fraser told him, the deponent, then at London, that he was desired by the late General Cadogan, with whom he was acquainted when that General was in the North of Scotland, to come up to London, and that he should have his interest with the Ministry to have his losses made up and a place or pension given him for his loyalty and attachment. But upon his telling Lord Lovat that he was to apply to General Cadogan for that end, he, Lord Lovat, absolutely discharged him, as it then happened Lord Lovat and General Cadogan were of different parties ; and Lord Lovat, in the Deponent's hearing, at sundry times when they were at London, desired Hugh Fraser of Foyers to goe home, and that he would take care of his interest both at London and home, and that he would advance him money to pay all the losses he had sustained and debt he had contracted

in support of the Government : and moreover depones that Lord Lovat brought the said Hugh Fraser of Foyers to wait of the late Duke of Argyle, who gave him his hand and assured him as soon as it was in his power he should be provided for : and Furder depones that it consists with the deponent's knowledge that the said Hugh Fraser of Foyers by his dexterity and management in many particulars was at that period very instrumental in quelling the then rebellion in the north ; and siklyke Depones that the present James Fraser of Foyers was the first man of four who had entered into a resolution to stand by the Government when the Rebellion of jm viic and forty-five broke out, who signed a letter to the present Duke of Argyle for that purpose, which Deed being made known to the late Lord Lovat, nothing but destruction was denounced against him by Lord Lovat for entering into such without his knowledge, which the deponent believes and had reason to know as well as many others. was the sole cause of the said James Fraser of Foyers his being induced by Lord Lovat to go into the last Rebellion, as Lovat kept a sum of money that was due him by Foyers as a fferule over his head, and being a weak man, though honest, was by him intimidate from putting his former resolution in execution, which is truth as he shall answer to God, and Depones he cannot write by reason of a tremor in his hand.

(Signed). "ALEX. INGLIS.

(") "GEO. DONALDSONE."

(3. 1759). "George Drummond, Esquire, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, maketh oath and says, That he was acquainted with the deceased Hugh Fraser of Foyers, and that it consists with his knowledge The said Hugh Fraser did come to Edinburgh in the end of the late Queen Anne's reign, and was introduced to him and some other gentlemen who were then in concert to support the Protestant Succession in his late Majesty's Family in the event of the Queen's death, as a gentleman of Family who had a considerable interest among the Clan Fraser, and that the said Hugh Fraser did treat and settle with him and the other Gentlemen in the concert, that he would undertake for the greatest part of the Clan Fraser, to join with them in support of the Protestant Succession in his said late Majesty's person and Family, and that if they took the field, He would raise a body of men and endeavour to join them. That the Gentlemen in this concert were, Colonel John Erskine of Carnock, Colonel William Maxwell of Cardoness, Colonel John Blackatter, Captain John Campbell of Wellwood, Major James Aikman, Henry Cunninghame of Balquban, John Campbell, late Provost of Edinburgh, Archibald Macauley also

late Provost of Edinburgh, and Mr James Cuthbert, minister at Culross, who are all of them now dead, except the said Archibald Macauley, and the Declarant. That there were some others whose names he does not now particularly remember, and that a part of their plan was to make what interest they could among the Highland Clans, by means of such Gentlemen as they understood to be well affected, and have influence among them. He further says that after the Accession of his late Majesty, when in the winter of the year *jm viic* and fifteen, he was at Stirling with the late Duke of Argyle, who then commanded his Majesty's Troops in Scotland, he remembers to have seen the said Hugh Fraser of Foyers come there to the said Duke, and that he brought him some important intelligence from the King's Friends, then assembled in the north, and that he particularly remembers the paper he brought was concealed in the heart of a stick he walked with in his hand; and that there was at the time a great fall of snow upon the ground, and that he returned with an answer from the Duke to the King's friends in the north.

(Signed) "GEO. DRUMMOND.

Sworn before me at Edinburgh, the twenty-fourth day of February, 1759.

(Signed) "AND. SIMPSON, J.P."

Hugh was succeeded by his brother

X. JAMES, described in 1719 as only brother to the deceased Hugh Fraser, younger of Foyers. He received much kindness in arranging the embarrassed affairs of the family from Lord Lovat, who on 30th September, 1725, granted him letters of Bailiary over the lands of Stratherrick. Mr Anderson, in his history before alluded to, gives currency to the story of Lord Lovat's having been accessory to the serious outrage in the slaughter of one hundred milch cows belonging to Castlehill, and the destruction of his enclosures. A perusal of the following letter must acquit his lordship of this odious charge:—

"Bath, the 23rd of September, 1724.

