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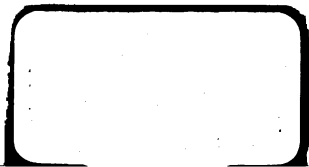
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MEMORIALS
OF THE
WOODS OF LARGO



600013497U



For the University of Oxford⁺

From imperfect acquaintance with all the
histories of the Woods of Largo, corrections have
become necessary, as will be seen in the edition
of this little volume. As the work increases
and the information herein given, extends to others,
more is brought to light which was before unknown.
Therefore it is probable that with further corrections
and additions may, from time to time, be needed.

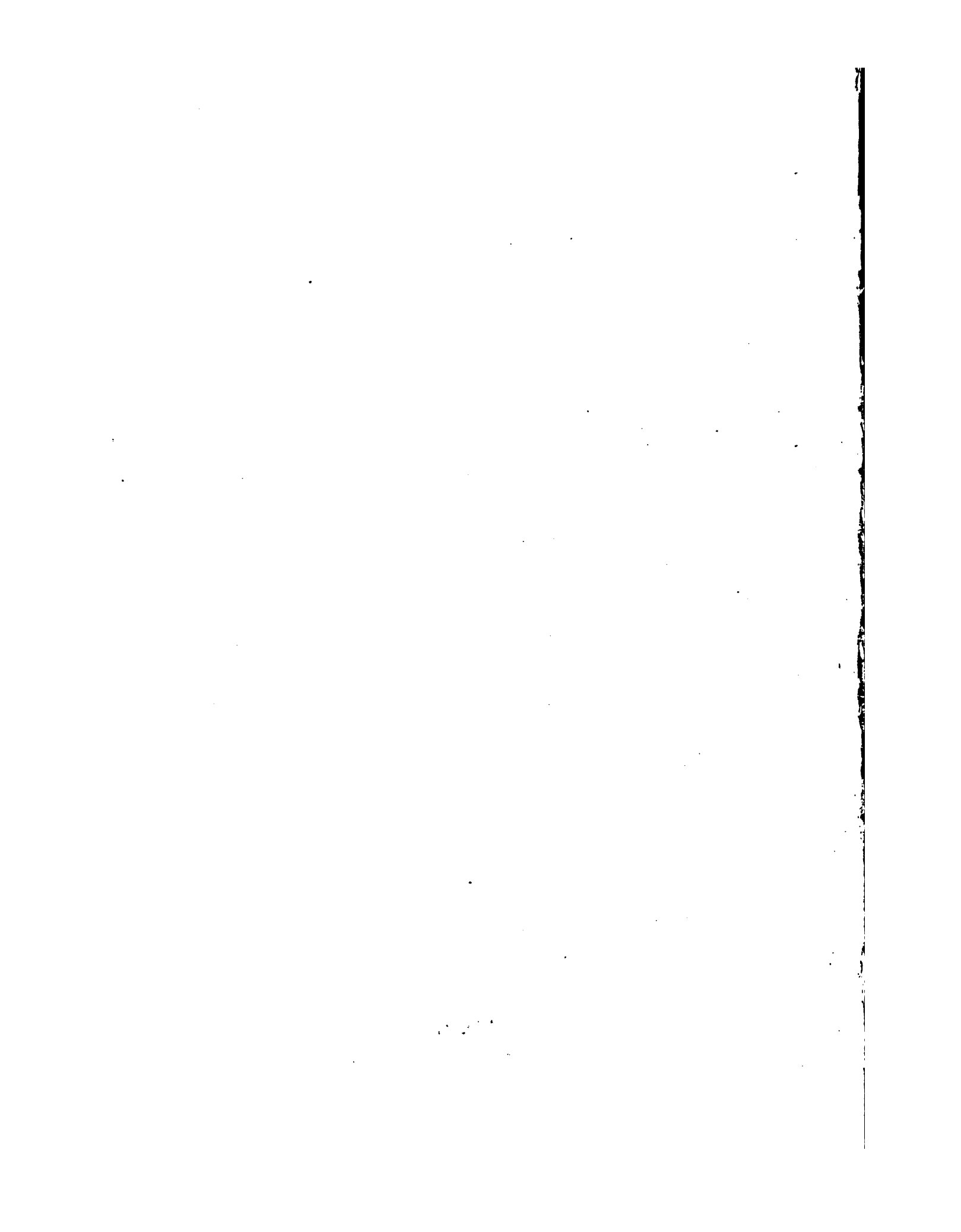
A. M. S.

For the Bodleian Library - Oxford.

Aug^r - 1866.

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As directed by Act of Parliament.



Memorials
OF
THE FAMILY
OF
WOOD OF LARGO.

COLLECTED AND ARRANGED

BY
MRS. MONTAGU.



Printed for Private Circulation. 1863.



218. d. 6.

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Printed by STRANGEWAYS & WALDEN,
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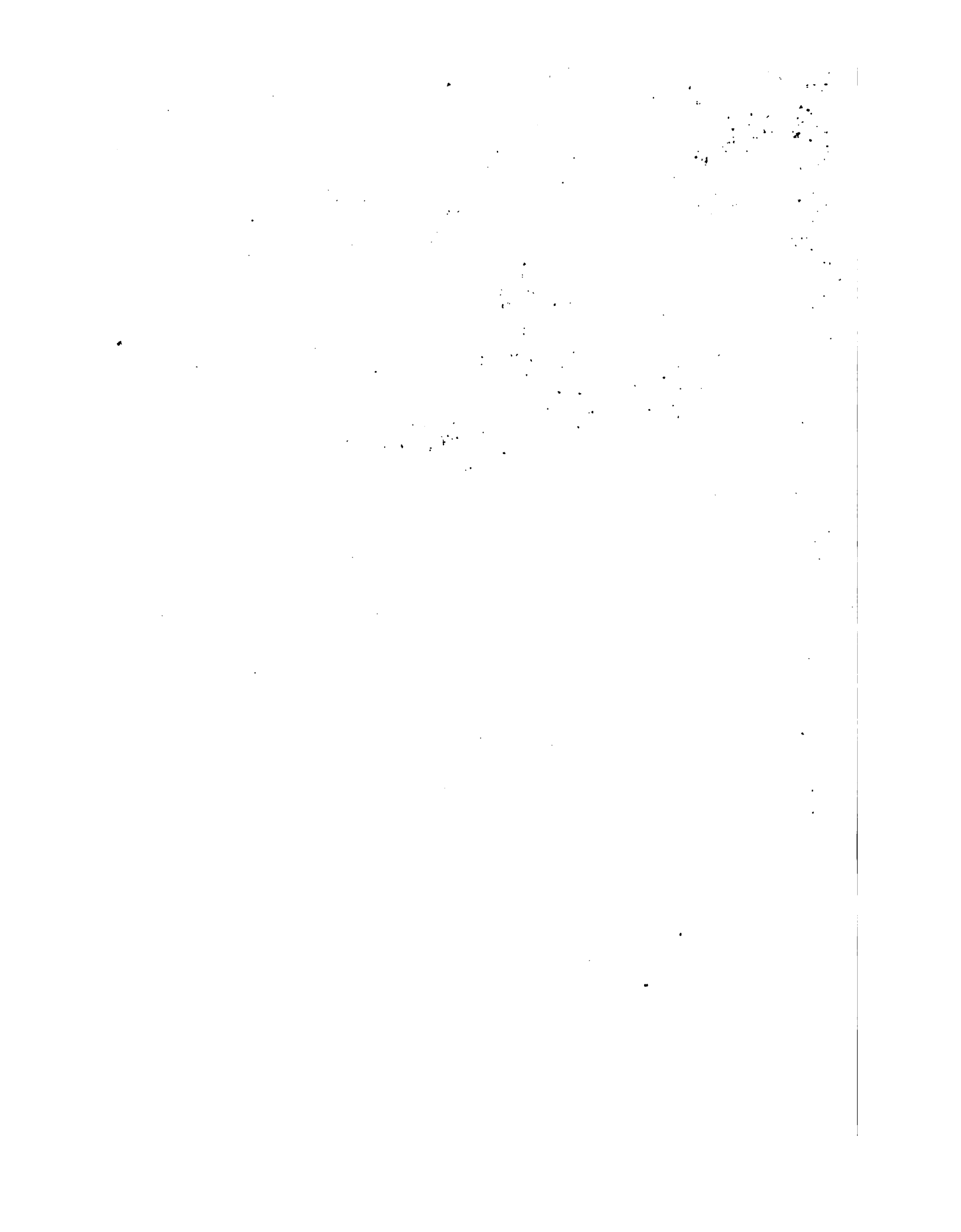
THE COAT OF ARMS OF
JOHN WOOD OF LARGO,



GOVERNOR OF THE ISLE OF MAN,

1761-1777.

Inherited from the ancient Admiral.



A MEMENTO FOR MY NEPHEW,

Andrew George Wood,

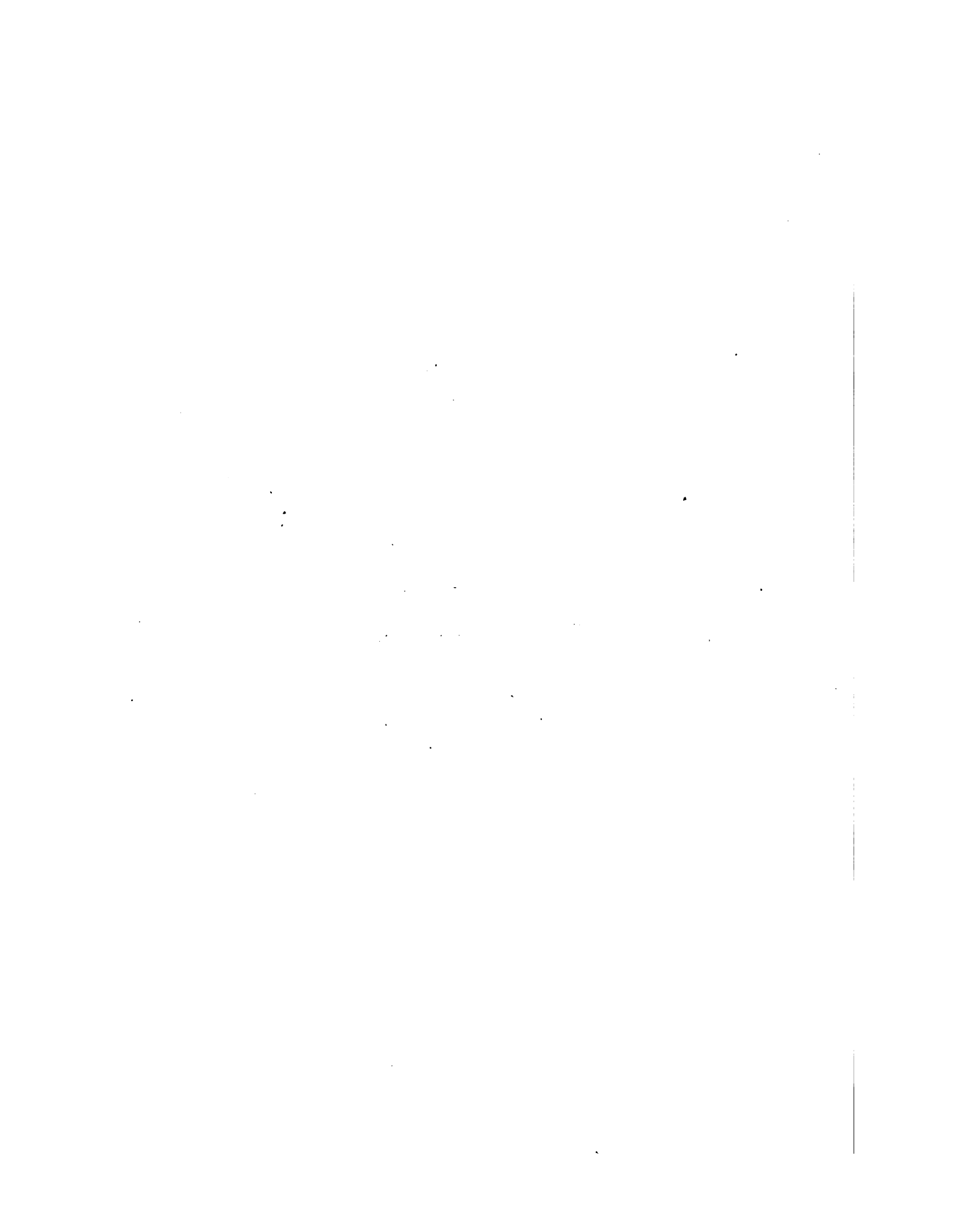
WHOM MAY THE POWER ETERNAL
PROTECT AND PRESERVE,
TO BECOME, AS LIFE MATURES,
A GOOD MAN,
AND A BRAVE AND KINDLY GENTLEMAN,

FROM HIS AFFECTIONATE AUNT,

Frances Mary Montagu.

APRIL 1861.

“A picture is the past,”
In lights and shadows falling,
And all this life a mystery,
Wherein, Faith, submissive,
Veils her fight, and questions never
The sovereignty nor grace of God.



THIS History of the Woods of Largo was commenced with the intention only of clearing away, chiefly for my brother's sake, upon hearing it exclaimed after reading Tait's Memoir, "Then we are not descended from the "old Sir Andrew after all," of clearing away the doubts to which this Memoir had thus rather painfully given birth. As time went on, and opportunity was found for looking over the aid to be obtained from proofs existing, and words and events and incidents were recalled of which memory had been alone the keeper, the subject increased gradually towards many others, some of which, in unison with my own feelings, I have ventured to express. For this I must trust to be pardoned should they be deemed irrelevant. I would even at the present moment, were I to consider principally myself, remove much that it may not be quite agreeable to me to bring into the view of any but those most closely and most personally related to me; but I reflect sometimes upon the future as well as upon the past, and when the mental vision is disclosed before me of the young and interested of generations to come, looking back to an age that is gone, I determine to think of self-regard no more, and to leave unchanged these memorials, as they are, and as they have arisen from all that has fallen within my own knowledge and remembrance.

It may be necessary for me also to request indulgence if, in reciting from different authors, I have occasionally been inaccurate, but, not expecting publication, I had taken some notes less in their full integrity than they might have been, yet still I can affirm that all are substantially correct, whilst in the last concluding lines from Tennyson, it has appeared to me not wrong to substitute this sentence—“desire of good name,” for the original, “the desire of fame,”—for I have written in most part for the young, and I would not have for them the latter sentiment, valuable though it be, impressed as the sentiment of the greater importance.

AM

February, 1862.

P.S.—A loss and sorrow which have come to me since the above was written, in April last year, have prevented until now the completion of this work; but now I offer it, besides to my little nephew, as a token also of love and affection, in reverential care for one of the latest wishes of my ever dear husband, to our own son, Horace Montagu.

March, 1863.

AM

Memorials,

Et. Et.

IN the pages following there are notes and observations taken from various papers in my possession, and from printed and other records of English and Scottish families, regarding the family of Wood of Largo, and its connexions and extraction, which may not be without some value to those who bear that distinctive Family Title; therefore I have endeavoured to place them together as well as the materials and the uncertainties of several of the attendant circumstances have permitted, with the hope that they may be of service to my little nephew, and of assistance in giving to him especially, and to others of us also, an increased assurance of that long descent, which until the appearance of the Memoir referred to and of which an abridgement is given, had never before been questioned.

The notes are taken, *first*, from the papers which were drawn up in due legal form when our uncle Sir Mark Wood (he was then Colonel Wood) became one of the claimants of the Roxburghe succession in the year 1805, and the originals of which I believe to be laid aside in the House of Lords with other law forms of similar nature.

Secondly, from the memoir in *Tait's Edinburgh Magazine* of the brave and loyal Admiral of Scotland, Sir Andrew Wood of Largo.

Thirdly, from other writings and other sources which will be mentioned, as they may come in their order.

I. It appears that in consequence of the first Earl of Roxburghe, Earl Robert, as he is designated in these papers, altering his succession to his heirs of the female line, "for which," it is said in them, "he executed a Deed of Nomination and Entail, authorized by his sovereign, with whom he stood high in favour," that in consequence of this alteration of succession, that when in the year 1805 the title and estates came to be in abeyance, that several gentlemen descended from the Kers of Cessford entertained the hope of obtaining them by the same means, that is, through the female line; but, upon investigation, all such claims were found to be untenable, for,

<p>"In the said entail of 1648, though Earl Robert's partiality for his female issue (his only two sons being dead) made him favour that female issue the first, yet he did not overlook <i>the heirs male of the family</i>. And into this entail he afterwards added a tailzie, by which, failing the heirs of Flemyng and Drummond, first called to the reversion, he destined the same <i>to the heirs in the ancient investiture of the 1444,</i></p>	<p>which ancient investiture <i>strictly</i> limited it to the <i>heirs male</i> of the Ker family. In the new deed of entail of 1648, there were, however, upon examination, some clauses supposed to be to a great degree indeterminate regarding the appointment of gentlemen of the name of Ker of the different branches, as tutors and curators, <i>or heirs</i> to the entailer's, that is, the first earl, Earl Robert's granddaughters,"</p>
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which led to considerable legal argumentation, raising still

more the hopes of inheritance amongst their descendants, there being included with them, besides those of the family in nearer relationship to William the deceased Duke, a Mr. Bellenden Gawler Ker, General Walter Ker, Colonel Mark Wood, and others not expressly indicated, who all asserted their claims, but all failed,

“because of the strict limitation of the succession to *the heirs male of the family*, the alteration made in favour of his own granddaughters in 1648, | by Earl Robert, being incontestably proved *not to have been open to any heirs of the female line before that time.*”

Therefore our uncle Sir Mark Wood's claim, being only through the female line, *not comprised in the entail of 1648*, fell to the ground, with the claims also of all the other claimants, saving Sir James Norcliffe Innes, the sole heir male of Earl Robert's (the first Earl of Roxburghe's) granddaughter, Margaret. But the foundation for it, though valueless, is admitted, existing through his great grandmother, the wife of the Rev. Alexander Wood the Episcopalian clergyman, who was granddaughter and sole heir of the Rev. Robert Ker, of Ker of Cefsford, and the daughter of Brown of Carrington, Co. Roxburghe, by his wife, the only child of the above said Rev. Robert Ker, which names do not occur in the Roxburghe Papers, so far as those in my possession go, but in two or three other manuscripts, one of them being, according to a note beneath it, in the handwriting of Andrew Wood, next brother to John, Governor of the Isle of Man. Further, in these Roxburghe Papers, there are historical details of

the family of Ker of Cefsford and of the Charter of Entail of 1444, some of which, though compressed into a less lengthened form, may not inappropriately be inserted here, namely, as follows :

“ There has lately been recovered and produced from the Charter Room of Fleurs, a charter of this date, 1444, granted by Andrew Ker, Dominus de Altenburn, with the consent of Andrew Ker his son and heir, to another son named James, and his heirs, of certain portions of the lands of Primside, which are therein described as lying adjoining to the lands, belonging to Thomas, a third son of the said Andrew Ker, and partly bounded by the Loch of Lintoun. These three sons were the progenitors of the Kers of Cefsford (the eldest branch of the family), of the Kers of Lintoun, and of the Kers of Gateshaw.

“ The same Andrew Ker, Lord of Altenburn, of this date, obtained another charter under the Great Seal to himself in life-rent, and after his death to his eldest son and heir and his heirs male, of the lands of Cefsford, whom failing, to other sons therein named successively, and their heirs male ; and from this period the family seems to have borne the title of Cefsford exclusively, for near two centuries, and then to

have been styled of Roxburgh. The eldest son's son of the aforesaid Andrew Ker was Robert, afterwards Sir Robert Ker of Caverton, who pre-deceased his father. Besides Sir Robert, there is evidence that there was a younger son named Mark, who acquired the lands of Dolphington by marrying Marjorie Ainslie, the heiress thereof ; and of this Mark Ker, who is said to have taken an active concern in the disorders of the times, there are minutes in the Books of the Justice-cyre in 1502, in which he is named as having several times stood surety to a large amount, for criminals of his own party accused of divers crimes. Sir Robert's eldest son, Andrew of Cefsford, with his brother, George of Fawdonside, both deceased early in life, the former being slain at Melrose in 1526 ; but he left children, of whom Mark, the second son, Vicar of Lintoun, and afterwards Comendator of Newbottle, was ancestor to the first Earls of Lothian.

“ The title-deeds of the family estates are here interrupted for about a century ; but, from inspection of

the Public Records, this defect can in a great measure be supplied. Accordingly, it is communicated by them that the eldest son of Andrew, slain at Melrose, dying without heirs, his brother William succeeded, which William had two sons, Mark, who died without issue, and Robert, who became first knight, then Baron, and shortly before his death Earl of Roxburghe. He obtained a new charter of the lands and barony of Cefsford, including the Castle of Roxburghe, and it was by him that the Entail of 1648 was executed. At this period, namely, 1648, the Cefsford family had become nearly extinct in the male line.

The names of the different branches in remainder to the succession were, however, set forth in the tailzie added by Earl Robert into the Entail of 1648, including the Kers of Lintoun, of Fawdonfide, of Dolphington and Littledean, the former sometimes called Dolphington, of Primfide Loch, of Gateshaw, of Kippielaw, of Greenhead, of Graden, of Merfington, of Hirfel, &c. ; but amongst them all at this period, the only living heirs male were in the persons of the Earl Robert himself, in a Ker of Fawdonfide, and according to other records, in another Ker of the Kers of Gateshaw."

The last heir of George Ker of Fawdonfide deceased about the year 1660. As heir of Mark Ker of Dolphington, General Ker laid his claim in 1805, but it was excepted against, for suitable reasons pleaded; the successful claimant, as before mentioned, being Sir James Norcliffe Innes, descended from Margaret Ker, daughter to Harry Lord Ker, and granddaughter to Earl Robert, which claim the House of Lords, after seven years' litigation, decided he had made out satisfactorily, in May 1812. (*Vide Debrett's Peerage*, 14th edition, 1822.)

Those feudal times of Scotland between the eleventh and sixteenth centuries were not happy. Might but too often made the right. Private quarrels, carried on with the

ferocity and barbarity of savages, increased the prevalent disorder. When, in 1444, the Kers rose to greater power, and the Lord of Altenburn obtained his charter of the lands of Cefsford, there seems to have been an especial enmity between them and the Rutherfords, "Ruyrfords," as they are called in an old document quoted in these Roxburghe Papers. It is distressing to think of the cruelties of which they were guilty, the one towards the other, so extreme and so terrible were they. Yet "of the good faith which has been recognised," says the author of the Lives of the Lindsays, "as the distinguishing and re-deeming feature of feudal times in Scotland," they were certainly not destitute. "Duty to the chief of the family" was evidently with the Kers of Cefsford, as with all families generally in Scotland, "the paramount principle of action."

To those descended from both forefathers, it will be interesting to observe that nearly coeval with this first ancient investiture of the Kers of Cefsford (namely, about the middle of the fifteenth century, in 1444) was born, in the old kirktoon of Largo, Fifeshire, Sir Andrew Wood, the brave and loyal Admiral of Scotland, and the faithful servant of the Kings James III. and James IV., by Abercrombie said to have been a cadet of the ancient family of Wood of Bonnington, in Angus.

The memoir in *Tait's Magazine* commences with these lines from some ancient song, which may very likely still survive amongst the national lays of Scotland:—

“ Sir Andrew Wood he was a man
Of meikle worth, and brave ;
He foucht weel for our noble King
In schips upon the wave.”

Old Ballad.

A sketch is then given of the Scottish navy during the previous history of that Kingdom, when there were no vessels appropriated to purposes exclusively warlike, the early fleets of North Britain appearing to have been merely deckless boats; and it is not till the commencement of the fifteenth century that tall ships are anywhere spoken of, and little heard of the Scottish marine until the era of James III., some seventy years later,

“ when Sir Andrew Wood, Knight of Largo, bore the terror of his arms through the English, Dutch, and Flemish seas, and twice in pitched battles laid low the pride and boasted prowess of the former. Sir Andrew was the first of his race who became eminent. By Abercrombie he is supposed to have been a cadet of the ancient family of Wood of Bonnington, in Angus, and is generally stated to have been born about the middle of the fifteenth century, probably about 1450, or a year or two earlier, at the old kirk town of Largo, in Fifeshire. He appears to have begun life as a merchant-trader. His genius for naval warfare, and his longings for gallant enterprise, had been fostered and

strengthened by his encounters with English, French, and Portuguese pirates in the defence of his property. His proving signally victorious in many of these engagements, first brought his talents and courage under notice of the King. He soon became distinguished above all the mariners of his time for his skill in seamanship and for his knightly bravery. The Scottish Nelson of the age, he was at once the guardian of the Northern Seas, the scourge of pirates, and the terror of England; and no man better deserves an honourable place in the annals of his country.

“ He possessed and commanded two armed vessels, of about 300 tons burden each, the Flower and

the Yellow Caravel, both strong and good ships, superior to any that had been seen in Scotland, and admirably equipped with experienced mariners, cannon, armour, and other warlike munition of the age. In these he made voyages to the Dutch and Hanse towns, whither in those days the Scots sent wool and hides, bringing therefrom small mercery and haberdashery in great quantities: moreover, half of the Scottish ships came generally laden from Flanders with cart-wheels and wheelbarrows. (See *Processe of English History*. Hackluyt.)

“Prior to the year 1487, the captain of the Yellow Caravel appears to have obtained the dignity of knighthood, to have relinquished trading as a merchant for the service of the King, and to have married a lady named Elizabeth Lundie (probably one of the Lundies of Strathairlie or Balgonie, an ancient Fifeshire name), by whom he had feve-

ral sons, two of whom became men of eminence in after years. Thus, from being an opulent and enterprising trader, by his own talents and the force of circumstances, the humble skipper of Leith became the founder of a baronial family, a brave warrior, an able financialist intimately acquainted with the management of commercial transactions, and a stalwart feudal baron, who, without abating anything of his pride and his prerogative, refused not to adopt, in the ordering of his estates, some of those improvements whose good effects he had observed in the course of his travels on the Continent. These qualities, though somewhat inconsistent, when combined, made him an able, affectionate, and confidential subject to the good King, his master, who loved and admired his bold and manly bearing, his openness of heart, and honesty of purpose.*

“Wood is said to have been of a

* There seems to be a slight degree of inconsistency or of exaggeration in all that is expressed in this passage touching Sir Andrew Wood, not in regard to his great and varied talents and the perfection of his moral character, but as regards his station in life. If he came from an ancient family (the Woods of Bonnington in Angus, according to Abercrombie), he can scarcely be described as rising immediately from the people, as the term “the humble skipper of Leith” would appear to convey; nor, from the future history of his descendants, can it be exactly said that he was the founder of a baronial family, at least as the term is understood in England. Yet it is evident that he had himself been created a Free Baron of Scotland, and most probably his Lineal Representative inherits still whatever distinction that title may have conferred. *Vide p. 69.*

stately presence, of noble features, and commanding figure—so much so that on one occasion the young prince, afterwards James IV., mistook him for the King his father, whom the Admiral greatly resembled. In the intestine broils which had so melancholy a close on the field of Sauchie-burn, Sir Andrew Wood stood faithful to his Royal patron, James III., who, by a series of unwise attempts to humble a proud and fierce nobility, was bringing his reign to an end thus tragic and disastrous. Aware of the hostile spirit of his lowland peers, the King resolved to look for aid in the country of the clans. He embarked in one of Sir Andrew's ships in the roads of Leith, and crossing the Forth in April 1488, marched past Stirling, and pitched his standard near the ancient Castle of Blacknes. David, third Lord Lindeſay of the Byres, led 1000 horse, faith Pitſcottie, and Lord Ruthven 1000 lances, but after an indecisive skirmish, the force was disbanded. Earl Crawford was created Duke of Montrose, and Lord Kilmaur Earl of Glencairn, for their valour; while Sir Andrew Wood and other loyalists were rewarded by grants of crown land. Fresh intrigues ensued, and on the army of the ill-fated King taking up its position

near the Burn of Sauchie, Sir Andrew Wood sailed up the silver windings of the beautiful river, keeping his boats near the shore, to receive his Sovereign should the tide of battle turn against him. Ere the conflict began, David Lord Lindeſay presented the King with a charger of unmatched speed, saying that 'hap what might, if he kept his feat, it would bear him to the boats of Andrew Wood.' And nearly so it proved; for when he saw his banners struck down, and all his lines borne back and giving way, he turned to fly to the friendly ships whose white sails shining in the summer sun, must have been visible even in the distance to his anxious eyes. But at Beaton's Mill, his horse, being alarmed, reared and threw to the ground the unfortunate monarch. Carried into the cottage of the miller, and asking for a priest, the rebel friar Andrew Borthwick, who had been closely in pursuit, was brought to him; and, upon the King asking of him absolution and the sacrament, the ruffian buried a dagger in the heart of his noble victim, fled, and was never more heard of.

“For several days mystery enveloped the fate of James III. Suspicion arose that he was gone on shipboard, and a cartel was de-

spatched to Sir Andrew Wood to ask whether or not the King was on board his vessels. The Admiral declared he was not, and gave the messenger leave to search his ships. A second message was sent, requesting an interview; but, says Abercrombie, Sir Andrew was a knight, and being mindful of the King's kindness, remained constant in his affection to him, and refused to come without hostages for his safe return. Accordingly, John Lord Fleming of Cumbernauld, and Lord Seaton of Seaton, were sent to the fleet as hostages, and committed to the care of his brothers by the Admiral, who then was introduced to the young prince (James IV.), surrounded by a circle of the rebel peers. So dignified was the aspect of Sir Andrew, who was arrayed in magnificent armour, and so striking his resemblance to James III., that the prince, who had not seen much of his unhappy sire, wept as he approached, timidly saying, 'Sir, are *you* my father?' The veteran mariner, in tears, replied, 'I am not your father, but his faithful servant, and the enemy of those who have occasioned his downfall.' Again and again the lords asked if the King were not in one of his ships. 'I would to Heaven he were,' was the answer, 'for then he would be

'in safety. Then I could defend him from the traitors who I fear have slain him, and whom I hope to see rewarded as they deserve.' After which he withdrew, and returned to his vessels but just in time to save the noble hostages, whom his brothers, impatient at his long absence and too fearful for his safety, were preparing for vengeance.

"The insurgent nobles, ashamed of themselves from the contrast Sir Andrew Wood's loyalty and high spirit formed to their own misconduct, now resolved to leave no scheme untried to punish him for his boldness. They summoned all the skippers of Leith in council, and commanded them 'to rig and man all their ships to subdue Andrew Wood;' but the seamen replied that the Flower and Yellow Caravel were so well equipped with all things for fighting, and Captain Wood so skilful in naval affairs, and so practiced in war, and had such notable artillery, that *ten* of the best ships in Scotland would not be able to cope with *his two*. This statement compelled the angry nobles to relinquish their hope of seizing this loyal mariner, who, in defiance of them, continued for months to cruize in the Forth, displaying his knight's pennon and the deceased King's standard.

“In the beginning of the following year, 1489, Henry VII., the English monarch, resolving to profit by the distressed state of Scotland, sent five ships, the largest of his navy, to the Firths of Forth and Clyde, ostensibly, say some authorities, to aid the young King against the nobles, but really to plunder, sink, and burn the Scots and Flemish traders in the harbours of those estuaries, thereby totally obstructing commerce, and making also many destructive descents upon the villages and fishing-towns of Fyfe and Lothian. The young King, pledging his royal word for his safety, requested Sir Andrew Wood to appear before the Lords of the Privy Council, to consider means for curbing the outrages of the English; the result being that Sir Andrew engaged to attack the enemy; but the King, remembering that they outnumbered him by three vessels, advised Sir Andrew to equip a stronger fleet. ‘No,’ he replied, ‘I will have only my own two, the Flower and the Yellow Caravel;’ and, with the first fair wind, one day in February

1489, he dropped down the river to attack the English, who were cruising off the Duke of Albany’s castle and village of Dunbar, near the mouth of the Firth. He immediately engaged them, and an obstinate and sanguinary battle ensued, of which, unfortunately, no particulars are preserved. He succeeded, however, in making the whole prizes to the Scottish flag, and bringing them triumphantly into the roads of Leith, presented their commanders to his sovereign, by whom he was nobly rewarded, receiving from him charters confirming all former grants, and adding further grants of the lands of Balbegnoth, and Cotelands of Largo,* date March 11, 1490. Sir Andrew obtained also the lands of Netherfawfields, and other possessions; also the superiority of Inch Keith, the lands of Easter Dron cum Molendino de le Cottoun, and was invested in the Lordship of Newbyme. And by another charter under the Great Seal of May 1491, the King grants to Sir Andrew Wood ‘license to build a castle at Largo, with gates of iron, as a reward for the great

* The first grant of lands in Largo to Sir Andrew seems to have been about the year 1480, or earlier, when the Duke of Albany was Lord High Admiral, the purport being to enable him “to keep his ship in repair, to pilot and convey the King and Queen “in visit to St. Adrian’s Chappell, in the Isle of May, where there was a holy shrine and “celebrated well, kept by certain monks of the order of St. Augustine.”

'services done and losses sustained by the said Andrew Wood, as well as for the services there was no doubt he yet would render.' This house or castle he is represented to have built by the hands of English pirates, whom he had retained in duration as bondsmen. It was engrafted on an ancient edifice which had formerly been a jointure house of the Queens of Scotland. A small part of it in ruins still remains.

"In further reward, Sir Andrew's coat armorial was augmented in heraldic honours; and two ships under sail were added, in memory of his victory over the English fleet, 'to the oak-tree argent, growing out of a mount in base or,' borne upon his shield." (See Lindesay's *Blasons*.)*

"In consequence of this signal victory of Sir Andrew, Henry of England, being resolved on vengeance for the prostration of his flag, offered the then splendid pension of 1000*l.* yearly, and other noble rewards, 'to any man who would capture Sir Andrew Wood, dead or alive;' but his skill and valour were now so celebrated, that dread repressed the avarice or ambition of those who might have been disposed to make the attempt.

"About this time Sir Andrew, with the Flower and Yellow Caravel, failed on a voyage to Holland, to the shores of which he convoyed a fleet of Scottish merchantmen.

"It was during this absence of Sir Andrew that, in answer to the English King, one of his commanders

* In other heraldic notices it is said that the families in North Britain of the name of Wood all bore trees, or boughs of trees, in their coats of arms, in allusion to their ancient name, De Boreo, or De Bosco, so written in early records and writs, particularly in a charter of King William to the town of Inverness, in the second year of his reign, 1170, and in several charters of Alexander II. in 1214. In the former, Willielmus de Bosco is mentioned as "Cancellarius Regis," Chancellor to the King. This ancient name may further not unlikely point to a Norman origin, for, in Scotland, as in many other countries, it appears that names in their similarities, are a guide both to the descent and connexion of families, and that thus relationships and pedigrees may frequently be traced with considerable precision; whilst Sir Walter Scott and other historians say that soon after the Conquest, in 1060, many of the Normans who came over with the Conqueror repaired to the Scottish court, where the King, Malcolm, desiring to retain them in his suit, gave them grants of lands to be held for military services. Hence, adds Sir Walter, many of the Scottish nobility are of Norman lineage.

The cause of the change from the oak-tree growing out of a mount in base to an oak-tree eradicated, as has of later times belonged to the Woods of Largo, is not apparent.

of great skill and courage, Sir Stephen Bull, at length offered, if properly equipped, to capture and destroy the Scottish Admiral on his return from Holland. Three vessels, of great size and extreme strength, were placed at his disposal; and with them Sir Stephen sailed from the Thames in the month of July 1490, running along the coast till he came to the Firth of Forth, where he anchored on the leeward side of the Isle of May. There sheltered by cliffs of stately basaltic columns, he lay secure, screened from the bleak winds and rough waves of the German Ocean, whilst, to prevent any intimation of his presence being given to Wood, he seized all the boats of the villages around, and kept some of his own men in waters near, to give him early notice of every sail appearing on the horizon.

“Meanwhile, supposing that peace had succeeded to the truce with England, and little anticipating the reception prepared for him at the mouth of the Scottish sea, honest Sir Andrew set sail from the port of Sluice for that of Leith; and, in laying up for the Forth, first perceived the English on their rounding from the leeward of the Isle, and standing towards him ready for battle. Immediately he gave the

orders, and buckled on his armour. Quaint old Lindefay of Pitfcottie gives a graphic account of this combat, and of the Scottish Admiral's address to his crew. ‘My lads,’ he exclaimed, ‘these are the foes who would convey us in bonds to the foot of an English king, but by your courage and the help of God, they shall fail. Be stout men and true, for the honour of Scotland and your own sakes.’ A shout followed, and wine was served all round. Upon the ships nearing each other, the broadsides of the English burst like an iron storm upon the Scottish decks, but happily swept over them harmlessly, from the too great elevation at which Bull's cannon were discharged. The superior skill of Sir Andrew soon enabled him to get on the weather-gauge of the enemy's fleet, and then shortening sail, fearless of the tremendous odds, the brave old Laird of Largo engaged them in a close and deadly conflict, which for twelve hours was maintained without intermission, without one party gaining the least advantage over the other. The care of the ships was abandoned, and as they drifted shoreward, the smoke and report of the cannon caused the people of Easter Anstruther, of the old Borough of Crail and Castle of Randerftoun, to

assemble in crowds on the neighbouring hills and headlands, expressing, by shouts and gestures, their hopes and fears. But the sun verged westwards, and sank behind Largo Law. The day went past, and still St. Andrew's silver saltire and St. George's red cross waved over the battle smoke and corpse-strewn decks of the adverse vessels, the victory undecided. The starry August night came on; the din of the cannon died over the waters of the Bay, and the hostile ships lay off a little, parted by the darkness. But by dawn next morning, the blare of the cannon and the Admiral's 'silver quiffel' sounded the call to arms. Refitted and prepared, the indomitable Wood stood once more before the English, and running right on board, threw out his grapnels and hooked their ships to his own, 'that all,' he said, 'might sink together, but none might flee.' In the deathly carnage all was forgotten save honour and glory. Inspired by these, and neglecting the course of the winds, waves, and tide, the conflict continued till evening, when the currents drifted the locked fleet into the estuary of the Tay, where the English ships, being of great burden, grounded on the sandbanks there.

"Then Sir Stephen Bull, finding all over, crest-fallen and conquered,

surrendered to the victorious Wood, who carried his prizes into the harbour of Dundee, and a few days after introduced Sir Stephen to the King, who, with the regal spirit which ever distinguished the Stuarts, complimented both the victor and the vanquished, dismissing the latter unransomed, and because they had fought for glory and not for gain, sent back the ships as presents to Henry the king, with a message, 'That Scotland could boast of war-like men by sea as well as land, and that he trusted England's piratical mariners would trouble the Scottish seas no more, else a different fate awaited them.'

"The fruits of this naval victory were of great and important consequences to the young monarch. The northern clans, who had remained turbulent to revenge the fall of the late King, dispersed to their native hills, whilst the English displayed no more their banners on the coasts of Scotland, and measures were instituted which ended in a solid peace, and led afterwards to that marriage ultimately so momentous in its effects on Britain. Sir Andrew's fame was still more spread over all the maritime towns of Northern Europe. The old minstrel, who sings of it in his ballad, says, exultingly,—

'The Scottmen fought like Lyons bold,
'And many English slew;
'The slaughter that they made that day
'The English folk fall rue.

'The battle fiercely it was fought
'Near to the Craig of Baffe;
'When next we fight the English loons,
'May ne'er worse come to pass.'

"A short time later, in 1503, Sir Andrew was employed with a fleet against the insurgent chieftains in the Isles, in which expedition he was, as usual, eminently successful. Laying siege to the strong insular fortress of Kernburg, after an obstinate resistance by the Macians of Glencoe and the warriors of Torquil Macleod, he succeeded in reducing it, and making prisoner Sir Donald Dhu. Sailing up the Sound of the Jura, the Admiral sent Sir Donald to the ancient Castle of Innes Connel, in Lochawe, from which, however, Sir Donald escaped three years subsequently. In the accounts of the High Treas-

urer, there are several entries concerning Wood's expedition to the Isles; and various passages in the Treasury-books prove that James IV. probably acted by the advice and instructions of Sir Andrew, when he increased the naval strength of the kingdom, and studied the principles of navigation and gunnery.

"Meanwhile the Scottish navy continued to flourish,* and the King was soon able to send a noble squadron to the assistance of his ally, John king of Denmark. It then became his desire to possess the largest and most magnificent ship in the world. Lewis XII. of France sent him ship-builders, and two large vessels as models, and in the year 1512 Jaques Tarette built the Great Michael in the Royal Docks at Newhaven, then named 'Our Lady's Port of Grace.' At Tullybardine her dimensions were long to be seen, 'planted in hawthorn by this wright,

*"In aspect the vessels of those days were very different from the present. They had gigantic poops and forecastles towering up from the water, through the gaudy portholes of which the brass-mouthed culverins, sakers, and falconets shone forth, tier above tier. The balls were usually of stone. There is extant an order of Henry V. to the Clerk of his ordnance, for making 7000 stone shot for cannon, from the quarries of Maidstone in Kent. The compass was in common use in the time of Sir Andrew Wood, but sextants and quadrants were unknown. In lieu of them observations were made by means of the balestrae of the Venetians, the astrolabe of the Portuguese, and the cross-staff, an astronomical instrument by which the latitude could be discovered within eight or ten miles. Telescopes also they had none, the *fabr kecker* being the later and useful invention of the Dutch in 1609." (*Ibid.*)

‘who helped to mak her.’ Sir Andrew Wood was appointed captain, and Robert Barton lieutenant of this great ship, which cumbered Scotland to get her to sea. Charnock, quoting Pitcottie, says, ‘that this vessel was of so great stature, and took so much timber, that, except Falkland, she wasted all the oak-woods in Fyfe, with all the timber that came out of Norway. She was 240 feet long, by 36 feet inside, and 10 feet thick in the walls. From the time she was afloat, her masts and sails complete, with anchors effeiring there-to, she was counted to be to the king 30,000*l.* expen*se.*’ Her fame spread over Europe, and emulous of the Scottish king, Henry VIII. and Francis I. endeavoured to outvie each other in building two enormous arks; but they were so unwieldy that they proved no better than islands in the water, quite useless and immoveable. There being peace with England, Sir Andrew was prevented from trying his prowess with the splendid equipment of the great Michael; and now, being old in years, he was succeeded in the command of her by Henry Lord Sinclair of Ravenscraig, who soon after, in 1513, fell upon the fatal field of Flodden, where also fell many of the flower of the land,

and the King himself, the bravest of all that ever drew sword. His infant son, James V., was proclaimed under the Regency of his mother, Margaret of England; but her marriage with Douglas Earl of Angus (grandson to Bell the Cat) gave offence to the nobles, and they determined to invite John Duke of Albany (nephew to James III.) to become Regent. Sir Andrew Wood was despatched on an embassy to France for this purpose, and it is probable that Albany returned with him in the flotilla under his command, which anchored at Dumbarton on May 18, 1515.

“A few years later, Sir Andrew was present at the battle of Linlithgow Bridge, where he had been sent specially to protect the Earl of Lennox from his feudal enemies, but he arrived only in time to behold the unhappy Earl expiring beneath the sword of Hamilton. From this period little more is heard of Sir Andrew Wood, who, finding age and infirmities increasing upon him, retired to his Barony of Largo, where, like old Hawser Truncheon, he indulged on the shore his early predilection for the sea. There is still pointed out the track of a canal formed by him from his Castle to the venerable Kirk of Upper Largo, on which he was sailed or rowed in

a barge to mass every Sunday by his old crew, who were all located round him. From the destruction of the Chancery Records of this time in the English war of 1547, it is impossible to state the exact date of the Admiral's death, but it was probably about the year 1540, when he must have been in extreme old age. He was buried in the family aisle of Largo Kirk, an ancient Gothic edifice, where the tomb of his race may yet be seen. He left several children. Andrew, his heir, second Laird of Largo, was high in favour with James V., and stood by the King's bedside when he expired at Falkland, in 1548. The second son of the Admiral, John Wood of Tillydoun, was educated for the Church, but became a senator of the College of Justice, Dec. 9, 1562. Alexander,* a third son, was progenitor of the Woods of Grange in Fifeshire, and a son of his obtained a charter of legitimation in 1575.

"Sir Andrew, the second Laird, married a lady named Alison Hume. The third Laird married Egidia Gourlay, and became one of the Barons in the Parliament of 1560; and seven years afterwards he signed

the famous Deed of Adherence to James VI. He was also Comptroller of Scotland in 1585. Various MS. papers of his exist in the Great Seal. His daughter Jean* was married to James Drummond, first Lord Maderty, who, according to Douglas, died in 1623. The third Sir Andrew died about 1592, being succeeded by his son Andrew, fourth Laird,* who married Janet Balfour.* Their son James received a charter of the lands of Lambelethame and Cairngour in Fyfeshire. The last notice of the family* is a charter under the Great Seal, 'confirmatione Joanni Wod filio et filiabus filiarum, Isabellæ et Christinæ, filio et filiabus Andræ Wod de Largo, de annuis redditibus de Baronia de Largo—Julii 1621.' John Wood, in 1649, founded an Hospital in his native town for thirteen old men of the name of Wood, each of them to have two apartments, and 17*l.* per annum. His bequest was 68,418*l.* Scots. The edifice cost 9000 merks. He also built the School-house of Remeldrie; but, notwithstanding these legacies, he died under great pecuniary embarrassments in London, in 1661. His body was brought by sea

* All this information appears to have been founded upon mistakes, as will be explained hereafter, in pages 20 and 21, nor does the last seem verified.

to Elie, and interred, July 22d, in Largo Kirk, where yet a mural monument remains to his memory; and with him ceased *the direct line of the old race of Largo*. The estate passed into other hands, and was purchased by Sir Alexander Durham, Lord Lyon King at Arms.

“There is still standing a circular tower of the castellated dwelling erected by the brave old Admiral. A tablet, bearing a me-

morial inscription, with an extract from his charter, was inserted in the mouldering wall by the late General Durham; and on the summit of the ruin is one of the 24-pounders recovered from the wreck of the Royal George, which points towards the sandy shore and beautiful Bay of Largo, forming a characteristic monument to the stout old Captain of the Yellow Caravel.”

Copied (being in many parts abridged) from Tait's Edinburgh Magazine, for April and May, 1852, or for April and June, 1852, for I am unable to state more precisely the months in which this Memoir of Sir Andrew Wood appeared, having failed to obtain the numbers in full, the work being said to be out of print, whilst my own small portion of it is but a fragment.

In reference to the concluding words regarding the extinction of *the direct line of the old race of Largo*, it may I think be assumed, that since mistakes are made in some of the records given of the Family by the author of this Memoir, that in this instance also there is mistake; and that where he writes of the failure of “*the direct line*,” he should rather have written of “*the elder line*.” For not only, as is well known, did there never arise a new race of Wood of Largo, but by such assertion, all the other heirs of the old Sir Andrew are ignored, and the line of that heir called “of a younger son,” which carried on the

family to the Rev. Alexander the Episcopalian clergyman, overlooked altogether. But equally or even more than all this, the long existent family tradition and family faith of their descent, with the established and uncontroverted position of John Wood, Governor of the Isle of Man, as lineal representative of Wood of Largo invested with the appropriate Arms of the old Admiral, seemed to myself evidences so sure that the faith and the claim were rightful ones, that I could not but conclude that the author of the Memoir in *Tait's Magazine* had made a mistake in describing the *direct line of the old race* as extinct. To make such assurance still more sure and certain, request was made to the Lyon Office, Edinburgh, to ascertain if possible the conditions and tenure upon which the Governor of the Isle of Man had obtained the grant of the Arms attached to the title, and to acquire also more full information of the direct lineage from father to son, from the first Laird, the gallant Sir Andrew, to my Brother, the present representative. The reply, when research had been made in his professional capacity, by W. Anderson, Esq., Marchmont Herald and Lyon Clerk Depute, was quite satisfactory as far as Public Records afforded additional particulars, and extracts soon after sent from various Registers of the family under the Great Seal of Scotland, as fully so, to the time to which they extend, when there still remains unsolved the question, which of the Lambelethame Woods of Largo was the father of the Rev. Alexander the Episcopalian clergyman.

But before entering at greater length upon this subject, it may be better to return to the mention of the other mistakes made by the author of the Memoir in *Tait's Magazine*, which are,

First, with regard to the marriage of one of the family of Wood of Largo into the family of James Drummond, first Baron Madderty. In *Tait's Memoir* it is said, speaking of the third Laird, that "his daughter Jean was "married to James Drummond, first Lord Madderty, "who, according to Douglas, died in 1623," as may be seen by reference to page 17. All the Peerages on the contrary give the name of another lady as wife to the first Baron Madderty, and in other Family Records it is stated, not that any lady of the name of Wood was married to that nobleman, but that his second daughter, the Honourable Jean Drummond, became the wife of Andrew Wood, the fourth Laird of Largo. That there was a son of this marriage is also shown, John Wood, the fifth Laird, the munificent founder of the Hospital in Largo and School in Remeldrie, who died without heirs and in poverty, in the year 1661; whether there were other sons, or an only son, is not apparent.

Secondly, the writer of the Memoir in the *Magazine* says that "Andrew, fourth Laird of Largo, married "Janet Balfour, and that their son James received a grant "of charter of the lands of Lambelethame and Cairngour, "in Fyfeshire;" whereas, as above explained, the *fourth Laird* married Jean Drummond, not Janet Balfour, the

latter being wife to "James of Lambelethame, Cairngour, "Newmylne, and others, in Fyfeshire," which James was son of either the second or of the third Laird.* To him, according to the Register of the Great Seal, was made a grant of these lands, that is, to James, the husband of Janet Balfour, who, from all that may be observed, was very distinctly *the lineal and rightful heir of the family*, in John Wood fifth Laird the founder of the Hospital dying unmarried, *having failed the elder line, not the direct line*, this being carried onward in the heirs of this same "James Wood of Lambelethame, Cairngour, Newmylne, "and others, in Fyfeshire," who appears, from one of the Cartularies, to have been youngest son of the second Laird, and grandson to the old Admiral; yet it is not perfectly plain; still thus the uncertainty resulting from *Tait's* account of these circumstances, may be considered, I think, as in great part, if not entirely removed; whilst it is not unlikely that, if the research were more necessary, less difficult, and less fatiguing, that this "James "of Lambelethame, Cairngour, Newmylne, and others in "Fyfeshire," or more possibly one of his sons, would be found to be the same as the ancestor mentioned in an incomplete genealogy amongst the papers in my pos-

* This James of Lambelethame could scarcely have been son to the fourth Laird (as is thus stated in *Tait's* Memoir, vide page 17), being an older man, and having died in or about the year 1596, when the fourth Laird it would seem was young, and which may be further observed by comparing the statements and dates in *Tait's Magazine* with those relating to him in the Pedigree of the Family, between pages 26 and 31.

cession, as "a younger son of Wood of Largo," grandfather of the Rev. Alexander.*

But it is not only in this Memoir in *Tait's Magazine* that mistakes are made. In Debrett's *Baronetage* for 1824, fifth edition, vol ii. p. 1092, there is a mis-statement, of names only perhaps, but still mis-stated. It is said there that Sir Mark, on

the decease without issue of John Wood, late Governor and Captain General of the Isle of Man, became heir male and representative of the ancient Woods of Largo,	and chief of the name; and in August 1809 Sir Mark obtained a grant from the Lyon Office, Edinburgh, of the arms granted to Sir William.
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There seems to be no recognition anywhere of any Sir William Wood of Largo. There was a Sir John Wood of Bonnytoun, extinct in 1666, between which Woods of Bonnytoun, and also Woods of Colpny, Aberdeen, and the Woods of Largo, there was some acknowledged affinity, as branches doubtless of the still older Woods of Bonnington, and the shield of his coat armorial bore an oak-tree, as all families of the name of Wood in Scotland are said always to bear; but his crest was not the Ship under sail, the distinctive badge of the old Admiral; nor had he Supporters of any kind. Is it not the most likely that in this mention of Wood of Largo in Debrett, Sir *William* is a misprint for Sir *Andrew*?

Again, in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for the month of

* In this genealogy, marriages are given both of the father and grandfather, but no dates, and no names of either husband or wife until the Rev. Alexander.

October 1837, there is the following passage in the obituary memoir there of the younger Sir Mark, our cousin, who died in August in that year, aged forty-two: "This
 " is a Scotch family, a branch of the Woods of Largo;
 " and upon the demise of Mark Wood, late Governor and
 " Captain-General of the Isle of Man, Sir Mark, the first
 " baronet, became the Representative of that ancient house."
 This, without any question, is a mistake, or a misprint; John, not Mark, having undoubtedly been the Christian name of that gentleman, the Governor of Man—regarding whose claim to the lineal representation and appropriate armorial bearings of Wood of Largo, may now be given the substance of the reply from the Marchmont Herald,

Which is to the effect,

and justifies my own conclusions, that when (as may be also seen by reference to the Grant of Arms in the possession of George Wood, Esq., the present Representative) that "when on the 25th of March, 1775, his Excellency
 " John Wood obtained a matriculation of those appropriate arms, that his *right of claim* to them as *Heir
 " male and Representative of Wood of Largo and Chief
 " of the name*, must have been made known and proved to
 " the satisfaction of the Lyon Court Officials of the time,
 " or he could not have been so recognized in the Public
 " Records, nor so acknowledged by any Heraldic Law or
 " usage whatsoever. That such a valid right would descend with *the same completeness* to his own lawful Heirs,
 " is declared to be equally indisputable, and the Marchmont

“ Herald concludes the subject by some reference to the
 “ Law of Challenge in Scotland, which but tends more
 “ entirely to confirm the claim.”

Amongst other persons of influence in these matters, and writers who have made the tracing of genealogies and family connexions their study, it is observed that “ names
 “ are of great service, as being frequently, if not generally,
 “ indicative of lines of kinsmanship, as well as of new families
 “ brought in by marriage.” Thus, amongst the Woods of Largo, are to be noted the names of Alexander, James, and William, besides those of Andrew, John, Mark, and George; and by this means there may be obtained a better guide towards elucidating the relationship between the Rev. Alexander the Episcopalian clergyman and grandfather to the Governor of Man, and the later Woods of Lambelethame, the indecisiveness attending this question appearing to have been chiefly caused by the rather singular coincidence, that about the period of his birth, probably in or near 1640, both the families of Wood of Largo had become impoverished. The troubled times of civil warfare had in all likelihood much to do with this change in their destinies which now overtook them, but the precise nature of the misfortune is not as clear as its reality. In an explanatory note appended to the Pedigree it is stated that

<p>“ From some cause not ascertained, “ that the landed possessions of both “ the families of Wood of Largo “ and of Lambelethame, passed into “ other hands prior to or about the</p>	<p>“ middle of the seventeenth century, “ and hence the difficulties in tracing “ descent downwards from the gen- “ erations therein given. To show “ that they had been conveyed or</p>
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“dispossessed of their properties (the explanation of which term is given in the Addenda, page 91), “the two following services are inserted— namely,

“First date. *April 27, 1646.*— John Scrymgeour is served heir of Hugh Scrymgeour of Balrymouth Easter, his father, in Balrymouth, part of the lands of Lambelethame and Mylne, and two parts of the

lands of Cairngour and Balrymouth Wester, &c.”

“Second date. *March 9, 1671.*— Alexander Durham, of Largo, is served heir of Mr. Francis Durham, his brother-german, in the lands of Largo and others, comprising the old heritage of the Woods of Largo,” the same described in *Tait's Memoir* to have been purchased by their uncle the Lord Lyon, in 1663.

Thus it is evident that at this period, the Woods of Largo had fallen from their high estate into adverse fortunes. Of the decay and extinction of the elder line of the family, descended from the eldest son's eldest son, it is expressly said in *Tait's Memoir* (and appears to be correct), that John, the fifth Laird, died “in great pecuniary embarrassments in London in the year 1661.” His extensive charities are also set forth therein, and from record of him elsewhere, is to be gathered this further testimony of his kindness and consideration for others, “that he obtained a charter under James VI. for himself and his three sisters, Lillias, Isabella, and Christian or Christina, of an annual rent out of the Barony of Largo;” yet he died in poverty; but not dishonoured, nor forsaken. Reverential if not grateful hearts seem to have been near in the closing hours of his life, and with a pious care to have borne home the dead to his native shore. “His body was brought by sea to Scotland, and interred in his ancestral kirk of Largo, where still,” says the author

of the Memoir in *Tait*, "a Mural Monument remains to his memory. His estate passed into other hands, and was purchased by Sir Alexander Durham."

The younger branch of the family, descending from James of Lamblethame and Cairngour, whose eldest son Alexander was the sixth Lineal Representative, his mother, ~~+~~ wife to this James, being Janet Balfour, supposed to have been of the Balfours of Munqhanny or of Burleigh, for both these families had some connexion with the ancient Admiral, the former from their office as Wardens of the Forth, and the latter from family links, (*vide* pages 68 and 75), this line of James of Lamblethame having become impoverished also, as related in the service of April 1646, were apparently from this cause, prevented from claiming the landed inheritance of their race in Largo. Or the sale of it may have been necessary to defray all the expenditure of the almsgivings of John Wood the fifth Laird. But whatever were the causes, there is full proof that not distant from the middle of the seventeenth century, the Woods of Largo were rich and powerful no longer; and about the same time come to an end, the entries and notices, dates of charter in the Register of the Great Seal of Scotland, commencing in 1480, or earlier, and other memoranda of the family, till then enrolled, and still preserved in the archives of that kingdom.

+ Janet Balfour - now ascertained to have been daughter of David Balfour of Burleigh & his spouse Anne or Anna daughter of Duncan Forrester of Fordean - of said daughter of Sir Michael Balfour of Burleigh & Mary Munro.
July 1666. *John*

PEDIGREE.

PEDIGREE OF THE BARONIAL

I. SIR ANDREW WOOD, or WODE of Largo, Co. Fyfe, Admiral to the Kings James III. and IV.; had several charters under the Great Seal of Scotland to himself and Elizabeth Lundie, his spouse, of the lands of Largo and others, erected into a Free Barony in 1513. His eldest son

II. ANDREW WOOD of Largo (2nd Laird and Knight) married Alifon Hume, and had a charter under the Great Seal of Scotland in the time of James V. of half the King's lands of Shiremuir, dated 1528, and another of the Island of Inch Keith, of Balbreckie, of Netherfawfields, and others, dated 1538—and left three sons:—

¹
III. ANDREW (3rd Laird) married Egidia Gourlay; was Comptroller to King James VI. in 1585; obtained a charter of the lands of Balbreckie and Inch Keith in feu farm in 1597. His son

²
Alexander of Grange had a son, Robert, who obtained a charter of Legitimation in 1572, but appears to have left no direct heirs.

³
James of Ballingall obtained a charter under the Great Seal, dated in 1585, of part of the lands of Balrymouth, also of the lands of Ballingall and Pitgeddie, in which he is described as the "third born son," and also another charter dated in September, 1591, of the lands of Lambelethame and Cairngour in Fyfeshire, in which he is designated as "*filius quondam Andree Wode Senioris de Largo*," "son of the late Andrew Wood the Elder, of Largo." This last charter of the lands of Lambelethame and

IV. ANDREW succeeded. All his several lands were united of new into the Barony of Largo in 1596. He married the Hon. Jean Drummond, second daughter of James, first Lord Madderty (see Crawford's Peerage, 293), by whom he had one son and three daughters—as below—His son

V. JOHN WOOD obtained a charter of confirmation under the Great Seal in favour of himself and his three sisters, Lily or Lilius, Isabella, and Christian or Christina, of an annual rent out of the Barony of Largo. (Died in 1661, apparently unmarried, as seems to be generally elsewhere confirmed).

FAMILY OF WOOD OF LARGO.

Cairngour being at the same time confirmed to himself and to his spouse, Janet Balfour. He had, moreover, another charter of the Mylne, called the Newmylne, near St. Andrews. He died in or about the year 1596, and appears to have left two sons, namely,—

¹
VI. ALEXANDER served heir of James Wood, his father, in the lands of Lambelethame and Newmylne in that year, 1596; and also as heir to his father conform to service, in certain lands in and near Pittenweyme, in 1600. In his lifetime he appears to have acquired the lands of Grange (as heir probably to his uncle). His son

²
William described as "*filius legitimo* "*quond Jacobo Wode de Lambele-* "*thame,*" that is, "of the late "James Wood of Lambelethame," obtains a charter under the Great Seal of a tenement and lands at Pittenweyme, 1599.

VII. JAMES WODE, or WOOD, of Lambelethame, is served heir of his father Alexander, in the lands of Grange and teinds of Kilconquhar, and also of his grandfather James Wood of Lambelethame, in the lands of Gallerig and Clune in the Barony of Pittencrieffe, service of date, June 1630.—He had a son,

VIII. JAMES WOOD, heir apparent, or younger of Lambelethame, gets a charter under the Great Seal of the lands of Grange in 1649.

A copy abridged, but entire in all the material parts.



To trace downwards the descent from these last members of the family herein named, difficulty arises, not only from the estates having passed into other hands, but from the loss likewise of documents presumed to have belonged to the Rev. Alexander Wood, not, however, of real moment; and no complete genealogy existing, the only opinions that can now be formed are, that he may have been son to the sixth Laird, the fourth in descent from the old Admiral according to this Pedigree, or to his brother William, or to some other son of the family not far removed from these, the sons of James of Lambelet-hame and Cairngour. His own name of Alexander, and the name of William of his third-born son, strengthens the conjecture, and tends to establish the probability of very near relationship between them, thus bringing into *close proximity* the known and certain line of the family of Wood of Largo *preceding*, and the line of the same family *in succession* to himself, the Rev. Alexander. And there can be no doubt that it must have been by lawful evidence of such connecting bonds, that his grandson, the Governor of Man, was able to declare himself entitled to be their Lineal and Rightful Representative.

From the Rev. Alexander (*vide* Notes concluding, 1. part first), by his marriage with the granddaughter of the Rev. Robert Ker, of Ker of Cessford, descended four sons, viz.,

1. ROBERT, Under Secretary of State for Scotland,
“when,” as stated in one of the old papers, “his

“ relative, the Duke of Roxburghe, was Secretary” between 1705 and 1726. He is said to have died young, and without heirs.

2. GEORGE, also deceased without heirs.
3. WILLIAM, married, and had John, Governor of the Isle of Man; Andrew, Rector of Darlington, York, and Chaplain to the King, died unmarried; and William, Captain in the Army, married Lady Catherine Cochrane, only daughter of Thomas, sixth Earl of Dundonald, and left one child, Anne, Mrs. Dottin.
4. MARK, of Perth, married Jean Mercer, of the family of Mercer of Aldie, and had Alexander, who married Jean Ramsay, and became heir to the Governor of Man; Thomas died young, and Robert married Anne Smythe.

And then, continuing the line, towards the close of the century after his decease, his grandson, John Wood, Governor of the Isle of Man, takes his place (as his ancestors, the Woods of Lambelethame, must equally have done) as Heir Male and Representative of the Family, and Chief of the name; upon whom dying without male issue in the year 1777, another grandson of the Episcopalian clergyman and cousin-german to the Governor of Man, Alexander of Burncroft,* became the Heir; (our own

* It is thus, as “ Alexander Wood, Esq. of Burncroft Co. Perth, a Lineal descendant “ of Wood of Largo,” that his son Sir Mark designates his Father in an old Paper or part of a letter written by him, which is amongst the papers in my possession.

grandfather), the succession passing on upon his death in the year following, 1778, to his eldest son Mark, afterwards Sir Mark Wood, Bart., of Gatton, Surrey; upon the failure of whose heirs male, it has again passed from cousin-german to cousin-german, from the younger Sir Mark, to *George*, the only son and heir of Major-General Sir George Wood, K.C.B., of Otterhaw, and of Gatton, *who is now therefore the Lineal Heir and Representative, as John, Governor of the Isle of Man, was*, of the ancient Family of Wood of Largo, descended from the brave and loyal Admiral of Scotland, Sir Andrew, who himself, according to Abercrombie, was of the still more ancient family of Wood of Bonnington in Angus; by which the designation of Wood of Largo becomes even more decidedly bound up and identified with his own descendants, leaving no room to question that in the person of *George Wood, Esq.*, (the son of Major-General Sir George), late of Otterhaw and Potter's Park, and now of Childdown, Surrey, and of Testcombe, Hants, is his living Representative, and in the other members of the family, his living posterity.

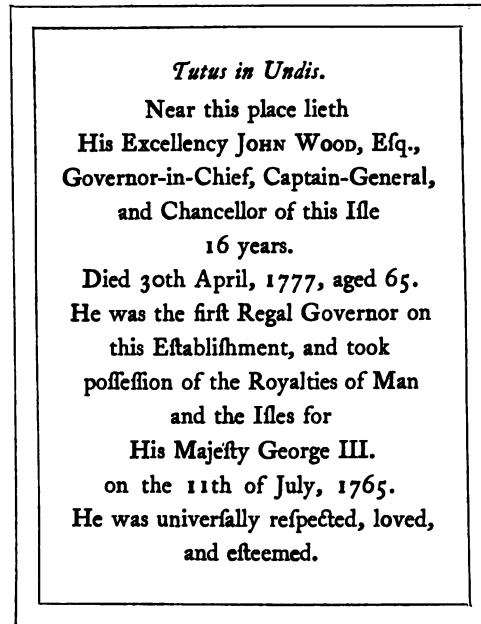
If further evidence were wanting to make more perceptible the mistake in the Memoir in *Tait's Magazine* when the Author asserts that the direct line of the old race of Largo ceased in John Wood the fifth Laird, it seems to be afforded in the very name and the very coincidence. If upon his death in 1661, and the sale soon after in 1663 of all his estates in Largo to Sir Alexander Durham (as vide pages

17, 18, and 25), if then the direct line had ceased in him, there must have been for those who carried on this distinctive family appellation a prior and a stronger claim to it than merely the estates would give. There must have been a full assurance of direct lineage from the old Admiral, Sir Andrew, or the title of his Barony could never have been assumed, nor permitted in any manner to have been assumed by aliens; whilst, moreover, the Grant from the Herald's College of the appropriate Arms of Wood of Largo, *crest* and *motto*, *supporters* and *shield*, makes it imperative that *those appropriate arms* should belong *only to him* who can trace his inheritance by *lineal* right and *lawful* wedlock.

To this family alone, therefore, belong these Armorial Bearings, and to George Wood, Esq., as Chief of this name of Wood of Largo, are *strictly limited the supporters of them*, attached to his Title, and with the ship under sail, distinctive of his Claim, and which moreover are restricted "to be inherited only, and borne only, and used only by him and his Rightful Heirs in all time coming."

To the memory of John Wood, Governor of Man, to whom the grant of these appropriate arms of Wood of Largo was given in the year 1775, there is an inscription

on a Mural Tablet in St. Mary's Government Chapel in
Castletown, Isle of Man, as follows—



His father, William Wood, the third son of the Rev. Alexander the Episcopalian clergyman, and brother to Mark of Perth, appears to have been a person of some consideration in Glasgow, though in what position or profession is not stated. Mention is made of him and his family about the year 1745, in the lately published *Memoir* and *Autobiography of Carlyle of Inveresk*; and it is that kind of mention which clearly discloses that he must

have been one of the principal gentlemen of the place. His daughters, too, are spoken of, and some particulars added of the death of his son, the Rev. Andrew, Rector of Darlington, and afterwards of Gateshead by Newcastle. (vide Note 1, part second).

Of Mark Wood, a merchant of Perth, there is again evidence that his family was considered as one of the higher families of that city. The date given of his marriage with Jean Mercer (vide Note 2) is in or about the year 1707. Their first three children were daughters, Lilius, Jane, and Anna, but whether dying married or unmarried is not known. This name of Lilius is noticed by the Marchmont Herald as "presenting confirmation "of the relation between the family of Mark Wood "of Perth, and that of the fourth Laird and his wife "the Hon. Jean Drummond." Alexander, their eldest son, was born in 1712, being designated in one of the old Papers by his son Sir Mark, as "Alexander Wood, Esq. "of Burncroft, Co. Perth, a Lineal descendant of Wood "of Largo," and further shown in the same, to have held the office of Collector of Customs for the county,* and to have inherited some property from his mother. Of the family of his wife, the daughter of R. Ramfay, Esq.,

* This was an office often held by gentlemen of good birth in Scotland in the last century. About the year 1760, a son of Sir David Murray, Bart., of Stanhope, was Collector of Customs at Borrowstounes. Near the same period one of the Keiths of Powburn, of the family of the Earl Marischal (Kintore), was Collector at Aberdeen. In 1791 Campbell of Dunstaffnage Castle held the same office for the county of Argyle; and many other instances might be enumerated.

nothing can with certainty be ascertained, beyond that it is apparently extinct, having been said to have belonged to one of the ancient branches, probably of Bamff or Fifeshire. Their eldest daughter Christian, died young and unmarried. Their eldest son Mark, afterwards Sir Mark Wood, Bart., of Gatton, was born March 16, 1750. This name of Mark does not appear in the family until after the connexion with the Kers of Celsford; so likewise the name of George is only to be observed after that time. The name of Alexander has been since the sixth lineal Representative, the son of James of Lambelethame and Janet Balfour, a far more frequent one than that of Andrew. This same name of Alexander belongs also to other Woods, the Woods of Littleton in Middlesex, but in no way are they allied to the Woods of Largo, who stand quite and wholly separate from all other families of the name.

Robert Wood, the younger brother of the above Alexander, married Anne, daughter of W. Smythe, Esq., of Methven, Perthshire, one of the oldest races of that county, descended from the Clan Chattan, whose history was in its origin commingled with that of the Lords of the Isles. Their only daughter became the wife of Capt. Martin Lindsay, R.N., of the family of Dowhill, North Britain, descended from Sir William Lindesay of Rossie, brother to the first Earl of Crawford, 1390; and they were her grandchildren, the children of her youngest son, George Lindsay, of the East India Company's Civil Service, who perished so tragically in the

maffacre of Cawnpore in 1857, and written by one of whom, were afterwards found those affecting lines, so brief, yet so full of the anguish and of the utter hopelessness of their most mournful fate.

Besides Mrs. Martin Lindsay, the only deceased daughter of the Woods of Largo who has left children surviving, has been Margaret Wood, granddaughter of Robert Wood and Anne Smythe, and wife of the late Edward Collins, Esq., of Frowlesworth, Leicestershire, formerly Captain in the 21st Regiment of Light Dragoons; one of those disbanded after Waterloo.

Married to be removed in 1865.

The sons of Alexander Wood, Esq., Heir to the Governor of Man, were besides Sir Mark his eldest son, and two younger who died in childhood, Admiral Sir James Atholl, R.N. and C.B., Major-General Sir George, K.C.B. of Otterfshaw Park, Surrey, Lieut. Andrew, R.N., and Captain Thomas of the Madras Engineers. The sons of Robert Wood, Esq., his younger brother, were James of Keithock, Perthshire, George a merchant died unmarried, William, Robert died young, and Lieut.-Col. Thomas, C.B., of the Bengal Engineers. From these gentlemen descend those, but few in number, who bear the name and comprehend the existing branches of this Family, and of whom further mention may be found in the Pedigree in conclusion.

** For them, in 1857, became known to me at Col. David Elliot's Headquarters commanding the 69th Regt. who is a son of the late Mr. Mackintosh of Redwood, Lanark & descended from one of the daughters of Wm. Wood of Glasgow father of Wm. of Otterfshaw Park who married Lady Catherine Lockhart. Mr. Mackintosh has brothers & sisters, & tells me that another of the daughters of Wm. Wood (who himself married a third of Redwood) married the wife of Blair, one of their children married the 12th Duke of Devonshire. I have.*

Personal Remembrances.

OF all this family of the Woods of Largo, my own early memory carries me back to the immediate relatives of the Governor of Man, in the brother-in-law and sister-in-law of his niece Mrs. Dottin, the only child of his brother, Captain William Wood of Nether Gallowhill, North Britain,* which lady and gentleman, Colonel and Mrs. Rouse Dottin, of Bugle Hall, Hampshire, I remember staying upon a visit to our Parents at Gatton, some time in those years of our childhood passed there between 1819 and 1824; but in which precisely, I cannot say. They were both I think quite old, which in Colonel Dottin especially, made the impression upon me which enables me to recollect them so well. Mrs. Rouse Dottin was sister to the second wife of the ninth Lord Arundell of Wardour, daughters of Mr. Burnett Jones of Ades, Suffex, all of which may be seen in the first volume of the first edition of Burke's *Commoners*, the only mistake being in describing the property of Nether Gallowhill, as Gallon Hill, in the County of Renfrew.

* In Debrett's *Peerage*, 14th edition for 1822, vol. ii. p. 792, is mentioned the marriage of this gentleman, William Wood of Nether Gallowhill, to Lady Catherine Cochrane, daughter of Thomas, sixth Earl of Dundonald, and the marriage also of their only child Anne, to three husbands; Captain Dottin, (who in one of the old Papers is correctly described as Captain Dottin of the Guards) being the last. Again in Burke's *Peerage*, 21st edition for 1859, at the title Dundonald, is given the same marriage of the Parents, but not that of their child. She appears to have deceased, and Captain Dottin also, before the year 1820.

Of others nearer to ourselves, our uncle Sir Mark will ever be remembered by me with much affection. He was always and unfailingly a most kind uncle to us, and between him and our dear Father Sir George, there existed a strong brotherly regard, grown up from their youth and become more closely sealed by the mutual trust of earnest-hearted men; and not unfrequently returns to me through the long years as a vision from a happier world, the friendly intercourse of those departed days, not only of our Father and Uncle, but of all the family circle then at Gatton, living in the large House and in the smaller houses around, within the domain of Lower Gatton. In the summer time my sister and myself were often allowed to breakfast with Sir Mark at the Tower, his pretty residence in the Park, completely trellised over with sweet China Roses; and never can his ever-ready and loving welcomes to "little Fanny and little Georgina," become for me kindnesses forgotten. Sometimes he would take us with him in his Pony carriage, the Pony, that same Welsh Maria, which survived through all our earlier life at Otter-shaw, to carry about afterwards, I think, some of our own children. When last we saw Sir Mark at his house in Pall Mall but a little while before his death in February 1829, he greeted us with his usual affection; but it was in tears. He had been very ill. I remember hearing that a Bible our Cousin Bessie had given him, was, in the latter weeks of his life, his constant companion.

Amongst other memories of Gatton which are interest-

ing, I have one, not very distinct perhaps, yet sufficiently to show that it was reality and not imagination, of the Election of some Member of Parliament in the small Temple-like building called the Town Hall which stood amidst the large elm-trees behind the house. It was even then, to my fancy, old-looking and moss-grown, for we often wandered to it in our play-hours, making pretended gipsy fires there, the Peacocks and Peafowl sometimes fauntering round us. I remember an assemblage of people cheering, and hats thrown up and waved, whilst Sir Mark and other gentlemen waited within the rails beside a stranger, whose name I have some idea was Ruffell. At Gatton also near the house, was a grove not quite unknown to fame, called the Lady Cowper's Walk, where one of the Countesses Cowper was said to have met her death, being stung there by an adder. At the distant end a monumental urn had been erected to her memory, the verses upon it being written, if I remember rightly, by the poet Cowper, our beloved mother's favourite poet; but it was but seldom we went there, and then almost only in her company, for the place possessed for our young feelings a great gloom, enhanced by the bridge over a chasm in the hill-side obscured with overhanging branches, by which alone it could then be entered. Another similar urn, but I think without inscription, was on the opposite garden side of the lawn, where in spring-time violets lavishly carpeted the ground, and where some ineffaceable lessons were learnt from our elder companions. Within

the house was a picture upon the wall, a large medallion in the dining-room engraven in wood, representing the Choice of Hercules, which always impressed me with a certain seriousness, the effect very likely of the words of one or other of our Parents when first explaining to us its meaning. There are some things I never hear, and I never see a China rose or violet, but a refrain comes from that happy home of the past, now only typical to me and to some few more amongst us, of the utmost desolation. But one amaranthine flower grew there, the only one some poets say which can grow in mortal air, and that flower was Truth. True to their consciences were the upright hearts around us, and not severe their Judge ; and thus, through all this darkened world of loss and care and grief, even when our dearest hopes are gone, we can for comfort turn to the rays of light unfading, which by the Saviour's mercy, sometimes reach us, from the everlasting hills above.

Our Uncle, Sir James Atholl Wood, whose career has become more public than that of his brothers, was a kind Uncle to us also, though less affectionate in manner than Sir Mark. During our residences in London, to which as we grew older our mother took us every year for the better advantages of education, we frequently visited him in his apartments in the Albany, from which some lameness prevented him from often moving. A large and most perfect model of his beautiful ship, the *Pompée*, stood upon a table at one end of his sitting-room. His bed-closet, for it could scarcely be called much more, he had arranged to look like

a ship's cabin, with his bed as a berth in the side, and the resemblance was, I think, made more striking from the window being very small, and in a corner near the ceiling. A faithful and attached old servant lived with him somewhere in the attics of those Albany Chambers, who had been his steward in the *Latona*, in command of which vessel it was that our Uncle had so effectually assisted in the capture of the Isle of Curaçoa, in 1807.

In Ralfe's *Naval Biography*, there is a long and interesting Memoir of Sir James Atholl Wood, throughout the whole of which, not only is he spoken of in the highest terms, but great pains are taken to acquit him from all blame in a Court Martial held in the year 1812, and to make manifest its great injustice towards him, of which, when one comes to read the circumstances, and to know, as may be so well known, how exceedingly conscientious and unselfish was our Uncle's conduct through life, it seems surprising how any such court could ever have been called to judge him. Of his character, his talents, and his worth, some idea may be formed from the following extracts from the above Author, who, after mentioning Sir James's progress from the Hunter sloop of war, to the *Barfleur*, the *Princess Royal*, and the *Anson*, to which he was appointed First Lieutenant by Lord Rodney after the action with the *Conte de Grasse*, in which his Captain (Blair) was killed, continues thus :

“ After the capture of Marti- |
 nique, Lieutenant Wood being then | mander), was directed by Sir John
 in the *Boyne* (Sir John Jervis, Com- | to take charge of some cartel-ships
 with prisoners on board, and con-

vey them to St. Malo, where he unfortunately arrived during the sanguinary government of Robespierre. That tyrant, without any respect to the laws or common usages of nations, not only seized the ships, but threw Lieutenant Wood into prison. He was afterwards ordered to Paris, where he underwent an examination before the Comité de Salut Public, and was then sent to the Abbaye, in compliance with the following order :

“ Le citoyen gendarme, auquel a été confié le nommé Wood, Anglais, venant de Port de Malo, le déposera dans la maison d'arrêt, dite l'Abbaye, où il sera écroué en sa qualité d'Anglais, ici conformément à l'article 4 de la loi du 19 Vendémiaire,

“ (Signé) HERMAN,

“ *Commissaire des Administrations Civiles, etc.*

“ *Dâte, le 27 Prairial, l'an 2 de la République.*”

“ After the death of Robespierre (in 1794), whom Sir James, then Lieutenant Wood, saw pass to the place of his execution, he was released on parole, as by the order following :

“ Le Comité de Salut Public arrête que Athol Wood, officier parlementaire Anglais, et Helven son homme de confiance, detenus

“ au Luxembourg, seront élargis et mis en liberté sur leur parole d'honneur. “ (Signé)

“ CAMBAÇÈRES, PELET, DUMONT, BOISSY, CHAREL, ETC.

“ *Dâte le 30 Nivôse, l'an 3 de la République une et indivisible.*”

“ Lieutenant Wood then returned to England, but not till he had used his utmost exertions in behalf of his unfortunate countrymen immured within the Prisons of Paris, as appears from the following letter from General O'Hara to the Secretary of State for the War Department, the Right Hon. H. Dundas :

“ *Date Paris, Prison du Drenoux, April 6, 1795.*

“ SIR,—Give me leave to present to you Lieutenant Wood of the Royal Navy, whose long confinement in a common gaol, where our acquaintance began, renders him highly deserving your protection, as the unexampled severities he experienced, arose from his manly endeavours to serve his fellow-countrymen. Lieut. Wood will, I am persuaded, Sir, have a further claim to your good offices when you are acquainted that several English families who had languished for many months in the Prisons of this town, the mansions of despair and accumulated cruelties, are indebted to his friendly

“interference for their liberty. And
 “that likewise the exchange of fe-
 “veral officers of the Royal Navy,
 “has been in a great measure brought
 “about by his unremitting exertions.
 “I trust, Sir, you will have the
 “goodness to forgive the liberty I
 “take in endeavouring to be useful
 “to an officer whose sufferings have
 “been so great and fortunes so
 “deeply wounded, from a spirited
 “discharge of his duty.

“ (Signed) CHARLES O’HARA.”

“Soon after his return to Eng-
 land Lieutenant Wood was advanced
 to the rank of Commander, and
 appointed to the Favourite sloop of
 war, in which, after cruising for
 some time in the Channel, he pro-
 ceeded to the West Indies, where he
 was required to assist in quelling the
 insurrections which had long raged
 in the Islands of St. Vincent and
 Grenada.

“Among the many instances of
 his zeal and activity while on that
 service, was the capture and destruc-
 tion in the course of less than forty-
 eight hours of three formidable
 French Privateers roving about those
 shores; and Captain Wood being
 further so fortunate as to obtain a
 knowledge of the private night-signal
 of the French, got possession of three

more armed vessels of the same Fleet
 at near the same time.

“Subsequently, the capture of the
 Isle of Trinidad formed a principal
 object in his mind, and in company
 with Captain, afterwards Sir R. W.
 Otway, Captain Wood waited upon
 the Commander-in-Chief, Sir H.
 Christian, to entreat him to repre-
 sent to the British Government the
 facility with which the Island could
 be made a British Colony. On the
 arrival of Sir Ralph Abercrombie in
 January 1797, directions were given
 to Captain Wood to inspect its de-
 fences and advise the necessary mode
 of attack, for which he drew out a
 plan which was approved and sanc-
 tioned by both the General and
 Admiral in command; and upon the
 attack being made, Captain Wood
 was further directed to haul down
 the colours, which having done, he
 informed the Admiral that he was
 ready to lay them at his feet, but
 the Admiral desired him to keep
 them, observing that no one else had
 so good a claim to them.

“After further service in com-
 mand of the Garland frigate,* in
 which he served on the Coast of
 Africa, and then of the Acasta, off
 Brest, and again in the West Indies,
 throughout all of which service he

* Vide Notes concluding 4.

conducted his operations with his usual skill and gallantry, Captain Wood was appointed to the *Urania*, and afterwards to the *Latona* in the year 1806. And it was when in command of this vessel that in January 1807, he assisted, in conjunction with Captain Brisbane of the *Arethusa*, Captain Lydiard of the *Anson*, and the *Fisgard*, in the taking of the Isle of *Curaçoa*; the whole merit of which enterprise, says Ralfe, 'some Biographers ascribe wholly to Captain Brisbane, but it is clear,' he adds, 'that they were not acquainted with the particulars.' For his services upon this occasion Captain Wood was by desire of his Majesty, George III., presented with a gold medal, and on his return to England, the King conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood. Previous to his return, Capt. Wood had superintended, by direction of Sir A. Cochrane, the blockade of the Danish Islands, which terminated in their surrender. He was then appointed to the *Captain*, of 74 guns, in which he assisted at the capture of *Martinique*. After the rank of knighthood had been bestowed upon him, he was appointed to the *Neptune*, a second-rate, in which he continued in Channel service until 1810, when he joined the *Pompée*, of 74 guns, and in 1812, while still

on service in the Channel, fell in with a French Squadron, which however escaped from the *Pompée*, the *Tremendous*, and the *Poictiers*, (by some accident it would seem in the night, or early dawn) 'in consequence of which a Court Martial was held, to enquire into the conduct of Sir James Atholl Wood and of Captain Robert Campbell.'" This Court Martial came to the resolution 'that Sir James was blameable for tacking before it was better ascertained that the enemy had veered and stood towards him, &c., but that such blame arose from erroneous impressions at the time, and not from any want of zeal for the good of his Majesty's service.' Captain Campbell of the *Tremendous* was fully acquitted.

"Ralfe adds touching this circumstance, the following opinion, vide vol. iv. page 192 :

"In the course of this work we have repeatedly differed from the sentences of those Court Martials which we have had occasion to notice, and we believe that there are none from which we differ more than the one held upon the above occasion, which attributed blame to Sir James Atholl Wood. We have gone through the whole of the minutes, which are very voluminous, and it appears clear to us, as we

hope to make it appear so to others, | choice of conduct left ; and *that his*
 that so far from Sir James being | *duty pointed out that line* of conduct
 blameable, that he had scarcely a | which he did pursue.”

Of this there cannot be any doubt, so intense and never-failing had always been upon all occasions, our Uncle's devotion to the service of his King and country. Ralfe goes on to give the proofs that it was a mistaken verdict, and succeeds in entirely clearing Sir James Atholl Wood, adding, that even Lord Keith, the President of the proceedings, observed, that “he had great difficulty in hazarding any opinion upon the subject.” After this event Sir James served in the Mediterranean, “and was left by Lord Exmouth in charge of the Squadron off Catalonia, to prevent the Enemy from throwing supplies into Barcelona. In 1815 he commanded the Fleet off Toulon and the Coast of Provence. In the same year he was nominated a Companion of the Bath, and in 1821 made a Rear-Admiral.”

Extracts (abridged) from the Naval Biography of Great Britain, by J. Ralfe, vol. iv. containing the Memoir of Sir James Atholl Wood.

Our Uncle Sir James was never married. He died in his rooms in the Albany after but a very short illness, in July 1829.

Of our own dear Father, Sir George, we must all from our earliest years, have many remembrances of his love and affection for us. I have often heard our Mother say, that in our infancy when we were not well or sleepless, he would watch beside us with the utmost tenderness,

never caring for his own disturbed rest or comfort, and I can quite well recall his kindness in one of our small illnesses of that period, and the joy of going out afterwards holding a hand of each of my dear Parents. For our good behaviour and for our manners too he was careful, and most anxious was he to impress upon us the value of truthfulness, of accuracy, and gentleness. In the nurture of my own children many circumstances have come back to me, and shown me that his care was very wise; the transcript doubtless of his own moral worth. I have an impression that he held promises to be especially sacred, and that whatever he promised, however difficult or hazardous, he would scrupulously have performed, at the risk of life, had it been needed. To his orphan niece, our cousin Bessie, he proved himself a kind and faithful guardian. His own young daughters he never liked to be far away, and their presence in his home was, I think, most necessary for his happiness. Every evening, till our early bedtime, we passed with him and our mother, whoever might be the visitors; and in the mornings he would not unfrequently take us out, sometimes driving us in Sir Mark's pony-carriage, and sometimes riding with us, and walking with us in the Park, and gardens. It was thus, when I was once alone with him, our dear father upon a horse that was not considered quite safe, or was subsequently found not to have been so, and myself on the little black pony which also went the next year to Otterhaw, that he met with that sad accident which not improbably was of fatal import,

being thrown from this horse over a gate that he had just opened for me to pass, by which fell his shoulder was dislocated. Never can I forget the shock of that moment, nor the spot where I beheld him thrown, beneath the chestnut trees in the park at Gatton not very distant from the house, to which, in an agony of fear and trembling, finding that he could not rise from the ground, I ran, crying for assistance. Our mother was one of the first who heard me, and then, with the aid of the attending servants she helped him home, and in the evening Sir Astley Cooper was sent for from London to set the arm. When after long, long absence, I went to Gatton in 1855, and passing through the old familiar rooms, stood awhile in that where he had lain so ill, his patient face seemed once more to look upon me, and all the sad memories of the time to return as if they had never been shadowed over by the obliviousness that dims the past; whilst in that room, and in some of the others also, still remained the very furniture (satin wood inlaid with painted flowers) that had been used by him, by our mother, by others of the family, and by ourselves, so many years before. Our father was, I believe, always very patient in illness, though I do not think he knew much of what illness is, till latterly; and then, when but a few months later, he was dying at his house in Clifford Street, my only recollections are still only of patience and of calmness the most unbroken.* As I dwell now upon the circumstances

* That house in Clifford Street belonged to Sir Eliab Harvey, of Rolls Park, in Essex, being rented for the winter only by our Parents.

of the last day that my sister and myself were taken to his bedside, I feel as I did not and perhaps could not then, that he knew it was the last kiss his children would ever give him. He seems to have passed away most peacefully, March 1, 1824, in the seventy-second year of his age.

In public life I believe that our dear father was not without his enemies ; but their judgment can pass but for little worth when contrasted with the testimony given by all the Commanders-in-Chief of India, under whom he served, to his never-failing performance of his duties as an officer. Between himself and Warren Hastings there appears to have existed a personal friendship. In the year 1784, being at the same time promoted to the rank of Captain, he was appointed by Mr. Hastings Assistant-Quarter-Master-General to the force which accompanied him to Lucknow, where he remained with him until the death of Mr. Wheeler obliged Warren Hastings to return to Calcutta. Afterwards, when Hastings was in trouble, and apprehended difficulty in regard to meeting the heavy expenses of his trial in England, our father proposed that his friends and adherents in Bengal should make a subscription for his aid, offering on his own part, I think, a considerable sum, but his proposal was not responded to ; yet it was a generous one to make, and as disinterested as it was generous. The letters and papers on this subject were amongst the letters and papers that my mother used to have. In my own possession I have

a few, with two slight sketches of his military career, which she gave me, and also the copy of a letter addressed by Sir Mark to the Earl of Buckinghamshire, dated from his house in Pall Mall in 1815, in which, though there is a slight mistake in one or two particulars, not, however, of any moment, and evidently caused only by the long distance which parted them and prevented personal communication, there is borne a valuable testimony to Sir George's high standing, and to his own fraternal regard.

In one of these sketches of his soldier-days, our father, after relating that the division to which he was posted took the field in Rohilcund in 1772, the British forces continuing in that part of India till the end of 1776, describes an affair in which he had been engaged, in the words following :

<p>“ 1774. Was personally detached with a Company of Irregular Infantry in the month of July, to procure grain for the army, which service I performed, though under the most difficult and often perilous</p>	<p>situations and circumstances, in so satisfactory and plentiful a manner as to call forth the thanks of the Commander-in-Chief for the zeal and activity I had manifested on this occasion.”*</p>
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The Rohillas are said to have been no mean enemy,

* It was not unusual for junior officers in those days to be thus complimented by their superiors in command. In Ralfe's *Naval Biography*, vol. iv. pages 2 and 3, it is said, “that in the year 1794, upon Lieutenant R. W. Otway performing some gallant act which enabled the ship to wear in pursuit of the enemy, that the Admiral (Rear-Admiral Caldwell of the *Impregnable*) was so well pleased, that he took him by the hand and returned him thanks publicly on the Quarter Deck.” And other similar instances are on record. In this gallant deed Lieutenant Otway was assisted by Lieutenant afterwards Admiral Sir Charles Dashiwood, K.C.B., the maternal Uncle of the younger Sir Mark and of Mrs. Lockwood, his sister.

and that it was less their numbers than their bravery, dexterity with the sword, and skill in the use of war-rockets, which enabled them to hold their ground so well against their foes. The Mahrattas were a fiercer race, and with their powerful chiefs, Scindia and Turkojee Holkar, the British, including our father's Regiment, the 2d European, had, during the above period, several engagements.

A little later he writes again :—

<p>“ 1778. Personally employed in “ command in 1778 to 1779 on the “ River below Calcutta on various “ duties, for which I received some “ commendation from Government;</p>	<p>“ continued with this Regiment to “ which I had been removed, the “ 3d European, in Fort William, “ till the month of August, in the “ same year.”</p>
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Amongst our mother's letters and papers was one of that date (he was then Lieutenant Wood) addressed to him by the Government Secretary, a Mr. Auriol, in which the latter says—

<p>“ That he is directed by the Hon. “ Governor-General in Council to “ signify to him their particular ap- “ probation of his conduct for the</p>	<p>“ spirit he had displayed in the ex- “ ecution of the service on which he “ had lately been employed down “ the River.”</p>
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Of the same season our father notes further, that early in 1780 he was again in the field in Upper India, appointed Staff-Adjutant, and present in the trenches at the siege and capture, by storm, of Fort Lohar. Then in the Gohud. In 1784, he became Captain; in 1797, Major; and in 1800, attained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

To return to the year 1781, he says, in one of these sketches of his life in the field,

<p>“ 1781 to 1782. Was employed “ in the province of Malwah, the “ whole of the campaign being most “ arduous and interesting, as though “ on our advance we had only about “ 15,000 Mahratta horse with some “ rocket men opposing us, yet before “ it was concluded, Scindia with</p>	<p>“ his whole army had joined against “ us, comprising by his own ac- “ count 60,000 cavalry of different “ descriptions, including 12,000 Pin- “ darries, with a train of artillery and “ three battalions of regulars under “ French officers, armed, clothed, “ and disciplined after our manner.”</p>
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Some of the narrators of these campaigns in India describe these bodies of mounted men as “ clouds of horse.” The army of Madhoo Rao, one of the Mahratta Princes of this time, is said to have amounted to 100,000 fine cavalry, exclusive of Pindarries. Vide Duff's *Mahrattas*, vol. ii. pp. 239 and 240. The Pindarries it appears were a bandit tribe of hill horsemen, receiving no pay, but living on devastation.

<p>“ 1798 to 1799. With the army “ under Sir James Craig when the</p>	<p>“ Shah of Cabul was threatening to “ invade Hindostan.”</p>
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In Mill's *History of India*, in vol. vi. p. 172, it is said that “ troops were sent up to guard the frontier under Sir James Craig, in the apprehended invasion of the Afghan chief, Zemaun Shah, in 1798.” And in the Wellefley *Despatches* may be found correspondence on the operations, between Sir James and Lord Wellefley.

<p>“ 1804 to 1807. Was employed “ with my battalion for the cover of “ Mirzapore during the latter part “ of the Mahratta war, and in ex-</p>	<p>“ pelling the inroad of a predatory “ force which came through the “ Rewah Passes in 1806.” <i>Vide</i> Addenda, p. 92.</p>
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In after years, in a letter addressed to him by the Governor-General Lord Moira (he was then Major-

General Wood), the former writes thus: "Let me assure you that your character is too well known to me for it to be possible that I should not have you in contemplation when I look forward to staff appointments." And in conclusion of the same letter Lord Moira adds, after desiring General Wood to hold himself in readiness for immediate active service, "Wherever you may be placed, I can assure you of my full dependence upon you." Dated in November, 1814. There is another letter written to him by Lord Moira, evidencing the friendly esteem in which he was held by that nobleman. And in an Express to our father in the field in November 1815, upon receiving a Despatch from Sir George to ask his (Lord Moira's) sanction for certain movements of the Force he commanded, the Adjutant-General replies that "his Excellency considers them highly expedient, and authorizes Sir George to carry them into immediate effect."

In Sir Mark's letter to Lord Buckinghamshire above mentioned, he writes further, "that his brother, after being engaged in the defeat of Scindia, was employed in disturbances in Benares and Oude, and from that time forward was always actively on service, and his services much approved by the Commanders-in-Chief during the successive governments. And lastly, that for his gallant conduct at the capture of Java, the Prince Regent was pleased to testify his approbation, and to honour him with the medal of a general officer." And subsequently, in further reward of all these services,

our father was created a Knight Commander of the Bath in 1815.

More than thirty years previously to this, Sir George, then Lieut. Wood, had been engaged in the Gohud territory in Upper India, and, as in his own hand he writes, "was present as Aide-de-Camp to the Commanding Officer, Captain Popham, at the storming and capture by surprise and escalade, of the hitherto esteemed impregnable Forts of Gwalior, in August, 1780." The storming-party on this occasion was led by an officer named Bruce, a brother of the Abyssinian traveller.

In many future years, at another siege of this same fortress, in June, 1858, were again present some of our very near of kindred, our father's grandsons, both young officers of the 8th Hussars, George Paulet, and Horace Montagu, and both dear ones with narrow escapes of life.

In the paper, or it may be part of a letter, which I have of our uncle Sir Mark's, referred to in some of the earlier pages here, in which he designates his father as "Alexander Wood, Esq., of Burncroft, Co. Perth, a lineal descendant of Wood of Largo," he gives a slight history of himself, from entering the army under the auspices of Gen. Sir Archibald Campbell, rising to the ranks of Capt., Major, and Colonel of Engineers, and being for a time Engineer-in-Chief of Fortifications in Bengal,* to his final return

* During the course of these services, being in England in 1779, Sir Mark (then Captain Wood) received on the 10th of March that year, about noon, when he had not the most distant idea of leaving England for some considerable time, an application from Mr. Gregory, Chairman of the Court of Directors, and from Lord Weymouth,

to England in 1793, and his election as Member of Parliament for Gatton in 1802; throughout all of which is very apparent, the same bravery of heart, loyalty of purpose, and energy of conduct which distinguished all this family, himself, Sir James Atholl, Sir George, Lieutenant Andrew, and, doubtless also, their youngest brother, Captain Thomas, of the Madras Engineers, the father of our Cousin Bessie, his only child, but of whom so little remains on record; saving only, perhaps, that vivid impression of his great amiability conveyed to me by my cousin the younger Sir Mark, who would not unfrequently speak of these deceased uncles of ours, Andrew and Thomas; of the former more especially, and of him he had a manuscript memoir,

to take charge of Despatches of great importance, and to start with them for India that same evening. Captain Wood complied, proceeding overland from Helvoetsluys to Venice, where he hired a Slavonian vessel to carry him to Alexandria. Contrary winds detained him in the Adriatic and on the Coast of Dalmatia for nearly a month, but he reached Cairo by the middle of May; and then crossing the small Desert to Suez, embarked for Madras, his ultimate destination, which he reached in safety upon the 1st of July following; but met by the way with rather a romantic adventure, in which an armed French vessel, encountered in the Red Sea, was disabled and baffled in her object. This was to convey to France an Ambassador from the Mahratta States, for the purpose of confirming a treaty with the French, contrary to British interests; and it was regarded as a fortunate as well as most heroic action that the *Morning Star*, the vessel in which Captain Wood was proceeding to Madras, should thus, with but twelve guns and a few officers, have prevented its fulfilment. His own participation in the affair was evidently spirited and gallant in the extreme.

In the *United Service Magazine* for 1829, p. 1st, it is stated that in 1795, when Sir Mark, then Colonel Wood, presented to the King, George III., a Model in Ivory of Fort William, Bengal, one of the most complete Fortresses in the world, that his Majesty showed to him upon this occasion a list of the Army arranged by himself, including the officers of the Royal and East India Company's Services as they would appear in the event of an amalgamation, an object to which his Majesty at that period was giving much of his attention.

of which he made a gift to me. But, unfortunately, and much to my regret, it has been lost. But there still is left amongst the old papers, all of which also were given to me by the younger Sir Mark, the following account of Lieutenant Andrew Wood, which says,

<p>“ That having entered the navy “ not long after his brother James, “ that he served with reputation “ under Sir J. Lockhart Ross and “ Captain (afterwards Admiral Lord) “ Duncan, to whom he was Lieu- “ tenant when the Spanish Fleet was “ captured off Cadiz in 1782; and “ again Lieutenant in the Monarch “ when the Dutch Admiral and his “ convoy were captured off St. Euf- “ tasia. On the Peace in 1785, he “ went to India, probably to see his “ brothers George and Thomas, who “ were then in that country. In “ 1787, he received orders from “ England to take a small vessel to “ the Straits of Sunda, to give in- “ telligence to thirty sail of rich “ East Indiamen, of a war with “ Spain. His vessel was wrecked at “ the entrance of the Straits, and the “ crew with difficulty saved. In an</p>	<p>“ open boat, however, and in de- “ fiance of the weather and of the “ Malays, who murdered half his “ men, he succeeded in giving intel- “ ligence to twenty-nine out of the “ thirty ships. Lord Cornwallis, Sir “ A. Campbell, and Sir W. Mea- “ dows, so highly approved of his “ intrepid conduct, that they recom- “ mended him for immediate pro- “ motion. Anxious to reach Eng- “ land, and no opportunity offering, “ he unfortunately determined to “ buy a small boat of less than five “ tons; and having her decked, he “ embarked with three Lascars, and “ reached the Cape of Good Hope “ in safety. Conceiving he had then “ surmounted all dangers, Lieutenant “ Wood again set sail, in the same “ small vessel with his foreign sea- “ men, eager for home, but was “ never more heard of.”</p>
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Besides this touching memento of our Uncle Andrew there may be found in Debrett's *Baronetage* for 1824, a relation of him very similar in all important points, to this. The manuscript memoir was far more full in its

details, but I cannot recall them. Our Uncle Andrew thus lost his life in the year 1787, unmarried. Our Uncle Thomas died in 1798. And here may end these memorials of these gifted brothers, brothers of one family, each so excellent, and all so successful, a happy fortune, that does not often fall to so many amongst the numerous sons of a household; to be valued, therefore, I think, the more, and the remembrances of them not to be allowed to pass away.

To their cousin-german, Colonel Thomas Wood, C.B., of the Bengal Engineers, Sir Mark bears this testimony, "that he was one of the most worthy men living," and for him, as equally for his brother George, another most upright and kindhearted man, our father likewise possessed a great esteem and regard. Colonel Thomas Wood was also an officer brave, and energetic, and fully to be depended upon; and is said in the old papers, to have served through the campaigns in India under Lord Lake, and to have been present at several of the memorable engagements of that period.

The eldest son of our Uncle Sir Mark, Alexander Wood, a promising young officer of the 11th Light Dragoons, lost his life by a fall from his horse in 1805, scarcely twenty years of age. A sad and bitter blow it must have been to the fond father. He lies buried at Gatton.

Of others of the family connexions more need not be mentioned; only may it be added how much all have

cause for thankfulness to the Giver of good that so much of blessing has fallen in many ways upon their various fates in life ; more taking all in all, than falls to many. Upon those who are gone to their eternal home, who were beloved and honoured here, our memories will linger with a saddened yet hopeful affection ; amongst those still spared may a kindly interest in each other's welfare not fail, and the young ones of the family especially remember that the children of the good and brave must never suffer any tarnish, however slightly, through themselves, to come upon the revered names of the departed.

April, 1861.

Notes Concluding.

I.

PART FIRST.

It has been observed by a late writer, "that in the seventeenth, and "opening of the eighteenth centuries, the Scottish clergymen were frequently, if not generally, cadets of noble or gentle families; and that "though their lives were sometimes passed in even straitened circumstances, "yet that those amongst them who possessed the acquirements, the feelings, "and the manners of the true gentleman, still often retained the friendship "of the first men of the time." Of the Rev. Alexander Wood, our ancestor, who appears very certainly to have belonged to this upper class, it is said in the old papers that

"upon the abolition of Episcopacy in Scotland, he lost his Church preferment;" and then, from one account which has been given of him, he seems to have taken	refuge with some of his relatives of the Roxburghe family, at Fleurs, in Normandy, and to have died not long after; that is not long after the year 1688.
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But where this Church preferment was situated is not shown, nor the degree of kinsmanship to the Kers; though it is stated elsewhere that the fourth Earl of Roxburghe died abroad in 1696, and that other persons allied to the family were obliged to seek asylums upon the continent about the same period. The coast of France was often resorted to by these sufferers from civil warfare; some of its towns being then places of great strength and commercial prosperity, where the civilisation of the age was far advanced, and near to which, not long previously, Madame de Staël had educated her family at Les Rochers, in Brittany. In another record however of the Rev. Alexander Wood, he is supposed to have

remained in Scotland after these misfortunes fell upon him, living principally with the Kers, to have died at Fleurs Castle, and been buried in the burial-place of that race; but these questions are now of little moment beyond the interest they awaken in following the fortunes of an ancestor not very remote, in which may be traced not only his own apparent excellence, but the mournful effects also of the vicissitudes of those troubled times; times of which historians tell us that the civil and religious wars disturbed the whole social state, causing extreme disorder and misery, and the ruin of many families throughout Scotland. And "when after much bloodshed, caused by the resistance of the Scots to the authority of Charles II., William of Orange ascended the throne, and was compelled by the Scottish Presbyterians to compliance with their demands and the sanction of a test by which the clergy were forced to abjure Prelacy, or vacate their charges, denunciations and ejections followed all over the kingdom;" namely, in the years 1688 and 1689. This was probably, therefore, the reason which lost to the Rev. Alexander Wood his living, because he would not abjure Prelacy; and the Episcopalians of that period entertaining also very decided Jacobite principles, it is not unlikely that loyalty to the Stuarts and attachment to the falling dynasty, may have had an equal share in influencing his determination.

There exists uncertainty as to which of the Woods of Largo first embraced the reformed religion of Scotland; but the probabilities are that the younger branch, of James of Lambelethame, if not also the elder, had become Protestants before the close of the sixteenth century, though perhaps not long before that time. In the earlier part of that century Sir David Lindsay of the Mount had attacked the corruptions of the Romish Church, and led the way for their condemnation. Like the other Scotch poets of his era, who are said seldom to have failed, what ever might be their theme, to inculcate the love of truth, freedom, and right, with the hatred of all things mean, base, shabby, or unrighteous," it is not surprising that Sir David Lindsay found so much to blame in the many mistaken sentiments of the priests of Rome. The rebound, however, to extreme asceticism which followed amongst the Puritans, could scarcely have been more acceptable to men of deeper and more enlarged

comprehension. The medium course in the Episcopal Church, appears, as far as it is possible to form a judgment, to have been the course adhered to by the family of Largo.

There is a letter in Lord Lindsay's *Lives*, in the Appendix to the 2d volume, from a Rev. Thomas Wood to the Earl of Balcarres, dated at Largo in 1634, who is called "of Largo," and who may have been of this kindred, but not decisively so, there being no evidence anywhere apparently known in proof; or if he were, he may have been one of those circumstanced as was Robert of Grange, who in the previous century, about 1572, obtained a charter of legitimation; but whoever this gentleman, the Rev. Thomas Wood, may have been, his letter is very undoubtedly a sad and melancholy one.

I.

PART SECOND.

Touching William Wood, the third born son of the Rev. Alexander, the Episcopalian Clergyman and father to the Governor of Man, in the *Autobiography of the Rev. A. Carlyle, Minister of Inveresk*, at p. 105, is the following passage; the time in which he writes being between 1743 and 1745, and the mention placed amongst the observances he makes of other persons in Glasgow of more than common importance. Dr. Carlyle says,

"I became acquainted with Mr. Wood's family, where there were three or four very agreeable daughters, besides the Governor of the Isle of Man, and Andrew the Clergyman, who died Rector of Gateshead, by Newcastle, in the year 1772, of a Fever

which he contracted by exerting himself with the utmost humanity to save his Parishioners, on the fatal night when the Bridge of Newcastle fell."—Vide the *Autobiography of Carlyle of Inveresk*, page 105.

Of this self-forgetful and devoted man, a true hero though not enlisted under earthly banners, it is to be regretted that so little should be known; though very likely even in that greatly changed and now overgrown city, some faint memory of his excellence may still remain among the people, as there appears to exist in the Isle of Man of his elder brother, John Wood

the Governor. There was a fourth brother of these grandsons of the Rev. Alexander, named also Alexander, who has been overlooked in the earlier notice in these pages of his family, who died a youth, and without issue. And here likewise must be supplied another omission in the designation of the Rev. Alexander Wood's maternal grandfather, Brown of Carrington, Co. Roxburghe, who, like himself and the Rev. Robert Ker, was also a clergyman, the Rev. Richard Brown.

Again, in the same work above referred to, the *Autobiography of the Rev. A. Carlyle*, when he is writing of some College Theatricals, and of the different parts to be taken in the Tragedy of *Cato* by himself and his friends, in page 99, he says,

<p>“McClean and I allotted the parts: I “ was to be Cato; he was Marcus; our “ friend Sellar Juba; a Mr. Lesly was to “ do Lucius: an English Student of the name</p>	<p>“ of Seddon was to be Syphax, and Robin “ Boyle, Sempronius. Miss Campbell was “ our Marcia, and Miss Wood Lucia.”— <i>Autobiography of Carlyle of Inveresk</i>, p. 99.</p>
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NOTES CONCLUDING. II.

The Estate of Potterhill, Co. Perth, belonging to the father of Jean Mercer, became subsequently the property of her grandson, James Wood, Esq. afterwards of Keithock, the eldest son of her youngest child Robert and Anne Smythe his wife. The same property was also for a time possessed by another gentleman of the Mercer family, William Mercer, Esq., the father of Col. H. Mercer, 22d Regiment, and of George Mercer, Esq., of Gorthy Co. Perth, and Deputy-Lieutenant for the county, who were always spoken of as cousins by our uncle Sir Mark, and our father Sir George, and appointed by the latter, with Gen. Sir James Carmichael Smythe, Bart., and Col. Thomas Wood, C.B., as executors to his Will; but the precise degree of relationship between them is not now known, in consequence of

certain papers of the time being lost. The resemblance between the names of the estates of Potterhill and Potter's Park is merely accidental, the latter beautiful property having been formerly but a farm appended to Ottershaw, as may be seen in any of the old maps of Surrey. Sir James Carmichael Smythe, a distinguished Waterloo officer, and Lady Carmichael Smythe were amongst the family circle so much respected and beloved at Gatton, where also had died suddenly, many years before, when staying upon a visit to Sir Mark, Mrs. Carmichael Smythe, Sir James's mother, and daughter of Thos. Holyland Esq. and Mary Elton of Nether Hall, Herefordshire.

Of the Mercer family, one of the early ancestors was a naval adventurer, as Frazer Tytler calls him, who in the fourteenth century became well known upon the bordering seas of Scotland for his valiant deeds against the English. His father was a merchant in high favour at the French court of Charles VI., and being in one of his voyages taken prisoner by a Northumbrian cruiser and carried into Scarborough, his son, to avenge the insult, attacked that seaport and made great havoc amongst its shipping. The King of England, Richard II., making no attempt to check his ravages, a wealthy merchant of London, of the name of Philpot, undertook the task, and fitting out an armament, attacked Mercer, and succeeded in defeating him and capturing his whole squadron.

In future years when Perth was the chief city of Scotland, and the Burgeſſes of Perth some of the chief men of the kingdom, the Mercers were of their number, with the Hays, the Mars, and others. John Mercer of this kindred, a Burgeſſ of Perth in 1625, wrote a history entitled *The Chronicles of Perth*, which is still extant in the Advocates' Library in Edinburgh. The present head of the Mercer family is the Baroness Nairne, usually called the Countess de Flahaut, from her marriage with a foreign nobleman. Part of this information regarding the Mercers is taken from Frazer Tytler's *History of Scotland*, vol. ii. p. 335, and part from other sources. And further information concerning them will be found in the *Addenda* to these Memorials, in page 85.

NOTES CONCLUDING. III.

Regarding our Uncle Sir James's services in the *Garland* and in the *Acasta*, it is stated in Ralfe's *Naval Biography* that when in command of the *Garland* upon the Coast of Africa, that he was ordered to give chase to some French vessels between the Mauritius and Madagascar, in which exploit he captured one of them; but the *Garland*, unfortunately striking upon a rock fifteen feet below water was wrecked, and with difficulty the boats got out; in which, however, Captain Wood, finding the enemy taking advantage of his disaster, pulled up to them, and, by great exertion, still kept his prize. He then contrived to conciliate the natives, who supplied him with provisions, and the French ship he had seized not being sufficiently large to take both crews back to the Cape, he set about constructing a vessel of 150 tons, and had completed it, and made some advance in another, when the *Star* sloop of war, sent to ascertain his fate, arrived, in consequence of which Captain Wood was able to send away his prisoners, himself and his men following in the French ship he had taken. Whilst at Madagascar it appears that Sir James surveyed the coast, from Fort Dauphiné to St. Luce, and about three miles from the latter place discovered an anchorage within the reef, capable of containing a numerous fleet of line-of-battle ships. When in command of the *Acasta* in 1803 and in the trying service off Brest, Captain Wood captured *l'Aventure de Bourdeaux*, and retook from her three merchant vessels she had seized. Soon after he was ordered to escort a valuable fleet of merchantmen to the West Indies, where he arrived in February 1805. Previous, however, to the arrival of the *Acasta*, Admiral Duckworth, the commander-in-chief on the station, hearing that he was to be recalled, determined to return in the *Acasta*, for which purpose he superseded Captain Wood in the command of her, nominating him to the *Hercule*, in which it was well known that Admiral Dacres intended to hoist his flag; so that

by this stretch of authority Captain Wood was left without command, and obliged to return to England as a passenger on board his own ship. He made complaint, and Admiral Duckworth was brought to a court-martial; but, though acquitted, the Lords of the Admiralty immediately adopted a regulation to prevent in future any Admiral on a foreign station from exercising his authority so much to the detriment of the public service.—Vide Ralfe's *Naval Biography of Great Britain* (published in 1828), vol. iv. pp. 181-183, from which the above is abridged. Also vol. ii. pp. 288-300.

In another Naval Biography it is related that Sir James sent some valuable communications upon his exploration of the Coast of Africa, "to Mr. Arrowsmith, which was fully acknowledged by that able geographer." In the memoir of his ancient ancestor, Sir Andrew, in *Tait's Magazine*, is noticed the same power that the latter possessed for rapidly determining upon advantageous localities for commerce or for defence, especially upon that of the now well-known port of Gourock near Greenock, with which he became acquainted when employed by James IV. to quell the insurrections of the chieftains of the Isles. The brave man whom he captured, Sir Donald Dhu, a grandson of the Earl of Ros, was the friend of Torquil M'Cleod (vide page 15), who had refused to surrender him when fighting for his inheritance against the crown, and had thereupon been denounced as a rebel, and all his estates forfeited; but the historian adds this observation, "that this monarch's policy was not always thus to overawe by severity and the sword, but to endeavour also by education and the knowledge of the laws, to humanize and improve the people."—Tytler's *History*, vol. iv. p. 125.

It must have been a painful duty to the gallant Sir Andrew to force into imprisonment a foe so courageous yet unfortunate as the ill-fated Sir Donald, and he can scarcely have failed to rejoice when, not long after, the captive knight recovered his liberty, though not again his ruined fortunes, finding upon the Irish shores a refuge and a grave. Of the monument in memory to himself (Sir Andrew Wood), placed upon the last remaining tower of his old castle of Largo by Sir Philip Durham, we can but regret, however gratefully should be acknowledged the stranger's regard for the heroic

dead, that it was not a kinsman's hand that raised it; but at the time, his nearest lineal heirs were all in distant lands, fighting the battles of their country; and in those days of difficult and tardy communication, somewhere I think about the year 1787, probably knew not even of what was passing in their old ancestral kirktoon of Largo.

NOTES CONCLUDING. IV.

Regarding other family connections of a still earlier time, may be mentioned a circumstance which none perhaps may now remember but myself. It was that when in our visits to London, a certain large chariot much blazoned with arms on the panels, passed us in the Parks, our Cousin Bessie used to say that it was the carriage of the Dowager Lady Hampden, a cousin of our father's. Afterwards, when sometimes we went in company with our cousin Robert Lindsay to places of amusement, he would point out to me a lady and gentleman of the name of Wedderburn, who he said were distant relatives, and I remember, though less distinctly, hearing the same of persons of the name of Hope. It never occurred to me until of later years to seek what might be the foundation for these assertions, when upon looking into Burke's *Baronetage* and into an old *Peerage* of Debrett's, I found that the Lady Hampden in question was the daughter of Brown of Ellifton, Co. Roxburghe, and Lady Wedderburn and the Honble. Mrs. Hope, her sisters. Not unlikely therefore, there may have been some relationship between Brown of Ellifton, Roxburghe, and Brown of Carrington, Roxburghe, the father of the wife of the Rev. Alexander Wood. In one old book the name is spelt *Broun*. I remember, also, a General Gascoyne and a General Garth spoken of as cousins of Sir Mark and Sir George, but they were, I think, deceased, and of other particulars of them I have no recollection.

To carry back the family links to times still more distant, there is afforded in the *Histories of Noble Families*, by the late Henry Drummond, Esq. M.P., of Albury Park, Surrey, another confirmation

of the correctness of the old Largo Pedigree, it being there stated, in vol. ii. p. 20, that Jean, second daughter of James, first Lord Mad-derty, was married to Andrew Wood.

And to go still again beyond that time, there remains on record the marriage of a sister of the old Admiral Sir Andrew, Katherine Wood, to Alexander Spens of Lathallan, high constable of the town of Crail, in the reign of James III., whose grandson, John Spens, married Margaret Dunbar, granddaughter and heiress of George, twelfth Earl of March. The aunt of this Alexander Spens was Isabel the wife of Andrew Balfour of the family of Burleigh, thus by marriage forming a distant link with the Woods of Largo, if even Janet Balfour the spouse of James Wood of Lambelethame and Cairngour, were not of this kindred.

Of the family of Lundie, of which came the wife of the old Sir Andrew, there exists at the present time a family of Lundin, of Auchtermairnie, Fyfe, whose ancient name was Lundie, and the lands of whom in very olden days embraced nearly the whole of the Parish of Largo, whilst one of their heiresses married in the end of the twelfth century Robert, a younger son of King William the Lion. He assumed her name, and their descendants continued, through lineal heirs, in an unbroken succession of sons, for 450 years. Of some one of these, Elizabeth Lundie, the wife of Sir Andrew, was, most probably, the daughter. The family is entitled to quarter the Royal Arms of Scotland, of which a grant was specially made to them by Charles II. in 1679, in commemoration of their descent from the above-named sovereign. Their present head is, according to Burke, the Baroness Willoughby d'Eresby.

In Murray's account of remarkable places in North Britain, the writer says that "in a park a short way to the west of Largo, are situated "three sharp, straight stones, several yards high, called 'the Standing Stanes "of Lundie.'" Likewise "that Balgonie Castle," supposed formerly to have been in the possession of the Lundie family, "stands upon the river "Leven, a little way before it merges into Largo Bay." And again, "that near Upper Largo is Largo House, surrounded by beautiful "grounds, the seat," to the close of the last century, "of Sir P. H. "Durham; to the north of the village being the fine hill called Largo

“Law, which rises to the height of 1000 feet above the shore.” And furthermore “that at Upper Largo was born Sir Andrew Wood, the “celebrated Scottish Admiral, who received the Barony of Largo from “James IV. as a reward for his services against the English.”

In regard to the designation in the Heralds' College of the Woods of Largo, as the “Baronial Family of Wood of Largo,” there appears to be a meaning in the term “Baronial” in Scotland, less than is understood of it in England, for it is to be observed that the same distinctive title is given to other Scottish families and their chiefs described as Free Barons, who otherwise are simply and only esquires or gentlemen, though of the first degree. “There is a distinction in the hierarchy of “ranks beyond the Grampians. An estate, held directly of the Crown, “was a Lairdship. When held of any of the great families, such as the “Earls of Sutherland or Dukes of Argyle, they were but Guidmanships.” A superiority was another term bestowed in Scotland upon the tenure of certain lands, for the purchase or possession of which grants of charter from the Crown seem also to have been necessary. Sir Andrew Wood is said to have held the superiority of Inch Keith, which is an island in the Firth of Forth, opposite to the Harbour of Leith, possessing “several fine “springs of water, which, from the circumstance of their occurring at an “elevated level above the sea, and never being exhausted, are presumed to “obtain their supply by a submarine passage from the high hills of Fyfe.” Formerly it was fortified, but the fortifications were demolished by order of the Scottish Parliament sometime in the sixteenth or early in the seventeenth century.

The descendants of the Admiral seem to have cherished a love for the scene of his gallant actions, and until the decadence of his house, to have made their homes within the vicinity of the Firth of Forth. In later years, Perth and its neighbourhood, and Glasgow, became the dwelling-places of the Woods of Largo. Now, the family, excepting in the line of Robert, the younger brother of Alexander heir to the Governor of Man, is known no more in the land of its ancient distinctive name, having found in English halls a clime better favoured. At Otterhaw and at Potter's Park there were no extended interests beyond their beauty, and

now to some of us their saddened memories. At Gatton the range was wider, and connected even with the political history of our country, with the fortunes of which, in times of war especially, it will have been seen how often were interwoven the lives of several of our ancestors, of whom it is no light cause for gratitude that all that can be known of them manifests them to have been without exception, loyal, zealous, and trusty men. In connection with the royal race of which the ancient Sir Andrew and his son the second Sir Andrew, who stood to the last beside the dying king at Falkland, were friends so faithful, it may not be out of place to give the relation here that from the Palace of Scone, in the city of Perth, was carried away by Edward I. of England, in 1296, the far-famed Fia Lail, or Fatal Stone, "to which superstition had led the Scots "to pay the highest veneration, and consider as the true palladium of "their monarchy, and which was afterwards removed to the Abbey of "Westminster, and formed into a part of the coronation chair of our own "sovereigns. At Perth, also, in the street called the Shoegate, was the "Palace of Gowrie, or Gowrie House, in which in the year 1600 was "enacted the frightful and treasonable attack of Alexander Ruthven upon "the King, James VI.; the plot for inveigling him into their power being "supposed to have been shared in by his elder brother, Earl Gowrie, "and their object to have been, if not his murder, yet his imprisonment, "and the transfer to themselves of the whole influence of the crown. His "escape was marvellous, and his courage full worthy of the royal lines from "which he was descended. After the confiscation of the Gowrie and "Ruthven properties in consequence of this high treason, Gowrie House "became the property of the town of Perth, and after being for a time "used for barracks was levelled to the ground, and now the Jail and "County Buildings stand upon its site." (*Abridged from Lawson's Remarkable Conspiracies*, vol. i. from p. 290 to 326.)

Many other changes have taken place in the town of Perth in the course of the last century, and not only several more of the old buildings been dismantled and destroyed, but many new ones erected; and streets seem now to cover the lands supposed to have formed a part of the property of Burncroft belonging to our grandfather, and all of which his son

Sir Mark sold away before he purchased Piercefield or Gatton. In which of the churches or chapels of Perth may have been the last resting-place of the family of our great-grandfather, Mark Wood, Esq. the youngest son of the Rev. Alexander the Episcopalian clergyman, I have never heard; but to the memory of his own youngest son, Robert, and Anne Smyth his wife, a monumental tomb still exists, though dilapidated. Research would, perhaps, discover the graves of his elder brother and family, and, probably, amongst the churches of Glasgow be found also that of William Wood, the father of the Governor of Man, and if successful, some of their descendants might not regret to be able to rescue them from destruction.

NOTES CONCLUDING. V.

Of the Governor of Man, in the references made to him, he is sometimes mentioned as "deceasing without issue;" but this was not the real fact. He married, as it is entered in an old pedigree, "a daughter of "Riddell, of Scull, of Scotland," probably amongst the Western Isles, in Skye, or Harris, or South Uist, and not unlikely of one of the old families of the Riddells, and had three daughters, all deceased before the year 1808, of whose fortunes no traces seem to be now remaining.

Of the history of the Isle so connected with his own, some slight reminiscences may claim a more than common interest here; yet apart from this, it possesses a more extended one than most other parts of this country of England, for here longest lingered in the Druid worship of the sacred groves, the connecting links with those more ancient creeds in which can be traced so much of the history of a purer faith, and in which may be observed also so large a concurrent testimony to the revelations of Scripture. "In the barbarian irruptions of the fifth and sixth centuries, this island, though so remote and small, did not escape the universal fate of Europe, "when invaders from Denmark conquered it, and then after a succession of

" twelve Manx kings, some of them of Scandinavian origin, it fell a victim
 " to the vicissitudes of successive and frequent petty wars until the year
 " 1407, when it was given by Henry IV. to Sir John Stanley, to be held
 " on the payment of a cast of falcons to the king, at his coronation. Sir
 " John thus became the King of Man, and in his family it continued,
 " though suffering in the disturbed times of the Commonwealth, till 1730,
 " when it descended to James, the first Duke of Atholl. A few years
 " later, in 1765, the sovereignty of Man was sold to the British Crown
 " for 70,000*l.* and a rental of 2000*l.* a-year, and thus by purchase, not by
 " conquest, was annexed to the dominions of our sovereigns. Man has
 " been allowed to preserve her ancient institutions, which are of distant
 " origin, and, perhaps," says this writer, " the most perfect living types of
 " the old Feudal Governments. The Legislature is composed of the
 " Governor, appointed by the King or Queen, his council, the bishop,
 " and law officers, and the House of Keys, a miniature Parliament, con-
 " sisting of agricultural and other gentlemen. Castletown is the seat of
 " the Government, and the place where the Manx Parliament assembles,
 " and at Kirk Michael, a picturesque hamlet near, is the Bishop's Palace."

Abridged from a small Itinerary by Adams.

The armorial escutcheon of the Isle of Man bears upon it a singular
 device, of which the origin is apparently unknown, though certainly
 derived from very ancient time, and probably from Phœnicia. In Clarke's
Heraldry it is thus described: " Arms of Man, three legs in armour, con-
 " joined in the fess point, spurred and garnished; which Philpot says was
 " the Hieroglyphic of expedition, and Nisbet that it came from the Sicilians,
 " the ancient possessors of the Isle before the Christian Era." The words
 attached to this device, " Quocunque gesseris, stabit," are said to imply
 stability; and on the reverse of the Manx coin is the Eagle and Child of
 the Stanley family, with their motto of similar meaning, " Sans changer."
 No crest appears to have belonged to these arms, nor does it seem to have
 been usual to attach crests to the heraldic bearings of communities.
 " They befitted more appropriately commanders engaged in military or
 " naval combat, and are said to have been worn in ancient times upon
 " the highest part of the helmet not only as a rallying point for their

“ followers and men, but also as a mark of distinction, being designated
 “ as badges generally significant of some notable action or thing pertaining
 “ to the families that bore them, and conferred for their dignity and
 “ honour; the first sovereign that ever gave coats of arms to his
 “ soldiers,” an older writer says, “ having been the King, Alexander the
 “ Great, who, desiring to exalt by some special means of favour his
 “ stoutest captains, and by the advice of Aristotle, he gave unto the most
 “ valiant, certain signs and emblems to be painted upon their armours
 “ and banners as tokens for service in his wars.”

It is noticed by another writer, “ that the ancients for the most part
 “ made choice of lions, dragons, and serpents, or of such other animals
 “ for their ensigns, as might denote strength, cunning, stratagem, and
 “ wisdom.” Thus the Eagle, the emblem of majesty, was the symbol of
 ancient Rome, “ being a bird of a nature most bold, generous, laborious,
 “ and enduring;” the Owl, “ the bird of night,” with her power to see
 through the darkness, was sacred to the goddess of the Athenians, Minerva,
 the Astarte Baaltis of the Phœnicians, called by them “ the illustrious,
 “ guiding, Holy One;” the Pegasus, emblematical to the ancient Assyrians of
 the ship carrying knowledge through the earth, was the chosen symbol of
 the people of Corinth; the Sphinx of Chios. A Ram’s head was the
 badge of the Macedonian conqueror; a Star upon the brow of Julius
 Cæsar. The Griffin was consecrated to the Sun; the Dolphin, supposed
 by some to have been the Hieroglyphic of naval power, by others was
 considered from their observations upon its nature, to have been the
 allegorical representation of a wise and prudent prince.

Similar emblems are even now possessed by British families, and the
 Sphinx at the present day is the crest of that which bears the name of
 Apgill.* Precious stones also continue to be represented in Heraldry, and
 some of the colours of Blazons appear to indicate as their origin, those of
 the gems worn upon the Breastplate of the High Priests of Israel. The
 patriarchal cross, so called because appropriated to the patriarchs, was

* Of a General Apgill, our dear mother’s eldest brother, Major Remington of the
 Madras Cavalry, married a daughter. He died subsequently in 1817 at Bath aged 34,
 and was buried in the Abbey Church of that city.

twice crossed upon their pennons, denoting it is said with prophetic meaning, the Saviour's atoning Sacrifice, free both for Jew and Gentile. Upon the standards of the Tribes are supposed to have been woven the figures of the creatures by which they were symbolised, as the Lion of Judah, the Ship of Zebulon, the Hind of Naphtali, the Wolf of Benjamin. In Zebulon, dwelling on the shores of Canaan, the art of navigation for some time flourished; and in the Prophet Isaiah are to be found the still familiar words, revealing the grace and beauty of their works, and the feeling such works in all ages call forth, "Wherein shall go no galley with oars, neither shall gallant ship pass thereby." Through all times since then, the ship has descended, yet to be the badge of seafaring men, and yet again perhaps to be given, as in bygone centuries, to be borne in arms, "ships being properly so borne by those who have distinguished themselves, and raised themselves to posts of honour by their services upon the sea." Thus the ship came into the arms of Wood of Largo.

To the armorial bearings of the different families who have been connected with the Woods of Largo, there is also attached a great interest, for amongst them are several which strengthen the truth of the observation that almost all Heraldic mottoes bear a serious, and often a religious meaning. As of the Kers of Cessford, "Pro Christo et patriâ," expressing in words so few the highest rule of the Christian's life. Of the Browns of Haddington, said to be of the same kindred as the Browns of Roxburghe, "Floreat Majestas,—May excellence prosper." Of the Earls of Dundonald, "Virtute et Labore,—By virtue and diligence;" the former the only sure foundation for any happiness in life, the latter the mainspring of success. Of the Mercers, in allusion it is supposed to their ancient prowess upon the great sea, the motto is simply its name, "The Grit Poul," which was also their slogan or war-cry. Of the Scotch Ramsays who are said to be of German origin, and amongst whom there seem to have been naval adventurers as mentioned in some records, it is not known to which branch belonged our father's mother, though most likely to Bamff, but one family of the name which became connected by marriage with Mercer of Aldie about the year 1640, and twice likewise with Wood of Bonnytown, bears the words "Spernit pericula virtus,—Courage sets at naught dangers,"

Of the Smythes of Methven the motto is not unlike our own, "Mediis tranquillus in undis,—Calm amidst the waves;" the crest being a Dolphin, again betokening families whose ancestors have been engaged upon the sea. Of the ancient Lindfays, "Endure fort,—Endure bravely." Of the Balfours of Munqhanny, to whom belonged the proprietorship of the Isle of May at the mouth of the Scottish Firth, beneath the shadow of which Isle it was that the gallant Sir Andrew commenced his wonderful battle with Sir Stephen Bull, the motto was "Forward," in allusion, it is said, to their hereditary office of Wardens of the Forth. Of the Balfours of Burleigh, in the old *Baronage* of Douglas the motto is given in these words, "Omne solum forti patria," suggesting, possibly, the necessity in all things valuable, of laying well the first principles. Of the Wemyss of Bogie, it is in the words only "Je pense." Of the Riddells of Riddell, Roxburghe, "I hope to share." Of the Gourlays, "Profunda cernit." Of the Baron Madderty, the motto was anciently "Virtutem coronat honos," in old Latin; also in Scotch, "Gang warily;" and again, apparently the following, "Prius mori quam fidem fallere,—Rather to die than to betray one's trust;" whilst now of the Drummond family, solemn and impressive is the ever-needed supplication of our frail humanity, "Lord have mercy." Of the Humes or Homes, to whom belonged Alison, the wife of the second Sir Andrew, and mother to James Wood of Lambelathame and Cairngour, "True to the end." Of Spens of Lathallan, "Si Deus, quis contra?" Of the ancient Lundies, "Tam genus quam virtus." And of the Woods of Largo themselves, with their ship amidst the waves, "Tutus in Undis," is not the symbol one of the most poetical and most perfect of all? Life surrounded by dangers, but ever safe beneath the guidance of Heaven.



THE COAT-OF-ARMS OF
MAJOR-GENERAL SIR GEORGE AND LADY WOOD OF GATTON AND OTTERSHAW, SURREY.

No supporters are here, as our father never became the chief or head of his family, his elder brother Sir Mark being living, to which Chiefship (as it is styled in the grant of the appropriate arms of Wood of Largo) and Representation of the Admiral Sir Andrew, the distinction of the supporters is *most strictly* limited, and can belong to none other but his lawful Representative.

The emblem of the ship in full sail is further said to have been found, not only upon many of the tombs of Pompeii, but upon those also in Rome, of the early Christians of the dark days of persecution and martyrdom, being called by them "the Heavenward bound ship," and having been

to some of the ancient Pagans before them the figurative sign of the rapid passage of human life. (*Vide Macfarlane's Catacombs of Rome*, p. 112.)

In Marryat's *Year in Sweden* are many interesting particulars given of the equally ancient Vikings and their ships of that long past period, in the very forms of which, drawn up upon the shore, they chose their sepulture when all their voyagings on earth were over.

NOTES CONCLUDING. VI.

In connection with names, it may be observed that one of the deceased brothers of our father Sir George Wood, was baptized by the names of David Græme, but whence their origin is now unknown, and that the second name of our father, though for long omitted in all mention of him, was Hay, the impression being that this name had come to him from Hays of the family of Kinnoul.

Amongst other ancient Scotch families there is one in which the inter-marriages have been very similar to those amongst the Woods of Largo, namely in Pringle of Whytbank, but apparently without any relationship between them, excepting of the ladies with whom they allied themselves. Of the ancestors of the Whytbank family, one ancestor married early in the sixteenth century Margaret, daughter of Lundie of that ilk; another a Home; another of the family a Brown; another a Ker, and again a Lundie; and it may with even more interest be told that from this same ancient Lundie family descended by a great-great-grandmother, James Graham of Claverhouse, the gallant Dundee.

In the name of our Uncle, Sir James Atholl Wood, there appears some evidence of acquaintanceship between the families, besides the fact of our grandfather's cousin-german, John Wood, about ten years after the birth of Sir James, becoming Governor of the Isle of Man, which still then (in 1761) belonged to the Dukes of Atholl, all of which may be better

accounted for in page 90. Of other links, the eighth Earl of Dundonald had a son born about the same time as our Uncle Sir James, who received the same names, becoming afterwards the Honble. and Rev. James Atholl Cochrane.

A clergyman of the name of Murray (the Rev. Henry Murray) married our great-grandfather, Mark Wood, Esq., to Jean Mercer, and baptized their eldest son Alexander, subsequently heir to his cousin John of the Isle of Man. The Rev. H. Murray was an Episcopalian and not a Presbyterian clergyman, and of the Episcopal Church of Scotland it is evident that our grandparents and all their family were members.

PEDIGREE IN CONCLUSION.

The Pedigree concluded from the family of the Rev. Alexander Wood, the Episcopalian clergyman. (*Vide* pages 31 to 33.)

His youngest son, Mark of Perth, married to Jean Mercer, daughter of Mercer of Potterhill, left surviving Alexander, who became Lineal Representative of Wood of Largo in 1777, and Robert. From the former, Alexander, descended the five brothers, Sir Mark, Sir James Atholl, Sir George, Lieutenant Andrew, and Captain Thomas, and a daughter Jane married to Colonel Williamson, whose only child, also an officer in the army, is deceased without heirs; whilst from Robert descended James of Keithock, William, Colonel Thomas, C.B., and Mrs. Martin Lindsay. Of these sons of Robert Wood, the descendants are his grandchildren, Colonel James Wood, late of the Fifth Dragoon Guards; Mrs. Collins, deceased, whose eldest son, William Collins Wood, Esq. of Keithock, Perthshire, has been appointed to the name by his maternal grand-uncle, James; also Henry Wood, Esq. formerly of the Bombay Engineers, and Margaret his sister, married to Major Moor, R.S.A., and J.P. of Pixton Hill, Suffex. The only other members of the family of Wood of Largo, are in the families of Rachel, wife of the late W. J. Lockwood, Esq. of Dews Hall, Essex, Verdurer of Epping Forest, her son Colonel

Mark Wood of the Coldstream Guards, appointed to the name by his maternal uncle Sir Mark the second Baronet, Major Alexander Wood of the Madras army, and in those of ourselves,—George Wood, Esq. the present Heir of Line and Representative of the ancient Admiral Sir Andrew, Frances Mary, wife of the Rev. Horatio Montagu, M.A. of Cambridge, formerly a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy (son of the late M. Montagu, Esq. of Little Bookham, Surrey, and grandson of the Hon. Henry Hobart, M.P., youngest son to the first Earl of Buckinghamshire), and Georgina, wife of the Right Hon. Admiral Lord George Paulet, C.B., the only son and only daughters of Major-General Sir George Wood, Knight Commander of the Bath, of Gatton and Otterfshaw, Surrey, and Frances Vic his wife, daughter to John Remington, Esq. of Barton End House, Gloucestershire, a Deputy-Lieutenant of that county; George Wood, Esq. alone inheriting in the place of Alexander his grandfather, lawful successor to John Wood, the Governor of Man.

For our children, let me add some lines of verses found not long ago, my own dear children to remind of their mother's still earnest prayer,

What then should be our life on earth,
 Through all the ever fleeting hours?
 —Not alone for self to live,
 But for the Heaven that rules above,
 And waits our coming there;
 For the cause that lacks assistance,
 For the wrongs that need resistance,
 For the future in the distance,
 For the good that we can do,
 The help that we can give, the happiness bestow.

Since completing thus far (February 1862) these Memorials, I have seen by an accident, another work upon British Family Antiquity, including the Baronetage of England and Scotland, by William Playfair, Esq. in which are mentioned the Woods of Largo, and where also in the Preface to one volume and in the Addenda to another, may be found some interesting information upon the science of Heraldry, and some just remarks upon the influence of rank when bestowed upon those who have well served their country. Of the former it is said with regard to "Supporters placed upon the side of an Escutcheon to support or hold up the shield, that the first origin of them was from the necessity in ancient Tournaments of exposing the shields of the different Knights to public view before the lifts were opened, when they were held up by servants or pages under the disguise of Lions, Bears, Griffins, &c.; or from the custom of any person who was to be invested with any badge or honour, being led up by two other persons to the Prince bestowing it." And also "that Bearing Coats of Arms supported, is, according to the Heraldic rules of England, the prerogative only of those called *Nobiles Majores*, namely, Dukes, Marquises, Earls, Viscounts, and Barons, or of Knights of the Garter, Knights of the Bath, and, lastly, such persons as the King chooses to permit the use of them." It appears that the same rule applies to Coats of Arms in Scotland.

Upon the latter subject the author of this rather rare work observes, that "He only is entitled to honours who has *really* served his country by effecting her stability, fighting her battles, or adding to her wealth by fair mercantile pursuits; in conducing to her political happiness and moral improvement by the proper use of his talents, or in administering to her internal comforts and amelioration, by making philosophy and agriculture subservient to their production. If in reading the sketches of the ennobled of these lands the reader be unable properly to value the country which has produced so much talent, patriotism, and virtue,

“it must be by his own deficiency, but if he has been so fortunate as to inhale his first breath in such a country, distinguished above all others by equal and well-regulated laws, by civil and religious liberty, and by a general civilisation and philanthropy, he may justly be proud of his noble countrymen.” Yet there can never be any cause for which vain-gloriously to estimate distinctions belonging to one’s birth. They are advantages ever to be valued, and it is a blessing where honourable fame only is attached to our name, but powerful as may be the force of nature, ancient ancestry in itself alone can confer no sanctity upon the soul. As Poets write

“ True honour is a thing divine ;
 “ It is the mind precedence takes,
 “ It is the spirit makes the shrine.”

“ And nothing do we inherit truly
 “ But what our actions make us worthy of.”

And again, as in the expression of another, we can but feel that the mind of a reasonable being must fall beneath the true standard, that of the perfection towards which should be the aspirations of our obedience, and he must lower his birthright in the Christian social order, if he fail in himself to cherish, and in those over whom his influence extends

“ To teach, high thought, and amiable words,
 “ And courtliness, and desire of good name,
 “ And love of truth, and all that makes a man.”

In this work will be found also a reply, as it might almost be called, to my question asked in page 22, there being these words in a note upon the Woods of Largo, namely, “that Sir Mark Wood obtained a matriculation of the arms granted to Sir Andrew Wood, from the Lyon Office, Edinburgh, in August 1809,” these being the same arms inherited by the Governor of the Isle of Man, and now again by George Wood, Esq. of Childown Hall, Surrey, the present Representative of this family.

THE COAT OF ARMS OF
GEORGE WOOD OF LARGO,



THE PRESENT LINEAL REPRESENTATIVE,
AND
ONLY SON OF MAJOR-GENERAL SIR GEORGE, K.C.B.
OF GATTON AND OTTERSHAW, SURREY.

ADDENDA FOR DECEMBER 1862.

- I. First, of references to the various sources of the information given in these preceding pages which are not mentioned as they have occurred, and which may be arranged nearly as following—namely, in the earlier part, commencing in page 5 to 6 from the general history of the times, and in the Notes Concluding from pages 60 to 76
- | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| From Blackwood's Magazine for January 1860 | | 60 and 61 |
| From Debrett's Peerage | | 60 |
| General History | | 61 |
| From Frazer's Magazine for January 1862 | | 61 |
| From Burke's Commoners | | 68 |
| Again from Blackwood and from Frazer | | 69 |
| Of the arms of the Isle of Man, and of the Manx Coin and motto,
given to me by my beloved and lamented husband, who took
a great interest in the progress of these Memorials | | 72 |
| From his History of Etruria Celtica, by Sir W. Betham | | 73 |
| From an old and valuable Dictionary by Bailey, printed in 1736,
given by him to our son, Horace Montagu | | 73 and 74 |
| From the Assembly's Annotations, another book of his | | 74 |
| From Clarke's Heraldry | | 74 |
| And again, from Burke's Commoners and Lodge's Peerage | | 75 and 76 |
- II. Secondly, of further information obtained by some research in the Library of the British Museum, by our dear eldest daughter, who found in the continuation of Douglas's Baronage of Scotland, entitled the Peerage by Wood in furtherance and completion of that work, in vol. ii. p. 621, this statement, that "Elizabeth,

“daughter of Sir David Wemyss, married, in 1597, Alexander “Wood of Lamyletham,” the same no doubt as the sixth Lineal Representative of Wood of Largo, great-grandson of the Admiral Sir Andrew, who is described in the Pedigree as “Alexander, “served heir of his father James Wood, in the lands of Lambele-
“thame and Newmylne in 1596, and also in certain lands in and
“near Pittenweyme in the year 1600.”—*Vide* “Pedigree.”

Again, in an Historical account of Ancient Lands of Scotland, referred to in Douglas, it is stated that “Alexander de Spens of Lathallan, “married, in 1458, Kate Wood, and had issue;” one amongst them being father to John de Spens, the husband of Margaret Dunbar, heiress to the Earl of March; and that, “An affignation to a
“19 years’ tack of the teind sheaves of the lands of Lathallan, by
“Alexander Wood of Grange, to Arthur Spens, fiar of Lathallan,
“was made between them, bearing date June 8, 1581.”

This Alexander must doubtless have been the second son of the second Laird, as may be seen by reference to the Pedigree, and in page 68 may be found another mention, from Burke’s *Commoners*, of the marriage of Alexander Spens to Katherine Wood, sister to the Admiral.

In the same Douglas’s Baronage, but in the older work which this author’s death prevented him from concluding, it is said of later years, in page 541, that “William Smythe of Methven, born in
“1646, married Anne Watson, and had Margaret, the wife of
“T. Carmichael; Jean, of Martin Lindsay; and Anne, of Robert
“Wood.” And further, that “David Smythe of Methven, and of
“Barnhill, brother to the above William, married for his first wife,
“about the year 1704, a daughter of Mercer of Potterhill,” the sister of my great-grandmother Jean, wife to Mark Wood.

In the Pedigree of Mercer of Aldie, of which a copy has kindly been presented to me, the line of Mercer of Potterhill of this family of whom the first Potterhill married Helen Drummond, ends in four granddaughters, there being to this line no male heir, which confirms the statement in one of the old papers of my uncle Sir Mark Wood,

that his grandmother had been possessed of property in Perthshire, not unlikely including the lands of Burncroft, afterwards belonging to her eldest son Alexander. *Vide* note 2, p. 63.

Of the Mercer family, the following observations are made in Playfair's *Antiquities*, in the vol. on the Scotch Baronetage, namely, "that the Mercers are a very ancient family in Scotland. From their armorial bearings it has been conjectured that they were assumed by a progenitor who had been engaged in the Crusades. In the reign of David II., between 1329 and 1390, John Mercer of Perth purchased the lands of Meikleour from Mauritius de Cramond, but afterwards the title of the family was taken from Aldie; of which place was also the family, afterwards Baronets, now extinct. This appellation of Mercer of Aldie came to the family through the estate of Aldie being given as a marriage-portion to the Lady Aldia Murray, daughter to the Earl of Tullibardine, upon her marrying to William Mercer, of Meikleour; which William is described as brave and generous, and in the days of feudal aristocracy to have strongly supported the family of Murray. On this occasion the Mercers assumed the mullet of Murray as part of their arms, and as a lasting cement of family connexion. The Castle of Aldie was built in the 16th century, and stands in the parish of Tulliebole in the shire of Kinross, but being uninhabited is gone into decay."—*Vide* volume on the *Scotch Baronetage*, pp. 59 and 110.

There are various intermarriages of this family mentioned in the same work, and in Douglas's *Baronage of Scotland*; of which, those apparently nearest in relation and interest to the Woods of Largo, are, of Jean, daughter of Smythe of Braco and Methven, to W. Mercer of Edinburgh, about 1640; of Sir David Wardlaw of Pitreavie, 7th Baronet, to Jean Mercer of Aldie, about 1720; and of an earlier date, Sir Thomas Stewart of Grandtully, who died in 1608, married Grifel, daughter of Sir Lawrence Mercer of Meikleour, leaving no lineal heirs, but collateral great-nieces, of whom Grifel Stewart married Sir John Drummond of Logie Almond; Helen, Crichton of Ruthven; Anne, Seton of Touch; and Jean, Sir James Mercer

of Aldie, which Sir James does not appear in the Mercer Pedigree, though there is a James noted of about this date, 1620, but without particulars, younger brother to William, the first Mercer of Potterhill.

Of Sir David Wemyss, the father of Elizabeth wife to Alexander Wood of Lambelethame, it is said in the second volume of the *Peerage in continuation of Douglas*, between pages 618 and 621, that this Sir David was grandfather to the first Earl of Wemyss, being seventeenth in descent from the founder of the family, and having married Cecilia, daughter of William, second Lord Ruthven. He was likewise Laird of Bogie, whilst his father Sir John is stated to have received a grant of the lands of Wester Wemyss from David Wood of Craig, at that time Comptroller of Scotland, an earlier ancestor of Sir David's having married, in 1480, a Lundie of the Lundies of Fyfe, not unlikely a sister to the wife of Sir Andrew Wood the Admiral and first Laird of Largo. The third Laird of Largo filled this office of Comptroller of Scotland some years after Wood of Craig, in 1586; between which Woods of Craig and Woods of Bonnington, there appears again to have been some distant kinsmanship.

III. Thirdly, of the wife of John Wood, Governor of Man, it may be seen in the same Douglas's *Baronage*, page 204, that she was of the family of Sir John Riddell, Bart. of 1628, of Riddell, Roxburghe, more ancient than that of Ardnamurchan, being Elizabeth daughter of Robert Riddell of Glenriddell, by Jean Fergufon of Craigdarrock, which Robert Riddell was great-grandson to the second Baronet Sir Walter. The elder daughter of the same Robert Riddell and Jean Fergufon married her cousin Walter Riddell of Newhouse, leaving a son, the well-known antiquarian, and friend of Burns, Robert Riddell, also called of Glenriddell. *Vide* p. 71; Douglas's *Baronage*; and Burke's *Peerage* and *Baronetage*, last edition.

Of other ancestresses of the Woods of Largo, whose precise parentage still remains unascertained, there is, it seems to me, much reason to conclude that they will be found, should the discovery ever be made, to have belonged to the families indicated. Of Janet Balfour, there can scarcely, I think, be a doubt, that she was either a Balfour of Burleigh, or a Balfour of Munqhanny, the latter family being entitled additionally Balfour of Balfour, Barons of Strathor, all in Fifeshire. Of Alison Hume, the wife of the second

Sir Andrew, there is nearly as great a certainty, and some cause from the concurrence of the time, names, and circumstances, to believe that she was the youngest daughter of the third Baron Home, who is noted, in the Peerages, simply as "Alifon." In works of this nature, daughters, for the sake of brevity, are often and necessarily passed over altogether, sometimes names only given, and not unfeldom mistakes are made, as in the instance of an ancestress of my own children, who, in Burke's *Extinct Baronetage*, is stated to have "deceased unmarried," full record being omitted likewise of her sister, the wife of Sir Anthony Irby. But the facts are, that this lady, Susan, daughter of Sir John Peyton of Iselham, did not "decease unmarried," but became the wife of Sir Miles Hobart, Bart., and great-grandmother to the Earls of Buckinghamshire as well as to other remoter noble families. Thus it is possible that as in this case, so there may have been mistake in that of the Alifon Hume above referred to. Or, if not this lady, since names are so frequently guides to family relationships, she might have been one of the Humes of Wedderburne, where, in the family of "the seven Spears of Wedderburne," the names of Alice and Alifon are in some of the accounts to be observed as principal family names; besides which there were Humes or Homes of Randerston, Fyfe, Humes afterwards Earls of Marchmont, and Humes of Polwarth, the surname appearing in that period to have been indifferently Hume or Home.

In the writings of the time the third Baron Home is spoken of as "the Lord Hume," and in the Parliamentary Records of Scotland of 1526, kindly fought for me by W. Anderson, Esq. Marchmont Herald and Lyon Clerk Depute, there is an entry regarding this nobleman's youngest daughter, in which she is named *Alifon Hume*, as in the Largo Pedigree, *not* as Alifon Home. And in the Scotch Acts of Parliament of the same year, there is the same entry of her again as *Alifon Hume*, the purport of these being to certify that "the Souerane with amifs (advice) and consent of the "three estatis of the realm, grantis yat gif it fall happin yat Johune Striue-ling, of ye Keir, Knycht, etc. be forfalted in yis present parliament, yat ye "fowen of money, etc. award to *Alifon Hume*, dochter to vmquhile *Alexander Lord Hume*, be referuit (referred) in ye said forfeiture." In 1528, to Sir Andrew Wood, second Laird of Largo, was granted by charter under the Great Seal of Scotland, half of the King's lands of Shiremuir; and could more be known of these transactions, there is great appearance of likelihood

that proof of identity would ensue, whilst the name of Alexander, so frequent in all the generations amongst the Woods of Largo since the time of James of Lambelethame to the very present, appears upon the first occasion amongst the sons of the same Sir Andrew the second Laird, and Alison Hume his wife, namely, Alexander of Grange, as may be seen by reference to the Pedigree between pages 26 and 31, which may add another link in the chain of evidence that she was the Alison Hume supposed to be in question, daughter of this Alexander Lord Hume, who commanded the van with Earl Huntly at Flodden, dispersed the opposing English, and was one of the few who escaped the carnage of that day. He afterwards joined the Queen Dowager and her husband Angus, against the Regent Albany, *vide* p. 16; and the following year was seized at Court and executed after a hasty trial, his honours and estates being restored to his brother the fourth Baron, (for he left no son,) in 1522.

To the Browns, of which lineage was my grandfather's grandmother, Jean, grand-daughter of the Rev. Robert Ker of Cessford, there is attached a singular superstition regarding an ancient family relic called the Coalstoun Pear, which came to the Browns as a bridal gift, in the 16th century, with the promise that, so long as it was preserved, prosperity should never fail them. It is said by some to be still in existence. *Vide* pp. 67 and 74.

Of the Kers of Cessford it may be further interesting to know that in the Roxburghe Papers in my possession, there is an account of one of these Kers, one Walter Ker, who in the year 1500 made a grant to the Abbey of Kelso, having a charter of confirmation for the same, for this purpose: "Pro salute corporis sui, et pro salute animo Robertis Ker, militis filii sui, nuper defuncti," in which Abbey of Kelso had been established by David I., in the twelfth century, a reformed class of the Benedictines, and in which same early period the castle of Roxburghe had been one of the principal residences of the kings of Scotland. And in Sibbald's *Miscellanies* may be found many statements confirming those in these papers, of the strife which reigned between the Kers of Cessford and several of the neighbouring families in the centuries of the mediæval era; whilst in later years there comes again upon the scene another of the connexions of the Cessford Kers, whose name has acquired a place in history—the beautiful Mary Bellenden, one of the three celebrated Maries of the Court of George II., written of by Horace Walpole and others, who was daughter

of the second Lord Bellenden, great-nephew to Earl Robert, the first Earl of Roxburghe, and aunt to John Bellenden Gawler Ker, mentioned in these *Memorials* in page 3, son of John Gawler, Esq., and Caroline Bellenden, her younger sister.

Information has, moreover, been given to me of another of the Woods of Largo, Captain Gilbert Wood, who, in Nisbet's *Marks of Cadency*, printed in Edinburgh in 1702, at page 202 is said "to have been great-grandson of one James Wood, the last in possession of the estate of Largo; who, for his skill in maritime affairs, which has appeared on several occasions on the coasts of both this and the newly-discovered world of America, may justly be deemed the worthy representative of his brave and gallant progenitors." When I hear now of this Captain Gilbert Wood, a forgotten memory revives that it was a name not quite unfamiliar to my childhood, and sometimes spoken of at Gatton—where, I may here take occasion to relate, that in the centre of the balustrade upon the house, above the entrance door-way, were carved in stone the arms of Wood of Largo, of which I have a print still in good preservation, and of which other copies may be found in an illustrated work upon the mansions of Surrey, by an artist of, I think, the name of Proffer. In the same passage in Nisbet, it is added that this James Wood "fold these lands," which again makes confusion, unless there is again a mistake in names, or unless some portion of the Largo estate had fallen to James of Lambelethame and Cairngour, not possibly the same individual person as the above-named James; and if Captain Gilbert Wood were great-grandson to James of Lambelethame, it would bring him thus into not very distant relationship to the Rev. Alexander, the Episcopalian clergyman.

Neither must I neglect to relate of the armorial bearings of the Isle of Man, that "the three legs conjoined" are borne in quarterings upon the shields of the Dukes of Atholl and the Earls of Dunmore, and the entire device, with the motto accompanying, upon those of the Macleods of Rasay and the Macleods of Cadboll, the former family being said to be lineally descended from the Barons of Lewis, Lords of the Isles, to whom, in very olden days, belonged the Sovereignty of Man. And that the "silver quhiffel" of the valiant Admiral mentioned in these *Memorials* in p. 14,

was in that age "the invariable badge of rank and authority upon the ocean, being worn by the Captains and Admirals, from whom it has descended to the Boatswain in modern times."

And, furthermore, that of the Admiral's lands of Balbegnoth, it is stated in the *Continuation of Douglas's Baronage*, vol. i. p. 141, of the lands of Balbegno, apparently the identical name, that "Wood of Balbegno, married, about 1530, a daughter of the third Earl of Atholl, one of the sisters of which lady was wife to the Laird of Balfour." There can be little doubt that this Wood of Balbegno was one of the several sons of the Admiral described in Tait's *Memoir*, as may be seen herein in page 8, such lands having been given by the father to the son, as the lands of Netherfawfields became the property of his eldest son, the second Laird; and the evidence of friendliness continued between the Wood and Atholl families to the birth of my own grandfather, *vide* p. 77, and onwards to the naming of his son, subsequently Sir James Atholl, and the appointment of his cousin-german to the Governorship of Man, confirms, at the same time, the probability, and suggests the cause also of the links that had in some manner so plainly connected them.

There were other lands possessed by the Woods of Largo a hundred years later, the lands of Arkie, which in 1610 had belonged to John Lord Lindsay, and in 1616 to Robert Lord Lindsay, passing in 1664 to Arnot of Ferney, apparently from the estate of John Wood of Largo, which Arnot married the heiress of Sir Michael Balfour of Burleigh, by Margaret, daughter of Lundie, of that ilk. *Vide* Continuation of Douglas, vol. ii. p. 179. Thus again bringing into communication Lundies, Woods, and Balfours, as in other places and other accounts they may be found, together with the family of de Spens of Lathallan.—But it is becoming impossible to carry on any longer these researches. Of the result of all that they have brought to light of the family of Wood of Largo, it is gratifying to observe how greatly so much incidental mention of circumstances relating to them tends to make more certain Abercrombie's assertion, that their gallant founder, the loyal Admiral of James III. and James IV. was of still more ancient courtly race, and that, though not ennobled according to our estimations of nobility

in England, yet that they doubtless stood amongst the foremost and highest rank of gentlemen, forming alliances, in almost all their generations, with several of the first families of Scotland; whilst of the decadence of their fortunes in the 17th century, it will be necessary to make the explanation more conclusive here, which should have been done earlier in page 24, that this term of "being conveyed or dispossessed of estates, implies no moral wrong in the persons thus disposing of their patrimony, since it is the Scotch mode of expressing the parting with landed property either by "voluntary or legal sale," which will abundantly suffice to free from blame those ancient members of the family, most probably rendered thus unfortunate only from the unfortunate condition of their country, of which in that period, besides all before narrated in page 61, Grant in his *Life of Montrose*, Russell in his *Modern Europe*, and other historians speak, as with "the laws silenced, and rapine, outrage, and violence filling the land."

And now in these closing words must I return for a while to times less remote and to a subject which has lately again appeared in print upon the gallant conquerors in the last century, of India, "bringing back," the writer says, "the memory of the early days of British chivalry in the East, to which, more than to anything else, England owes her present greatness," and in which is shown the policy of Warren Hastings, to have been a merciful one towards the Hindoos, and a just one towards the English. More may be found of this in this review upon Colonel Goddard's march across India in 1778, in Bentley's *Miscellany* for October this year, from page 373 to 385, and also in the *Number* for November, confirming my father Sir George's sentiments of Warren Hastings, and my uncle Sir Mark's statements of the Mahrattas and the French. Of my father's words, they are but brief, yet expressing, nevertheless, his earnest sympathy in Mr. Hastings's desire for better government; and still more to interest his children, he writes of his own participation in the warfare of those days,—where, as has been already mentioned, he was in Rohilcund and the Mahratta country, engaged in the battle of Kuttra or Kutterah, in April 1774, and in Malwah and the Gohud, personally commanding a successful assault upon the Fort of Siparee in 1781, as well as at Lohar, Gwalior, and else-

where, from 1772 to 1782,*—giving unmistakable evidence of the true soldier-spirit which animated him, and made him not one of the least brave amidst those brave leaders of eighty and ninety years ago, of England's victorious progress in Hindostan. Of his further services, they continued after his appointment by Warren Hastings in 1784, in the Lower as well as the Upper and Central Provinces of Bengal, almost uninterruptedly to the last Mahratta war of the commencement of this present century,† then, with but one absence in England in 1810, to the taking of Java in August 1811, where he particularly signalised himself in the storming of Fort Cornelis, and, finally, to the Ghoorka war of 1814 and 1815, in which he appears to have been for the last time in the field, his long military life ending within about three years after, in the less arduous duties of the staff in Fort William, in 1818.

With regard to this Ghoorka war, it seems incumbent upon me not to pass over in silence the comments (of which I have only within this last month, December 1862, acquired the knowledge) that have been made by historians upon its conduct by the general officers commanding the different divisions of the British army. Messrs. Mill, Thornton, and Montgomery Martin, seem apparently to censure all the Generals excepting Major-General Ochterlony, as having erred by over-caution, and Major-General Wood (afterwards Sir George), in that he did not advance as far as might have been desirable, apprehending sickness amongst his troops, these, amounting, with the European regiments, to 13,000 in number. No reliable resources are within my power beyond my father's own words, in which he simply says, that "being

* Excepting the years 1778 to 1779, when he was at the Presidency, as may be seen in page 52. The name Kutterah my father writes Cuttrah, giving a slight account of the action. Siparee is also thus written by him, but now marked in the maps, Sipree, and became well known to his young grandsons in the Rajpootana campaign consequent on the Indian mutiny of 1857. Lohar is now marked in the maps as Lohargunge, this name seeming to imply the Iron Fort, or the Field of the Iron Fort.

† The Rewah Passes which he mentions in his journal (page 53) were scarcely then known to the British. The greater part of the country is described in Hamilton's *Gazetteer* as an elevated table-land, very beautiful in its scenery, and presenting, when viewed from the plains below, the appearance of a scarped line of fortified heights.

“appointed to this command, he swept the whole of the Eastern Ghoorka “territory, destroying several stockades,”* to enlighten or explain the circumstances; but there is testimony from other writers, that the now well-known fever boundary of the Terai, was not a place into which any Commander, regardful of his officers and his men, would have entered without a *striâ* necessity. It does not seem to be proved that *such* necessity existed. Besides, the principal action of the early part of the war had taken place in Feb. 1815, before my father Major-General Wood† was able to join that portion of the army upon the command given to him on the withdrawal of Major-General Marley. The campaign might have been more brilliant had the Generals advanced upon Katmundoo, but as they did not, and appear all to have concurred in objection, it can scarcely be unreasonable to believe that there must have been some sufficient cause for their self-restraint, and for the accompanying decision of their judgment.

It may, perhaps, be well for me now to observe wherefore it has been that I have retained for my father, throughout, the designation only of Major-General, when he had attained, in fact, the higher military rank of Lieutenant-General, his last commission to that effect bearing date July 19, 1821. It has been because by some mistake of many years ago, the designation of Major-General Sir George Wood, K.C.B. was given to him upon the marble tablet erected to his memory in the Church of Addlestone, Surrey, and the mistake being irretrievable, and the matter in itself of no real importance, it seemed to me better that it should be continued thus only to entitle him; but now, in these concluding records, it will be more befitting for his family, I think, and more consistent with all that is due for him, that the realities should be known.

The war, moreover, is said to have been one not desired by Lord Moira. In the *History of the Indian Empire*, by Montgomery Martin, in vol. i. page 410, it is expressly stated that “Lord Moira had been anxious to “avert this frontier war,” but that all his remonstrances failing, he was at length compelled to declare it in Nov. 1814, by the determination of the Ghoorkalese to carry on their aggressions, and by their attacks upon

* These stockades were very effective modes of fortifying strong posts, and hill ridges and peaks, throughout that part of India.

† There was another General Wood employed in the Ghoorkalese war of this time, Major-General John Sullivan Wood, but in no way connected with the Largo family.

the British stations in Bhootwal, and murder there of the superior local Officer. The army destined for the purpose was formed into four divisions, under Major-Generals John Sullivan Wood, Gillespie (early killed), Ochterlony, and Marley, upon whose retirement it was that General Wood, my father, was called upon early in Feb. 1815, to take his (General Marley's) place; and in default of certain information, it is probable, that though the more hazardous work of the war and its good fortune have been truthfully ascribed to General Ochterlony, yet, that when General Wood represents himself as "sweeping the whole of Eastern Ghoorka," that he also had some efficient, though less notable effect in bringing into annexation to British dominion some of the tribes of these predatory border chiefs. And this would appear to be confirmed by the express sent to him in the field in Nov. 1815, of which an extract has been given in the earlier part of these Memorials, in page 54.*

I will only, lastly, mention that Thornton, in his *History*, in vol. iv. page 306, besides relating that General Wood apprehended sickness for his troops in the forest, appears to think that there was no need for "his long march east of Gorruckhpore," "in which," he adds, "that no enemies were seen." That these had fled, may have been caused by the established reputation of the British Commanders, and as one of them, Major-General Wood (Sir George) was there, in the hostile Ghoorka plains and hills, ready to do the people battle and maintain the honour of his Sovereign's name, but that they had vanished, could not in any way have been occasioned by any fault of his own. And then regarding the passes of the Terai, none of these historians seem to prove that they were easy to discover, or when discovered, facile for a large force. Very much the contrary is to be gathered from all the descriptions, and if Major-General Wood had insisted upon penetrating to Katmundoo through that fatal and difficult region, and half his army had perished by sickness, and the remainder been annihilated or compelled to inglorious

* These Ghoorkalese were the people of a state near and partly dependent upon Nepaul, "between the rivers Teefta and Gogra on the east, and the Sutlej on the west, including a portion of the forest of Sal Trees, each tree of which, according to a Ghoorkalese saying, is a mine of gold, and of the wild infalubrious land of the Terai." Thibet and Tartary lie beyond, and more to the distant east is Lassa, the capital of the Grand Llama.

retreat, may we not with almost assurance feel that criticisms bearing now upon what some may call excess of caution, would have been equally and more justly bestowed upon its absence? But of all that may be further needed to be said, the following Official Letter will better and more convincingly speak for my father, that he had failed in nothing that was right in the Ghorka, or in any other Indian war, than aught else that his children can now desire:—

No. 1555. COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S OFFICE,
HEAD QUARTERS, CALCUTTA,
13th November, 1815.

SIR,

I am instructed by the Right Honourable the Commander-in-Chief, to transmit the accompanying Paquet, containing the Insignia of a Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, awarded to you in commemoration of your services, by His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

In the performance of this pleasing duty the Commander-in-Chief embraces the opportunity presented him, to express his congratulation that your services have been distinguished by so honourable and well-merited a mark of His Royal Highness's approbation and favour.

A warrant of permission, duly executed, for wearing the Star, is herewith transmitted.

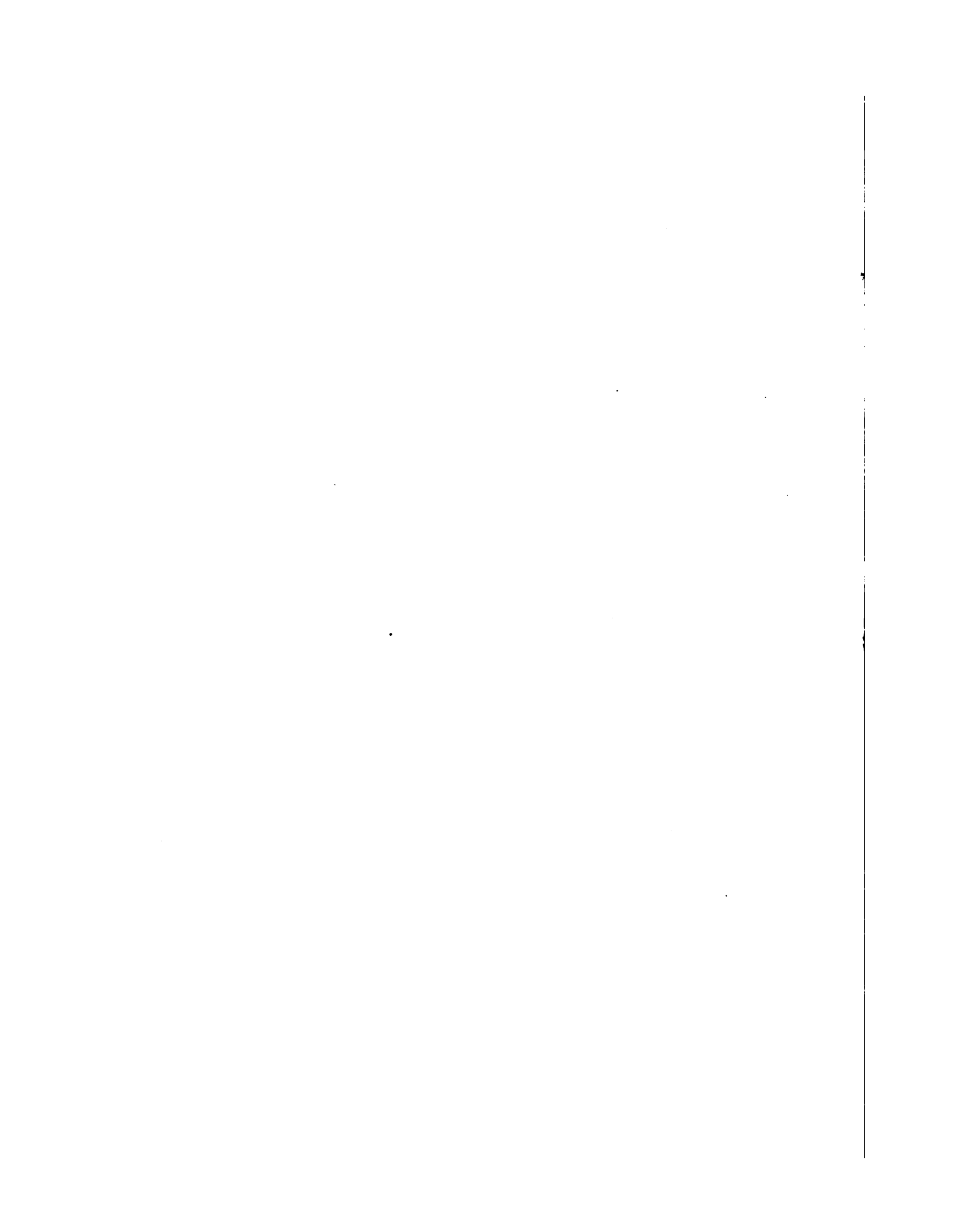
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

C. J. DOYLE, M.S.

To Major-Gen. Sir George Wood, &c. &c.



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Having expressed in these Memorials, in my ignorance, that the only remaining Woods of Largo were those named in pages 69 and 78, it is necessary to correct the mistake thus fallen into, and to state that there is another branch of this family, descendants of Largo and of Grange, residing in the East Nook of Fyfe, of whom the present Rev. Walter Wood of Elie is the head, deriving from the ancient Admiral through one of the ancestors of Lambelethame. Another family in America also claim to be of this descent. And when, in the 16th century, the Scottish wanderers to the shores of Sweden were first ennobled in that land, a Wood stands amongst them, with a Keith, a Forbes, a Spens, a Hamilton, &c. And, lastly, may be mentioned the discovery, that Alison wife of the 2d Sir Andrew, was not the daughter of the Baron Home, as there appeared some reason to conclude, as may be seen herein in page 37, but the daughter of Hume of Unthank, most likely the Unthank near Berwick, "the country of the Homes;" and the probable discovery also of the parents of the Admiral in the grant of charter resigned in his favour in 1490, by Ellen Arnot, widow of William Wood of the Cotplands of Largo, deceased in that same year, which grant of charter, which is still extant in the Writers' Library in Edinburgh, conveyed to Andrew Wood and Elizabeth his spouse, the same Cotelands of Largo, to be held by them of the King." May not this transaction, so natural between a mother and her son, render the probability almost a certainty? and further confirm Abercrombie's note, that the gallant Sir Andrew came from the still more ancient Woods of Bonnington? whilst of onward years it is said, that the family suffered by their attachment to the Stuarts, and that when Cromwell's soldiers were quartered at Burntisland, they carried off all the horses of James Wood of Grange and Lambelethame, the son and heir of Alexander and Elizabeth Wemyss, and that when he died in 1669, having been obliged to sell Lambelethame, his funeral was hastened lest the creditors should arrest the corpse—a barbarous right then sometimes exercised. His son James was Rutmester (or Ritmester, a German title for the Captain of a Troop, introduced into North Britain from the wars of that period) in Prince Charles's Life Guard (Charles II.); and in 1661 there is an act of Parliament in his favour for levying a troop of horse for the King's service. The 2d, 3d, and 4th Lairds are, furthermore, said to appear in the history of the Church of Scotland, as sitting in her Assemblies, and assisting them with their counsel and influence.

The greater part of this information has been kindly given, Feb. 1864, by the above gentleman, the Rev. Walter Wood of Elie, author of the "East Nook of Fife."

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