"Dear Foyers,—How soon you receive this letter I desire you to come immediately into Inverness, and find out the authors of the base calumny (wrote of you, to me and Col. Munro), that by your direction the murdering villain Donald Dubh, 'Clessick,' killed and destroyed Castlehill's cows. I know and believe in my soul you are very innocent, but you deserve this misfortune for keeping that rogue in your hands after my threatening letter to you that I would never speak to you if you did not seize him and deliver him bound to Culloder. This story, though false, will

ruin for ever your reputation if you do not find out the authors, and get due and honourable satisfaction. It may likewise do me hurt, so I desire for your own sake and mine, to trace out the story and behave like a gentleman; and if that villain can be had, seize him and deliver him to Culloden as I desired you before. If you do not this I shall renounce you as my friend, relation, or acquaintance, and I shall never see your face when I can shun it.

“If you can find no author, bring two or three honest gentlemen with you to the Cross, and to Cuthbert’s Coffee House, and tell aloud that any who were the authors or promoters of that calumny are rogues and rascals. Call on my friend and doer at Inverness, Commissary Munro, and he will advise you. I long to know how you will behave, and of all friends, dear Foyers, your own,

(Signed) “LOVAT.”

Foyers, who was counted by his contemporaries as rather a weak man, married Katherine Fraser, and left two sons—Hugh, who succeeded, and Simon, also one daughter, Anne. He went out in 1745, and, perhaps, the most important document he received in connection with the rising, was the following, which has most fortunately been preserved, and having the seal in good order. It would seem that Prince Charles’ advisers thought no duty could be more agreeable to Lord Lovat than to apprehend the President. He hesitated, however, to commit himself so openly, and the business was entrusted to, but not executed by, Foyers, whose elder brother, Hugh, had taken great credit for defending of Culloden in 1715.

(L.S.)—“Charles, Prince of Wales, and Regent of Scotland, England, France, and Ireland, and the Dominions thereunto belonging, To James Fraser of Foyers—Whereas we gave a warrant some time ago to the Lord Lovat to apprehend and secure the person of Duncan Forbes of Culloden, which warrant, for sufficient reason, he could not put into execution: We now judge it necessary hereby to empower you to seize upon the person of the above-named Duncan Forbes, and when you have so seized and apprehended him, to carry him prisoner to us at Edinburgh, or where we shall happen to be for the time, for the doing of which this shall be your warrant. Given at His Majesty’s Palace of Holyroodhouse, the Twenty-third day of September, 1745.

“By his Highness’ Command.

(Signed) “JO. MURRAY.”

XI. HUGH, the eldest son of James, no doubt, in connection with the latter having taken up arms, had the estates made over

to him by disposition, dated at Foyers, 5th November, 1745. He married Christian Cameron, youngest daughter of Archibald Cameron of Dungallon, contract dated Strontian, 29th June, 1742. There was a large gathering at the function, and amongst the bride's friends were John Cameron, then of Dungallon, her brother, John Cameron of Fassiferu, Alexander Cameron of Glen-evis, Doctor Archibald Cameron, brother to Lochiel, and Allan Cameron, brother to Glendessary; and besides old Foyers, who accompanied his son, the latter was supported by Thomas Fraser of Garthmore, and his sons John and William.

Of this marriage there were issue, John, Simon, Isabel, married in 1770 to George Cameron of Letterfinlay, Jean and Katherine, described in her post-nuptial contract of marriage with the Rev. Alexander Fraser of Kilmallie, dated 1st and 6th February, 1787, as third lawful daughter of Hugh Fraser of Foyers.

The affairs of the family were so embarrassed that Hugh had to make up titles by a friendly adjudication, and was indebted to the substantial assistance of General Simon Fraser of Lovat. The letter, after given to James of Foyers, dated the very day the first Fraser Fencibles were ordered to be raised, must be interesting to all of the name in especial:—

“Dear Sir,—I am sure it will give you pleasure to know that His Majesty has been graciously pleased to signify his intention of appointing me to the command of a regiment of Highlanders to be forthwith raised for American service. And as the quickness that is expected in raising them is a great inducement for the measure, I flatter myself my friends will leave no stone unturned to have this done with credit to me, whose honour and interest through life depend on my success in this, and I am satisfied I may on every occasion as well as on this depend on you in what so nearly concerns me. As I have not time to-night to write to every one whose assistance I expect, I must beg you will communicate this to such gentlemen as you think proper. I shall endeavour to procure commissions for some young gentlemen of the name, but these particulars must be subject of another letter. I thought it necessary to give you and the other friends this early notice, that you may take measures in the meantime for exerting yourselves with vigour in my behalf. I offer my compliments to your lady, and all friends, and always am very sincerely, my dear Foyers, yours,
(Signed) S. FRASER.

“London, 4th January, 1757.”

James Fraser of Foyers and his wife Katharine are both alive in 1759. Hugh Fraser's eldest son John, who had on 12th March, 1774, received a commission in Lord Adam Gordon's Co., 1st Battalion 1st Royals, died without issue, and the succession opened up on Hugh's death in 1790, to his second son,

XII. SIMON FRASER, last Laird of Foyers of Sliochd Huistean Frangach. Simon Fraser, born in 1760, married Elizabeth Grant, daughter of Patrick Grant of Glenmoriston, post-nuptial contract is dated 26th and 30th March, 1789. In 1778 Simon Fraser received commission as lieutenant of the Northern Fencibles, and was made a Burgess of Kircudbright. In the following year he is admitted Burgess of St Andrew's, and in 1794 he is Captain in the Strathspey Fencibles.

In the severe struggle for the representation of Inverness-shire, at the beginning of the century, twixt the Lovats and Grants, Foyers, no doubt through his connection with Glenmoriston, supported Mr Charles Grant. This gave mortal affront to the Hon. Archibald Fraser, who, an adept at nicknames, dubbed him for ever after to be no longer known as Simon Fraser, but "Simon Grant." Lovat carried his resentment still further by obtaining possession of excambion of the Glebe of Boleskine, in the heart of Foyers Estate, whereon he built Boleskine House, and resided there pretty constantly, troubling him with marches and fencing, and proving a thorny reminder to "Simon Grant" of the latter's misdoings.

Foyers' only child Jean, a young lady, judging by her letters, of an unusually amiable and pious disposition, married Captain Thomas Fraser of Balnain in 1817, dying, much lamented, same year, in the flower of her age. Foyers himself was most hospitable. No one ever passed his door who had the remotest claims upon him, and his house was a veritable hotel. Unfortunately he was of an easy temper, readily cajoled. His own debts at the beginning of the century did not exceed £2000, but he became involved with Rothiemurchus, Letterfinlay, Anderson of Gortuleg, and numerous others, so that in 1825 it had run up to £10,000, and by 1836 to £14,000. After his death, on 27th April, 1842, the estates fell under sequestration, but all creditors were ultimately paid, as the estate fetched a handsome price.

In no part has there been greater changes than in Stratherrick. Many years ago I wrote an article, "The Stratherrick Frasers: where are they?" The question may be repeated now. In the male line there are three—Landowners—Lovat, Ardochie, and Balnain, and in the female line one—Aldourie, four in all. But

where are the important families of Farraline, Gortuleg, Abersky, and Ardochy, Bochruber and Bunchegavie, Dalcrag, Dunchea, Dell and Drummond, Errogie and Erchite, Garthmore, Garthbeg and Glendo, Knockie, Kinbrylie, Knockcoilum and Kinmonavie, Lead-clune, Migavie, and others? The ancients who, each in their day, well fulfilled their parts,

“After life’s fitful fever, sleep well”

in that picturesque sacred ground overlooking the queen of Highland lakes, undisturbed, even although Loch Ness may be lashed into fury by the winter storm; the Fechlin may roar in angry flood; or the “Feadanun Straharrigag,” tuning up and encouraging each other “Seid Suas”—“Seid Suas”—may whistle sufficiently shrilly and piercingly to satisfy even Boreas in his breeziest mood. But few of their descendants are to be found in Stratherrick, and the great bulk lie low elsewhere, or must be searched for in the Lowlands, in England, in India, in Australasia, in the United States, and chiefly in the great Dominion of Canada.

Cha till iad gu brath

Gu la mor a chruinne.

I have thus narrated the history of the main line of Huistean Frangach, which, now landless, save the little burial ground on the Black Rock of Foyers, held its own under many vicissitudes for over 300 years with credit and respect.

13th JANUARY, 1892.

TWENTIETH ANNUAL DINNER.

The Twentieth Annual Dinner of the Society was held in the Victoria Hotel this evening. The chair was to have been taken by Mr J. Douglas Fletcher of Rosehaugh, Chief of the Society, but the roads in the Black Isle being blocked with snow, a telegram was received stating that he found it impossible to be present. A number of other prominent gentlemen were similarly detained. Provost Ross presided, and Bailie Mackenzie and Mr Alex. Macbain, M.A., acted as croupiers.

After dinner, the Chairman proposed the loyal toasts, followed by that of the Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces.