ELTSAY ON CASTLE.

HISTORICAL MEMOIR

OF THE FAMILY OF

EGLINTON AND WINTON,

TOGETHER WITH

RELATIVE NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

BY JOHN FULLARTON, ESQ.,

EDITOR OF SIR R. MAITLAND'S "HOUSE OF SEYTOUN," AND VARIOUS OTHER SIMILAR WORKS PRINTED FOR THE MAITLAND CLUB.

ARDROSSAN: ARTHUR GUTHRIE.

1864.

TO THE HONOURABLE

THE MAGISTRATES, COUNCIL, AND COMMUNITY,

OF THE

BARONIAL BURGH OF ARDROSSAN

THE FOLLOWING BRIEF ACCOUNT

OF THE LONG LINE OF ITS ANCIENT AND NOBLE

LORDS OF THE MANOR,

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY THE COMPILER,

WITH THE MOST SINCERE GOOD WISHES AND HOPE, THAT ITS
HITHERTO UNEXAMPLED SUCCESS AND PROSPERITY
MAY BE VOUCHSAFED AND CONTINUED TO THE

LATEST POSTERITY.

PREFACE.

FAMILY memorials, genealogy and heraldry certainly afford valuable auxiliaries to the study of national history, whilst, necessarily, they lend important light in the contemplation of ancient manners and the usages of past times; but, unfortunately, the extreme minuteness and amount of wearisome details to which such compositions usually, and perhaps unavoidably, extend, render them but little interesting to any save the parties more immediately connected with them.

In the following pages an attempt has been made to separate much of such purely private details from the more important and curious portions of the subject. Still, as Society advances in intelligence and wealth, much of a more local nature comes to assume greater consequence and interest in relation

to general history and biography In an advanced state of the arts, too, local history and topography may not inaptly be viewed as the moral element of landscape, combining and blending as it were the poetical associations of antiquity with the gentle amenities and picturesque attractions of decorated scenery. What grace and dignity, indeed, does not the ruinous tower on its embattled crag, or the broken and ivy-mantled arches of the long deserted monastery, amidst its hoary arboreal precincts, lend to every object around, imparting to the entire locality an influence and character which no splendour of modern art, however elaborate and costly, could in any manner or degree supply or compensate.

But whether local or more general, it is obvious the source and foundation of all history must ever be obtained from authentic record or contemporary trustworthy evidence—its only value and legitimate charm ever lying in its irrefragable truthfulness. The early ages of all nations, however, are but little conducive either to the production or conservation of such materials, and, truth to say, the infancy of our poor Scottish nationality forms no exception from the ordinary fate of her neighbours in this respect—her early arduous and continuous struggles with a too powerful and not very scrupulous neigh-

bour, as well as ultimately her extreme ardency of feeling as regarded religious matters, rendered the cultivation or preservation of any thing of a literary nature all but an impossibility. Nevertheless, since the dawn of greater security and more peaceful times, through the happy union of the sister kingdoms, the discovery and restoration of materials relating to the early history and independence of Scotland certainly vastly exceeds what reasonably could have been expected. The barbarous policy of the English ruler in carrying off and despoiling the country of every thing of this nature during the lamentable war of succession and independence at the close of the thirteenth century, however contrary to the intention, has perhaps after all proved rather fortunate as otherwise towards the preservation and safety of these national memorials, the extent of such materials now to be found in the noble repositories of England being of incalculable service in the elucidation of Scottish affairs. The fearfully excited and terrible eruption of the ecclesiastical revolution here at a long subsequent period, was probably of a greatly more disastrous nature as regarded the sources of our particular history, comparatively little having escaped the universal conflagration of the period, except indeed, such documents as related indispens-

ably to church property, and, in some instances, hardly these itself. Fortunately, however, most of such fragments of these treasures as did escape the operations of the religious purifiers of the time have ultimately found their way into the magnificent Advocates' Library in Edinburgh, consequently are now patent to all legitimate purposes of historical enquiry and research, much use having of late years been made of them by the several antiquarian Clubs of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, and others, as well as by many private individuals engaged in similar pursuits.

Most important services likewise have latterly been rendered to the subject of Scottish national records and muniments by Government, not only by providing for their better preservation and arrangement, but likewise by extensive accurate transcription and printing of the more important classes of these invaluable documents. In this rare and nice labour the late scrupulously careful and accomplished scholar and antiquary, Mr. John Dillon, was for a long period very exclusively and sedulously engaged in connection with the distinguished Deputy Lord Clerk Register, Thomas Thompson, Esq., thus rendering to the public services of inestimable value, and for which he is well entitled to the thanks and lasting grati-

tude of posterity. The general concentration, too, latterly, of various departments of district and municipal records into the General Register House at Edinburgh, consequent on various alterations and improvements of these institutions which have been effected, must afford in future material facility in historical research. Nor should it be omitted here to mention, that much has been done from time to time by the labour of private individuals in publishing large and important compendiums from the national registers, amongst which may be particularized Mr. Pitcairn's late judicious and extensive selections from the curious and often highly picturesque Justiciary Books of Adjournal. Neither, fortunately, does all these sources yet exhaust our field of historical and antiquarian research. In the repositories of the many still existing historical families, as not improperly they have been denominated, of the country, pretty extensive and varied treasures of this nature yet remain to be explored and brought to light, as the accurately transcribed and finely illustrated collection of Family Papers recently printed and circulated by the good taste and munificent patriotism of the late justly lamented Earl of Eglinton and Winton so encouragingly manifests; and that his lordship's admirable example must speedily be fol-

lowed by many of his enlightened and generous patrician compeers, it would be altogether uncharitable to doubt. Indeed already have some important similar achievements been realized, and it is understood that the same careful and accomplished editor of the Eglinton work, Mr. William Fraser of Edinburgh, is again similarly engaged with the extensive and interesting collection of papers of the Pollock-Maxwell family, Renfrewshire, and which, of course cannot fail to be of signal service in the elucidation of that important, populous, and eminently enterprising district.

The two interesting, and perhaps now unique views of the ancient Castle of Eglinton, which accompany the present sketch, have been engraved from original drawings which appear on the plan of the policies, surveyed by the celebrated Mr. John Ainslie, in the year 1790, most kindly and obligingly communicated by the late generous and affable Earl of Eglinton and Winton; which venerable fortalice stood on nearly the identical site as that now occupied by the present magnificent castellated mansion of the domain, and which of course was wholly removed to make way for it at the time of its erection, about the close of last century. Regarding the rude monumental stone, yet remaining within the area of the

ancient Parochial Church on the Castlehill of Ardrossan, an engraving of which is likewise now given, scarcely any thing, even traditionally, at all appears which may in any way be depended upon. As was to be expected, it has most generally been viewed as commemorative of the last baron of the original race, the renowned equestrian hero of the "enchanted bridle." But from neither of the two armorial shields belonging to it can anything be viewed as corroborative of this. Other traditions assign this long neglected memorial to the ancient family of Montfode of that Ilk, whose feudal fortalice was seated in the near neighbourhood of Ardrossan; but no exemplification of the Montfode Arms has been discovered whereby to compare with the heraldric emblems here displayed. The sculpture appears originally to have consisted of two separate stones joined together, the upper portion of which being now lost or destroyed, renders the figure incomplete. An inscription, in raised letters, had surrounded the margin of the stone, but which is now quite illegible and irrecoverably lost.

"—— chiefs who under their grey-stone
Have slept so long, that fickle Fame
Hath blotted from her rolls their name;
And twin'd round some new minion's head
The wreath for which those heroes bled!"

There can be no doubt, the upper one of the two

shields laid on the effigy is that which more particularly relates to the individual commemorated, and which, though now greatly wasted and decayed, is still quite satisfactorily to be traced and understood. The cross lines forming it into four quarters are distinct enough, and the round figures of the charge, especially those, in the *second* and *fourth* divisions, are sufficiently distinct—the other two of course, according to the rules of Heraldry, must have conformed to them. Such a cognizance is perhaps rather uncommon—the old and distinguished earls of Lennox, however, would appear to have borne their arms somewhat similarly arranged, the shield being thus cantoned by a saltier instead of the ordinary cross.

The history and migrations of the ancient parish kirk of Ardrossan are not a little singular and remarkable. Its original site was in close proximity to the castle, a little northward on the flat summit of the hill, and no doubt arose here under the special patronage of the baronial establishment. It was dedicated to the Holy Virgin and St. Peter, and was probably of a somewhat superior order of architecture. Pont speaks of it as "a goodly parochiall church." The public burying ground was enclosed around it and though the walls have all long since

been utterly removed, very many of the old tombstones still remain on the spot, and the area of the church is yet distinctly to be traced by its foundations still remaining in *situ*. It has been of a simple oblong form, 64 feet by 26 over the walls. The situation was certainly of a rather unmonastic nature, quite the antipodes of what the prudent old Romish priesthood were usually wont to select for their own special domiciles—doubtless the immediate protection and patronage of the baronial stronghold may well enough account for the deviation in this instance. This ancient church, however, was overthrown by a high wind in the year 1690, and never afterwards restored, but removed to a new site about a mile directly inland on the banks of the little streamlet of Stanleyburn, where the manse and glebe were then situated—a situation in point of shelter and amenity exceedingly well chosen; but unfortunately still quite inconvenient to the great body of the inhabitants, who then as now were located in the town of Saltcoats, fully a mile and a half distant. The materials of the original building were brought up and used in the construction of the new one; but the inconvenient nature of the situation, ere the lapse of fifty years, again led to its abandonment, and at last it was removed to Saltcoats, where it has

ever since remained. This second removal took place in 1744; but the structure of this newer building must have been of an exceedingly insufficient nature, for in scarcely thirty years afterwards, it had to be taken down and rebuilt! Nor does it at all yet appear fully to answer its purpose; for in the late Statistical Account of the parish, the incumbent thus makes his complaint of it:—"There is great need of the present church being enlarged, or, what would be still more desirable, a new church built in Ardrossan." Though quite obliterated, the site of the church at Stanleyburn, is still marked by the humble grave-stone of the Rev. Thomas Clark, who appears to have occupied the cure for the whole period from its erection to within seven years of its demolition, and who according to his own desire was buried within its walls.

OVERTOUN, BY WEST KILBRIDE,
AUGUST, 1864.

CONTENTS.

MEMOIR

OF THE FAMILY OF

EGLINTON AND WINTON.

CHAPTER I.

IN the ancient and noble family of Eglinton are united the three several baronial houses of Montgomerie of Eaglesham, Renfrewshire; Eglinton of Eglinton, and Barclay of Ardrossan, in the old baronial district of Cunningham: all three being derived from the Anglo-Norman or Saxon races of England during the early part of the twelfth century—an age peculiarly marked by its decided policy in favour of an extension of feudal institutions in Scotland. Latterly, too, this united family have still further been rendered illustrious by their succession to the representation of the ancient and princely race of the Setons, Earls of Winton.

With the introduction of the feudal system of government the connected and authentic history of Scotland, as is universally admitted, properly commences; the first dawn of which policy she certainly

derived from the liberal usages of her more advanced Anglo-Saxon neighbours in the age of the renowned Malcolm Canmore, who in early life had had the fortune to have resided sometime in the southern country, and afterwards to be married to the Princess Margaret, daughter of the exiled family, after the conquest by the Normans.

At this period, likewise, first originated here the idea of exclusive individual property in land —the most important step of all in the progress of civilization and the development of national prosperity. Under the king or sovereign ruler "the territory of the state was formed into districts, usually known by the general name of baronies, though differing in extent, as well as in the rank and influence they communicated to those who held them. The greater barons were lords of entire provinces, where they exercised the rights and enjoyed the dignity attached to sovereign power. Their provinces were again subdivided into other fiefs, whose possessors were, by tenure of military service, vassals of the baron and peers of the barony; in like manner as the baron was a vassal of the king and a peer of the kingdom."

Pursuant to these proceedings, ROBERT DE MONTGOMERIE, conjectured with much probability, to have been derived from the great Earls of Shrewsbury, in England, accompanied the progenitor of the illustrious family of Stewart into Scotland, and obtained from that distinguished leader a grant of the extensive tract of Eaglesham, in the hilly southern

extremity of Renfrewshire; whilst about the same period, the ancestor of the great family of De Morville, (another Anglo-Norman chief,) procured a charter of proprietary of the large and valuable district of Cunningham, together with the high office of Great Constable of the Kingdom; and from whom, in like manner, the ancestors both of Eglinton and Ardrossan derived possession of their respective territories in that bailiwick.

During the first eight descents of the Montgomeries of Eaglesham, beyond matters of a merely civil or domestic nature, scarcely anything is recorded of them—indeed this was a period the most peaceful and happy of any which occurs in the remote primitive ages of the government of the country. But on the appearance of the renowned Bruce in his arduous enterprise to recover the independence of the Scottish crown, the contemporary baron of Eaglesham, in connection no doubt with the great baron of Renfrew, seems promptly and devotedly to have espoused his patriotic cause. And, about the year 1360, Sir John Montgomerie, the ninth baron, married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Sir Hew de Eglinton of Eglinton; by which union he ultimately obtained, besides the ample possessions of that family, the large territory and vassalage of the powerful barons of Ardrossan—that noble inheritance, as it would appear, having previously merged to Eglinton, in like manner, through an heir female; and thus at once was the family of Montgomerie elevated to the first rank and standing

of landholders in the country. But from the unfortunate occurrence of the ancient fortalice of Eglinton having been burned down by the Cunninghams, headed by the Master of Glencairn, about the year 1528, and the family papers being consumed in it, no sufficient account of the particular dates and circumstances of these unions can now be ascertained.

That the family of Eglinton of Eglinton originally settled here under De Morville hardly admits of a doubt, though the unfortunate loss of the registers of the monastery of Kilwinning has perhaps for ever rendered it impossible to discover explicit authentic evidence of the fact, or the precise date of its occurrence. The earliest record of the family now known to exist is that quoted by Crawfurd in the Peerage, as contained in a charter belonging to the burgh of Irvine, of date 1205. The lands derived their appelation from the name of the original ancestor—Eglun's-toun, a name which has been supposed to point to an Anglo-Saxon source. Rodolphus de Eglinton swore fealty to the English Edward the First in 1296; but the family appears to have first risen to eminence in the person of Sir Hew de Eglinton, Knight, who, about the middle of the fourteenth century, married Egidia, sister of the first Stuart king. He was justiciary of Lothian in 1361, and he and his spouse obtained charters of various lands in different parts of the country. Subsequently, he was employed in some important public transactions; and, besides, appears to have been no less distinguished as a poet and man of letters than

by his baronial rank and illustrious connections. Dunbar in his "Lament for the Death of the Makkeris," alludes to "Sir Hew of Eglintoun" as one of those who had preceded himself. Winton likewise commemorates "Hucheon of the Aule Royall"—Royal court or hall. Hucheon is an old synonim for Hugh, and there seems no doubt that the allusion here is to Sir Hew de Eglinton. Winton remarks, he "was cunning in literature, curious in his style, eloquent and subtile; and who clothed his compositions in appropriate metre, so as always to raise delight and pleasure." Various tales and romances are still ascribed to Sir Hugh Eglinton, but scarcely anything would seem now to be known with certainty as strictly of his production. As related by Bowmaker, Sir Hew de Eglinton accompanied the expedition of David II. into England in 1346, and together with Stuart [of Dreghorn?], Craigie, Boyd, and Fullarton, was knighted by the king on their crossing the Border.

The family of Ardrossan were certainly of the foremost rank of the barons of Cunningham, and that they derived their descent from the ancient and powerful Norman De Berkeleys of England cannot be doubted. [*See Appendix.*] The first, and most probably the original progenitor of Ardrossan, who has been ascertained from authentic record, was—

1. "Richardus de Barclay, dominus de Ardrossan," who, as stated by Pont, witnessed a charter of Sir Richard de Morville's to the monas-

tery of Kilwinning. By others, however, the founder of Kilwinning is named Hugh, but Pont, who had the advantage of perusing the original register, calls him Richard, and there can be little doubt the charter alluded to was by the same individual.

2. Arthur of Ardrossan, the next who appears, is stated to have witnessed a charter in 1226; but it is not probable he could be the immediate successor of Richard.

3. Fergus of Ardrossan appears in a transaction betwixt the bishop of Moray and Frisken de Moray, 1248—not improbably he may have succeeded Arthur. And Fergus of Ardrossan was an arbiter in settling an affair in which the burgh of Irvine was concerned; but he was most likely the same individual with the Fergus just mentioned.

4. Bryce of Ardrossan is witness to various charters granted by Malise Earl of Strathearne, 1260-1272.

5. Sir Christopher of Ardrossan is a witness to a charter by Sir Gilchrist More of Rowallan, 1280. Next

6. Godofredus de Ardrossan subscribes the Ragman Roll in 1296.

7. Fergus of Ardrossan, and his brother Robert, submitted to Edward of England after the surrender of Stirling Castle in 1304.

8. Hugh of Ardrossan is stated to have been subjected to a fine of three years' rent of his estate when Edward granted an indemnity to the Scotch, October 15, 1305. If no confusion of names has occurred here, Hugh may, with much probability, be viewed as having been son and successor of Fergus—but the distance of time is but brief.

9. Sir Fergus of Ardrossan is the next in succession recorded of the family; and he is represented as having been "the companion of Wallace and the friend of Bruce." But if so he was the compeer of Wallace, it is impossible he could be other than identical with the last mentioned Fergus above. Sir Fergus afterwards accompanied Edward Bruce in his expedition to Ireland, and was killed at the battle of Arscol, January 26, 1316. Barbour styles him "a knycht rycht corageous."

10. Sir Fergus of Ardrossan, in all probability son of the preceding knight, was one of the Scotch nobility and barons who addressed the famous letter to the Pope, April 6, 1320, declaring the independence of Scotland, one of the noblest documents which ever emanated from the representatives of the country. This letter, which contains sentiments which would do honour to the most refined ages, shows that in the opinion of the then parliament of Scotland, the crown was held in trust for the community, and to which the sovereign was accountable. The passage is peculiarly striking and pointed in which it is declared that "It is not for

glory, riches, or honour, that we fight, but for that Liberty which no good man will consent to lose." Barbour, the historian of the age, breathes the same spirit in the following noble lines:—

> "Fredome all solace to man giffis;
> He leveys at ess that frrely levys.
> A nobil hart may haiff nane e'ss,
> Na elys nocht that may him pless,
> Giff freedome failyke—for sic linking
> Is yarnit our all other thing."

This remarkable document was subscribed by eight earls and thirty-one barons, including the great officers of state; and it is given forth in name of the nobles, barons, freeholders, and whole community of Scotland; but it does not appear that any individual of the clerical order acquiesced in it; and the baron of Ardrossan is the only individual from Ayrshire who had the honour to be immediately participant in this memorable proceeding.

11. Godfrey of Ardrossan, whom we may presume succeeded Sir Fergus, witnessed a charter granting the patronage of the kirk of Liberton to the monastery of Kilwinning, in 1357; and in him would appear to have ended the line of direct male representatives of the race. For the barony seems now to have passed, by an heir female, to the house of Eglinton; but whether by a daughter or sister of Sir Godfrey, or through what other medium, has not at all been ascertained. However it might be, a subsequent heiress of Eglinton as before alluded to, carried both inheritances to Montgomerie of Eglesham; but they err who suppose the heiress of

Eglinton to have been the daughter of the previous female inheritor of the barony of Ardrossan as previously alluded to. Elizabeth de Eglinton heiress of Eglinton's mother, as we have seen, was Egidia, daughter of Walter the High Steward, and sister of Robert the Second of Scotland. Sir Hew Eglinton, father of the heiress Elizabeth, dates certain papers "at Ardrossan," as early as the year 1362, which certainly is not a little presumptive that by that time he had come into possession of the estate. Godfrey, the last baron, appears frequently in legal documents during the reign of David the Second—1329-1371; and so it could hardly be otherwise but that Sir Hew was either grandson or nephew to Godfrey—that is taking it for granted that he obtained the barony at all through succession.

CHAPTER II.

ELIZABETH DE EGLINTON appears incontravertably to have survived her husband, Sir John Montgomerie of Eaglesham, there being a document quoted in the *Eglinton Papers* executed by her "in her lawful widow-head, with consent of her friends." This paper is undated, but seems to be at least subsequent to 1377. In the Peerage it is stated that Sir John, on his union with the heiress of Eglinton, quartered the arms of Eglinton with his own; but impressions of his seal, yet extant, show the inaccuracy of this. The only allusion to Eglinton is the addition of an annulet in the centre of the shield—the use of quartering indeed had hardly yet at all been known in Scotland. But his son and successor, whose "usual style and designation in charters was, Sir John Montgomerie, Knight, Lord of Ardrossan," appears certainly thus to have borne the arms of Montgomerie and Eglinton quartered, as is shown in many examples of his seal still preserved.

Sir John Montgomerie, the successful suitor of the great heiress of Eglinton and Ardrossan, would appear largely to have participated in the chivalrous gallantry of the age in which he lived. In the

summer of 1388, he and his eldest son, Hew, who must have been quite a young man at the time, accompanied the heroic James, second earl of Douglas, in his noted incursion into England which formed the subject of the still popular ballad of *Chevy Chase*. The Scots, having penetrated as far up as the gates of York, and returning with a large booty through Northumberland, were attacked by Henry Percie, the famous Hotspur, and his brother Ralph, with a greatly superior force, but after much severe skirmishing the hardy followers of Douglas were successful in putting the English to flight at the village of Otterburn, not, however, without the loss of their chivalrous leader, who fell mortally wounded in the thickest of the fray. In this desperate rencounter the young Sir Hew Montgomerie was slain—according to popular authority, being transfixed by an arrow,

> "The grey goose-wing that was thereon,
> In his heart's blood was wet."

Some recent writers, however, on no good authority certainly, would seem inclined to ignore the existence of the eldest son Hew altogether, notwithstanding the undeviating and enduring sympathy of popular feeling towards his memory; alleging that no positive evidence of his identity exists! There are many cases, however, in which circumstances may make a foundation of belief quite as satisfactory to the mind as any direct positive evidence whatever. Mr. Wood, the intelligent and careful editor of the latest edition of the Peerage of Scotland, states, apparently with confidence, that there were four

sons of the marriage betwixt Sir John Montgomerie and the heiress of Eglinton, namely, Hew, John, Alexander, and Hew, very reasonably accounting for the *second* Hew, that in all probability he was born subsequently to the death of his eldest brother at Otterburn. It has not been supposed that the marriage of their parents took place earlier than sometime subsequent to 1360, so that it seems barely possible that the youngest of four sons could be of age sufficient to appear on the field of battle in 1388. But quite as much as mere dogmatical reasoning, must the feelings and immemorial usages of society be considered in such a matter. The great accession of fortune as well as of illustrious connections which Sir John Montgomerie thus obtained by his union with the house of Eglinton, could not fail to lead him to desire to compliment his most worthy father-in law, "the guid Sir Hew of Eglinton," with the name of his first-born son. It is obvious, likewise, that the name Hugh was first introduced into the family of Montgomerie by this connection, and in which it has ever since continued to obtain a decided preference. Such predilections, indeed, have ever pertinaciously been adhered to in family history—amongst all the fortunate followers of the magnanimous Bruce, no succeeding generation of their descendants almost have ever been without a *Robert*, if there was a male descendant at all. Up to the period of the union of the houses of Ardrossan, Eglinton and Eaglesham, and for ages afterwards, the expedient of husbands assuming the family names

of heiresses was quite unknown; nor had the device of quartering in armorial cognizances as just observed hardly as yet come into use in this country.

Crawford, obviously from mere tradition, states Sir John Montgomerie at the battle of Otterburn to have taken Sir Henry Percie prisoner, "and for his ransom obliged him to build the Castle of Polnoon." But the accuracy of this would seem rather doubtful. Bocce, who wrote at the distance of little more than a century of the occurrence, states Percie to have been captured by "Keith, Marcheall of Scotland."

CHAPTER III.

ALEXANDER, first Lord Montgomerie — so created about 1445—was succeeded in his title and estates by his grandson Alexander, his own son, of the same name, having long predeceased him; whilst Hew, the third lord, was advanced to the rank of Earl of Eglinton about the year 1505, by the favour of the chivalrous but ill-fated hero of Flodden-field, whose cause from the first, the Lord Montgomerie appears zealously to have espoused, against his unfortunate and ill-used father, James the Third. But both patents having long been amissing, the particular dates of these honours cannot now be ascertained. The Lord Montgomerie was present at the pitiful conflict of Saughiburn, near Stirling, where the poor king perished miserably, as has been reported, in a mill, whither he vainly sought refuge, under the hands of relentless ruffians; but it appears not that his lordship was participant in the more creditable, if not less disastrous field where his royal master, somewhat mysteriously, lost his life—still pathetically chanted as the scene where

"The flowers of the forest were a' wed away."

The entire series—five in number—of the direct Montgomerie earls were of the name of Hugh. There was something rather affecting in the fate and brief career of the second earl. He succeeded his grand-father, the first earl, in June 1544, and died suddenly, September 3, the year following—his own father, John, Master of Eglinton, having been killed on the streets of Edinburgh, in the spring of 1520, on the side of the Earl of Arran, in the affray popularly known as "Cleanse the Causeway." He died whilst on a visit at the house of Monkridding, in the vicinity of Eglinton Castle. This place was the residence of Thomas Nevin of Monkridding, who was probably connected with the affairs of his lordship's estate, at least Lord Eglinton's latter-will bears to have been written here—Conditum erat hoc presens testamentum per os decedentis, apud Monkredden, die decimo octavo Augusti, 1545.

The third earl, like many others of the time was a good deal entangled betwixt the parties of the Queen and the Regents, and appears also to have incurred no little perplexity as well in his private as public affairs. Whilst his son and successor, Hew, fourth earl of Eglinton, almost immediately on his succession, fell a victim to their long standing feud with the Cunninghams. It would appear that the earl, on his way to the court at Stirling, was waylaid and murdered near the town of Stewarton, by a numerous band of his enemies. Other accounts state that "he was merely passing a short way in pastime, accompanied with a verie few of his household servants

and evil horsit himself," A somewhat minute account of this lamentable occurrence is quoted in Robertson's *Ayrshire Families*, from a manuscript genealogical history of the family, in reference to Cunningham of Clonbeith, who is stated to have been the actual perpetrator of the murder, and who afterwards was killed in the palace of Hamilton by Robert Montgomerie of Giffen, brother of the earl, "and cut to pieces on the very spot."

The great and long continued feud betwixt the rival clans of Montgomerie and Cunningham, would appear to have originated in a competition for the office of Bailie of the Bailiwick of Cunningham. The older genealogists to account for the assumption of the name of Cunningham by the ancestors of the Glencairn family, assign for it that their progenitor, along with the barony of Kilmaurs, obtained from the great baron De Morville the office of "Thane or Hereditary Bailie of Cunningham, from whence his posterity have their surname." But the loss of the records of the monastery of Kilwinning, as well as the distance of time from these transactions, seem to render it impossible now to ascertain with any certainty the true history of the matter; the long period of confusion arising out of the unfortunate war of succession at the close of the thirteenth century has likewise not a little aggravated the difficulties of the history of the period. It is pretty obvious, however, that subsequently to the re-establishment of order by Bruce, the offices of Bailie of Cunningham and Chamberlain of Irvine came to be

possessed by the old family of Eglinton of Eglinton. In 1363, Sir Hew de Eglinton obtained from Walter the High Steward—doubtless now the superior—a grant of the office of Bailie of the barony of Cunningham, *with the command of all the men dwelling therein.* Other concessions explanatory of the rights and duties of the office soon after followed; and in 1448, King James the Second renewed this authority in favour of "Alexander Montgomerie, eldest son of Alexander Lord Montgomerie." Still these arrangements probably never were at all fully acquiesced in by the Cunninghams; and looking back to their prior original title from De Morville, they doubtless felt aggrieved and would not forego their pretensions: thus the consequence was, continued ages of the most embittered and sanguinary conflicts, comparatively but few of which, we may be well assured, have come down to the present day through the obscure chronicling of family affairs—

> "In their baronial feuds and single fields,
> What deeds of prowess unrecorded died!"

Considerable additional light and certainty however has now been thrown on the subject by the recently printed *Eglinton Papers*, which of course, must supersede a great amount of unsatisfactory conjecture and conflicting statement.

CHAPTER IV.

THE territorial possessions of the Abbey of Kilwinning appear first to have been erected into a regality, in favour of Abbot William Boyd, about the year 1450. Hew, second earl of Eglinton, was served heir to his grandfather, the first earl, in the hereditary office of Bailie of the regality of the monastery of Kilwinning, December 4, 1545; and not improbably the family may have held this appointment from the beginning. Subsequently, Hew, third earl of Eglinton, had a charter from Gavin Hamilton, commendator of Kilwinning, May 19, 1552, of the office of "Chamberlain, justiciary and bailie of all the lands belonging to the said monastery;" he had likewise a charter of the feu-duties belonging to it, August 24, 1565. The lordship of Kilwinning was first secularised and granted by the Crown to William Melville, commendator thereof, in 1591, and ten years afterwards, he alienated it to the Earl of Eglinton; which alienation, after some difficulties and considerable delay, on the score of formalities, was finally confirmed to the purchaser's successor, the redoubted sixth earl.

This magnificent abbey and its monastic buildings, up to the period of the grant to Melville of its

temporalities, appear to have remained uninjured, though doubtless for some considerable time in an utterly neglected condition. Pont, who visited the abbey in about ten years after the event, states its destruction to have been consummated in the year 1591,—a date corresponding to Melville's Acquisition, and not improbably connected with that event. But the following document, of date 1565, but too plainly and surely indicates the doom under which these glorious works of art had by that time fallen :

"Matho Erle of Lenox," &c., "to Robert Stenson (and others) messengeris, schireffis in that part, greit you : Robert Hamilton, chalmerlane of Kilwinning and keeper of the samyn, wes chargyt of befoir be the King and Quinis Majestics letteris to delyver the place of Kilwinning, within the outir walles and closing of the samyn. Quhilk charge beand gewin, the said Robert disobeyt the samyn, as the endorsing and instrumenits tane thairupon proportis ; and we are suirlie informit the said Robert remains in the said place, intendis to hald the samyn of force, in hie contemption of our soweranis authoritie, geiff sa be : Quhairfor we command you pass incontenent, and charge Hew Erle of Eglintoun, bailie of Cunninghame and Kilwinning, to caus the said place of Kilwinning, alsweill the ester ludging, called the Garding Chalmeris, as all uther office housis within the uter stane wall and closser of the said place, be deliverit to you in our soweranis naime and myn, within 24 houris

nixt eftir your charge under the pane of tresoun: And gef need be, that ye charge all our sowerane Lord and Ladies legis dwelling within the schiref-domis of Air and barony of Ranfrou to ryis, conkur and assist with the said bailie in taking of the said place; geif it be haldin or closit, to brek up the duries of the samyn, and entir you thairin. And eftir that ye haif resauit the said place, charge the said bailie to resaif the samin aff your hand, to be keepit by him surly upon the expensis redyest guidis and proffittis pertenand to the said abacie, to farder comand," &c.

It would seem from the statement of Pont, however, that the enclosing precinct walls were not demolished along with the church and conventual buildings—doubtless, with all their rancour against the proscribed forms of the old religion, they still had consideration enough, at least for a time, to preserve so necessary a protection to the extensive and valuable gardens and orchards within. The intelligible language of the worthy old topographer being "It [the monastery] *has* the precinct environed with a faire stone wall, within which are goodly gardens and orchardes." But even these necessary works of utility ultimately had to follow the fate of the elaborate and beautiful structures they were reared to protect and adorn—the only vestige of the precinct walls now and for ages past remaining in existence is a large arched gateway entering to the ample court in front of the western door of the church, now known by the name of the "Green."

The "Garden Chalmers," above alluded to, had probably been the special residence of the abbots; and they certainly continued for ages afterwards in the possession of the family of Eglinton. Lady Mary Leslie, second wife of Lord Montgomerie, by her marriage contract in 1635, was life-rented in the lordship of Ardrossan and the "Houses in Kilwinning called the Easter Chalmers;" and this building probably continued to be the ordinary place of residence of his lordship's family until his future succession to the earldom in 1661. But this too has long since utterly disappeared—the last remains of its walls are said to have been removed to Eglinton some time towards the close of the last century.

From the earliest period, the influential authorities of the monastery of Kilwinning would appear zealously to have patronised the fascinating association of freemasonry; the more legitimate and worthy practice of archery, too, has ever been more persistently continued here than perhaps any where else in the country. Freemasonry as a political device, was encouraged by the all-wise and artful See of Rome, which from well considered views of policy became the zealous patrons of architectural decoration and monastic grandeur. The human mind is ever most surely and easily to be captivated through the senses, and in all ages and under all circumstances the clerical orders have never failed largely to avail themselves of these omnipotent influences. The organisation of freemasonry was based and constructed on religious formula, and

assuredly the devotion and enthusiasm which it evoked became most intense and universal, whilst, it must be admitted, the architectural embodiments realised through its medium only fell short of the miraculous creations of classical antiquity.

The pretensions of Kilwinning, however, as first in order of time in freemasonry in Scotland is perhaps not sufficiently well founded; but that she has immemorially been admitted to take precedence as head of the craft, would seem to be incontravertable. That the order was first introduced into this country by the church builders from the south of Europe, no manner of doubt need be entertained. But Kilwinning was far from being the earliest of those wonderful gothic structures which ultimately came to adorn almost every corner of the kingdom. David the First, the "sore saint to the crown," had all but beggared himself by building cathedrals and conventual kirks long before the foundation of Kilwinning was laid, and much had been done in the same way at a still earlier period; it is not therefore to be supposed but that "Freemasonry" must have found its way to all of them. What shall be said, time obliterates all, and

> "Every thing has but a time,
> As had the kings of Stuart line."

Among the Eglinton family papers is preserved a copy of "The Statutis and Ordinances to be observed be all the maister masons within this realm, set doune be William Schaw, maister of warks to his majestie, and generall wardene of the said craft,

December, 1598," which curious and notable document, for the benefit or gratification at least of the successors of the "craft," is inserted at length in the Notes and Illustrations to the present little volume.

Some picturesque and interesting particulars respecting the old steeple which stood at the west entrance of the abbey—latterly rebuilt—is furnished in an extract from papers in an action betwixt the abbot and the third Earl of Eglinton, who died in 1585, as follows in the statement for his lordship:—

"As to the said stepill, it is altogether buyldit upon the bodie of the paroche kyrk of Kilwynning, fer distant from the queir and cloister, swa that nane may half pretext or collour to acclame the samyn, onless it wer the parochin, quhairof I am ane, and, under the Kyngis Majestie, hes the rule and commandeament of the remnant: and I and my predecessouris not only heritable bailies of the regalitie of Kilwinning, but alswa of the regality of Conynghame, has ever in all tymes bygane, alsweill in this commendatoris tyme as his predecessouris, quhen abbayis wes in greitter veneration and mair sanctte-monie predendit, had the said stepill for ane ward an prisoun to poneis and keip malefactouris and prisouneris; quhairin the common bell hangis, to be rung onlie at command of me or my deputis, for convening of the parochin and tenandis, aither for the Kyngis service, and in all tymes of trubbles, alsweill of wer aganis forane enemies, eweill tumult, particular feides, or utherwoyis, as my predecessouirs and I thocht convenyent. Thai and I had

ever the use and keeping of the stepill, mannit and fortefeit the samyn, had our deputis and servandis remanying and dwelling thairin at our plesour, without any contradiction ; lykeas we haif ever had alsweill in this commendatoris tyme as his predecessouris, the said haill abbay and every pairt thairof patent to us, the principall hall and under placeis, as we plesit to hald our courtis, and for execution of our offiee of bailliory as occasion servit."—See further of Kilwinning, Notes.

Various interesting documents respecting the Island of the Lesser Cumbrae likewise appear in the Eglinton papers. This romantic little island, lying midway betwixt the promontory of Ardneil and the southern extremity of Bute, was originally part of the principality of Scotland, and for ages was retained as a royal preserve of deer—Hunter of Hunterston, whose property lay on the shore of the mainland near adjacent, being, perhaps from the first, appointed hereditary keeper of it, with an annual emolument of two chalders of oats, payable out of the king's lands in Bute, together with certain rights of pasturage on the Island, and perhaps other contingent perquisites were connected with the offiee. In aftertimes, however, the worthy forester would seem to have been quite over-borne by the depredations of the rogues and vagabonds who surrounded him ; and during the minority of James the Fifth authority was granted to the Earl of Eglinton to suppress these depredations and outrages—" Wit ye, that for samekle that we and our

derrest cousing and tutor, Johne, Duke of Albany, . . . ar sikerlie advertist that the ile of Little Comeray . . . is waistit and destroyit be divers personis that slais the dere and cunyngis thairof, and pasturis bestis thereintill masterfully beway of dede, without licence, tollerance, or consent of Robert Huntare of Huntarestoun, forestar of heritage of the said ile; the quhilk personis the said Robert may nocht resist, becaus he is nocht of substance nor power without suppli and help," &c. Monroe, who visited the Island in 1594, states the deer to have continued plentiful here down to that time, his words are, "Besides this [the Greater Cumbrae], lyes ane iyle callit Cumbray of the Dais, because ther is many dayis intil it" But since that period these valuable animals have been so long quite extinct as not now to be remembered in the locality even traditionally—not so however the "conyngis," they keep their hold numerous and vigorous as ever, and now constitute the chief product of the Island.

On an islet rock on its eastern shore still stands the naked walls of a small embattled square tower, nearly entire, which adds much to the interest and picturesque aspect of the locality. Of the origin of this fortlet, however, nothing appears to be recorded; it most probably was reared in connection with the deer preserve. In 1568, the Earl of Eglinton contracted with "George Elphinstoun, glassinwricht, burges of Glasgow," for the upholding of the castle of Cumbrae "in glassin work," together with those of "Eglintoun, Polnone, Glasgow and

Irwin ;" and for which Elphinston was to receive, yearly, " twa bollis meill and ane stane cheis ; and gif it happinis the said Erle to hald house in ony of thir foirsaidis places when it sal happin the said George to wirk, the said George sal have his meat the time that he wirks. and als when the said George tursis creillis of glas and leid to Irwin, Ardrossan, Eglintoun and Cumray the said Erle sal caus ane carrage hors to turs the samyn out of Glasgow."

In view of Cromwell's visit to Scotland, the Lord Montgomerie, whose inclinations appear to have led him quite as decidedly to the ranks of royalism as his heroic father, Greysteel, was resolute in the defence and advancement of the sacred cause of liberty, had this fortlet strengthened and a garrison of about forty men placed in it—Lady Montgomerie and her family being present within its walls. On the occurrence of the decisive battle of Worcester, where Lord Montgomerie was taken prisoner, Lady Montgomerie, in a letter dated here, to the Marquis of Argyll, thus alludes to the garrison of Little Cumbrae—" Before my lord [her husband] marched with the king to Ingland, he had an order under His Majesties hand for allowing of fourtie men of this new leavie out of his fathers lands and his own, for the men he hes raised and maintaines in this place ; it being als weil for the publict good as the safety of me and my children in these tymes." The object of her ladyship's application to the Marquis being that he might use his influence with

the Committee of Estates to have the above forty men allowed as part of the Eglinton contingent. And ere the close of the same month—September, 1651, Lady Montgomerie, having received intelligence of the disaster at Worcester, writes a long imploring letter to Argyll, in which she says,—"I could be at no quyet till I despatched this bearer with those [tidings] back to your lordship; humbly and earnestly intreating your lordship to let me have your ful and fre advice quhat you think fitting for me to doe: first in reference to my lord, for his relief or supply in such straits as he by his imprisonment wil undoubtedly be in, next concerning myself and childrens saftie and subsistence, and this place, quhich my lord by his care and charges hes made a considerable strength; and in regard of the situation of it might prove very useful, as weil for the publict as my particular owne (and other friends) good, and hes by Gods blessing been so this tyme past, But now I am affrayed, for many reasons, not fit to trouble your lordship with at this tyme, that without other helps than I, in my lords absence, can afford, I shall not be able to maintaine it in such a posture as is necessary to oppose a enemy; and my fears ar that less than that may rather invite than keep of an enemy," &c. As regards the Castle of Cumbrae, the Marquis thus replies:—

"For your fort in the Cumray, I fear the cost of it will outgo the profit; for in my judgment your ladyship must not now in the condition that [your]

famili is in retier yourself, but rather ask leave, both from the Committee of Estates and Monk, to leeve whair you pleas with your ordinar famili. . . . so after you have offered the fort to the Committee of the Shyr, if they will be at the charg, if not, you and they both may offer it to be disposed off as the Committee thinks fit; but in my judgment it will be better for you that it were demolished, and these things in it, I mean guns and amonition, secoored; for if you get a protection it will secoor your other stuff."

Principal Baillie has recorded his retreat to this tiny fortlet on the approach of the victorious Cromwell to Glasgow, briefly thus:—"Cromwell, with the whole body of his army and cannon, comes peaceably by the way of Kilsyth to Glasgow. The magistrates and ministers fled all away. I got to the Isle of Cumray, with my Lady Montgomerie, but left all my family and goods to Cromwell's courtesy, which indeed was great; for he took such a course with his soldiers that they did less displeasure in Glasgow than if they had been in London, though Mr Zachary Boyd railed on them all to their face in the High Church."

In the old Statistical Account, it is stated that this fortlet was "surprised and burned by Cromwell's soldiers;" and if so, it was perhaps never again restored or tenanted.—See farther Notes.

CHAPTER V.

THE fifth and last earl of the direct Montgomerie line, died September 2, 1612; and having no issue, was succeeded by his grand-nephew, Sir Alexander Seton, third son of Lady Margaret Montgomerie, Countess of Winton, by special destination. But this arrangement, the ultra-prerogative sentiments of James the Sixth led him resolutely to oppose, as an intolerable encroachment on his sovereign rights; and thus a long and difficult negotiation ensued ere his majesty could be brought to recognise Sir Alexander's succession to the title. In a letter of Archbishop Spottiswood's to Mr Murray of Lochmaben, July 11, 1614, he says:—"I have spoken to the Chancellor and Sir Alexander Seatoun, his nephew. The Chancellar sayis that in his lyf never anything trublit him more than his Maiesties offense at this busines of Eglintoun; and both he and Sir Alexander, with many wordis and oathis, protest, thai ar so far from standing in terms with his Majestie, that, to gif his Hieness contentment, they will not fear to submit their lyfis, honouris, landis, and al; only Sir Alexander being provydit to the succession of that living, and cumming in against the lyking of many friendis of the house, fearit, as he says, to do anything that myght bring in question the honour and rank thai had formerly kepte amongest the nobilitie; for if he suld hai

takin his honour be a new creation, the old wold haif ben forgottin, and his enemyis ascryvit this to his weakness; otherwyse, that he can inioy honour or livinge but as from his Majestie, and be his Heines favour and benifit."

The following casual note of Lady Margaret Montgomerie to her daughter-in-law, the Countess of Eglinton, is not a little characteristic of her strength of mind and habit of thought:—

"Seyton, March, 27, 1618. Madame and loving dochter—I ressavit your letter, from Thomas Huttoun, quhairby I persavit ye war all in goode healthe, quhairof I was not a little joyfull; but thairefter I hard by ane letter written to Robert Seton, that your children had been seik both of the cauld and sum fever; quhilk I assure you procedit of nothing but of evill government, and will intreat you to caus have an better cair of them in tymes comeing; not looking to every ones idle opinioun, but even to use them after ane equall and midform. Prais it be God, al our children heir has had neither cauld nor fever this year, quhilk both is and hes being exciding cold and tempestuous. You schew me also that your husband was to be heir schortlye; bot I think it will not be so soone as ye expectit; bein most sorie from our hairts of the occasioun of his staye; I think friends will visit him befoir he come hither. As for onye uther news, we have none, but that all friends, with your sone Hew, is in goode healthe. So desyreing you at all occasiouns to acquent me with your estaits . . . .

rests your ladiships most loving mother at power, MARGARET LADY SETOUN."

There are beautifully engraved portraits, from original paintings, both of this lady and her renowned son, the sixth earl, in the Eglinton Book, and certainly the similarity of countenance would seem to have been no less striking than was the vigour and decision of their mental faculties; hence trusting to the popular theory of parental influence, it is obvious whence the magnanimous "Greysteel," derived his inspiration.

The covenanting principle certainly rendered political consistency no easy task, if, indeed, it was at all a possible matter; and Lord Eglinton, their great champion in the west, though manifesting throughout his whole course of life, the most steadfast honesty of purpose, did not, and could not overcome the intractable and perplexing dilemma. A "Covenanted King," when viewed apart from all its fond hallucinations could signify substantially nothing but a revival of the Jewish theocracy—priestly government; a polity, in a word, that the common sense and intelligence of modern times, could never for a moment tolerate or submit to. For a time, his lordship, with the *elite* of his honest but bewildered friends, cordially united with the parliament party of England, and did good and glorious service in the cause of civil and political advancement. But no sooner did they come to discover the sounder views of their better informed allies, that both king and priest alike must submit

to reasonable constitutional regulations, than they took alarm, and receded with horror from the previous work of their own hands: mistaking the form for the substance, with them there was no choice—submission to a *King* was divinely commanded; whereas the maintenance of just and equitable laws, was all that was necessary and indispensible to the well-being of society.

On the occurrence of the rash and impolitic execution of Charles the First, the Covenanters were panic-struck, frantic with rage and disappointment; and on the arrival of his son at Edinburgh their manifestations in his favour knew no bounds. The event was celebrated "by the setting forth of bail-fires, ringing of bells, sounding of trumpets, and dancing through the streets all night. The very pure kale-wyffes at the Trone sacrificed their creills, and the very stools they sat upon to increase the fire." Accordingly, the Earl of Eglinton, with his usual energy and decision, flew to the aid of the succeeding Charles; and in the year 1651, whilst actively engaged raising troops for the royal cause in Dumbartonshire, he was surprised by a party of Cromwell's cavalry, and taken prisoner—a condition, it is said, from which he did not escape until the final termination of the Commonwealth, and the restoration of the worthless sovereign in the summer of 1660. Nor was there anything peculiar in this, the Earls of Glencairn and Loudoun, his lordship's immediate neighbours and most powerful coadjutors, took precisely the same course, showing an equal repugnance

to any departure from strictly kingly government—which indeed, as just alluded to, was quite a cardinal tenet of "covenanting" politics.

In those days much of the time of public men was devoted to religion, or at least ecclesiastical affairs; and the great Earl of Eglinton appears ever to have been among the most forward and efficient of his exclusive and uncompromising sect. Presbyteries at that time assembled weekly, or more properly their sittings might be viewed as continuous and permanent—after their fond model of the Jewish theocracy; every branch of law, legislation, and government they keenly intermeddled with, whilst the trying, sentencing, and attending the frequent execution of hapless and helpless old people as witches formed apparently a very favourite pursuit of these judicatories. How far his lordship personally participated in these good works, little seems recorded to inform us; but his favourite clergyman, Ferguson at Kilwinning, was certainly no neglector of duty in this important matter of his office!

Of the distinguished sixth Earl of Eglinton's education or early pursuits but few particulars may now be ascertained — certainly a striking indication of the little progress which, even at this comparatively recent period, had been generally made either in literature or biographical history. He was born in 1588, and, as appears from the family papers, "was early provided to the lands of Foulstruther, in the parish of Pencaitland, and to the lands of St. Germains in the parish of Tranent;"

from which, it may be surmised, but little expectation was originally entertained of his future succession to the earldom of Eglinton. Indeed his cousin and predecessor, the fifth earl, who married early in life, and he were much about an age; but, besides, being only a younger son of the family of Winton, he could have no immediate claim of hereditary succession. The fifth earl, however, having been quite unhappy and unfortunate in his marriage with his cousin the heiress of Giffen, and finding he had no prospect that there should be any heirs of his own body, entered into arrangements for conveying the whole rights of the earldom of Eglinton to Sir Alexander Seton of Foulstruther, third son of his aunt, Lady Margaret Montgomery, Countess of Winton. "In pursuance of this arrangement, there was obtained on 28th November, 1611, a crown charter of resignation and novodamus in favour of the earl, whom failing, to Sir Alexander Seytoun of Foulstruther, Knight," &c., "and the heirs-male to be born to them respectively, of the lordship and barony of Kilwinning, and lordship and earldom of Eglinton, which are thereby of new united, erected, created, and incorporated into one whole and free earldom, to be called the Earldom of Eglintoun. The sanction of the Crown was thus obtained to the transference of the earldom of Eglinton to the Seton family." The fifth and last direct Montgomerie earl thus providing, as before stated, deceased September 4th, 1612, and Sir Alexander accordingly entered on possession. But, as alluded to, the high prerogative

sentiments of King James afterwards took alarm at the extent to which these legal proceedings seemed to interfere with his exclusive sovereign rights as the sole dispenser of titles and honours—certainly not without reason; and thus a long and difficult negotiation ensued ere his Majesty could be brought to recognise Sir Alexander's right to the honours of the family. At length, however, the objection was got over, and thus the long and active services of an able and patriotic leader were secured to the highest interests of his country, during a period the most critical and momentous of its history. It has ever been a current notion that greatness of character more frequently is derived from the maternal than the paternal origin; and this theory would certainly seem to have received a remarkable confirmation in the case of this Earl of Eglinton. Lady Margaret Montgomerie, his mother, was the object of the most flattering encomiums of her gifted kinsman, the author of "The Cherrie and the Slae," but her own numerous sensible letters yet preserved, still more conclusively establish her claim to clear strong-mindedness, qualities which so eminently distinguished her energetic and patriotic son throughout the whole period of his existence.

From the statement of Lord Kingston, in his Seton Genealogy, Sir Alexander, the successor to Eglinton, would seem to have been resident in France at the period of the arrangements entered into in his favour; but in what capacity or for what purpose he sojourned there no explanation is given.

However he may have been engaged in that country, it is not probable he afterwards returned to it. His marriage with Lady Anne Livingston, daughter of the Earl of Linlithgow, took place within three months of his succession to Eglinton, which, as above, opened to him, September 4th, 1612, little more than a year from the time of his recall from France.

There is no reason to suppose that Alexander, the sixth and great Earl of Eglinton, ever entered on a military life as a profession, and it was not until the occurrence of the unhappy conflictions with Charles I. in 1639, when he had attained the mature age of fifty years, that he yielded to the unavoidable necessity of drawing his sword as a patriotic citizen soldier. As is so well known, the proceedings of the Assembly of the Church of Scotland at Glasgow in 1638, so exasperated the High Church predilections of Charles that he resolved forthwith to chastise his rebellious Presbyterian subjects. The Covenanters, with a spirit worthy of men who knew their rights and were determined, at all hazards, to maintain and defend them, were no less alert in preparing to meet him in the field. Lord Eglinton, in concert with the other patriotic noblemen of Ayrshire, with the utmost activity had the forces of his district assembled and organised—Principal Baillie animatedly remarks, "Lord Eglinton came away with the whole country at his back." But there being at the moment a threatened descent from Ireland on the west coast,

his lordship appears to have been necessitated to remain for a time to watch and defend their movements, but his son, Lord Montgomerie, accompanied the march. His detention, however, seems not to have been of long duration; and he was forward time enough ere anything serious occurred. Soon after the going off of the Ayrshire men, Lord Eglinton addressed the following short note to Sir William Mure, younger of Rowallan, who commanded a company of his own people and neighbours, and which of course is confirmatory of the fact of his lordship's detention in the west:—

"Richt worschipfoul and most loving friend,—I long to heir from you, therfoir I will intret you to let me heir from you with all occasiounis; for I expect my best intelligence from you; from quhat ever passes let me know, and pray you have a cair of your sogeris, be I pleding for them, for it will gar yourself be moir respekit. I pray God to derck you all, and so preserve you from all danger. I rest your most loving friend to serve you, EGLINTOUN. Eglintoun, the 20th of May, 1639." As stated in a postscript, an enclosure respecting the service accompanied this.

The Ayrshire contingent on this occasion—amounting to 1200 men—appears to have been maintained exclusively at the expense of the locality. Regarding the zeal and munificence of Lord Eglinton, Baillie remarks, "Well I know that Eglintoun, our crouner, entertained all the gentlemen of note that were with him at his own table,

all the time of our abode; and his son, Montgomerie, keepit with him verie ofte the chief officers of his regiments." The poor King, with his royalists, on the contrary, was not even so well supported, for being refused supplies by the English parliament, he was forced to rely exclusively on the bounty of the dignitaries of the Church. The operations of the campaign of this year, owing to the pitiful conduct of the royalist forces, evaporated in smoke. In the succeeding year, however, matters took a different turn, and the decisive victory of the Covenanters over the Royalists at Newburn immediately led to a treaty of peace, agreed to at London. But the unfortunate and misguided King never could turn any circumstance to advantage, and only proceeded from bad to worse till the final catastrophy of his unhappy career.

Early in the following year, 1641, the Earl of Eglinton proceeded to Ireland in command of a considerable military force, to aid in the suppression of the great rebellion which broke out there at that time. During this memorable crisis, whilst Lord Eglinton remained in Ireland, Charles came to an irreconcilable rupture with the parliament of England; and both parties prepared to appeal to the arbitrament of arms. The King proceeded to Scotland to intercede if possible with his covenanting subjects for their assistance, but, unfortunate as usual, he was too late—they had already come to terms with his opponents, under the vain delusion that they might ultimately succeed in having their

"League and Covenant" extended to their English neighbours! The Earl of Eglinton "true to his principles as a Presbyterian and Covenanter," accompanied the Scottish army to England to unite with that of the Parliament forces under the command of the renowned Protector Cromwell. His lordship acquitted himself with his usual gallantry and ability in the all-important victory of Marston-moor, which irrevocably sealed the fate of the fallen and intractable sovereign. The Covenanters were at once overjoyed and dismayed at the result—for, as above alluded to, with all their ambition for the supremacy of the Church, they with no less tenacity clung to its union with Kingly civil government. Baillie, who does not, however, appear to have ventured over the Border with his gallant and revered patron at this time, thus feelingly addresses him on this auspicious occasion:—

"My verie good lord,—I am much refreshed to hear of your lordship's good health in so hard and laborious services. I do oft joy to hear of your lordship's personal valour and success. I pray God preserve your lordship from all hurt. All our worldlie hopes depends on the happiness of that your armie: you are everie day near the heart of all the godly here; next to the salvation of our souls, we wish that armie's prosperity. . . We trust in the goodness of our God, that he will furnish you with so much grace, wisdom, and courage, that you shall make to us and after ages, a very good accompt of these greatest and most precious jewells

which you now carrie on the points of your swords. We are verie hopeful here, that when God gives you a prosperous day against Yorke, it shall be a reall defeating of all the enemies both before and behind you," &c.

Marston-moor closed the campaigning career of Lord Eglinton; but he was still no less ready to combat for kingly power in the Government than he had been resolute in defence of religious liberty. In this matter, however, he was not equally fortunate. On the arrival of Charles II. in 1650, in Scotland, "the Earl of Eglinton was one of the first of the nobility who met and welcomed him, and he soon after obtained the honourable appointment of Captain of the King's Horse Guards." In the following year, however, as he was zealously engaged in raising forces for the King's service, "he was surprised and taken prisoner at Dumbarton by a party of Cromwell's horse; sent prisoner first to Hull, and afterwards to Berwick, where he remained in confinement to the restoration." Such at least is the statement of the family genealogists. But it is obvious from his lordship's own letters, still preserved, that long ere this he had obtained great relaxation of his confinement, if indeed he was not entirely restored to the full enjoyment of civil liberty. October 21, 1658, he thus writes from Eglinton to his manager at Eaglesham—"I have takine this occasione to show you that there is ane French monsiouer, called ane Marques, to be wast one of hir dayis, and is to be heir. . . Therfor ye

sall cawse send wast, after sight heirof, thrie of the fatest beastis that is in the park, and that with better boyes than they send last; for they sent bot hyred boyes last, who knew not the way home againe, and these bot abuse our servies, and it is the officears fault; and cause try for a suckeing veall, that is fourtein or twentie dayis ould; for I think these strangers will be heir this weik, or the beginning of the next at farthest; and cause send to the fowller and sie if he can gett moor fowles, or plivers, or partridges, or wood cokis, or any wild fowlis, and cause heast them wast: and sie for as much cloth as will be for ane clock and a cott to me, of this cloth which ye sall receive the swach of; and buy it als cheap as ye can, of aither of this twa cullors," &c., "I rest your loving master, EGLINTOUN."

From unavoidable circumstances, both public and private, Lord Eglinton appears constantly to have been harassed in his resources and private affairs—"The large sums which he had paid to secure his right to the earldom of Eglinton, coupled with his expenses in the civil wars, created burdens which encumbered himself and his successors for many years afterwards. He had paid likewise, to Lady Margaret Montgomerie [his predecessor's countess] alone, for her claim of right to the earldom of Eglinton, the sum of over £54,000, Scots, while his outlays in the civil wars amounted to 48,000 merks." In accordance with the character of the party he so zealously co-operated with, his punctua regard of religious observances, as was to be ex-

pected, drew on him, in no measured degree, the scoffs and sneers of his unscrupulous cavalier opponents. Of these, the following coarse insinuations have found conservation in Kelly's old collection of Scottish Proverbs:—

"God send us some money, for they are little thought of that want it, quoth the Earl of Eglinton at his prayers." Likewise—

"God keep ill geer out of my hands, for if my hands once get it, my heart will never part with it."

The especial difficulty of these days certainly was the obtaining the sinews of war, and the apologists of this great and energetic nobleman, with truthfulness, adduces these most arduous circumstances in extenuation of any seeming parsimony which may have attached to his conduct in this way. In a letter to his steward at Eaglesham, 1658, he thus painfully alludes to these perplexities —"Our vexationes and burdines is a great troubill. I pray God to comfort me, and bring me out of them."

The renowned sixth Earl of Eglinton after a life of great labour and usefulness, deceased at Eglinton Castle, January 14th, 1661, in the seventy-fourth year of his age. He left a family of five sons, all of whom, with the exception of the second, Henry of Giffen, adopted the military profession and rose to distinction in the service—also three daughters.

CHAPTER VI.

ALEXANDER, the sixth and great Earl of Eglinton, was succeeded by his eldest son, Hugh Lord Montgomerie, who was born March 20th, 1613; and who was actively engaged in the public transactions of the period, though with directly opposite sentiments to those by which his distinguished father figured so prominently. Nor could the celebrated Principal Baillie, who had the chief direction of his education throughout, with all his ability and zeal, ever succeed in turning his lordship's mind into his fond covenanting creed. On the contrary, Lord Montgomerie ultimately embraced royalism unreservedly, and became a considerable favourite both with the first and second Charles. About the beginning of the year 1632, the good Principal thus dispondingly writes to Lord Eglinton anent the proclivities of his intractable son:—

"My verie good Lord,—My Lord Montgomery in whoes education from a child I have had some hand, out of a tender affection towards me, when I had been some years his master in the schools, brought me thense with him to be his own preacher, at his parish kirk of Kilwinning, for term

of life, showing me also so much courtessie in every thing as my heart could wish." Subsequently, matters would seem to have become more and more unfavourable regarding his lordship's public sentiments; so much so indeed that the worthy clergyman came to entertain a fixed resolution to separate himself from his munificent patron and his charge. In 1642, Baillie was favoured by a call to an important charge in the city of Glasgow; but still seems greatly to have hesitated to leave Kilwinning and his highly valued Eglinton friends. In a letter on the occasion, he says—"My great grief for my Lord Montgomerie for his change of party, notwithstanding of all I could either say or wryte to him, and for his presenting that infamous supplication, did further me in my purpose to leave him; yet he was very vehement in the Presbyterie that day for my stay, as also my Lord of Eglintoun, his father, thereafter in the visitation of our church."

Not content with personal remonstrances, the energetic and conscientious pastor at this time wrote a long and earnest letter to Lord Montgomerie himself on the course he was pursuing, and in which the following pointed passages occur:—

"My verie good Lord,—However at our last meeting I did show your lordship my mind plainly enough, yet the great respect which sixteen or seventeen years intimet familiarity oblidges me to carry to your lordship, forces me to write my mind. . . . At the first many whispered, now all proclaims, that your lordship, who had purchased latelie

more love and honour in all Scotland, for your zeal and happie paines in the good cause, than any of your age, are now clean changed. . . My lord, the remainder of old kindness forces me to beseech your lordship that the great honour and sweet contentment of a good name is worth verie much; that the changing from the partie which you, alse much as anie, proclaimed to be for nought but the honour of God, the real good of the King, the weil of the countrie, to syde with a faction which you know sought nothing, but by anie possible means, to set the feet of the King on the neck both of the Church and State of all his dominions, and that not for anie love they carried to the prince, but alone for the satisfaction of their own ambition, revenge, and greed. . . Such a change in your lordship cannot be verie gracious, whatever be the pretext; yet evidently to the sense of all reasonable men, these counsels must be of the devil, which cannot fail to trouble with great confusion our poor land, newly settled with so much travell and hazard."

That Hew, Lord Montgomerie, from the first was of decided royalist sentiments can hardly admit of a doubt; but that he had, for a time acted in concert with his father on the opposite side seems conclusive from Baillie's distinct allusion to his "change of party." Some confusion, consequently, has arisen out of these circumstances. Crawfurd, and others, have asserted that Lord Montgomerie "was a man of perfect loyality in the time of our civil troubles. . . In the year 1643, he raised a

troop of horse, with which he marched in person, and fought valiantly at Langmarstonmuir and several other battles and skirmishes; and continuing faithfully to the Royal cause, he was therefore excepted out of Cromwell's indemnity in the year 1654." But that this statement is utterly erroneous as regards the battle of Marstonmuir is evident from various official letters addressed to Lord Montgomerie by Lord Fairfax, one of the chief commanders of the Parliamentary and Covenanting forces, in the months of February and March immediately preceding that famed action, now printed amongst the Eglinton Papers. What particular part Lord Montgomerie had assigned to him, if at all present at Marstonmuir, would seem no where to be recorded; but that he continued for sometime afterwards still to be under the command of Lord Fairfax, the Parliamentary general, is evident from the following letter addressed to him by that nobleman, of date November, 1644:—

"My Lord—Your Major hath acquainted me that your lordship's regiment is ordered to be quartered about Northallerton and Thirsk; and withall desired a way may be thought upon how this may be done with the most convenience to all parts; which is now soe cast in respect of the seige of Hemsley, that if that order be punctually pursued, it will be verie prejudicial, if not destructive to that course we are in for the reducing of that castle, which is now brought unto that necessitie as it is verie neare rendering. I doubt not but out of that respect your lord-

ship will spare to require contribucion of your troops out of those townes alreadie nessarily assigned for the subsistance of the forces now about Hemsley; but rather take such townes as are next adjoining unto them, as I shall study to approve myself, my lord, your lordship's most affectionate friend and humble servant, Fer. Fairfax." And towards the middle of the following year, the Earl of Leven writes to Lord Montgomerie, from York, as still serving under his command. Nevertheless, nothing certainly appears anywhere to show that Lord Montgomerie was actually present at Marstonmuir, either on the one side or the other; but his brother, Colonel Robert Montgomerie, made a most conspicuous figure there, along with his gallant father, and was severely wounded in the action.

From the statements of Principal Baillie, it cannot be disputed that Lord Montgomerie, finally, changed his position in the struggles of that period. This, however, probably did not take place openly till after the execution of the King. But it is quite manifest that his lordship after this most cordially embraced the cause of royalism under Charles the Second, nor is there any reason to suppose he ever afterwards swerved from these principles. In 1651, his lordship "was commissioned by Charles II. to convoke the committees of war in the bailliery of Cunningham and sheriffdome of Renfrew, that they might appoint and turn out the levies of horse and foot necessary for the defence of the western districts;" and while Charles was in Scotland that

year, "he addressed several letters to Lord Montgomerie, who marched into England in the service of the King, and fought at the battle of Worcester." From this conclusive disaster of the royal cause, Lord Montgomerie left the field in the company of his fallen master, but was very soon afterwards taken prisoner by the pursuing victors. Lord Montgomerie was excepted out of Cromwell's Act of Grace, 1654; and afterwards Lady Montgomerie supplicated the Protector's council in Scotland "for a provision for herself and her seven children;" and the council accordingly, "by an act, signed by Broghill, the president, 6th May, 1656, directed that for the time elapsed since Lord Montgomerie's estate was declared forfeited, there should be allowed a fifth part of the profits, and that from the 3rd of March then last, so much of the victual and money rent as would amount to £100 yearly should be applied towards the support of herself and her many children."

"After the Restoration, King Charles II. granted to the Earl of Eglinton, by signature under his hand, dated at Whitehall, 17th January, 1662, the citadel, lying near the town of Ayr, commonly called the Citadel of Ayr, and built by the late usurpers there, with the magazine-house thereof, walls, ditches, timber and iron-work belonging to and within the said citadel, as the same had been possessed by the said usurpers, or was then possessed by the forces." This grant was made in "consideration of the good, true and thankful

services done by the earl, by his father and progenitors, to his Majesty and his deceased father of glorious memory, and in compensation in some part of the very great damages the earl and his father had sustained in their several engagements for the royal interest, by the sequestration, forfeiture and fining of their estates, demolishing and plundering of their houses by the late cruel usurpers."

By his second wife, a daughter of the Earl of Rothes, the seventh Earl of Eglinton had two sons, Alexander, his successor, and Francis Montgomery of Giffen, which estate he obtained from his father. This Montgomerie of Giffen inherited in no slight degree the talents and energy of his grandfather, the renowned *Graysteel*. He long represented Ayrshire in the Scotch parliament, exerted himself to the utmost in favour of the great Union measure, and afterwards, most deservedly, was chosen to represent his native county in the first parliament of Great Britain. He was likewise one of the Privy Councillors, and a Lord of the Treasury, to William III., as also to Queen Anne. This worthy and talented gentleman was twice married, and left a considerable family, nevertheless, soon after his own time, his affairs became unprosperous, and the large and valuable estate of Giffen, which is in the parish of Beith, is now broken down into a multitude of inglorious fragments, with scarcely a possibility of its ever again being restored and cemented into its original dignity and beneficial condition.

On the whole, the seventh Earl of Eglinton would seem to have inherited but little of the vigour and firmness of purpose of his strong-minded and patriotic father. The influence of the Duke of Hamilton, brother of his first lady, and the too conspicuous leader of the notorious "Unlawful Engagement," has been adduced to account for his vacillating tendencies. But such influences merely operate as tests, the inherently feeble-minded ever shrink from any hazard of the onward course of progressive improvement, and timidly cling to the despotic conservation of "things as they are." After submitting to very humiliating conditions, in their church judicatories, to his most unpalatable covenanting opponents, on the infinitely more alarming appearance of Cromwell in the field, his lordship hesitated not cordially to co-operate with them in defence of the legitimate successor to the crown. But if extraneous circumstances of this nature are to be had recourse to as explanatory of the matter, there was certainly, in the present case, a pretty fair amount of a countervailing influence on the other side. This earl, whilst Lord Montgomerie, first married, at the early age of eighteen, Lady Anne, sister of the unfortunate first Duke of Hamilton, a lady of decided presbyterian education and bias; her mother, a daughter of the stern-reforming house of Glencairn, being that resolute Marchioness of Hamilton, of whom it is recorded that when her son, then the Marquis, in 1639, "conducted the English fleet to the Forth,

in order to overawe the covenanters, she appeared amongst them on the shore at the head of a troop of horse, and drawing a pistol from her saddle-bow, declared she would be the first to shoot her son, should he dare to land and attack his countrymen and country!" The example of such a Spartan mother was certainly little likely to induce weakness of any kind in the minds of her offspring. 'Tis true, Lady Anne Hamilton survived in her married state but for a very brief period, consequently had little opportunity one way or other in the matter. The case, however, was very different as regarded Lord Montgomerie's second marriage, which, as above stated, was with Lady Mary Leslie, eldest daughter of the sixth Lord Rothes, a family no less decidedly reforming and presbyterian than that of the great "westlan" Glencairn champions themselves; and however unsuccessful Lady Montgomerie may have been in her endeavours to counsel aright the proceedings of her lord, it is obvious, from the family papers, she did not fail earnestly and faithfully to make the attempt. In 1648, when the Duke of Hamilton, his brother-in-law, conceived the unlucky project of invading England with a Scottish army for the purpose of rescuing the King out of the hands of the parliamentary party, "Lord Montgomery joined with him on this occasion; and, *as his wife writes*, 'was earnest and bent to follow this unhappie engagement.' She predicted the ruin of the enterprise, and used great exertions to prevent her husband joining it." His lordship's participa-

tion in this affair, however, afterwards cost him a world of trouble with the covenanting authorities; and after all, in 1651, as before alluded to, he followed the worthless Charles the Second in his utterly hopeless expedition into England, and shared in his fate at the conclusive battle of Worcester.

CHAPTER VII.

HEW the Seventh Earl of Eglinton dying at Eglinton, February 1669, in the fifty-seventh year of his age, was succeeded by his son, Alexander Lord Montgomerie ; a nobleman whose disposition and character would appear to have been most opportune and fortunate to the circumstances of the estate at the time of its coming into his hands. The long, difficult and perilous period through which his two immediate, predecessors had to pass, unavoidably had embarrassed their resources to an almost hopeless condition of redemption. Yet his lordship by an early and inconsiderate marriage, threw away perhaps, the most likely chance he could have of materially relieving the pressure of his dificulties. This imprudent step, no doubt, must very seriously have disappointed the hopes and feelings of his family and friends—Principal Baillie, the old and devoted adherent of the house of Eglinton, thus deploringly alludes to the circumstance:—"The Earl of Eglintoun's heir, the Master of Montgomerie, convoying his father to London, runns away without any advyce, and maries a daughter of my Lord Dumfries, who is a broken man, when he was sure of my Lady Balclough's [Buccleuch] marriage, the

greatest match in Brittain, This unexpected pranck is worse to all his kinn than his death would have been."

For such misfortunes, doubtless, the old apology must ever suffice—"Love will still be lord of all." But if his lordship thus failed to turn to the best account the peculiar advantages his birth and station afforded him in this nice and delicate speculation, nevertheless from this undowered marriage ultimately resulted not only the extinction of all the family difficulties, but an extension and aggrandisement of its possessions to perhaps double what they had ever previously been. On the marriage of the eldest son of this unwelcome union, Alexander, afterwards earl of Eglinton, his father — no doubt perceiving the great talents and aptitude for business of his son, made over to him the entire possession and management of the whole estates, only reserving to himself the moderate provision of 6000 merks—little over £300 sterling—together with a proportionate provision to the countess, she being then living separate from her husband; and from this prudent and fortunate arrangement resulted the extraordinary accumulations above alluded to. From the time of this important settlement of his affairs, Lord Eglinton would seem to have become a voluntary exile in England to the close of his life, which happened at London about the end of the year 1701. His lordship's matrimonial connexions were certainly of a somewhat peculiar and dissimilar character. In about five years after the death of his

"love-at-first-sight" countess, he married "Grace, daughter of Francis Popley of Woolley-Moorehouse, Yorkshire, widow of Sir Thomas Wentworth of Britton, Bart." But if the insinuations in the doggerel verses of the Wentworth family chaplain which have appeared elsewhere, may be depended on, his lordship must have considered the matter greatly more coolly than he did on his first occasion of this nature. This alliance, however, proved but of short duration, the lady having died within a year after her marriage, which circumstance could not fail seriously to affect his lordship's feelings and happiness, and he appears afterwards to have remained a widower for the long space of ten years: and indeed, looking at the unusual circumstances of his third and last connubial engagement, it surely had been better it had never been consummated at all. This strange marriage is thus related in the family annals:—

"The Earl married, thirdly, at St. Bride's Church, London, on the 8th December, 1698, Catharine, Lady Kaye, daughter of Sir William St. Quintin of Harpham, in the county of York. Catharine had already been three times married; first, to Michael, eldest son of Sir George Wentworth of Woolley, who pre-deceased his father in 1658; secondly, to Sir John Kaye of Woodsome, Baronet, who died in 1662; and thirdly, to Henry Sandys of Doune Court, in Kent; and she was of the extraordinary age of ninety when she married her fourth husband, the Earl of Eglinton." This re-

markable lady died on the 6th of August, 1700. The Earl himself only surviving to near the end of the following year.

CHAPTER VIII.

ALEXANDER, the eminently prudent and economical ninth Earl of Eglinton, thus succeeded to his father in 1701; but previous to this, as noticed above, for the long period of twenty-five years he had been invested with the exclusive direction and management of the family estates; and for his great merit and singular success in the discharge of this onerous and important trust, he is well entitled to be regarded as a second founder of his ancient noble house. Like his father and his grandfather both, he entered the married state at a very early age, perhaps not exceeding eighteen years. He received the rudiments of education at the old conventual burgh of Culross in Fifeshire, under the direction and guidance of its parochial clergyman, and afterwards completed his studies by a residence of about three years at the University of St. Andrews. Shortly after leaving which, he became united to Margaret, eldest daughter of William, Lord Cochrane, whose father the first Earl of Dundonald, likewise attained celebrity in the locality by his economical achievements—being long distinguished in this way as one of "the three wonders of Renfrewshire," viz:—

"How Dundonald gathered such an estate; how Orbiston spent such an estate; and how Glencairn lived so handsomely on such an estate."

It was on the occasion of this marriage of Lord Montgomerie into the prudential family of Dundonald, that Lord Eglinton was induced to "make over to his son the Eglinton estates"—a confidence which certainly indicates a singular expectation and trust in so young a man, whilst it may seem no less indicative of a quick and sound capacity of discernment in his father, the Earl. It is certainly to be regretted that heralds and genealogists have ever so generally ignored all biographical details of the more ordinary and peaceful affairs of private life; seemingly viewing such as unsuitable to the dignity of their subject! Crawfurd, a man of learning and considerable acutness, the original author of the Peerage of Scotland, whilst he emblazons in the brightest colours the horrid acts and deeds of such men as the first Marquis of Montrose and the Viscount Dundee, the most devoted and unscrupulous instruments of despotism, he makes not the slightest allusion to anything particular either of the first Lord Dundonald or of the ninth Earl of Eglinton! Such sentiments and feelings, however, have long since greatly given way to more humane and sounder ideas in all such compositions; and, though with no very discernable enthusiasm, the quiet virtues and prudent actions both of Eglinton and Dundonald are duly recognised in all subsequent works of the kind. The great possessions so marvellously ac-

cumulated by Lord Dundonald, however, would seem almost as hastily to have been dispersed by his immediate successors; and what may appear rather remarkable, no inconsiderable portion of these same estates came next to be acquired by the congenial achievements of Lord Eglinton. The extensive acquisitions of this Earl, now known as "the purchased lands," perhaps fully equal the original earldom itself, and which his lordship was careful to leave under a separate and special destination, so that they are still liable to be disjoined from the older inheritance, as was the case, for a considerable time, after the death of the eleventh Earl in 1796. The purchase of so many lands, however, measures not the whole of Lord Eglinton's merit in this way. The many difficulties of the previous times through which his predecessors had to pass had left the estate in an overwhelmingly embarrassed condition, and, of course, all which had first to be cleared off, as likewise, for a considerable period, his father's annuity had to be provided for. To surmount all which therefore, it is obvious, no little talent as well as economy and prudence was required in the discharge of such duties.

Lord Eglinton, whilst he thus showed his peculiar aptitude for private business, was, at the same time, not less alive to his interest and duty as regarded public affairs. "He was a member of King William's Privy Council, and a Commissioner of the Treasury. In 1700, he sat and voted in Parliament by royal patent, in place of the Lord

High Treasurer. His lordship was also a Privy Councillor to Queen Anne, and in 1711, was appointed one of the Commissioners of the Chamberlain's Court," On two separate occasions he was elected a representative Peer to the British Parliament; and on the occurrence of the rebellion in 1715, he appears to have shown becoming zeal and devotion to the existing order of things; still his cordiality in the Hanoverian cause may seem not a little doubtful. Wodrow has recorded,—"That Lord Eglinton [once] proposed in a meeting of the Scots peers, or else in the House, that as we are one in civils, we should be one in Church matters, and the lyturgy and ceremonys should be brought into Scotland; but [he] was laughed at." Nor does his sentiments towards the union with England appear to have been at all more friendly—in a feeling letter of advice to his infant son and successor, he thus unfavourably alludes to that important measure:—"You come to live in a time, my chiefest care, when the right to these kingdoms comes to be a question betwixt the House of Hanover, who are in possession, and the descendants of King James, you are in my poor opinion, not to intermedle with either, . . . for, since we are under the misery and slavery of being united to England, a Scotsman, without prostituting his honour, can obtain nothing by following a Court, but bring his estate under debt, and consequently himself to necessity." Mayhap, it was to this same Earl of Eglinton that the anecdote applies, that on some occasion, attempting to address

the House of Lords, he could proceed no further than the preliminary words, "My lords, I conceive," which repeating three several times he sat down in confusion. On which a brother peer, catching at the expression "I conceive" waggishly remarked, that the noble lord had conceived three several times, yet had brought forth nothing!

Lord Eglinton made three separate marriages, and by all of which he had children. His second union was with the Lady Anne Gordon, daughter of the first Earl of Aberdeen. But it was by the eldest surviving son, Alexander, of his third and last marriage, which was with Susanna, daughter of Sir Archibald Kennedy of Culzean—in popular estimation, of persecuting memory—that he was succeeded in the earldom. This lady to singularly elegant and dignified personal appearance, inherited the still rarer and more important qualities of intellectual superiority and eminent mental attainments; endowments probably derived from her illustrious maternal grandfather, General David Leslie—afterwards Lord Newark—the renowned commander of the Scottish army at the ever glorious and memorable victory of Marstonmoor; and subsequently the annihilator of the too long successful bands of Montrose at Philiphaugh, September 13, 1645. There being a great disparity of years betwixt the earl and the countess Susanna, she suvived his lordship, and continued in her widowhood for the long period of full fifty years; dying at Auchans-House, near Irvine, March 18,

1780, in the ninety-first year of her age. She had lived many years, towards the close of life, at this secluded old mansion, which is in the near vicinity of the noble ruins of Dundonald Castle; and here, Boswell introduced his great friend, Doctor Johnson to Lady Eglinton, whilst on their return from their celebrated tour to the Hebrides. Her ladyship, being very cordial and congenial with the doctor in his High-Church predilections, was quite enraptured by the attentions thus paid her by so distinguished a personage, and of course, entertained him in the most complimentary manner. The doctor in turn was no less delighted with his reception, and ever afterwards spoke with the greatest satisfaction of his visit to Auchans. It was doubtless on this occasion that Johnson was shown the melancholy ruins of Dundonald, as having been the royal residence of the Scottish Robert the Third, whom he derisively denominated "King Bob," and laughed outright at the narrow dimensions of his gloomy dwelling. The truth is, the saturnine doctor came expressly to Scotland to see "a worse England," and he was not to have his fond pre-conceptions materially thwarted by any thing he might discover in it. The following is Boswell's very interesting account of this visit to Auchans:—

"Lady Eglintoun, though she was now in her eighty-fifth year, and had lived in the country almost half-a-century, was still a very agreeable woman. She was of the noble house of Kennedy, and had all the elevation which a consciousness of

such birth inspires. Her figure was majestic, her manner high bred, her reading extensive, and her conversation elegant. She had been the admiration of the gay circles of life, and the patroness of poets. Dr. Johnson was delighted with his reception here. Her principles in church and state were congenial with his own. In the course of conversation it came out that Lady Eglintoun was married the year before Dr. Johnson was born; upon which she graciously said to him, that she might have been his mother, and she now adopted him." Her ladyship, it is further known, "Was so pleased with the doctor, that, at parting, she embraced him—a mark of respect and affection, which made a deep and lasting impression on the mind of the great man."

This the ninth Earl of Eglinton, after a life of great and unremitting exertion and activity in business affairs, died at Eglinton Castle, February 18, 1729, perhaps about seventy years of age. The fame of his wealth had long attracted popular attention, and from all quarters of the country mendicants appear to have flocked to his funeral, which took place at Kilwinning, on the 20th March following, as recorded thus in the *Caledonian Mercury* newspaper at the time—"At the funeral of the late Right Honourable Earl of Eglinton, there were betwixt 900 and 1000 beggars assembled, many of whom came over from Ireland, who had £50 of that noble lord's charity distributed to them."

CHAPTER IX.

WE come now to the distinguished and greatly lamented Alexander the tenth Earl of Eglinton, who, on the death of his worthy and wealthy father, as above, succeeded to the earldom and widely extended possessions of the family, being then only about six years of age. His education, as well as that of his only surviving brother, Archibald, who ultimately came to succeed him, and a numerous family of sisters, thus fell to be directed by the dowager countess, his mother, who appears to have fulfilled her all-important duty with the utmost propriety and marked success. His lordship and brother were first sent to the grammar school at Irvine, from which they were removed to Haddington. And "on the 4th October, 1738, as we learn from the family accounts, the earl and his brother both set out for England—the earl to prosecute his studies at Winchester, Archibald at Eton. . . . The progress of Alexander [the earl] was creditable, but that of Archibald was indifferent. . . . After being two years at Winchester, Lord Eglinton wrote to Lord Milton [one of his guardians] a warm panegyric on the great advantages of a liberal education. This was in August, 1740, when he was in

his seventeenth year. . . . In November, 1742, the earl, with his governor, Mr Michael Ramsay, proceeded to Paris, where he immediately entered on the exercises of dancing, riding, and fencing, under the most approved masters of Europe, and his proficiency in these accomplishments soon equalled his superior privileges and opportunities. 'I may venture to say,' writes Mr Ramsay, 'with regard to these accomplishments, his lordship has profited as much for the time as any young gentleman whatever, and more than any ever I knew."

Soon after their arrival in Paris, the ardent inquisitive mind of Mr Ramsay's pupil began to manifest itself in a manner to the no small alarm of the circumspect and considerate tutor. His eye was attracted and captivated by the adroit *bijouderie* of the place, and he eagerly sought to possess himself of these attractive wares. Mr Ramsay writing to Lord Milton, his guardian, thus alludes to his lordship's special selections of these nick-nackets—"There is another article of expense which your lordship will not so easily excuse; for my part it gives me a good deal of pain—I mean the article of antiques, and what his lordship calls curiosities. This has cost him already about £100, and God knows how far it may go; though I would willingly flatter myself that his lordship's good sense may yet get the better (begging his pardon for the expression) of this idle, unnecessary, and endless expense." The worthy governor was not mistaken in his hopes and aspirations for the future well-

b eing of his interesting pupil. Advancing capacity and reason soon stepped in to disabuse the eager admiration of ardent but inexperienced youthful genius. A few years subsequently, after their return to England, in a letter dated London, March 14, 1747, Mr Ramsay thus cheeringly writes of the great change a brief period of time had produced—"The earl is an essentially good and right man, and every honest man concerned about him will have credit of him. This I prophecie; but I prophecie likewise that he must have his swing out; and I hope as well as wish it may be soon out. He is here in his highest enjoyment." This worthy gentleman seems to have discharged the duties of governor to the young lord for many years; and he appears most unmistakably, to have given the utmost satisfaction as well to the family as to his pupil. In a letter from him to the family agent, dated June 16, 1750, the following most creditable passage to both occurs—"Before I conclude, I must tell you one piece of news with respect to myself. Upon my return from a very agreeable excursion of five or six weeks into Wales with my Lord Talbot, my Lord Eglintoun made me a present, in the kindest and most oblidging manner, of a bond of annuity of £100, unasked and unapplied for, either by myself or any friend on earth that I know of."

Neither Lord Eglinton nor his brother appear ever to have entered any of the universities; and after a sojourn of two or three years in France, chiefly apparently in Paris, his lordship very exclusively

would seem to have resided at home, doubtless engaged in the multifarious duties and pursuits which his eminent position in society and widely extended property demanded of him. It is obvious the bent of his mind inclined much more to action than to the pursuit of abstruse scholastic studies, nevertheless his various epistolary productions, still preserved, afford unmistakable evidence of a highly cultivated taste and much facility in literary composition, whilst for purity of sentiment and vigorous independence of feeling they cannot be surpassed. The following letter (about 1764) to Baron Mure of Caldwell, respecting the dismissal of certain revenue officers, as he apprehended, unjustly, from the service, is admirably characteristic of his usual course in the discharge of his magisterial duties—his abhorrence of oppression and unvarying sympathy with the unfortunate or distressed :—

Dear Baron,—I received yours this morning, and take the first opportunity to thank you for the trouble you have been at. I should be as far from protecting a knave or a fool as any man, and I have an aversion at jobs; but I really believe in my conscience that some of these poor people—I mean the officers who have been broke—are wronged most egregiously. The Commissioners have, without distinction, punished the innocent with the guilty, which is not the way to have the King well served. Upon the strictest inquiry, I will venture to affirm, that Allison, Borland, and Achairn, never have been concerned, either directly or indirectly, in any

such thing as a composition with the smugglers; and if ever it is inquired into, it will be found that Allison not only protested against all compositions, but even seized the part which the compounders intended for themselves, and brought it fairly into the Custom House. As to Achairn, at the time when it was alleged he was guilty of this composition, so far from that, he was almost beat to death because he would not compound, and was carryed off the field of battle for dead.

Achairn's estate is to be sold; Borland nor Allison have no votes; so that I only speak from humanity and justice. I shall pay my respects to Mrs Mure soon, and ever am, dear Willy, yours sincerely—EGLINTOUN.

On none of the descendants of the renowned Graystcel did his mantle fall more effectively and worthily than on this his great-great-grandson, and namesake, the patriotic and universally lamented tenth earl. Yet, with the exception perhaps of legislation he seems not ever to have entertained any desire of engaging in any department of the public service, nor hardly at all to have been attracted by illusory court favours. But obviously from the first he appears to have directed his attention very exclusively towards the great and important object of agricultural improvement and general amelioration of rural affairs. Before his time, but little of a systematic nature of this kind had been attempted along the western division of the country, nor perhaps even on the more favoured eastern section had

any thing sufficiently comprehensive and systematic been effected. It is surely rather singular and much to be regretted that no detailed memoir of the highly interesting and meritorious exertions of this distinguished and enterprising nobleman should ever have appeared. He had made himself intimately acquainted with the practices of the most advanced districts both in England and abroad; and with a judiciousness which well marks the soundness of his judgment and accuracy of his observation, he proceeded, as far as practicable, to realise their benefits at home. A writer of a congenial spirit, subsequently treating of Ayrshire, thus most deservedly alludes to these early arduous and patriotic exertions of his lordship:—

"The late Earl of Eglinton, who possessed a very large and valuable property, dispersed over a great extent in the most improvable parts of Ayrshire, resolved to rescue his estates from the condition in which he found them. An eminent farmer, Mr Wight of Ormiston, was brought from East Lothian to introduce the proper mode of ploughing, levelling ridges, fallowing, drilling, turnip husbandry, and the rotation of crops. Great attention was also bestowed on the breed of horses and cattle. Ploughmen and dairy people were brought from various parts of England. Fences were made on an extensive scale, and the country was beautified by a multitude of clumps, belts, and other plantations. The noblemen and gentlemen very zealously concurred in promoting measures so conducive to their own advantage,

and to the general interests of their country."

A subsequent writer on the subject, further states in reference to Lord Eglinton's energetic agricultural pursuits—"That he traversed every corner of each of his extensive estates, arranged the divisions and marches of farms, laid off roads, plantations and ditches, opened quarries, &c., and by frequently seeing and conversing with his tenants, and pointing out the improvements proper to be executed, he roused them to industry." And further, it is known, that with a view to stimulate and strengthen a spirit of inquiry and interest in the subject in the neighbourhood, he set on foot an "Agricultural Society, and presided over it for many years"—doubtless the earliest institution of this nature ever organized in the county; but nothing has been said of the particulars of its procedure, or if the minutes of its transaction be still preserved—if so, the details could not fail now to be very interesting and curious to recur to.

Embarking thus early and earnestly into the great enterprise of regenerating the immemorially neglected and barbarous condition of agriculture, his lordship could not fail quickly to discover that the entire code of legislation regarding it, no less than its practice, required revision and amendment—a task at all times yet more difficult to effect. But difficulties were not to repulse such a mind; and to this subject he appears earnestly to have turned his thoughts. Finding, too, monetary regulations, as in all other industrial pursuits,

deeply to interest agricultural enterprise, he exerted himself in parliament, happily with success, to have an obnoxious and scandalous clause in the Scotch Banking Act removed, which protected the banker, at will, in refusing payment of his notes for six months after presentation![*] But as regarded legislation, his lordship soon came to feel the restricted nature of his *privilege* as a Scottish peer to operate as an intolerable bar to his continuous independent exertions; and under this impression he ultimately came seriously to entertain the idea of renouncing his quality and "dispeering" himself; conceiving—certainly not unreasonably in his case—that a seat in the House of Commons would much more effectually enable him to serve the general interests of the country. But, alas! after enquiry and consulting the most eminent counsel, he found he could obtain no relief—*nulla retrorsum*. It has been said that the illustrious Lord Brougham came to feel a similar compunction regarding his enthralment, and it has even been suggested that civilisation must ultimately lead public opion to the entire repudiation of all such unreal, spurious, and unnecessary distinctions.

But the career of this talented and amiable nobleman was terminated by an occurrence as painfully melancholy as the whole tenor of his life had been propitious and beneficient. His death, under all the circumstances, was truly felt to be a public calamity, and carried with it the universal sympathy and regret of the entire community. This deplor-

able accident, as is so well known, occurred near the sea-beach a short distance north of the present harbour of Ardrossan, in an encounter with Mr Mungo Campbell, excise-officer at Saltcoats, October 24, 1769. His lordship with his servants chancing to pass at the time observed Campbell trespassing on his lands in pursuit of game, and attempting to take the gun from him was fired on and mortally wounded, so that he lived but to about one o'clock next morning.

The difficulties of the game-laws seemingly are not wholly to be got rid of in an advanced sumptuous state of society; and, like most other enthusiastic rural improvers, Lord Eglinton may insensably have come to entertain too severe a view of the crime of poaching, a crime which the spontaneous feelings and perceptions of the multitude probably will never be brought fully to recognise; nevertheless modifications and softenings of the system may to some extent be made to mitigate the evil, and ought certainly as far as possible to be had recourse to. The following minute details of this most lamentable occurrence, and just eulogium of its victim, is transcribed from the latest and greatly improved edition of the old Scottish Peerage :—

"On Tuesday, 24th October, 1769, his lordship left Eglintoun Castle on horseback, his carriage and four servants attending. Stopping at Ardrossan parks, where, observing two men on the sea shore, one with a gun in his hand, and being informed that he was Mungo Campbell, officer of excise at

Saltcoats, whom he had detected killing game upon his estate about a twelvemonth before, but passed from prosecution on his promise not to repeat the offence. He rode up to Campbell, and insisted on his delivering up his gun, but which he refused to part with. His lordship alighting from his horse, went towards Campbell, who cocked his gun and retired, keeping it forward on his side and thigh, pointed towards the earl. The servants then came up, and a conversation ensued, Lord Eglintoun reminding Campbell of his former offence, and insisting to have his gun. Campbell on the other hand, acknowledged it, but added that if he had trespassed either formerly or at present, the law was open; that he was resolved not to part with his gun; that he would sooner part with his life, desiring his lordship to keep off, if he regarded his own. Lord Eglintoun replying that he could use a gun as well as he, ordered one of the servants to fetch his fowling-piece from the carriage. In the meantime he kept advancing and gaining on Campbell, endeavouring to avoid the muzzle of the gun. Campbell retired backwards till he stumbled on a stone and fell. In rising he fired at Lord Eglintoun, then within three or four yards of him, and lodged the whole charge in the left side of his body. His lordship, laying his hand on the wound, walked some paces from the place, which was wet and within the tide-mark, and sat down on a green hillock, telling his servants that he was mortally wounded, and that he had intended no harm to Camp-

bell, as his gun, which had been brought from the carriage a moment before, was not loaded. He was put into his coach and carried back to Eglintoun Castle, where he arrived a little before two o'clock; a physician and several surgeons were there before he reached it, but all assistance was unavailing. He employed himself in giving orders and written directions about his affairs, making provisions for his servants, and comforting his nearest relations, in which he discovered a tenderness, composure, and magnanimity that affected every person present; and died about one o'clock next morning. Sincere and steady in his friendship, humane and generous, the patron of unfortunate merit, of the most polished and agreeable manners, and possessed of all the more amiable and respectable virtues, his lordship's death was long and painfully regretted by every good man, by every friend of humanity, and of his country."

Alluding to the Dowager Countess, his mother, Mr Fraser in his "Memorials" of the family, observes, "His melancholy death well nigh overwhelmed her. Indeed she never entirely recovered from the shock which she received from the sight of her son brought home mortally wounded." This might seem to imply that her ladyship at this time was resident at Eglinton Castle, which was certainly not the case; but it is far from improbable she may have happened to be present there at this unhappy moment on a visit to her son. At this conjuncture and for many years previously she was

resident at Auchans, about perhaps three or four miles distant. From about or soon after the time of Lord Eglinton's coming of age, the countess would appear to have been provided with a separate residence and establishment. In 1751 she was seated at Kilmaurs House, of which, November 12th of that year, she thus writes,—"The house I am in is a very odd one at present, but as I have leave to make the most of it, I hope to make it sum better than a minister's mans. No bodie is fonder of a good house than I am; but when I compare that want to other disapointments I have mete with, it appears a nothing. I have carpenders and masons still working at it. It's necessity makes me continue them: it held out neithar wind nor weet, and I fell twice through the floor. But as they do it by the piece, the expence comes to be the same. So soon as it's habitable I'll intreat the comfort of seeing you [her daughter, Lady Frances Murray]. Wee have plenty of fine coall, and for an inland place its pritty, but near a village, from which I find disadvantages."

The following singularly vivid story of the mental illusion class, in which the credulous Wodrow dealt so largely, is traditionally preserved in the Maxwell-Pollock family, relating to the violent death of Lord Eglinton, who it appears was a frequent visitor there about that period:—"On the day on which the earl was shot, the servant who used to attend him, thought he saw his lordship walking up stairs to the room usually occupied by him. He

announced to the family that the earl had arrived; but subsequently his lordship was not to be found in the house. It consequently was presumed that he had gone out immediately after and ridden to Eastwood or Eaglesham, which he frequently did, without announcing his arrival, if he was pressed for time. Dinner was prepared for him, but, of course, he never returned. On the arrival of the fatal tidings next morning at Pollok, it was found that the earl had been shot at the very instant that the servant so confidently imagined that he had seen him going up stairs in the house!"

It is further stated, that "at the time of his death, Lord Eglinton was engaged to be married to Jane, daughter of Sir John Maxwell of Pollok-Maxwell, widow of James Montgomerie of Lainshaw; and that a miniature of the earl, which was presented by him to his betrothed is still preserved."

Earl Alexander, as he is still alluded to by way of eminence in the locality, was ever the great favourite of the rural tenantry, and indeed of all who had to earn their bread by the labour of their hands; a great part of his active life was passed under the immediate personal observation of such, and of course all his little peculiarities and habits became the fond objects of their observation and interest. Amongst perhaps other similar matters, it was observed that his lordship exclusively through life, abstained from availing himself of the generally indispensable services of the tonsure; but instead of which, by the use of a pair of little

scissors, he performed that office for himself, and was almost constantly so engaged whilst in conversation with his humbler neighbours, the farmers.

CHAPTER X.

EARL ALEXANDER was succeeded by his only surviving brother, Archibald, who thus became the Eleventh earl of Eglinton ; and who to some extent followed out the enlightened views of his worthy brother in the management of the family inheritance, under the superintendance of an able and experienced commissioner, Mr Alexander Fairlie of Fairlie, near Kilmarnock—consequently the estate was rapidly improved and the earl accumulated great wealth. The eleventh earl of Eglinton, however, was chiefly distinguished through life as a soldier and military commander. The schools appear to have had but little charm for him, and at the age of about seventeen, he obtained a commission as cornet in the celebrated Scots Grays, From this, his promotion, chiefly by purchase, appears to have been by no means of a tardy nature. He raised the Seventy-eight Highland regiment, of which he was Lieutenant-Colonel, by commission dated January 4th, 1757. He accompanied this regiment to the British colonies in North America, where he served under General Amherst; saw much severe service and approved himself an intrepid and able officer. On one occasion in particular, he commanded an expedition, twelve hundred strong, sent against

the Cherokees, one of the strongest and bravest of the Indian nations; and which he most successfully reduced to perfect obedience, and for which obtained the approbation and thanks of the general commanding. Continuing through life zealous and devoted to the military profession, he progressively rose through all the stages of command, ere the close of his career, to that of full general, 25th October, 1793.

Lord Eglinton's political exertions and governmental appointments likewise were considerable. At the general election in 1761, he was returned for Ayrshire; "and the same year was appointed one of Her Majesty's equerries, an office which he retained till his accession to the earldom in 1769. On 1st March 1764, he was appointed governor of Dumbarton Castle; and February 1766, was made deputy ranger of St. James' and Hyde Parks." He was repeatedly elected a representative peer of Scotland; and in 1782 was appointed governor of Edinburgh Castle.

Though somewhat foreign to his professional pursuits and habits, as already alluded to, his lordship wisely and perseveringly "exerted himself to carry out the plans for the improvement of agriculture, and the proper management of his estates, set on foot by his lamented brother." Most fortunately he was favoured by the invaluable services of Mr Fairlie to the close of his life; and the prosperity of the entire estates and their tenantry was hitherto quite unexampled in this part of the country.

His lordship acquired "the estate of Giffen, in the parish of Beith, and several others, which by disposition dated 18th January, 1791, he conveyed to trustees to be held for behoof of his children;" and failing whom, to the heirs-male and of entail succeeding to the honours and estate of Eglinton.

This earl was twice married: first, March 30, 1772, to Lady Jean, eldest daughter of George, eighteenth Earl of Crawford, who died at Eglinton, without issue, in the twenty-first year of her age, and sixth after her marriage. His lordship married secondly, August 9th, 1783, Frances, only daughter of Sir William Twisden of Raydonhall, Kent, by whom he had two daughters—first, Lady Mary, born March 5th, 1787; married, March 28th, 1803, Archibald, Lord Montgomerie, heir apparent of Hugh, twelfth Earl of Eglinton, and their son, the late popularly lamented Archibald William, Earl of Eglinton, succeeded his grandfather in 1819. The second daughter, Lady Susanna, died in her eighteenth year, unmarried.

Archibald, Earl of Eglinton died, at Eglinton, October 30, 1796, aged seventy-three. There is a portrait of him in Windsor Castle, which would appear to have been painted for George IV., while Prince of Wales; and which the late King William IV. proffered to return to the late Earl of Eglinton; "but his lordship respectfully declined the offer, assuring his Majesty that he considered it a very high honour that the portrait of his grandfather should remain at Windsor."

CHAPTER XI.

THUS with the death of the eleventh earl, the male representation of the chief branch of the Seton earls of Eglinton terminated. But his elder daughter, lady Mary Montgomerie, nevertheless, succeeded to the extensive "purchased lands" of her grandfather, and as above alluded to, married the son and heir apparent of the next earl, which of course ultimately led to the reunion of both sections of the family estates.

Colonel HUGH MONTGOMERIE of Coilsfield, directly descended from the Honourable James Montgomerie, fourth son of the renowned sixth earl, now succeeded as twelfth earl of Eglinton—an order of succession which long usage would seem in some measure to have reconciled public feeling towards it, but to which all reason and reflection must ever be repugnant and abhorent. There was at least a kind of plausible pretext for an undue preference of male succession to the feudal fiefs, which were mainly a military arrangement, but in a more advanced state of society there surely can be nothing beyond an unreasoning adherence to "conservatism," to warrant the continuance of such outrages on common sense as well as every attribute of justice,

which such arbitrary usages inevitably must inflict.

Shutting our eyes, however, to the rule of his succession, Hugh the twelfth earl of Eglinton, proved himself in every way a most energetic, enterprising and worthy possessor of the important position he succeeded to. At an early age he entered the military service, and soon after was appointed to the command of a company in the Seventy-eight Highlanders, at the time they were first embodied and commanded by his relative and predecessor in the earldom. With this, afterwards highly distinguished corps, he proceeded to America, and throughout was engaged in what was popularly known as "the seven years' war,"—a war memorable as that which first brought the name of Washington before the world, and doubtless tended in no slight degree to qualify him for the accomplishment of those great achievements which have rendered his name imperishable so long as virtue and morality shall continue inherent in the human mind. Some considerable time after his return from America—now having the rank of major—he was appointed surveyor of military roads in the Highlands of Scotland, an office well suited to his active enterprising mind; and which he appears long to have discharged with the utmost diligence, ability, and success. "He travelled and retravelled the Highland wilds on foot, to observe and select the best routes for roads; and by his care and skill in laying them off, so shortened the length of roadway and lessened the number of

bridges and other expensive works, as to effect a great saving of public money."

At the general election in 1780, he was chosen member for Ayrshire, and re-elected in 1784, but of course lost his seat on being appointed to the surveyorship in 1787. Legislation, however, would seem, at least in the estimation of our great national poet, Burns, not to have been a sphere for which in all respects he was so well qualified as for that of his more proper profession—

> "See, sodger Hugh, my watchman stented,
> If bardies e'er are represented;
> I ken if that your sword were wanted
> Ye'd lend a hand
> But when there's ought to say anent it,
> Ye're at a stand."

And in the beautiful allegorical poem of the "Brigs of Ayr," the poet is still more complimentary to the "sodger" knight. Alluding to the finely sylvan mansion of Coilsfield on the banks of Fail-water, he thus characterises its owner—

> "Next followed *Courage*, with his martial stride,
> From where the Fail wild woody coverts hide."

About the year 1793, Colonel Montgomerie raised and commanded the West Lowland Fencible regiment; and afterwards that of the Glasgow Fencibles, which corps, however, was soon afterwards reduced. He was likewise appointed Lieutenant-governor of Edinburgh Castle; and in 1796, he was a third time elected to the representation of Ayrshire, but which was rendered nugatory by his almost imme-

diate succession to the earldom of Eglinton. Shortly afterwards, however, his lordship on the death of the earl of Errol, was elected a representative peer of Scotland; and in 1806, by the favour of the Whig ministry, he was elevated to the British Peerage by the title of Baron Ardrossan. Subsequently he was appointed a Councillor of State for Scotland to the Prince Regent, and decorated with the ancient order of the Thistle. But his succession to the Earldom of Eglinton opened up to Colonel Montgomerie a wide and most congenial field of operations, every way well-suited to the peculiar bent of his mind and long previous habits and pursuits; and though now arrived at the full age of fifty-five, he entered on it with all the enthusiasm and alacrity of youthful prime. He is said to have remarked at the time, that he desired but another dozen years of efficient existence, that he might at least initiate, if not complete, various important improvements which he had in view, and so he should depart contented. His prayer was fully granted, with a large addition, for he survived, with but little abatement of energy, for about twenty-four years afterwards, dying in the close of the year 1819, at the advanced age of eighty years and a few days over.

His lordship's first important undertaking on the estate was the rebuilding of the ancient castellated mansion of Eglinton, together with a large extension and thorough revision of its gardens and widely wooded domain. During the long quiet

and peaceful incumbency of his immediate predecessor, everything here would seem to have remained in a state of the most perfectly undisturbed conservative repose. The hoary grandeur of the old fortalice lay deeply buried amid the dense groves of immemorial growth which closely invested and obscured it; no innovating projects of improvement, nor change of any kind, had ever been permitted to disturb the sanctity of its seclusion, or to ruffle the feelings even of the most fastidious worshipper of things as they are, or, more properly perhaps, chance to be. But, alas! for the instability of all sublunary enjoyments! The spirit of improvement and progress now coming forth, change and modification came largely over all; soberly speaking, however, certainly not more largely than the plain circumstances of the case obviously required—by large and varied openings in the dense sombre woodlands, new and pleasing combinations of light and shade were obtained as well as a freer and more graceful character imparted to the entire domain, whilst numberless points of interest and beauty were thus disclosed and brought into view. But, at the same time, it surely ever is deeply to be regretted, that the unrecallable destruction of the ancient castle should have been an unavoidable consequence and result of these otherwise judicious and salutary improvements—nothing assuredly can ever compensate the removal of these venerable and interesting towers, instinct with the stirring memories of long ages of difficult turbulent life—how oft may not those

massy walls have mocked the ill-conserted assaults of hasty feudal impetuosity, whilst loudly they resounded with the bitter taunts and jeers of excited clansmen secure within their protecting defence. Nor even as a mere matter of taste is the demolition of those venerable towers less to be deplored—

> "————————There is a power
> And magic in the ruined battlement
> For which the palace of the present hour
> Must yield its pomp, and wait till ages are its dower."

The extensive and judicious improvements of the twelfth earl at Eglinton, it is exceedingly pleasing to know, were well preserved and followed out by his immediate successor, the late earl Archibald William, whose recent premature decease has been so greatly regretted and lamented. The locality, unfortunately, however, is by no means of a favourable nature for the purposes of landscape decoration —the ground generally lying low and flat, being but little elevated above the tidal waters of the Garnock river, which here passes along its western boundary. Nevertheless, from the great extent of plantation and old timber trees spread over its surface, and the generally admirable style in which the gardens and dressed grounds are laid out, it still affords a large extent of very agreeable and interesting walks and paths, together with various spaces of finely shaded and sheltered lawns, whilst the Lugdur-water, a considerable stream which intersects the policies for a couple of miles or so, and by passing close the walls of the sumptuous modern mansion, has certainly been

turned to good account in the ornamentation of Eglinton.

His lordship, however, did not by any means confine himself to the exclusive amelioration of his own private domains; on the contrary, he was ever foremost to lead the way in all matters of general public improvement. In an especial manner, every thing connected with the interest and well-being of the great county of Ayr, of which he was long lord-lieutenant, was ever the object of his earnest and anxious solicitude; and down to the period of his succession to the earldom, this extensive and wealthy district possessed no public building at all worthy of the name for the accommodation of county affairs. This unseemly defect of course did not long escape his vigilant eye; and forthwith, with his habitual activity, he set himself to arouse the dormant energies of the noble county to obviate the inconvenience and remove the reproach—the present dignified and classical structure which now adorns the county town is the fruit of his meritorious exertions.

But the crowning achievement of the enterprising twelfth earl of Eglinton is to be found in the magnificent erection of the present town and harbour of Ardrossan. No sooner had his lordship the roof put on his new castle, than he turned his every resource and energy towards this vast project of public utility and patriotism. In the year 1805, an Act of Parliament was obtained for the purpose, and in the summer of the following season the foundation stone of the extensive quay and docks was laid. Without

intermission, and with unabated ardour, did his lordship proceed with this great undertaking down to the close of his unwearied life; but though probably he had expended not less than from two to three hundred thousand pounds sterling upon it, he had as yet little or no encouragement from his labours beyond the hope of future fame and reward to his successors, both of which are now being realised far above the most sanguine expectations which could have been entertained by any one. Originally there was connected with these gigantic works the purpose of a barge canal bewixt this harbour and the city of Glasgow; and by about the end of the year 1810, this was executed from the latter place as far westward as the town of Johnstone. But the taint of all national prosperity lay in the dark unyielding anti-commercial principles of the government for more than an entire generation subsequent to that narrow bigotted period: and indeed it was not until science had disclosed the miraculous powers of the railway, and the immortal Peel came to establish the all-wise free-trade policy, that the great capabilities of Ardrossan began to manifest themselves and to be understood. Since which time, however, its progress and prosperity has been quite unequalled anywhere on the west coast north of the great emporium of Liverpool itself; and notwithstanding the ample scale on which everything was at first constructed, great extension of harbour accommodation already is felt to be indispensable. Indeed, the time is perhaps not distant when the

entire bay, inside the Horse Isle, will come to be enclosed by a mole from the shore northward to the island. The materials for such a purpose are quite at hand; for the rock in the little eminence which now most injuriously obstructs the very centre of the town, would perhaps more than suffice for all that would be required; and thus a double benefit would be effected in the most advantageous manner conceivable. The extent of building area reclaimed itself would certainly go far to cover the entire expense of the undertaking, whilst the improved access thus afforded, as well as the perfecting of the harbour, would ensure advantages of a commercial nature quite impossible to be estimated.

Mr George Robertson, author of a Topographical History of Ayrshire, and for several years factor to the twelfth Earl of Eglinton, thus animatedly, though briefly, alludes to his lordship's energetic character, and distinguished improvement of the principal family seat :—

" Soon after his succession, he rebuilt from the foundation Eglinton Castle—rendering it one of the most stately mansions in Scotland; laid out on new ground the delightful gardens, enlarged the woodlands, re-organised the whole approaches, and directed the waters, all in a style uncommonly elegant, and peculiarly his own—in fact, rendering the whole, in a manner a new creation; whilst his equipage was amongst the most splendid to be seen: and nowhere was such a numerous household kept in better regularity and order. In truth, he was

magnificent in all his undertakings, and pointedly correct in all his arrangements."

His lordship was fond of music, and is said to have played well on the violoncello, and to have composed various tunes which still continue to retain their popularity in musical collections. And in compliment for his untiring exertions in the public affairs of the county, an excellent full-length portrait of his lordship in the Highland military uniform has been placed in the hall of the County Buildings.

Hugh, the twelfth Earl of Eglinton, married early in life his cousin, Eleonora, youngest daughter of Robert Hamilton of Bourtreehill, Ayrshire; and by whom he had three sons and three daughters; but he was succeeded by his grandson, the only surviving child of his eldest son, Archibald Lord Montgomerie. And he deceased at Eglinton, December 15, 1819, as before stated, at a few days over the eightieth year of his age.

CHAPTER XII.

ARCHIBALD, Lord Montgomerie, the Earl's last surviving son, having predeceased his father, as previously noticed, in 1814, Hugh, the twelfth Earl, came to be succeeded by his grandson, the only surviving issue of his lordship. Lord Montgomerie had attained the twenty-third year of his age ere his father's succession to the earldom; and early in life he adopted the military profession—his first commission being in the famed Forty-second Highlanders. Subsequently, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel commandant of the Glasgow regiment, originally raised by his father, and afterwards reduced in 1795; subsequently Colonel of the Ayrshire Militia; and finally, he obtained the rank of Major-General, October, 25th, 1809. During the years 1812 and 1813, his lordship served with the army in Sicily; and, for some time, "in the absence of Lord William Bentinck, he represented his Majesty George III. at the court of Palermo." But "he was obliged to leave Sicily on account of bad health, and died at Alicant, 4th January, 1814, to the great grief of his aged father. He was buried in the convent chapel at Gibraltar;" and on his tomb is inscribed a long and exceedingly beautiful epitaph, said to have been

from the pen of the celebrated Mr Canning, in which occur the following four lines:—

> "Of Caledonia's land the grace,
> Chief scion of an ancient race,
> Of Eglinton the hope and boast,
> Belov'd, admir'd, and early lost."

Lord Montgomerie's marriage with the Lady Mary, eldest surviving daughter of the eleventh Lord Eglinton, was celebrated in Duke Street, Westminster, March 28th, 1803; and of this union there were born in all four sons—the two elder dying soon after birth; the third, Hugh, Lord Montgomerie, was born at Coilsfield House, January 24th, 1811; and on the death of his father came to reside with his grandfather at Eglinton, where, after he had arrived at the age of betwixt six and seven years, he was suddenly carried off by an acute inflammatory disease, May 21st, 1817. Lady Mary Montgomerie married secondly, in 1815, Sir Charles Lamb of Beauport, Baronet, by whom she had issue, and died June 12th, 1848, survived by Sir Charles, but since dead.

Thus, as before stated, the twelfth Earl of Eglinton came to be succeeded by his grandson, Archibald William, fourth son of Lord Montgomerie, as thirteenth earl, whilst yet but little over seven years of age. His lordship was born at Palermo in Sicily, September 29th, 1812, but on the death of his father, in 1814, returned home to Eglinton Castle, where subsequently he remained under the peculiar care and guidance of his fond and

affectionate grandfather. He was educated at Eton, but appears not to have attended any of the universities.

Succeeding to the British title of Baron Ardrossan, his lordship appears early to have devoted attention to political matters, and favourably to have distinguished himself in the House of Lords. In the outset, he fortunately attached himself to the party of Sir Robert Peel, but subsequently failed to continue his adherence to that great and enlightened statesman in his sound and irrefragable principles of commercial policy, which have ultimately conferred such unspeakable blessings, not only on this country, but universally as regards the interests of civilization everywhere. Consequently, he remained with the hopeless though still formidable party of Lord Derby, the uncompromising and ambitious opponent of every scheme and degree of liberal popular government.

But it is in the science of goodness, simply so called, that the friends and eulogists of Lord Eglinton will ever find the surest and most certain ground of claim to estimation of his general and social character. His sympathy and kindly affections in every variety of harmless popular amusements rendered him everywhere most acceptable amongst all classes of the community, whilst his indulgent toleration in affording ready and easy admission to the public to visit and contemplate the extensive and beautiful gardens and grounds of Eglinton secured for him a respect and reverence of the least privileged classes

of the people as cordial and grateful as the favour was unusual and unexpected.

Nor was his lordship by any means neglectful of the higher pursuits of literature and matters of taste, whilst his attainments as a public speaker, for a private gentleman, were of a highly distinguished order. There are but few specimens to be met with in the language of what has been felicitously characterised as "unadorned eloquence," which displays deeper feeling or better taste than that of his address at the great Burns' Festival in 1844, where, with so much propriety, he was present and presided. Indeed such was the effect produced by that happy oration that by common consent, it threw all the elaborate efforts of the distinguished men then attending expressly to give elevation and lustre to the event, quite in the shade.

Lord Eglinton, being heir male and representative of the ancient and once princely family of Seyton, on the termination of his high appointment of Lord Lieutenant in Ireland was advanced to the dignity of Earl of Winton in the British Peerage, as previously he had been elevated to the ancient illustrious Scottish order of St. Andrew or the Thistle.

His lordship was twice married, but unhappily in both instances rendered disconsolate by the untimely decease of both of his brides. He married first, February 17th, 1841, "Theresa, daughter of Charles Newcomen, and widow of Richard Howe Cockerell, commander, R.N., and by her, who died

on 16th December, 1853, he had three sons and one daughter: first, Archibald William, Lord Montgomerie (now Earl of Eglinton), born 3rd December, 1841; second, Honourable Seton-Montolieu Montgomerie, who takes the surname and designation of Hamilton of Bourtreehill, born 15th May, 1846; third, Honourable George Arnulph Montgomerie, born 23rd February, 1848; and fourth, Lady Egidia Montgomerie, born 17th December, 1843," married 4th July, 1861, to Frederick, fifth Lord Rendlesham.

"The Earl of Eglinton married secondly, at the Vice-Regal Lodge, Dublin, on 3rd November, 1858, Lady Adela Caroline Harriet Capel, daughter of Arthur, sixth Earl of Essex;" by whom he had two daughters, who both survive their parents: first, Lady Sybil Amelia Adela, born August 24th, 1859; second, Lady Hilda Rose, born December 7th, 1860—the countess, her unhappy mother, only surviving the birth of this her second child to the close of the month. Alas! ill fated bride!

"Of sackcloth was thy wedding garment made."

She died at Edinburgh, the birth-place of both of her daughters, December 31st, 1860.

Overwhelmed by this renewed and insupportable calamity, Lord Eglinton's vital energies gave way, and in a brief space afterwards his lordship followed his beloved partner to the tomb. He died very suddenly, whilst on a visit to the ancient metropolitan city of St. Andrews, to be present at a match of the game of golf, October 4th, 1861—

having just completed his forty-ninth year and a few days.

Archibald William, now fourteenth Earl of Eglinton, thus succeeding his father, at an early age, entered the service of the Royal Navy as a midshipman on board the Conqueror. But his early unlooked-for succession to the representation of the family, perhaps has put a stop to his going any further in this his laudable and worthy purpose. Neither does the circumstances of the present time seem to offer the same inducement as heretofore regarding that peculiarly British branch of the national service—the days of Trafalgar, and the all but superhuman daring of such feats as those of the Basque Roads have for ever passed away; whilst the new era of exclusive iron has not yet at all fully been developed, though it cannot be doubted the process of its perfectability hastens rapidly to its completion. What the result of this great step in scientific warfare may be, it were presumptive as vain to pretend to foretell. Hitherto the progress of civilisation and the application of science to the art of war has markedly been gradually to lessen the dreadful carnage of the rude hand-to-hand combating of primitive ages. The order of national advancement is ever through an unerring progression of cause and effect. Let us then still look forward to the grand consummation so long and so fondly contemplated, when "the sword shall be turned into a pruning hook, and man shall learn the art of war no more."

Lord Eglinton happily enters on the arena of his eminent and influential position under more auspicious national circumstances than that which fell to the lot of any of his long line of heroic predecessors. May he emulously strive to render himself worthy of the important trust reposed in him, and to discharge his varied duties in a manner suitable to his great and fortunate advantages. Nowhere may his lordship look to find more eminent examples of patriotic wisdom and virtuous actions than appear amongst his own ancestors, during the various great epochas of national progress—the names of the sixth, the tenth, and the twelfth Earls of Eglinton must maintain their distinguished places in the national annals, so long as Scotchmen shall continue to revere the noble champions of their liberty, and the material prosperity of their country.

BRANCHES OF THE FAMILY OF EGLINTON.

A LEADING characteristic of the feudal system of government lay in its unhappy sectionizing tendency, and segregation of the people into particular septs and family names, under purely despotic baronial chiefs and leaders; ultimately producing consequences but little, if at all, more tolerable than that of the savage tribes and clans which preceded it. For centuries the executive power was rendered utterly impotent to the preservation of law and order amidst the implacable conflictions of feudal chiefs, each invested with the power of life and death within his own little territory, and everywhere, with the most rancorous strife, arrayed against each other in "deadly feud." The kingly authority was often entirely superseded, and the person of the sovereign imprisoned by the leaders of the more powerful factions. To overcome so adverse a state of affairs as this, seemed altogether beyond the resources of the constituted authorities, and through long dreary centuries of barbarous confusion the nation languished in hopeless despair. The germination of the seeds of civilization amidst the darkness and helplessness of primitive humanity

comes, perhaps, the nearest to a realisation of the fanciful operations of a miracle of ought usually assigned to that fondly cherished imaginary conception. By the gradual introduction of municipalities and an encouragement of immigration from more advanced communities, however, the poor kings of Scotland ultimately succeeded in some measure in restraining the lawless outrages of their ungovernable turbulent barons, and consequently to secure, comparatively speaking, the blessings of peace and order to their ever oppressed and distracted subjects.

Nearly all the once numerous cadets and branches of the Montgomerie race have long since disappeared and become extinct. Nor is this in anyway a peculiarity in their case—a like fate has befallen, or is fast befalling, all "feudal followings" everywhere—the Cunninghams, the Campbells, the Kennedies, Sempills, and Boyds, have all similarly perished, and no longer occupy their exclusive sectional domains to devastate the country by their habitual turbulence and reckless outrages against each other; neither are territorial landlords any longer dependant on the maintenance of otherwise useless bands of idle serfs and other retainers for their protection and safety, whilst peaceful happy industry, alike in the open country as in the walled city, pursues its beneficient course free from all apprehension and alarm, in the secure protection of law and order, thus eminently realising the ancient and beautiful prognostic of every man sitting under his own vine and fig-tree and none to make him afraid.

Of the direct descendants of the family of Eglinton, one of the earliest and most distinguished was the Montgomeries of Skelmorlie. The old barony of Skelmorlie, comprising an extensive tract of hilly forest land, is situated in the northern part of the parish of Largs, Ayrshire, being separated from Renfrewshire, along its entire course, by Kelly burn. The ancient castellated mansion of this domain is seated on the brow of a steep and finely wooded bank edging closely along the sea-shore, the western boundary of the estate; and having continuously been maintained in a good habitable condition—till very recently it has been overwhelmed by modern extensions—it afforded an interesting and excellent specimen of a baronial residence of the olden time.

The earliest possessors of Skelmorlie, as exclusive property, appears to have been the family of Forrester, who doubtless derived their title from De Morville, in connection with the office denoted by their distinctive appellation. "Fergus Fosterson," its representative submitted to Edward the First of England in 1296, but scarcely anything subsequently appears regarding them. In a charter of lands, by Robert the Third, to Sir William Cunningham of Kilmaurs, who died in 1418, the barony of Skelmorlie is included, but nothing appears as to how it came into his family. The parentage of this Sir William's mother was unknown to any of the Peerage writers—could she possibly have been the heiress, or her descendant, of the old Forresters

of Skelmorlie? Some revelation may yet disclose the mystery. Soon after this, however, the barony of Skelmorlie came into the family of Eglinton—though by what means is as little known as the other; mayhap the unfortunate burning at Eglinton, in 1528, may be to be chargeable with all this obscurity and inconvenience in the matter.

In 1461, Alexander, the first Lord Montgomerie, conveyed "the west part of his lands of Skelmorlie, in the barony of Cunningham, to his beloved [second] son George Montgomerie and his heirs," to whom he had previously conceded the lands of Lochliboside and Hartfield in Renfrewshire; likewise, most probably, the extensive region of Lochranzay, with its romantic castle, in the northern division of the island of Arran. This, the first Montgomerie baron of Skelmorlie, married a daughter of the ancient Renfrewshire family of Houstoun, and was succeeded by his eldest son, John; which John married "Marion Dawzel," [Dalzel, most probably of the ancient family of that surname in Lanarkshire], and was succeeded by his son Cuthbert, third baron of Skelmorlie, who married doubtless his cousin, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Patrick Houstoun of that ilk, by whom he had two sons, George his successor, and Alexander Montgomerie of Portry, in the island of Cumbrae. Cuthbert was slain at Flodden, September 9, 1513.

George Montgomerie, thus fourth baron of Skelmorlie, succeeded his father while under age. Balfour records of him that in 1545 "The French

King sends 5000 soldiers under the command [?] of George Montgomery of Largges to Scotland." He married Lady Catherine Montgomerie, eight and youngest daughter of Hew, first Earl of Eglinton, by whom he had a numerous family of sons and daughters—the two eldest sons were Thomas and Robert. Thomas appears to have been fatuous, and Robert consequently was appointed to the management of the estate. Thomas died October 16, 1566, when, of course, Robert became sixth baron of Skelmorlie, and accordingly was infefted in the lands of Skelmorlie, Lochransay, Synnock, and Lochliboside.

In a contract respecting the territory of Lochransay, in 1562, Sir Robert Montgomerie stipulates with Lord Eglinton, still the superior, that he shall "Reddily entende, serve and obey, the saidis erle, withe all and sundry the kin, freindis, servandis, and tinentis of the house of Skelmurlie, quhen he sal be requirit thairto, incontrar quhamesumevir, our soverane lady and her auctorite onelye bean exceptit; and sal nocht cum under leige nor band with nayne uthiris; and also sal cause the house of Lochransay, in Arrane, be patent to the saidis erle and his friendis in tyme cuming at his plesour, and sal cause the tenentis of the said landis, the saidis erle beand thair, obey and serve him in all his affairis, hunting and uthiris; and sal make his furnessing of sik viveris as is in thay landis, of compitent pryce during the saidis erlis ressonable residence thairintill; for the quhillk the saidis erle sall fortifye the saidis Robert in all his lesum and

honest cawses." This Laird of Skelmorlie is said to have entered prominently into "the long standing fued between the families of Eglinton and Glencairn, and to have slain Alexander Cunningham, commendator of Kilwinning, son of Alexander, Earl of Glencairn," the great champion of religious revolution, "in March, 1582;" and he appears further to have been implicated in other feats of slaughter in this way, some of which were brought "before the criminal courts, but no trials seem to have resulted." He married, before May 20th, 1567, Dorothea, daughter of Robert, third, and most eminent, Lord Sempill, by whom he had four sons and as many daughters who came to maturity. In a feudal rencounter, April 1584, it is stated that this laird and his eldest son, William, were both slain by Maxwell of Newark, an ally of the Cunninghams.

Sir Robert Montgomerie, seventh Baron of Skelmorlie, and second son of the preceding, thus came to succeed his father. He was a man of ability and distinguished personal courage, and, like his father, engaged keenly in the fierce Cunningham fued. Of this laird, Crawford relates a ludicorous yet characteristic adventure to the following effect. For some purpose not fully explained, he secretly contrived to enter the Castle of Newark, the residence of the slayer, as we have seen, of his father and elder brother. Being discovered, however, in his hiding-place, Maxwell, with ready humour and excellent tact, simply satisfied himself by calling out

to the hostile invader "Come down, Robin, out o' that corner, come down, man, to me, who did you so good a turn as to make you young laird and auld laird o' Skelmorlie in one day." The *ruse* took, as indeed it could hardly fail to do, and, of course, a temporary reconciliation at least was the result.

Of these sanguinary feudal adventures, however, Sir Robert, in the end, became repentant, and "in expiation, performed many acts of charity and mortification in his latter days." Now, too, he appears to have found favour and grace with the zealous covenanting kirk; and their well-meaning, but credulous historian, Woodrow, has not failed to record various favourable anecdotes of his declining years—"He was a man mighty in prayer, and much at it, but very short at a time. He would have left company when in his own house, frequently in a little time, and retired a little to his closet, as if it had been to look at a paper, and it was known it was for prayer." The difficulty of judging correctly of the impressions and actions of past ages is all but insurmountable; and the following wild absurdity painfully shows how the strongest minds may be unable to resist the influence of long-existing universal credulity, fostered too by all the arts of subtile priestcraft; of course the relation is from the same reverend authority:—"There was a man that either confest witchcraft or was condemned for it in the west country, said to Sir Robert Montgomerie of Skelmorlie, that he, with the devil, came into the

room where he [Sir Robert] was lying, with a design to do hurt to him. This the devil had promised to him; but when they came, he was praying, and Satan told him he could get nothing done. O! says the warlocke to him, 'be bold on your God, for you are much obliged with him.' This Sir Robert told to the late principal Dunlop, from whom my author had it."

This distinguished baron of Skelmorlie, "being a person of an ample fortune," was elevated to the rank of a baronet in 1628. His taste for, and devotion to, the study of architecture, however, is what will more than all else entitle his memory to the cordial respect of posterity. With the exception of the original square tower, the entire details of the, for that time, elegant and charmingly situated place of Skelmorlie appears to have been constructed under his auspices. But, above all, the aisle and most beautiful funeral monument within it, which, in 1636, he had erected at the old parish church of Largs, has certainly never been surpassed, if indeed equalled, by any work of the kind in this country, and which at once stamps its author as a man of genius and highly cultivated taste. The design is of the Italian, or more properly Roman order, consisting chiefly of a central arch, with lintelled side aisles, all supported by columns, and highly enriched throughout with mouldings, sculptured foliage and allegorical figures, This exquisite specimen of art, fortunately, has been constructed of pure and very close-grained sandstone, whilst the workmanship is

of the most surpassing excellence. Mr William Dobie of Grangevale, near Beith, doubtless the most accomplished "Old Mortality" of the present time, has given a very minute description of this elaborately ornate monument in his curious and interesting work on the "Churches and Burying-Grounds of Ayrshire," printed at Glasgow in 1847. Further, it is understood that a series of correct drawings of this structure were executed by the late distinguished Mr Lizars of Edinburgh, for the worthy and patriotic twelfth Earl of Eglinton.

The first baronet of Skelmorlie married Margaret, daughter of Sir William Douglas of Drumlanrick, and was succeeded by, apparently, his only surviving son, of the same name. He died in 1651, "having enjoyed the estate of Skelmorlie for the long period of sixty-seven years."

Sir Robert Montgomerie, the eighth baron and second baronet of Skelmorlie, "got from his father the lands of Lochransay," hence he appears usually designed therefrom prior to his succession to the family inheritance. In 1607, he was knighted by the Duke of Lennox, then High-Commissioner to the Parliament of Scotland. This baronet married, in 1617, Lady Mary Campbell, daughter of Archibald Earl of Argyle, by whom he had a considerable family both of sons and daughters, but he did not long survive his accession to Skelmorlie, dying in 1654.

The third baronet of Skelmorlie was still of the same name of Robert. And of him the worthy

Wodrow carefully records, that he was repeatedly subjected to penalties by government, on account of the attendance of his lady at conventicles. Which unmanageable lady is described as "Anna, second daughter, and co-heiress of Sir James Scott of Rossie, knight, and Antonia Willobie, his spouse." Five sons and four daughters were the issue of this marriage, all of whom appear to have arrived at mature age, but few of them would seem to have left successful descendants.

To Sir Robert, third baronet of Skelmorlie, succeeded his eldest son, Sir James Montgomerie, a man in point of capacity and intellectual attainment, undoubtedly the most eminent individual of the race; but unhappily, from a lamentable obliquity of character, or perversity of mind, his splendid talents were rendered alike unavailing either as regarded his own well-being, or the far more important and sacred interests of his country; consequently he perished prematurely, amidst the entanglements and perplexities of his plots and machinations. Immediately on his coming to the family estate, he gave a bad earnest of his future career by unworthy conduct towards his widowed mother. "Two months after his father's death in April, 1684, his widowed mother addressed a strong appeal to him, to make suitable provision for her and four fatherless children." He replied thus harshly—"I am strangely surprised to be so hard quarrelled without anie ground, and to be reproached in write that my carriage towards you

should be unsuitable to ane child to ane christiane, and inconsistant with my credit with conscience, and with the laws of God and man. . . . . I am glad that in anie business I have had as yet to doe with you, there were some gentlemen witnesses to it, who will not onlie cleare me from anie miscarriages of that nature towards your ladyship, bot will testifie I went lenths for peace, I was not tied to in law," and so on.

Sir James Montgomerie was chosen by the county of Ayr to act as their Commissioner in the Convention of States which met at Edinburgh, March 14th, 1689. He strenuously supported the resolution, proposed and carried by the States, that James II, had forfeited his throne and kingdom; and when this resolution was passed, he and the earl of Argyle, and Sir John Dalrymple, were appointed by the Convention to proceed to London, and wait upon King William and Queen Mary, and offer them the crown. William having accepted the Scottish crown, it became necessary that he should appoint ministers to carry on the affairs of Scotland. Sir John Dalrymple was made Lord Advocate; Sir William Lockhart was appointed Solicitor-General; Melville was made Secretary of State; and Sir James Montgomerie Lord Justice-Clerk. But having set his heart on being Secretary, and being confessedly possessed of great talent for public business, and of eloquence only surpassed by Dalrymple, Sir James felt his claims to be neglected; and the delay in making out his

commission as Justice-Clerk, which occurred after kissing the King's hand on his nomination, did not tend to soften his disappointment. During the delay Sir James complained to Melville, the Secretary, that Dalrymple, the Advocate, gave out that Sir James would not receive his commission until it was seen that he acquitted himself to the satisfaction of the King in the session of Parliament about to assemble. (*Leven and Melville Papers*, *p.* 190.) The consequence of all which was, that Sir James cut this connection, and joined "The Club," a secret cabal hostile to the reforming interest altogether, at the head of which was the earl of Annandale, Sir James' brother-in-law; but which, fortunately, only resulted in their own discomfiture and ruin. Immediately on the explosion of this execrable attempt, he went openly over to the party of the forfeited and exiled king. Shortly afterwards, he retired to France; but, apparently, finding further tergiversation become quite impracticable, he soon afterwards returned to London, where he prematurely died in September, 1694. From the part he took in this important historical crisis, the papers and correspondence of Sir James Montgomerie must have been extensive, and could not fail now to be exceedingly interesting; but however they may have been disposed of, it appears that scarcely any of them are now to be found in the family depositories. In 1692, just about two years before his death, he published an elaborate pamphlet in London, on the affairs of the time, more especially

in favour of a restoration of the exiled Stuart family; but from his now exposed political trafficing, it could carry but little weight along with it.

By his marriage, September 14, 1678, with Lady Margaret Johnston, daughter of James, Earl of Annandale, Sir James had two sons; Robert his successor, and William. Ultimately, nevertheless, the family estate came to be acquired by Sir James' brother Hugh, who likewise, as heir male, ultimately succeeded as sixth baronet of Skelmorlie; but in the end having no issue of his own, Sir Hugh was succeeded by his grand-neice, daughter of his immediate predecessor, Sir Robert Montgomerie, eldest son of Sir James, as above, the fifth baronet,

This Sir Hugh, who appears to have been a man of the utmost circumspection and prudence, obtained from his father a portion of 8000 marks; and early in life "was apprenticed to Robert Blackwood, merchant-burgess of Edinburgh, by indenture dated 1st August, 1681." He afterwards removed to Glasgow, where he acquired great wealth; and for many years held the honourable office of provost of that city, as well as represented it in parliament. He was one of the commissioners appointed to treat for the union with England, and took an active part in the discussion of that important subject in the last parliament of Scotland; and so, deservedly, was elected representative of Glasgow to the first parliament of the united kingdom.

"Sir Hugh Montgomerie married, contract dated 26th August, 1687, Lilias, daughter of Peter

Gemmel, merchant in Glasgow, and Christian Boyd, his spouse, but left no issue. The tocher of Lilias was 12,000 merks." He made extensive purchases of land, amongst which was the estate of Skelmorlie, "acquired from his nephew," Sir Robert, son and successor of the unfortunate Sir James. And after all, at his death, January 14, 1735, as stated above, Sir Hugh came to be succeeded in the barony of Skelmorlie by his grand-niece, Lilias Montgomerie, daughter of the above Sir Robert, and thus terminated the direct male representation of the many redoubted and chivalrous barons of Skelmorlie.

Lilias Montgomerie thus succeeding to the old and interesting family inheritance married in 1735, Alexander Montgomerie of Coilsfield, to whom she had a numerous offspring. Her eldest son, Hugh, ultimately succeeded as twelfth earl of Eglinton, as well as to the estates of Skelmorlie and Coilsfield.

As in very many other cases of the ancient feudal chiefs and barons, the male representation of the original Scottish Montgomeries appears long to have been in an uncertain and dubious condition. On the death of Hugh, the fifth Earl of Eglinton, in 1612, without issue, the representation of the race, according to the feudal idea of the matter, seems to have reverted back to the descendants of the younger sons of the first earl, who died in 1545.

These were numerous, but the genealogists would seem long to have been quite at issue with each other as to the precedency of the two elder of these sons. All the Peerage writers, from Crawfurd downwards, unhesitatingly decide in favour of Sir Neil Montgomerie, the original founder of the long existent and highly respectable branch of Lainshaw, whilst others give it in favour of his brother William, designed of Greenfield, and who married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Robert Francis of Stanecastle, an original De Morville vassal, and which property has now long been incorporated with the domain of Eglinton. This is no doubt a troublesome point to be got over on either side; but unquestionably the preponderance of circumstantial argument would seem largely to rest in favour of Lainshaw, though the direct line of that branch has likewise long since given way.

About the beginning of the seventeenth century, however, a younger son of Sir Neil Montgomerie, third of Lainshaw, appears to have married an heiress of the lands of Brigend, adjoining the "Auld Brig o' Doon;" and from this remoter branch, in comparatively recent times, a scion would seem to have sought refuge in the northern parts of the United States of America; and now, behold, a descendant returns, reinvigorated in a fresh soil, to track back the current of his descent, through Lainshaw, up to the chief dignity of the renowned barons of Eglinton and Eaglesham, even to their divergence from the potent old Norman chiefs of Shrewsbury!

But surely there is little probability that this worthy gentleman had any conception of the labour, not to say, perhaps, impossibility of unravelling so lengthened and entangled a tissue of irksome enquiry; and verily, unless something infinitely more important than the mere empty representation of a name were to be gained by such a proceeding, it is passing strange to conceive how it should ever be undertaken at this time o' day by any really sane individual. Mr Roebuck, with his unfortunate rash inconsiderateness, denounces the people of the great American Republic as a depraved and spiritless race of men; but such coarseness and egregious folly can only be viewed as the hasty ebullition of malevolent rancorous passion and spite, injurious only to those who descend to its use. Whatever may be the faults or errors in the character of this great and marvellously energetic community, most assuredly, want of any due appreciation of the value of aristocratic feeling and self-respect is not by any means justly to be imputed to them. The citizens of all the States—South and North—more universally and unequivocally manifest this than perhaps any other nation on earth. This, no doubt, is owing in some degree to the presence of a large degraded class of inferior human beings amongst them, yet still more particularly and immediately to the genius and spirit of their governmental institutions. As an inviolable rule, under no circumstances do native-born citizens ever engage in any species of menial servitude, and there are likewise various

branches of mechanical industry equally under the ban of proscription. Indeed, it seems quite an indispensable condition with an American, that he must have an interest, or kind of co-partnery, in whatever labour he performs with his own hands. Nay, even as regards the regular army and navy, no native American will be found in the condition of a common soldier or sailor—but this, of course, regards not the militia or volunteering, on emergency, all are alike liable in defence of the country.

The human mind will ever be found, in all countries and climates, similarly affected with the same irrepressible desire for personal distinction power and eminence; and however much the tendency of increased knowledge may be to restrain or modify superficial ideas of greatness and dignity, yet it is certain that the rapid acquisition of wealth, its infallible consequence, never fails to intoxicate the mind in favour of attractive outward show. To the truth of this, the citizens of the United States give ample confirmation throughout the entire career of their independent history; and were it possible for the great party at this moment in power —the legitimate and indomitable successors of the original royalist opponents of the revolution—with their views of class government and tariff-monopolies, permanently to maintain their ascendency, the problem of introducing hereditary distinctions into the new world might perhaps, at no very distant day, come to be realised. The ancient Republican Oligarchy of Venice is assuredly a fond and

favourite exampler to the ambitious trading princes of New England, as well as to the great neighbouring "empire states" around them. But uncontrollably the spirit and intelligence of the age moves in a directly opposite course; and despite all their inconceivable advantages of climate, fertility, and boundless possessions, it must of course be morally impossible for them long to maintain an anti-commercial isolation from the rest of the world.

NOTES AND ORIGINAL PAPERS

ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE PRECEDING HISTORICAL SKETCH.

ARDROSSAN p. 5.—The important and rapidly extending new commercial town of Ardrossan certainly affords a rare instance of the establishment of such a place in an old country and in an entirely new locality in the short space of little over half a century from the time of its first being projected; whilst its extraordinary success no less evinces the singular sagacity and just and sound perception of its originator and founder, the late eminently public-spirited Hugh twelfth Earl of Eglinton. As previously alluded to, the picturesque little promontory along which this magnificent harbour has been constructed, was from the earliest historical period the site of the Castle of Ardrossan, the stronghold of one of the most potent and distinguished barons of the old bailiwick of Cunningham, and which continued such throughout many ages of difficult feudal strife and infelicity. Early in the last century—the castle, then long ruinous, having

been utterly demolished as is supposed by the army of Cromwell—the talented and benevolent Alexander tenth Earl of Eglinton, enclosed with massy stone and lime walls perhaps about an hundred and fifty acres of the fine dry pasture land adjacent to the ruined fortress into several separate enclosures, for the feeding of horses and other domestic animals; besides which his lordship introduced here a number of the primitive Caledonian race of cattle, and which were retained in these pastures until about forty years ago, that they were sold off and finally abolished hence—

> "Mightiest of all the beasts of chase,
> That roam in woody Caledon;
> Crashing the forest in his race,
> The mountain bull comes thundering on."

The greater part of these formidable fences still remain in their original condition; and, together with the dark subterranean vaults of the old castle, during the age of the Isle-of-Man smuggling afforded an excellent place of concealment of the contraband wares of the smugglers. The late Mr Weir of Kirkhall, who well remembered these operations going on, was quite of opinion, that much of the superstitious reminiscence respecting "the deil of Ardrossan" was mainly strengthened and confirmed by the nocturnal movements and orgies of the smugglers within the dismal caverns of the ruinous castle, and the dreary solitude of the rocky shore.

Situated at the northern extremity of the magnificent circling curvature of the Ayrshire coast,

the locality of Ardrossan is not less interesting and picturesque than it is favourable to commercial and trading purposes. Westward, the view over the broadly expanded firth is nobly bounded by the entire length of the finely diversified and majestic island of Arran, whilst in the far distance of the opening channel is descried the remarkably isolated and solitary cone of Ailsa-Craig, rising in bold relief from the shining surface of the water, as a sentinel guarding the portal-entrance of the all-abounding great commercial Clyde. To the north, the prospect is terminated by the steep rocky headlands of Bute and the Lesser Cumbrae, as seen over the gentle little hills of Portincross, and intervening tract of rich farm lands in that direction—the upper inner lake-like division of the noble firth, with all its beauteous accompaniments of islands, off-shooting highland lochs, teeming towns and infinity of summer dwellings of every variety of design and tasteful decoration, nestling in a profusion of romantic sylvan scenery along the basis of bold mountain ranges and rocky cliffs, being quite shut out of view. Looking southward from the delightful esplanade of the Castle Hill, away over the old town of Saltcoats, now all but closely united to its more vigorous youthful sister, the prospect is extremely interesting, varied and cheerful, the eye uninterruptedly ranging along the entire sweep of the gently shelving shores of the coast, with its many busy towns and harbours edging the rich, waving, and populous country inland, whilst on-

ward the view is terminated by the finely picturesque green hills of Carrick, and the still more distant mountains of Galloway.

Nor is the immediate vicinity of Ardrossan itself in any degree less favourably circumstanced in its external aspect. To either hand of the seaward projecting harbour and town, are shelving, smooth and firm sand bays of considerable extent, from the margins of which the land gently ascends for about a couple of miles, spread out in a wide amphitheatre of rich cultivated farms, with their several cheerful looking white farm buildings shaded and sheltered by little groves and strips of trees, whilst the higher terminating eminences are crowned with nearly continuous close feathery plantations.

Nor is the vicinity of Ardrossan at all less interesting in a geological point of view. Its little promontory forms the northern terminating line of the great coal-field of Scotland, the old red sandstone on which that important formation rests, here coming clear out to the surface close into the bosom of the harbour, and along the eminence on which the Castle stands. This stone, though rather objectionable perhaps in quality and colour, is readily obtained in blocks of almost any size; and it has been used largely in the construction of the harbour and docks, as well as to a great extent in the building of the houses.

The early period at which the once powerful barons of Ardrossan merged in the house of Eglinton, and perhaps still more the unfortunate destruc-

tion of the family archives by the unhappy burning of Eglinton Castle early in the sixteenth century, has involved the more ancient part of their history, as well as that of Eglinton, in inextricable darkness and uncertainty—so much so indeed that modern genealogists and the local historians would seem to have become rather puzzled even as to the certainty of what the family name of these renowned chiefs really was! But seriously, this is surely going quite too far with the matter. The direct and indubitable evidence adduced by Pont from the original register of the monastery of Kilwinning, which he states himself to have perused—together with the unvarying testimony of local tradition, assuredly sets the point entirely beyond controversy.

The use of family surnames, as at present known here, first originated with the more advanced nations of the South of Europe; thence they were mainly introduced into England by her invading Norman conquerors, and again from this source were they brought into Scotland. Such distinctions were first assumed by the principal landholders, and for the most part, if not exclusively, were they taken from the denominations of their territorial possessions. The practice, of course, spread downwards, and ultimately men of but very limited estate came to be similarly designated. Still later, individuals as they became possessed of lands, imposed on them their own proper names, or that of their profession or pursuit, as thus Ker's-land, Bede-land, Hunter's-town, Fowler-town, &c., and thus it proceeded until

all varieties of occupation or pursuits came to be used as fixed family surnames.

That the founder of the distinguished baronial house of Ardrossan accompanied the great Baron de Morville hither from England, and obtained his ample barony in Cunningham from him, cannot for a moment admit of any reasonable doubt, though the unfortunate loss of the registers of Kilwinning has now long perplexed antiquaries in determining the point, as well as many other such matters. So much at a loss does Crawfurd, the author of the Peerage, appear to have been as to this particular, as when treating of the Eglinton family and peerage, he makes not the slightest allusion to the original barons of Ardrossan at all. But still more extraordinary, he derives the early Barclays of Kilbirnie, in the immediate neighbourhood of Ardrossan, certainly on mere supposition, from "Sir Walter Barclay [of Redcastle, in Forfarshire,] who executed the office of Lord High Chamberlain" of Scotland, in 1174; though subsequently in his notice of that personage, he states that "he left a daughter, his sole heir, who was married to Ingelram de Baliol, Lord of Harcourt, which gave the Baliols first a footing in Scotland." Yet this writer, in his previous History of Renfrewshire, states, doubtless correctly, that "Malcolm Crawfurd obtained the lands of Kilbirnie and divers other lands, by marriage of Marjory, daughter and sole heir of John Barclay of Kilbirnie, who was a branch of the Barclays of Ardrossan, a family of great antiquity

in the shire of Air." The records of Kilwinning having disappeared, there perhaps exists not now any certain evidence of the fact, but in all moral probability, this family of Kilbirnie originated from that of Ardrossan, as did various others throughout the district. As to the name "Ardrossan" ever having been used as a personal distinctive, not a shadow of evidence has ever been discovered anywhere.

The following interesting and affecting traditionary legend regarding the termination of the Barclay Barons of Ardrossan appears ever fondly to have been preserved in the locality of their ancient inheritance. The bond of union betwixt the feudal chiefs and their followers was altogether well calculated to strengthen mutual attachment betwixt them, and any interruption to the order of their connexion was ever peculiarly felt and deplored. The tale evidently hinges on the fate of Sir Fergus, who fell at the battle of Arscol, in Ireland, in 1316, and the subsequent termination of the line towards the close of the same century; for notwithstanding the license of traditionary chronicling, and the romance of time, the broad substantial facts of the case are still held fast with stubborn fidelity in the ground work of the narrative:—

Legend of Barclay's Bridle.—The last Baron of Ardrossan was famous, above all his compeers, for feats of horsemanship, and the matchless swiftness of his racers. His success, indeed, was so great and uniform as utterly to scorn all competition. This, in the spirit of the age, was unhesitatingly ascribed

to his possession of an enchanted bridle, which, of course, it was believed he had obtained through a secret compact with the devil, the usual and only competent dispenser of such gifts—hence his startling *soubriquet* of "the Deil of Ardrossan."

At last, however, as all such favours ever terminate, the hapless baron was betrayed—this instrument of his sporting infallibility was treacherously transferred to the head of a rival's horse, and thus he had to endure the astounding mortification of the irrevocable deprivation of all his envied power and ascendency, leaving him, no doubt, to exclaim with Macbeth—

> "Accursed be that tongue that tells me so,
> For it hath cow'd my better part of man,
> And be those juggling fiends no more believed."

How the enthusiastic baron bore this trying exposure and reversal of his infallibility has not been particularly alluded to in the story, but the account of his final end is thus narrated:—Going on a distant journey, Sir Fergus (so he is named) pointedly enjoined his lady regarding the care of his only son, a youth of tender years, in particular, that he should not be permitted to mount a certain spirited horse, which he knew he was exceedingly fond of. During the father's absence, however, the son had unfortunately found means to obtain the animal, and riding out was thrown off and killed on the spot! This of course could not be concealed, and on Sir Fergus' return home, such was the ungovernable violence of his feelings, that in a paroxysm of rage, he slew the unhappy mother of his child! There

is, however, a different version of the matter, to the effect that this lady was not the mother of the unfortunate youth, but only the second wife of the father, by whom in like manner, he had an only daughter; and accordingly it is surmised that, desirous of the succession opening to her own offspring, she was perhaps not altogether sakeless of the fate of young Barclay.

Such is the affecting story which tradition has preserved of this deeply melancholy domestic catastrophe. The miserable Sir Fergus, overwhelmed by the unsupportable nature of his misfortunes, retired to the solitary shores of the apposite island of Arran; and with a single favourite servant took up his abode in the lonely tower of Kildonnan, where soon after, he ended his painful existence. A remarkable allusion to Ireland occurs in connection with the time and manner of Sir Fergus death. It appears that he entertained a presentiment that should he ever set foot on Irish ground he would not long afterwards survive! Some boats from Ireland chancing to land at Kildonnan, left a quantity of green sods on the beach, which they had brought with them; and the baron happening to stumble over them, enquired how they came there? and the matter being explained to him, he instantly exclaimed, "then my life is at an end!" and giving direction to his servant regarding the disposal of his corpse, he died that same night. He directed that his body should be sewed up in a bull's hide and buried within sea-mark. This of

course was duly attended to by his obedient and faithful servant, but ere long the action of the tide washed off the sand, and the corpse floated away across the channel to the shore of Ardrossan, where the body being discovered, was taken up in its cere-cloth, and finally deposited in the castle chapel.

Some vestiges of this ancient chapel, with its densely occupied surrounding cemetery, still remain in the near vicinity of the castle. For ages it served as the parish church; but which has now long been removed to the town of Saltcoats. Though long disused as a place of sepulture, multitudes of the old tombstones still remain here; and within the area of the church lies part of a monumental stone, on which is rudely sculptured a human figure, in *baso relievo*, having two shields of arms laid over it, as shown in the engraving accompanying this note.

KILWINNING, p. 18.—The old conventual parish of Kilwinning lies pretty centrical to the whole district of Cunningham, whilst, at the same time, it approaches to within little more than a mile of the sea-shore. It extends to about seventeen and a-half square miles of surface; and is divided, somewhat unequally, into two parts by the Garnock water, which flows down its entire length from north to south. From the banks of the stream, to either hand, the surface gently ascends, but perhaps at no point does it rise to an altitude of more than from

two to three hundred feet, and, generally speaking, the whole may be classed as arable land. Along the lower sea-ward district, as likewise up the Garnock valley and some other lesser streams, the soil is of very excellent quality, but throughout the more elevated parts rather inferior, schistus clay and peat-mosses somewhat largely prevailing. With the exception of the estate of Eglinton, and perhaps the lands of Fergushill adjoining to it, the entire parish appears originally to have belonged to the domiciliary possessions of the monastery; but which, of course is now, with the exception of the minister's manse and glebe, wholly secularised and parcelled out into many private separate possessions, of very various extent and consequence.

The situation of the once magnificent Abbey Church and monastic buildings of Kilwinning is exceedingly beautiful, open, and cheerful, combining every advantage conducive to the purposes of a great religious establishment in the midst of its appropriate territorial district. It is seated on the level summit of a gentle eminence, around which to the east and south flows the copious clear stream of the Garnock river. South-west, or seaward, the land declines gently for about a mile or so, the soil throughout being of excellent quality, dry and most agreeable in aspect—flat sandy downs filling up the whole remaining space on to the sea-beach. Onward, a little beyond the Garnock, to the east of the Abbey, lie the dense and extensive plantations of Eglinton, spread over a wide space of low-

lying flat land, a sort of continuation of the great sandy belt of the shore, which here makes a deep indentation back inland; and which woodlands, from their dark and sombre aspect lend a fitting tone and back ground to the towers and bold pointed fragments of the ruinous old abbey, which, despite destruction and decay, from the characteristic nobleness of its architecture and the commanding nature of the site it occupies, still seems to hold precedence of all around.

"The abbey of Kilwinning is one of the few religious houses which trace a connection with the early hagiology of Scotland. The syllable "Kil," so common in Ireland, and throughout those parts of western Scotland which were colonized from Ireland, has been generally translated by the English word "cell," and which is here prefixed to the name of St. Winning." In that curious and voluminous repository of superstitious piety, the *Breviary of Aberdeen*, recently reproduced in *fac simile* by the zeal and munificence of the Maitland Club, appears a brief biographical Account of St. Winning.

Of princely Milesian origin, he was born, towards the close of the seventh century, in Ireland, then the great source of Christian missionaryism in the western regions, and his education was suitable to his eminent quality. But from his earliest years he discovered an exclusive inclination to solitude and religious meditation; and finding the circumstances of his high rank to be quite insufferable to his devotional aspirations, he resolved, in concert with a

few others, his chosen companions, to devote himself exclusively to the propagation of the sacred truths of Christianity amongst the heathen tribes of the northern regions adjacent. And with this view the party forthwith privately commenced the construction of some sort of temporary vessel—float or raft, it is called—and thus in the boundless strength and confidence of their faith, resolved to commit themselves without further preparation of means, to the winds and waves, leaving it entirely to Providence to direct their course to whatever shore their services might be most needed in the holy mission of His service. The voyage did not, however, it appears, in all respects prove so miraculously prosperous as the voyagers, in their enthusiasm, might have been led to anticipate ; and after a long perilous tossing hither and thither, they at last reached the mouth of the Garnock water in the sandy bay of Cunningham, weary, worn out and at the point of perishing with cold and hunger. Neither knowing where they were nor what to do, they essayed to procure some fish from the desert stream. But all in vain! They could discover nothing; and forthwith, in an agony of despair, the poor saint, apprehensive they were thus cruelly thwarted by some malignant *genius loci*, in his exasperated feelings forthwith cursed the river, that it should never more be blessed as the habitation of any fish, a doom from which it only escaped in after ages by changing its course and flowing in a new channel! an alternative, fortunately, not of very difficult accomplishment, its

course for the last two or three miles, ere it enters the sea, being through a soft alluvial plain but little elevated above the tidal waters.

But however ungracious the spirit of the Garnock may have been in thus refusing a supply of fish to the poor famished saint and his followers, it is certain he did not on that account turn away from the locality, for it is recorded that in a vision he was directed by an angel to build his church on the identical beautiful spot now occupied by the shattered fragments of the once glorious Abbey which, at the distance of four centuries afterwards, came to replace the original humble cell of St. Winning.

An undisputed right to priority and pre-eminence, from an early period, certainly appears to have been accorded to Kilwinning regarding the ancient Association of Freemasonry, as introduced here at the building of its Monastery. The origin of this device is very satisfactorily stated in Tytler's History of Scotland:—"The Pope created several corporations of Roman and Italian architects and artisans, with high and exclusive privileges, especially with a power of settling the rates and prices of their labour by their own authority, and without being controlled by the municipal laws of the countries where they worked. To the various northern countries, where the churches had fallen into a state of decay, were these artists deputed. In consequence of the exclusive privileges conferred upon them, they assumed the name of Free Masons, and under this title became famous throughout Europe."

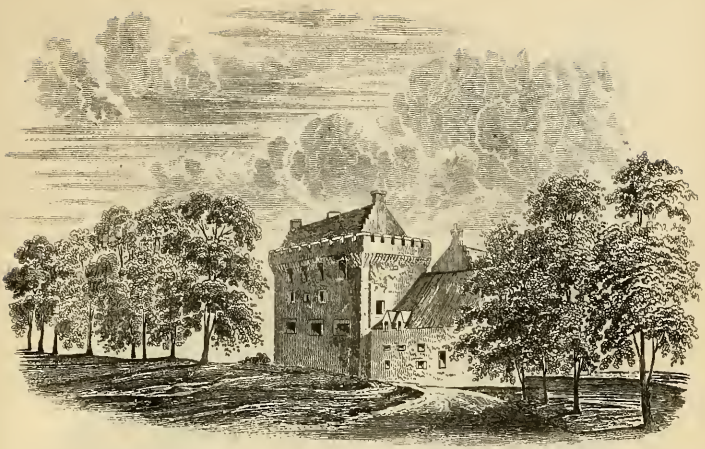
Possessing the power of admitting such individuals "as they approved of," and in connection with the source of their origin they soon became a very formidable body throughout the entire Christian dominions. The following curious and authentic document, preserved among the family papers at Eglinton, though copies of it may have appeared elsewhere, will perhaps be found interesting at least to the "Craft"—It is here copied entire:—

"*The statutis and ordinances to be observit be all the Maister Massonis within this realme, sett doune be William Schaw, Maister of Wark to His Majestie, and Generall Warden of the said Craft, with consent of the Maisters after specifict. —At Edinburcht, the xxviii. day of December,* 1598.

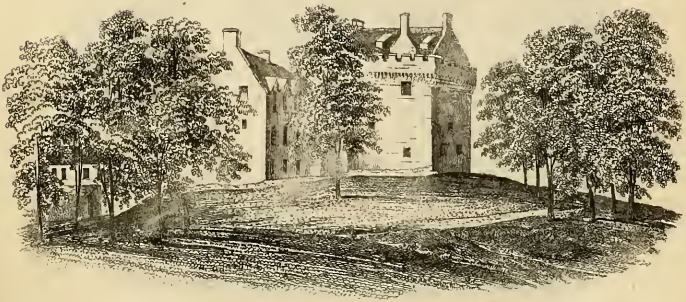
"*Item*, first, that they observe and keip all the guid ordinances sett doune of befoir concerning the privileges of thair Craft, to thair predicessouris of gude memorie; and specialie, that they be trew ane to ane other, and leve charitablie togiddcr, as becumis sworne brether and companyeonis of Craft.

"*Item*, that thay be obedient to thair wardeneis, dekynnis and maisters, in all things concerning thair craft.

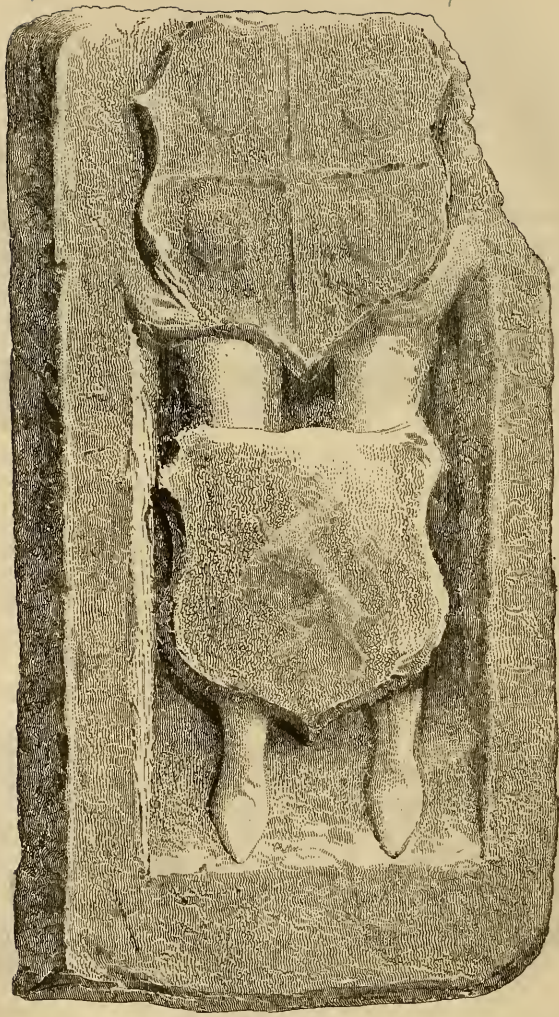
"*Item*, that thay be honest, faithfull and dilligent in thair calling, and deill uprichtlie with the maisteris or awnaris of the warkis that thay sall tak upoune hand, be it in task, meit and fie, or oulklie wage.



EGLINTOUNE CASTLE from ye SOUTH
One Mile 6 furlongs from ye Parish Kirk of Kilwinning.



EGLINTOUNE CASTLE from ye WEST.
One Mile 6 furlongs from ye Parish Kirk of Kilwinning.



SCULPTURED STONE LYING ON SITE OF ORIGINAL PARISH CHURCH OF ARDROSSAN.

"*Item*, that nane tak upoune hand ony wark, grit or small, quhilk he is nocht abill to performe qualifeitlie, under the pane of fourtie pundis money, or ellis the fourt pairt of the worthe of the wark; and that by and attour ane condigne amende or satisfactioun to be maid to the awner of the warks, at the sycht and discretioun of the generall wardene, or, in his absence, at the sycht of the wardeneis, dekynnis, and maisteris of the schirefdom quhair the said wark is interprisit and wrocht.

"*Item*, that na maister sall tak ane uther maisteris wark over his heid, efter that the first maister hes aggreit with the awner of the wark, ather be contract or verball condition, under the pane of fourtie pundis.

"*Item*, that na maister sall tak the wirking of ony wark that uther maisteris hes wrocht at of befoir, unto the tyme that the first wirkaris be satisfeit for the wark quhilk thay have wrocht, under the pane foirsaid.

"*Item*, that thair be ane wardene chosin and electit ilk yeir, to have the charge over everie ludge, as they are dividit particularlie; and that be the votis of the maisters of the said ludges, and consent of thair wardene generall, gif he happynis to be present, or utherwise, that he be adverteist that sic ane wardene is chosin for sic ane yeir, to the effect that the wardene generall may send sic directionis to that wardene electit as efferis.

"*Item*, that na maister sall tak ony ma prentissis nor thre, all his days and during his lyfetyme,

without ane speciall consent of the haill wardenis, dekynnis and maisteris of the Schirefdome quhair the said prenteis is to be ressauit.

"*Item*, that na maister ressaue ony prenteis bund for fewar yeirs nor sevin at the leist; and siclyke it sall nocht be lesum to mak the said prenteis brother and fallow in craft, unto the tyme that he haue servit the space of uther sevin yeiris after the ische of his said prenteischip, without ane speciall licence grantit be the wardenis, dekynnis, and maisteris assemblit for that caus; and that suffieient tryall being tane of the worthynes, qualfleatioun and skyll of the persone that desyris to be maid fallow of craft; and that under the pane of fourtie pundis to be uplifit as ane pecuniall penaltie frae the persone that is maid fallow of craft againis this ordour, besyde the penalties to be sett doune againis his persone, according to the ordour of the ludge quhair he remanis.

"*Item*, that it sall nocht be lesum to na maister to sell his prenteis to ony uther maister, nor yet to dispens with the yeirs of his prenteischip, be selling therof to the prenteisis self, under the pane of fourtie pundis.

"*Item*, that na maister ressaue ony prenteis without he signifie the samyn to the wardene of the ludge quhair he dwellis, to the effect that the said prenteisis name and the day of his ressauing may be ordourlie buikit.

"*Item*, that na prenteis be enterit bot be the samyn ordour, that the day of thair entres may be buiket.

"*Item*, that na fallow of craft nor maister be ressauit nor admittit without the nummer of sex maisteris and twa prenteissis, the wardene of that ludge being ane of the said sex, and that the day of the ressauing of the said fallow of craft, or maister, be ordourlie buikit, and his name and mark insert in the said buik, with the names of the sex admittairs and enterit prenteisis that sall be chosin to everie persone to be alsua insert in thair buik: Providing alwayis that na man be admittit without ane assay and sufficient tryall of his skill and worthynes in his vocatioun and craft.

"*Item*, that na maister wirk ony maissoun wark under the charge or command of ony other craftisman that takis upoun hand to wirk ony maissoun wark.

"*Item*, that na maister or fallow of craft ressaue ony cowanis to wirk in his societie or cumpanie, nor send nane of his servandis to wirk with cowanis, under the pane of twentie pundis sa oft as ony persone offendis herintill.

"*Item*, it sall nocht be lessum to na enterit prenteis to tak ony gritter task or wark upoune hand frae a awner, nor will extend to the soume of ten pundis, under the pane foirsaid.

"*Item*, gif ony questioun, stryfe, or variance sall fall out amang ony of the maisteris, servandis, or enterit prenteissis, that the parteis sall signifie the causis of thair querrell to the particular wardeneis or dekynnis of thair ludge, within the space of xxiiii houris, under the pane of ten pundis; to the effect that thay may be reconcilit and aggreit, and

thair variance removit be thair saidis wardenis, dekynnis, and maisteris : and gif ony of the saidis parteis sal happin to remane wilfull or obstinat, that thay salbe deprivit of the privilege of thair ludge, and nocht permittid to wirk thairat unto the tyme that thay submitt thame selffis to ressoun, at the sycht of thair wardenis and maisteris, as said is.

" *Item*, that all maisteris, interprisaris of warkis, be verray cairfull to se thair scaffaldis and futegangis surelie sett and placeit, to the effect that throw thair negligence and sleuch na hurt or skaith cum vnto ony personis that wirkis at the said wark, vnder the pane of discharging of thame thairafter to wirk as maisteris havand charge of ane wark; but sall ever be subject, all the rest of thair dayis, to wirk vnder or with ane vther principal maister having charge of the wark.

Item, that na maister resaue ane vther maisteris prenteis or servand that sal happin to ryn away fra his maisteris service, nor intertein him in his cumpanie, efter that he has gotten knawledge thairof, vnder the pane of fourtie pundis.

Item, that all the maisteris that sal happin to be send for to ony assemblie or meiting, salbe sworne be thair grit aith, that thay sall hyde nor conceill na faultis nor wrangis done be ane to ane uther, nor zit the faultis or wrangis that ony man hes done to the awneris of the warkis that thay haif had in hand, sa fer as thay knaw, and that vnder the pane of ten pundis, to be taken vp fra the conceillaris of the saidis faultis.

Item, it is ordanit that all thir foirsaidis penalteis, be liftit and tane vp fra the offendaris and brekaris of thir ordinances, be the wardennis, dekynnis and maisteris of the ludges quhair the offendaris dwellis, and to be distributit *ad pios vsus*, according to gude conscience, be the advyis of the foirsaidis.

And for fulfilling and observing of all thir ordinances sett doune as said is, the haill maisteris, convenit the foirsaid day, bind and obliss thame faithfullie heirto; and thairfoir has requeistit thair said wardene general to subscrive thir presentis with his awin hand, to the effect that ane autentick copy heirof may be send to euerie particular ludge within the realme.

WILLIAM SCHAW, Maister of Wark.

xxviii December, 1599.

First, It is ordanit that the wardene within the boundis of Kilwynning, and vtheris places subject to thair ludge, salbe chosen and electit zeirlie be mony of the maisteris voites of the said ludge, vpon the twentie day of December, and that within the kirk at Kilwynning, as the heid and secund ludge of Scotland, and therefter that the generall warden be advertysit zeirlie quha is chosin warden of the ludge, immediatelie efter his electioun.

Item, it is thocht neidfull and expedient by my lord warden generall, that everie ludge within Scotland sall have in tyme cuming the auld and antient liberteis therof vsit and wont of befoir; and in

speciall, that the ludge of Kilwynning, secund ludge of Scotland, sall haif thair warden present at the election of the wardenis within the boundis of the Nether Waird of Cliddisdaill, Glasgow, Air, and boundis of Carrik; with powar to the said warden and dekyn of Kilwynning to convene the remanent wardenis and dekynis within the boundis foirsaid quhan thay haif ony neid of importance ado, and thay to be judgit be the warden and dekyn of Kilwynning quhen it sall pleis thame to convene for the tyme, aither in Kilwynning, or within ony vther part of the west of Scotland and bounds foirsaid.

Item, it is thocht neidfull and expedient be my lord warden generall, that Edinburgh salbe in all tyme cuming, as of befoir, the first and principall ludge in Scotland; and that Kilwynning be the secund lodge, as of befoir is notourlie manifest in our awld antient writtis; and that Stirueling salbe the thrid ludge, conforme to the auld privileges thairof.

Item, it is thocht expedient that the wardenis of everie ilk ludge salbe answerable to the presbyteryes within thair schirefdomes for the maissonis subject to the lugeis anent all offensis ony of thame sall committ; and the thrid part of the vnlawis salbe employit to the godlie vsis of the ludge quhair ony offens salhappin to be committit.

Item, that ther be tryall takin zeirlie be the wardenis and maist antient maisteris of the ludge, extending to sex personis, quha sall tak tryall of the offensis, that punishment may be execut conforme

to equitie and iustice and guid conscience and the antient ordour.

Item, it is ordanit be my lord warden generall, that the warden of Kilwynning, as secund in Scotland, elect and chuis sex of the maist perfyte and worthiest of memorie within [thair boundis,] to tak tryall of the qualificatioun of the haill masonis within the boundis foirsaid, of thair art, craft, scyance and antient memorie; to the effect the warden deakin may be answerable heiraftir for sic personis as is committit to him, and within his boundis and jurisdictioun.

Item, commissioun is gewin to the warden and deakon of Kilwynning, as secund ludge, to secluid and away put furth of their societie and cumpanie all personis disobedient to fulfil and obey the haill actis and antient statutis sett doun of befoir of guid memorie; and all personis disobedient ather to kirk, craft, counsall, and otheris statutis and acts to be maid heireftir for ane guid ordour.

Item, it is ordainit be the warden generall, that the warden and deacon to be present of [with?] his quarter maisteris, elect cheis and constitut ane famous notar, as ordinar clark and scryb; and that the said notar to be chosinge sall occupye the office, and that all indentouris discharges and wtheris wrytis quhatsumever, perteining to the craft, salbe onlie wrytin be the clark; and that na maner of wryt, neyther tityll nor other evident, to be admit be the said warden and deacon befoir thame, except it be maid be the said clark, and subscryuit with his hand.

Item, it is ordainit be my lord generall, that the hale auld antient actis and statutis maid of befoir be the predecessouris of the masounis of Kilwynning, be observit faithfullie and kepit be the crafts in all tymes cuminge; and that na prenteis nor craftis man, in ony tymes heireftir, be admittit nor enterit bot onlie within the kirk of Kilwynning, as his paroche and secund ludge; and that all bankattis for entrie of prenteis or fallow of craftis to be maid within the said ludge of Kilwynning.

Item, It is ordainit that all fallows of craft at his entrie, pay to the commoun bokis of the ludge the soume of ten pundis mone, with x s. worthe of gluffis, or euir he be admittit, and that for the bankatt; and that he be not admittit without ane sufficient essay and pruife of memorie and art of craft, be the warden, deacon, and quarter maisteris of the ludge, conforme to the foirmer; and quhairthrow thai may be the mair answerable to the generall warden.

Item, That all prenteissis to be admittit be not admittit quhill thai first pay to the commoun bankat foiresaid, the sowme of sex pundis mone; utherwyes to pay to the bankat for the haill members of craft within the said ludge and prenteissis thairof.

Item, It is ordainit that the warden and deaconis of the secund ludge of Scotland, present of Killwynning, sall tak the aythe, fidilitie and trewthe of all maisteris and fallowis of craft within the haill boundis commit to thair chairge, zeirlie, that thai sall not accumpanie with cowans,

nor work with thame, nor any of their servandis or prenteisses, undir the pain of the penaltie contenit in the foirmer acts, and peying thairof.

Item, It is ordainit be the generall warden, that the luge of Kilwynning, being the second luge in Scotland, tak tryall of the art of memorie and science thairof, of everie fallow of craft and everie prenteiss, according to ather of their vocationis; and in cais that thai have lost onie point thairof, euerie of thame topay the penaltie as followis, for their slewthfulness, viz., ilk fallow of craft, xx s. ilk prenteiss, xi s. and that to be payit to the box for the commoun weill zeirlie; and that conforme to the commoun vse and pratik of the commoun lugis of this realm.

And for the fulfilling, observinge and keeping of thir statutis, and all thair actis and statuttis maid of befoir, and to be maid be the warden, deaconis, and quarter maisteris of the lugis foirsaidis, for guid ordour keeping, conforme to equitie, justice, and antient ordour; to the makinge and setting doun quhairof, the generall warden hes gevin his power and commission to the said warden and others, abvnevritten, to set doun and mak actis conforme as accordis to the office and law. And in signe and taking thairof, I, the generall warden of Scotland, hes sett doun and causit pen thir actis and statutis, and hes subscryuit the samynis with my hand efter the testimoniale.

Be it kend to the warden, dekyn, and to the maisteris of the ludge of Kilwynning, that Archibald Barklay, being directit commissioner fra the said

ludge, comperit in Edinburgh, the twentie sevin and twentie awcht of December instant, quhair the said Archibald, in presens of the warden generall, and the maisteris of the ludge of Edinburgh, producit his commissioun, and behaifit himself verie honestlie and cairfullie for the discharge of sik thingis as was committit into him; bot be ressone of the absence of his Maiestie out of the toun, and that thair was na maisteris but the ludge of Edinburgh convenit of this tyme, we culd nocht get sik ane satlat ordour (as the privileges of the craft requyris) tane at this time; bot heirefter, quhan occasion sall be offerit, we sall get his Maiesties warrand, baith for the authorizing of the ludgeis privileges, and ane penaltie sett downe for the dissobedient personis and perturberis of all guid ordour: Thus far I thocht guid to signifie vnto the haill brether of the ludge, vnto the neist commoditie: In witnes heirof, I have subscriuit this present with my hand, at Halyrudhous, the twentie awcht day of December, the zeir of God I^{M} V^{c} fourscoir nynetene zeirs.

WILLIAM SCHAW,
MAISTER OF WARK, WARDEN OF THE MAISONS.

The history of Scottish free-masonry would appear, intermediately, long to have remained in a state of comparative neglect and under a cloud, and it is perhaps hardly possible that any thing like a connected and satisfactory account of it is now to be ascertained. The long exclusive and all absorbing question of religious liberty during the entire of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries may seem very

largely, if indeed not altogether, to account for this state of the matter, as well likewise as for the little attention at that time paid to any branch of literature, or objects of art or taste of any kind. During the earlier remarkable ages of church building, however, we may be well assured, the matter of free-masonry received great attention and was in the highest repute; but ultimately, as corruption crept in and strengthened among the occupants of the gorgeous alluring structures which it produced, the power and influence of the entire system in which it originated slowly but surely sank into feebleness and decay; whilst the final storm of the religious revolution swept every thing, good and bad, regarding it into irretrievable destruction.

The priority, and perhaps originally the supremacy of Kilwinning in the "Craft" here, however, from all that may now be gathered of the memorials of masonry, would seem to be evident enough; and the present curious and interesting document certainly appears very plainly to corroborate the fact—though evidently, long before this time, the order had undergone quite a systematic change in its general organisation, more particularly as regarded the constituting Edinburgh, the centre and capital of the kingdom, as its head quarters. The allusion to the annual election of office bearers of Kilwinning, that it be made "within the kirk of Kilwynning, as the *heid*, and secund ludge of Scotland," seems evidently allusive to its original right of precedency as MOTHER LODGE, whilst, unavoidably, in the new arrangement

it could only be placed as second in order. The following "ordinance" cannot otherwise be understood than as referring to this change—"Item, it is thoucht needful and expedient be my lord warden generall, that Edinburgh salbe in all tyme cuming, as of befoir [that is, now long has been,] the first and principall ludge in Scotland, &c." But even still more strongly would the following "Item" seem to indicate the original priority and precedency of Kilwinning—"Item, it is ordainit be my lord generall, That the hale auld antient actis and statutis maid of befoir be the predecessouris of the masounis of Kilwynning, be observit faithfullie and kepit be the craftis in all tymes cuming."

But indeed the right of Kilwinning to priority and precedency in masonry does not appear ever to have been disputed. Neither, probably, did any very material change in its arrangements take place till comparatively modern times, whilst its head courts would appear invariably to have been assembled at the monastery of Kilwinning. On the return of the royal poet, King James the First of Scotland, from his long captivity (and education) in England, he would seem to have interested himself in Scottish freemasonry, and especially to have "patronised the mother lodge Kilwinning," where he "presided as grand master, till he settled an annual salary, to be paid by every master mason in Scotland, to a grand master, chosen by the brethren and approved by the crown;" and in the subsequent reign of James the Second this office became

hereditary in the family of St. Clair of Rosslin, and so continued with the successive barons therof until the year 1736 that the then incumbent hereditary grand-master formally resigned into the hands of the "craft" his hereditary right, that the present Grand Lodge of Scotland might be organised and established. "This usurpation," however, it is stated, "was resisted for a time by the Kilwinning brethren, who continued to hold independent meetings, and to grant charters as formerly till the year 1807, when the dispute was amicably settled; and thus the mother lodge relinquished her ancient privileges and joined the general association along with the lodges which held of her."—*Stat. Account.* Even so, it is obvious, all human affairs must ever accommodate themselves to the imperative circumstances of revolving time. How the matter stood betwixt the "hereditary" barons of Rosslin and Schaw, who appears here as "Warden Generall," it certainly seems difficult to understand.

The venerable topographer Pont, who has preserved some slight notices of the abbey and monastery of Kilwinning, states that De Morville, the founder of that magnificent structure and institution, was interred here, and that he lies "under a tombe of lymestone, framed coffin wayes, of old pollished work, with this coat on the stone, without any superscriptione or epitaphe,"—a drawing of the arms thus alluded to accompanies the description, being simply a shield charged with a *fret* That the author was shown such a tomb-stone here, as

being that of the opulent founder, need not be doubted, still little more than a traditionary authority can be assigned to it. If De Morville was interred here, which is certainly exceedingly probable, his place of sepulchre undoubtedly would be that of the most honourable part of the church at all proper for a layman to occupy; but subsequently, on the destruction of the building, this interesting memorial may have been removed from its original site to the place where Pont states he found it. Whatever may have been the subsequent fate of this ancient relic, no trace or reminiscence of it now remains on the spot. It is, however, not at all improbable, it may ultimately have been buried up in the immense accumulation of rubbish of the old walls, as they were progressively torn down and removed, and which now overlays the entire original area of the building to a great depth.

Island of Little Cumbrae—p. 24.—The several islands of the beautiful estuary of Clyde, viz., Arran, Bute, and the two Cumbraes including their respective islets, constitute the entire territory of the interesting and romantic little county of Bute, whilst they signally tend to diversify and heighten the magnificient scenery of that noble commercial channel. From the earliest period, these islands appear to have been eagerly coveted by the hardy marauding Danes and Norwegians, as a most advantageous position whence to effect their continual depredations on the adjacent fertile Lowland

coasts. Subsequently, the Clyde islands became the property of the illustrious family of Stewart; and thence, from time to time, were they largely parcelled out amongst their adherents and dependents, conformably to the feudal usages of those times. Still the strongholds of Brodick and Rothesay continued favourite resorts of the family even long after their succession to the sovereignty. James the Fifth is supposed to have made improvements at Rothesay, but if so, most probably he was the last of the race who paid any particular attention to the locality. On the erection of the Principality of Scotland by Robert the Third, in 1404, these islands were included in its domains, consequently they still continue to hold of the Prince and Steward, as heir-apparent of the crown.

The "Little Isle," as the Lesser Crumbrae is usually denominated in the locality, consists exclusively of trap rock, resting on the universal old red sandstone of the surrounding neighbourhood. It lies in length from north to south, and may extend in all to about eight hundred imperial acres of surface; but of which only but little patches here and there along its narrow steppes, are in any way fitted for aration. All around, the shore is steep and rocky, there being but two or three places at all proper for the accommodation of boats. The general outline is well defined and picturesque, the trap ranging in regular order, steppe over steppe, from the water's edge to the summit of the island, which near its centre rises to an altitude of perhaps about five

hundred feet; and at this point still stands the deserted walls of an original lighthouse, a slender round tower about thirty feet in height, erected here in the year 1750, and which is said to have been the second structure of the kind ever built on the Scottish coasts. Its principle was rude and simple in the extreme—a huge fire of coals was kept burning on its summit throughout the night; and which in stormy weather must have presented a very striking object, blazing and sparkling at so great a height amidst the gloom and turmoil of the tempest, as well as to have been of no ordinary difficulty to trim and keep a-foot; it was quite a herculean task too to fetch the coals up to it from the landing place at the old castle below. But, worst of all, in foggy weather it was frequently of no service whatever, from its great elevation, being quite obscured from view. Still, down to the year 1793, no better provision existed here for the guidance of the great commercial channel of which this is the special and principal entrance. At this period, however, the present scientific and beautiful lighthouse was erected and established. It is seated on the buttling edge of a precipice eighty feet in height, rising immediately out of the water below, on the west side of the island, about midway along its shore—the solitary old turret of its predecessor looking directly down on it from its commanding station above. The lantern of this interesting and graceful structure stands about one hundred and twenty feet above the tidal level, and is lighted by

fifteen oil lamps, fitted with the most brilliant and costly silver reflectors on the most approved principles—the appearance of the light at sea being that of a star of the first magnitude, and is to be seen, under favourable circumstances, at the distance of from thirty to forty miles. The keeper's accommodation immediately adjoins the lighthouse tower; and connected with which, on a little level plot of ground, is a neat and well kept garden and small enclosure for his use. No other building of any kind appears ever to have existed on this side of the island, and certainly the effect of so elegant and interesting a work of art, amidst the wild crags in which it is placed, is of the most striking and agreeable nature,

On the east side of the island, a little way north of the castle, pretty far up the side of the hill, still exist the remains of an ancient chapel with its enclosed place of sepulchre—dedicated, as it appears to have been, to Ste. Vey or Bey, an early virgin member of the Scottish hagiology. The chapel, of course, has been of the smallest dimensions and humblest construction; but in the tomb are, or lately were, fragments of "two flat stones, on one of which is sculptured some ornamental tracery, such as is to be seen on those ancient monuments called Danish stones." The existence at all, however, of such an edifice as this on so limited and barren an islet certainly affords remarkable evidence of the wonderful zeal and activity of the early Romish hierarchy in pushing and extending

the boundaries of their faith and dominion—verily the reclamation and "excavation of the heathen" is no discovery or peculiar appliance of the purer faith of modern times. Such, however, were doubtless mere ecclesiastical stations, and the tradition here is, that the officiating priest had several others similar in the neighbouring isles under his charge.

The close vicinity of the Lesser Cumbrae to the castle of Rothesay doubtless very early suggested the idea of appropriating it as a place for the retention of deer; and it would seem so to have been occupied so long as Rothesay continued to be frequented by the Stuart family. From the happy accession of Bruce, the bailiewick, or great barony, of Cunningham, on the shore of which this little island is situated, became annexed to the Crown, and subsequently, as before noticed, formed part of the territory of the principality of Scotland; and here, directly opposite to the eastern side of the island lie the lands of Hunterston, the proprietor of which, as noticed, most probably from the first, was appointed hereditary keeper of the little forestry.

The Hunters of Hunterston have undoubtedly been seated here from a very early period, though, as the great Buchanan observes of his own progenitors, they probably were more ancient than opulent —*magis vetusta quam oppulenta.* Crawfurd, the author of the Peerage of Scotland, states that "this family from charters, appears to have had at least a part of the estate they still possess in Cunningham while the Morviles were lords of that country as far

back as the reign of King Alexander II." Tradition, may-hap invited by the family name, seems not to have hesitated to claim for them the dignity of hereditary hunters to the king; and it may seem not altogether improbable that their introduction here may have been through some connection of this nature in the ancient semi-regal establishment of the district. Indeed the following curious notice in the *Heraldric Collections* of Mr Thomas Crawfurd in the Advocates' Library, would appear somewhat corroborative of such a surmise:—"Hunter of Hunterston—*praefectus venatorum regiorum*—in Cunningham, bears for arms, *vert*, three hunting horns, *or*." It is certainly pleasing to find that this very ancient family have ever continued in possession of this their original little territory, through direct hereditary succession down to the present time, a period of perhaps at least eight centuries, whilst most of the principal barons and great landholders under De Morville, have long utterly disappeared and been forgotten in their wide domains and proud feudal prerogatives! Individuals of great respectability and worth, throughout the long current of national history, have emerged from the parent stem of Hunterston; and in the field of science few names, at any time, have reflected a brighter lustre on its annals than the two Hunters—Doctor William and his illustrious brother Mr John of London—whom, though somewhat remotely, would appear to have been derived from the family of Hunterston.

The late Robert Hunter of Hunterston, who

died in 1796, at the patriarchal age of eighty-six, inherited all the more useful an respectable virtues of his early ancestors, though perhaps the general tenor of his peaceful life was but little calculated to attract the regard of modern genealogists, who appear utterly to have overlooked his claims to commemoration in their, too often, mercenary labours. Mr Hunter had originally an elder brother who came to manhood but died unmarried, consequently, on the death of his father in 1733, the succession to the family inheritance opened to him. Early in life he was put to sea in the merchant service, and quickly rose to the command of a ship—a younger brother, David, following his example, was equally successful in the profession. It is said that whilst in this position the future laird of Hunterston, on a not very uncommon emergency in those days, gave quite an unmistakeable indication of the high spirit and manly feeling by which he was actuated. Whilst yet in the humble capacity of a junior officer, his ship was invaded by that horrible barbarity of former times, a "press-gang." Of course, but little delicacy was ever observed in the execution of such matters, and the commander of the party coming up to young Hunter, perhaps somewhat too imperatively, demanded, "and pray, sir, what are you?" Disdaining any paltry pretext of privilege, the undaunted reply of the young seaman was worthy of a hero, "Why, sir, I am a man!" Similar other anecdotes were long remembered of him, whilst such sentiments and feelings undoubtedly continued to char-

acterize the entire course of his life; and of him, with truth, it might be said,

"Even his failings leaned to virtue's side."

Mr Hunter succeeded to the estate in a deeply encumbered condition, at a period, too, perhaps the most depressed and embarassed which has ever occurred in Scottish affairs; but long ere the close of his life, by singular prudence and economy, he was enabled not only to clear off all encumbrances, but likewise to leave his successors in comparative wealth and independence; and thus he might well be viewed as a second founder of his ancient family. The writer of this brief and imperfect notice, though having been but once, and that at a very early period of life, in the company of this venerable and worthy man, yet the impression of his appearance and manner has hardly in any degree yet faded from memory,—this was in the fall of the year and he died early in the following spring. He had for sometime been in a decidedly declining state of health, and, consequently, was much shrunken and emaciated, still perfectly recollected and in full possession of his mental faculties. He was quite a tall man, yet still pretty erect in his gait and movements—Scott's vivid delineation of the Baron of Brodwardine would have been quite applicable to "Hunterston" at a similar period of life, as doubtless there were other and more important points of agreeance betwixt the individuals. Throughout life Mr Hunter had certainly been of a spare and

active habit of body. His visage was long, the forehead being high and narrow, with singularly hollow temples; his hair was of a sandy fair colour, still pretty full, and perfectly free from greyness.

In his every feeling and habit of mind, the laird of Hunterston appears to have been a true Scotch baron of the genuine age of baronage; nor could any force of circumstances ever induce him to forego the inherent, if not inate, bent of his inclinations. The, as it were, hereditary tenants of his property he would on no wise displace from their original possessions, frequently remarking that most of them, if not all, had held their occupancies from as early a period as he did himself. But the special mission which he felt himself called to achieve was the redemption of the family inheritance, and this, as before alluded to, he was completely successful in accomplishing. Soon after his succession he wholly relinquished his early professional pursuits, and at once retired to the ancient abode of his predecessors —a small moated tower or keep, with some subsequent additional buildings, situated on the verge of what had originally been an inaccessable morass; and here, with the least possible attendance, he uninterruptedly sojourned to the end of his days, chiefly passing his leisure hours with his dog and gun or fishing rod, though, it is remembered, from somewhat defective sight, he was but an inefficient sportsman. In politics, as in all else, the baron of Hunterston was unalterably conservative, or perhaps more properly, whiggo-conservative, in the true

and legitimate sense of the term; and of course, his sympathy and affection was altogether sincerely and honestly in favour of the unfortunate family of Stuart; but he was far too sensible and prudent a man for a moment to conceive it possible that their ideas of religion and goverment could ever again be tolerated in this country.

This venerable and worthy man, the last of his class of Scottish society in this locality—a class perhaps now wholly extinct—as before stated, died in the spring of 1796; and, agreeably to his own request, was laid in the grave, as chief mourners, by George Hunter of Kirkland, an aged and distant kinsman, and his son, the late Captain Robert Hunter, as the nearest male descendants of the family on the spot.

From about the time of James V., the Royal family of Stuart appear no longer to have made almost any resort to their ancient original patrimonial inheritances in the west of Scotland; consequently the once favourite residences of Rothesay and Dundonald came to be neglected, and for now long ages past, have remained in a state of utter desolation and ruin—

"——— Chiefless castles breathing stern farewells
From gray but leafy walls, where Ruin greenly dwells,"

In 1515, as we have seen, the Earl of Eglinton obtained an authoritative oversight and protection of Little Cumbrae, which was to endure to the king's "aige of fifteen zeres," which of course continued until 1526. In the year following, May 31, 1527, the good "forestar of heretage," Robert

Hunter of Hunterston, and "Jonete Montgumry," his spouse obtained a Royal charter of the island, and thus became sole proprietors under the crown; —"quasquidem insulam et terras cum pertinenciis dictus Robertus et predecessoris sui, de nobis et predecessoribus nostris, in custodia hereditarie prius habuerunt; et pro custodia ipsarum duas celdras auenarum annuatim habuerunt, per vicecomitem nostrum de Bute, nomine nostro de firmis, nostris terrarum et insule nostre de Bute, annuatim persolutas."

Shortly afterwards, however, Hunterston sold the island to the Earl of Eglinton, and made resignation of it in his favour in the hands of King James V. from whom the Earl obtained a charter, dated 16th March, 1555.—*Mem. of Eglinton*, xix. And so to the Eglinton family the Little Cumbrae has uninterruptedly continued to belong to the present time.

In 1609 a complaint was brought before the Privy Counell, by the Captain of Dumbarton Castle, that Robert Hunter of Hunterston and Thomas Boyd, provost of Irvine, had gone to the isle of Comra, with convocation of the leiges, and tane away all the hawks thereon. It was descerned "That all the hawks quhilk bred on the said isle do properly belong to the king, and ocht to be forthcomand to his majestie. . . . and discharges the said Robert Hunter and all others from meddling therewith." That this alludes to the island of the Lesser Cumbrae there need be no doubt, the greater island being quite unsuitable as a habitude for these

birds; and Hunter, it is not improbable, may still have conceived some right or use for what he did. The hawks, to some extent, still maintain their footing here, as likewise on the opposite majestic precipices of Ardneilbank. Preparatory to the visit of George IV. to Edinburgh in 1822, the redoubted old falconer Fleming of Barochan, in the barony of Renfrew, sent his trusty and kindly old trainer, John Anderson, to procure eyeses to be trained and presented to his majesty on that notable occasion; and it was understood he was at least successful in obtaining a number from the eyries of Ardneilbank.

Hew, Fourth Earl of Eglinton, p. 15.—The barbarous assault and murder of the fourth Earl of Eglinton at the early age of twenty-four, and within a few months after his succession to the title, forms an incident than which nothing more deplorable and pitiful ever occurred in any age or country, yet it was but too characteristic of the times and state of society in which it happened. The various accounts, however, of this sad tragedy seem not very exact or harmonious in their relations of it. But that it was pursuant of the long-standing and deeply aggravated feud betwixt the two families of Montgomerie and Cunningham no shadow of doubt need be entertained; and if the minute details of a "Memorandum," now printed amongst the Eglinton Papers may be relied on, the whole plot and purpose appears to have been arranged and systematically contrived and concocted by the Earl of

Glencairn himself, as head and leader of his numerous and reckless clan and adherents. The following authentic official document relating to this painfully melancholy matter appears in the History of th Family of Rowallan, printed at Glasgow in 1825, but which probably was not adverted to by the Editor of the Papers alluded to :—

"*Letters anent the slaughter of the E. of Eglintoun.*

JAMES, be the grace of God, King of Scottis, to our louittis Jhonne Wilsoun. . . messingeris.

Our Shireffis in that pairt, conjunctlie and seuerallie, speciallie constitute greting: forsamekle as it is humlie menit and complenit to us be our traist cousingues Dame Helene Kennedy relict, Dame Agnes Drummond mother, our rycht traist cousing Hew, Erle of Eglintoun sone, witht the remanent kin and freinds of vmquill our richt traist cousing Hew Erle of Eglintoun, that quhair it is notour to us and the lordis of our secreit counsale, Hew our said vmquhill rycht traist cousing wes upoun the day of , last by past maist cruellie, shamefullie, and unmercifullie murtherit and slane by Jhonne Conygham of Rois, brother to James erle of Glencarne, Alexander Conygham, brother to Conygham of Polquharne, lytill Johnne Conyngham, servand to the said Johnne; David Conygham of Robertland; Andrew Arnot, zounger of Lochrig; Robert Conygham, sone to Patrick Conygham of Kirkland; Alexander Conygham of Aiket; Williame Conygham, his brother; Patrick Conygham in Bord-

land; Abrahm Conygham, sone naturall to vmquhill Alexander Conygham of Clonebeytht; Johnne Reyburne of that Ilk; Johune Conygham, aliis callit Johnne of Clonebeytht; Patrik Conygham of Corsall; Mungo Mure, son to the laird of Rowallan; David Maxwell of Kilmacolm; Johnne Maxwell, his brother; Patrik Maxwell of Dalquhorne; Allan Faulis, in Fulschawis; Johnne Faullis thair, Johnne Brown in Gaitsyd; Alexander Speir in Brome; Johnne Wylie in Ruchesyd; Robert Craig in Bordland; David Fultoun, zounger in Robertland; Robert Dik in Krokfurd; Johnne Henrie in Lytill Cuttisuray; Robert Henrie in Robertland; Johnne Hart, servitour to Dauid Conygham of Robertland; Hew Quhyt, seruitour to the said Johnne Conygham of Clonebeytht; and Gilbert Dunlop, seruitour to the said Patrik Conygham of Bordland,—and vtheris thair complices, vpoun set purpois, prouision, and foirthogcht fellony. Quhairvpoun, vtheris our letteris being raisit be the said complenairs, and the saidis persones chairgeit thairwith to find souertie to have comperit befoir our justice and his deputis to haue vnderlyne our lawis for the murther foirsaid; they knawand thameselffes to be giltie thairoff, and takand the cryme vpoun thame, refusit to find the said souerties, and wer thairfoir ordurlie denuncit our rebellis and put to our horne; quhairat thai, as fugitiue fra our lawis , maist contempnand, an remane vnrelaxit thairfra: But huntis, frequenttis, resorttis, and repairis to and fra in all pairttis of our skirefdomes of Air, Dunbartoune,

and Renfrou, as thai wer our fre lieges, to the hie and proud contempt of us, our auchoritie, and lawis. . . . . Given under our signet, at Edinburcht the xxvii. day of June, and of our regne the nyntene zeir, 1586."

Lady Margaret Montgomerie, Heiress of Eglinton, p. 29.—This talented and eminently worthy lady has not certainly obtained that consideration from the family annalists which her character and position so obviously entitled her to; nor can the poetical efforts of the showy Montgomerie, to extol her personal and mental qualities, be considered at all of a very successful nature—his ambition has plainly involved him in his usual "tinsely" obscurity.

The following letter, April 13, 1615, to her distinguished son, the Sixth Earl, is at once characteristic of her clear sound judgment, and practical business attainments, whilst the subject of it cannot fail to be interesting to the local historian and antiquary:—

"My verie goode lord and loving sone—I ressauit your letters from Sir Johne Setoun; mervelling mekle that ye schew me not of that accident that fell out be Rowallane and your baillie officiar. Rowallane younger has been heir, and affirmes that thair was no wrang done by his faither, in regaird your officiar came thair quietlye, bot as ane neightbour, and nather kythit nor namit himself ather to be the king his officiar, nor yours; quhilk if it be as he says, and never namit himself to be your *baillie*

officiar, and was not first apprehender of the men, I think there is no wrang done. Bot if it be as Sir William your uncle hes schawin unto us sensyne, and that he not onlie namit himself your officiar, but for declaratioun of the samyn tooke witnessis thairupon, I think he has done wrang. Alwayes I will advyse you not to be instant in that business, till ye try quhither your officiar did his office dewlye or not, and that he had gottin command of your baillie depute or not, quais command if the officiar gat not, Rowallane will be fund in no wrang: notwithstanding, however, in regaird his sone hes been heir, and requeistit both myself and my lord of Wintoun, your brother, to continew the samyn till my Lord Chancellor his comeing to the buriall, at quhilk tyme, if thair be onie wrang done, his faither will, at the sight of your friends, do all satisfactioun thairanent. In the meintyme, wishing you not to lose the gentlemen without it tuiche your honor or priviledge, the continewance of aucht or ten days can be nowayes prejudiciall to onye order that is to be tane thairanent. So I will desyre you to tak exact tryall and the advys of your friends before ye proceid onye farther in that matter. Thair ar too manye to yoke men to trouble, but not half so cairfull or foirseing how they sall ridd them out of it agane. The mother of mischief is no more (as the proverb goeth), than a midgewing. If ye may keip gentlmen, and be repairit to your honour, I think it standeth with credit. So having no forder for the present but my love remembrit unto your self, with

my blissing to your bairnes, committs you to God, and rests,

Your lordship's most loving Mother at power,
MARGARET LADY SETOUN.

ALEXANDER, SIXTH EARL OF EGLINTON, p. 29.—A sufficiently connected and exhaustive history of the earnest struggles for religious and civil liberty in Scotland from the accession of Charles the First to the final triumph of the revolution is still a desideratum in the national annals and until such has been adequately achieved, the claims of the renowned sixth Earl of Eglinton, in common with others of his compeers, must remain under comparative obscurity and disadvantage. In the painfully distracting conjuncture in which occurred what was popularly so well known as the "Unlawful Engagement," Lord Eglinton stood firm with the more advanced liberals in resolutely opposing that mischievous and mistaken project, albeit his near neighbours and long zealous fellow-labourers in the great cause, the Earls of Glencairn and Loudon gave way to the pressing exigences of royalty. The following exceedingly interesting letter respecting this matter, from him to his son, Colonel James Montgomerie, then with the army in Ireland, affords unquestionable evidence of his decided views of sound principle and resolute determination to stand by it under all hazards and extremities, as well as supplies some interesting and curious local particulars. It is dated June 21, 1648:—

"Loveing sonne—I ressaveit your letter, daittit at Craigfergus, the 17 of this instant, schowing me ye ar to have a rendevow the 26 of this instant; and ye schow me it will be known then who will be willing, who will be unwilling. I wish ye be not verrie willing to it; for I see no appeirance thay have Godis direction in thair wayes, and thair is small appeirance they sall have good success to thair intentiones. They have bein most vigorous in plundering of this countrie, and als malicious agains thes that war not against them in the conflict at Mauchling as thais who war against them. Thay have wraickit the pairoch of Beith, and undone my Lord Airds tennantis thair, and several other plaices in the Barronthorrow and Cunninghame alsoe: for the most pairt they have undon thes two schyres; and as for Kyll, it is utterlie vndon. The nobilitie, gentrie, and cuntrie people are soe incenceit at thair proceidings, it will not faill bot will draw to ane mischeif; for the last day that the Parliament sat, they maid ane act of Parliament which is a verrie dangerous ane, both to religion and monarchicall governement, and intendis to caus ane oath to be sworn by the King's subjectis to obey whatevir thay command; quhilk I think will not be don in haist, bot will reddilie move a civill war: Bot I think thay sall gait moir adoe for the forces that was heir; the most pairt of them are directit with Middiltoun, who is Livetenant-Generall now, toward Cairlill, to supplie Sir Marmaduick Londaill, who is in great fear of the forces who hes approchit thair; for Colonell

Lambert is come doun with 2000 hors and 2400 foot, all trained and abill men, and Sir Marmaduick's men ar bot all new takin on. It is certainlie reportid that my lord Fairfax will be thair befoir this letter can come to your handis, with great forces to beseidge Berwick and Cairlill. Be all appearance thair will be hard work; and the unwillingness of our people makis me think the wors of it, and the greit division that is amongist our selves. Thair came in schipes from Holand upon Fryday last, with a great daill of ammunition to the Duick, who is now Generall, and letters schowing that the Prince will be heir schortlie; sum sayes within ten dayes. The Duick's faxion waittit and tuick the merchant packit this last weik, out of some jealousie they tuik that thair was sum people heir gave intelligence to the Inglish what we war doeing heir. Thay find sum to that purpois, but not of that straine thay thought to have fund, bot they seim to mak much of them: as I heir farder of it, I sall schow you efterwards. I doubt not bot ye have hard the certaintie of the conflict at Mauchling. The Live-tenant-Generall, new maid, callit Middiltoun, was evill hurt in the heid, and cutt in thrie pairtis on his back, and verrie hardlie persewit be ane blacksmyth; and Colonel Hurrie evill hurt alsoe on the heid: as for common trouperis, thair was almost als manie slaine as was of the countrie people; bot gif the cuntrie men had had officeris to have commandit them it had not gon as it did; for the ministeris that war with the cuntrie men diswaddit the moist

pairt of the cuntrie people, and maid them goe of the field to eschew scheding of blood. The ministeris war Mr Mathew Mowat, Mr Gabriell Maxwell, and on Mr Wyllie, who is minister at Mauchling. This is the certaintie of all. My Lord Calendar and I had sum discours anent your over comeing, that he had intentioun to ajoyn thes foot to you who war ordeinit for my Lord Cochrane. I know it will bot breid jealosies betwixt my Lord Cochrane and you; thairfoir I think it littil worth; for thay ar bot littil boyes that is bot new put out for souldiours, and will not be vseful for any. Thairfoir I wold not wis you to ingadge for any intysing of that kynd; this I speik reallie as becomes a father; and the half of them will not be gottin out, for all our abile men ar in Irland. I tak God to witnes I deill frilie with you, both for your honour and well, and desyres you to tak the counsall of my Lord Airds, Generall Major Munro, Sir James Montgomerie, and William Schaw, whom I know will deill faithfullie with you, and honoris and respectis you, and spair not to schow my letter to them all, and remember my love and service to them. So wishing you all health and happines, I rest your louing father, EGLINTOUN."

In an additional note to this his lordship makes the following request:—"Gif ye hae gottin any halkis for me send them over, for it is tyme thay war maid [trained?]: your brother has a rid one alreddie. Also caus send thes tuo deir to me that Captain Drumond promised me; and caus scheir sum gras and put in besyd them. What fraught ye agrie for

I sall pay it upon the sicht of your letter what ye agrie for; and gif thair be any mae young anes in the cuntrie speak Bellie Gellie and sum otheris to get me sum. So desyring you to let me heir from you with diligence, I rest your loueing father, EGLINTOUN."

Various notices occur in the family papers indicative of his lordship's attachment to field sports and zeal in the preservation of game—the deer he was so anxious to obtain from Ireland, not improbably, were with a view to the improvement of the stock of those in the old preserve of Little Cumbrae. Soon after the composition of the difficulty regarding his succession to the earldom, he was complimented by the following hunting concession by his majesty James the Sixth:—

"JAMES R.—Right trustie, &c.,—Whereas our seruant John Leuingston hath bene an earnest suitor vnto vs that yee mighte haue license to hauke and hunte in the west cuntries of that our kingdome, wee are well pleased (in respect that our intention was not to debarre anie of your ranke from his honest recreation or lawfull disporte, but onlie to preserve the game in a reasonable estate,) thus far to yealde to your desire, as ye may with long winged haukes, hauke and kille all sortes of foules; absteyning onlie from partridges and moorefoules [rather a serious exception surely], and hunte hares with raches, giuing them faire play, not hunting them with greyhounds: and persuading ourselfe that yee wolde use your pastime no otherwise

although we had made no restraynte, we bid you farewell. At Hinchingbrooke, the 19th of October, 1616."

The following curious epistle may be added as a further illustration of his lordship's devotion to the picturesque pursuits of falconry:—

"The Captain of Arran to Alexander, sixth Earl of Eglintan, February 15th 1618.

My Lord,—Eftir hartly commendatioun and service: Pleis your lordship, your lordship's halk come in this cuntre about a monethe sensyne, quhar my brudder William Hammiltone followit on hir, and socht and serssit hir, and gat hir; and I haf cawst hyme intertyng hir, becaus he was skelid of halkis; and your lordship sall resawe hir als weill in fedder and bene fra me as weill as ewer scho was, and scho had bene wyth a thowsand engels. Ye or one of your lordship's hows may command me in one effaris at lyis in me to your lordship's honor. And I haf causit delyuer hir to your lordship's falconer, and to Neill Mongumro of the Ill of Cumray, your lordship's awin man. And I causit send word to se it to the Lawland to se quha was aucht hir: Not to foche your lordship with langer letter, bot commitis your lordship in the protectioun of the Almichtie God. At Brodick the xv day of Febrewar, the zeir of God jm. vjc. and auchtin zeiris. Your lordship's servitor at power to be commandit, PAUL HAMMYLTONE, Captain of Arran."

"The conflict at Mauchling," so spiritedly depicted above, is still traditionally remembered in

the locality, and is thus alluded to in the Statistical account of the parish:—"There is no tradition of any battle in the parish, except one at Mauchline Muir, between the King's party and the Covenanters, about the year 1647, when the former was defeated and their military chest was found, it is said, many years after, hidden in the ground."

Alexander, Tenth Earl of Eglinton, p. 64.—It can perhaps serve but little purpose now more particularly to recur to the unfortunate circumstances which led to the death of the truly worthy and patriotic tenth Earl of Eglinton, further it may be than a legitimate historical curiosity may seem to demand. Popular feeling for a long time subsequently rendered it quite impossible that any sober impartial consideration of the occurrence could be attended to or considered. Time, however, the great corrector of error and subduer of passion, has long greatly modified these misguiding influences; and now, that the whole facts and circumstances of the case have been fully investigated and established, let us trust that future times may duly profit by the solemn and grave lesson which they afford.

Campbell, the unhappy agent in this deplorable catastrophe, was still certainly by no means a person of a deeply depraved or vicious character; on the contrary, he would appear throughout his whole life to have been animated with a proper ambition

to maintain a position in society suitable to his respectable origin and education. The following abstract of a biographical outline of his career, as adduced by counsel on his trial is probably not far wide of the facts, though doubtless some allowance may be made for the manner in which it is set forth, as coming from an able advocate greatly interested professionally in his cause :—

"The panel [Campbell] was born in Air in 1712. He was one of twenty-four children. His father was Mungo Campbell, late Provost of Air ; a man much respected in his time as a merchant and a magistrate. He had likewise the advantage of a most honourable birth, being descended, both by father and mother, of the ancient and noble families of Cessnock (now Marchmont), Loudon, and Argyle.

. . . .

"The panel, who was an infant at his father's death, was taken care of by his godfather, Cornet Mungo Campbell," at whose death he fell under the care of "Mr Campbell of Netherplace, who took him into his family, and educated him as he did his own sons, till he was about 18 years of age.

"The panel [now] determined to go into the army, as he had not money to carry on trade, or breed him to any of the learned professions," with the fond hope that good conduct and activity might procure him preferment ; "but in this he was disappointed ; for twelve long years did he serve, and expose himself in the battle of Dettingen and other engagements, unrewarded." Thus seeing no pro-

spect of a realization of his hopes and expectations, he at last "applied for and obtained his discharge from the service"—his Majesty's royal regiment of North-British dragoons. . . .

"Upon obtaining his discharge, the panel returned to Scotland, in 1745, when he found his countrymen in arms against one another. His chief and kinsman, the Earl of Loudon, did him the honour to countenance him, and the panel accompanied his lordship to the Highlands in that year. After their return, Lord Loudon procured him a commission as an officer of excise, with a recommendation, which the panel earnestly desired, to station him somewhere in Ayrshire, that he might be near his friends. . . .

"Upon this duty he entered in 1746, and was first stationed at Newmills, in Ayrshire, from which he was removed to Stewarton, from Stewarton to Irvine, and from Irvine to Saltcoats; all places in the shyre of Ayr, in which the panel chose to remain on account of his love to the *natale solum*. . .

"The character of an excise officer is by no means popular in this country, yet the panel conducted himself so as to be well liked and countenanced by all ranks of people. To the poor he cannot say he was liberal, for he had but little to give. His income was narrow; but as he had no family, till very lately, he had something to spare. What he gave, trifle as it was, he gave with compassion. . . . . and he must do himself the justice to say, that, die when he may, he will be

regretted by all the inhabitants of every village in which he had occasion to reside. As for the gentlemen of rank in the different parts of the country where he lived, he was by birth their equal, by education not their inferior, by his behaviour not their disgrace ; and he always kept their company, and received from them all the marks of friendship and esteem. . . . He had licenses to hunt upon their grounds, if he inclined, from most of them; particularly the Earl of Marchmont's commissioner, the Earl of Loudon, Mr Alexander of Boydstone, Dr Hunter of Montfod, and many others,"

A very general and not a little singular scepticism, especially in Ayrshire, appears to have affected the public mind as to the precise manner of this unhappy man's final end, the undoubted particulars of which, however, are given by a contemporary observer, as follows :—

"Campbell committed suicide in the prison the morning after the trial. This gave rise to a report long current, and extensively believed amongst the lower classes in Ayrshire, that Campbell, who was well connected, had, through powerful influence, been allowed to escape from jail and flee the country. The truth of the matter is, however, that he hanged himself in prison the day after his trial, and that his body was about to be given to the professor of anatomy for dissection, when his counsel interfered and prevented it, on the plea that dissection was not a legal penality for suicide. The body was then privately buried under Salisbury Craigs. But the

Edinburgh rabble discovered the grave, took out the body, and tossed it about till they were tired. To prevent further indecency and outrage, Campbell's friends caused the body to be sunk in the sea."—*Caldwell Papers, apud Eglinton Memorials, I. p.* 127.

Hugh, Twelfth Earl of Eglinton, p. 81.—The zeal and energy with which the patriotic founder of Ardrossan prosecuted his gigantic undertaking, has seldom been equalled, perhaps never surpassed, either in ancient or modern times. The magnificent outer sea-wall, or pier, of the harbour appears to have been nearly completed within two years from the time of laying the foundation stone, in 1806. At first his lordship was joined by a certain number of subscribers to the enterprise; but the prospect of success, in the public eye, seemed so dark and discouraging, that this source of aid made but little progress, and soon afterwards he became sole proprietor. Under these circumstances the heroic projector, seems to have turned his thoughts, if possibly he might induce the Government to join him on national grounds; but, as usual with that quarter, only to reap disappointment and chagrin. The following letter of his lordship's to his solicitor in London, Mr Alexander Mundell, on this point, becomes an interesting record of his ardent and indomitable struggles towards the creation and establishment of the now beautiful and flourishing harbour of Ardrossan:—

Eglinton Castle, 22d May, 1808.

"Dear Sir,—The copy of Mr. Rickman's letter,

Secretary to the Commissioners for Highland Roads and Bridges, to you, is exactly what I expected, from the style of the former correspondence. From the first appearance of the matter, the prejudice against the Harbour of Ardrossan was evident, and the partiality to others, without considering or comparing the advantages to be derived from either in a national point of view. Had the Commissioners really wished to know the benefit to be derived from this harbour being completed, with the consequent junction of the canal with it—had they wished to know in what state of forwardness the works carrying on there were, they would have employed some person in whom they had confidence, to go to the place and see what was done. They then would have known that the greatest part of a beautiful and extensive pier was already built; and would have seen with surprise the kind of work, and the exertions made by a few individuals, who, whatever they (the Commissioners) may think of the matter, came forward at considerable risk, not from private advantage to themselves, but from public spirit, and considering the undertaking as peculiarly beneficial to the country at large,—but to the west of Scotland in particular. It is true, in everything of this nature, subscribers do, and must expect some return for the money they advance and the risk they run; further than this, the subscribers to the Ardrossan Harbour disavow every selfish principle.

"The bay of Ardrossan being upon my property, it may be considered self-interest in me. It is well

known to you, that when I first considered a canal to be brought from Glasgow as beneficial to the country, such a place as Ardrossan was not known, nor had anybody an idea of its being capable of being made a harbour. The line proposed was from Glasgow to whatever part of the coast of Ayrshire a proper harbour could be found. Before I quit this part of the subject, I must observe upon the modest request of the Commissioners, of requiring, as a condition, to know what is the least sum which would induce the parties to complete the desired work. They, themselves, acknowledge that it would be a small portion of the total expenditure which could possibly be afforded to the harbour of Ardrossan. Yet they think themselves entitled to demand an assurance that the whole of the work shall be completed by the subscribers, on the Commissioners advancing a thousand pounds or two of public money! Whether, in this situation, have the subscribers or the Commissioners most at stake in having the whole work completed?

"I have now the satisfaction to inform you, that Lord Cathcart, commanding His Majesty's forces in North Britain, has a very different view of the subject. His lordship not only sent professional people to examine and report, but went himself to see it. In consequence, I have received a letter from his lordship to inform me, that having for sometime entertained sanguine expectations that the harbour and pier of Ardrossan would prove the most eligible point in North Britain for embarking troops

for Ireland, and *vice versa*—that he had directed Lieutenant Flyn, agent for transports, to go there, examine the state of the pier, and to ascertain whether tonnage could be procured at Ardrossan to carry the 42nd Regiment from thence to Ireland—that he had received a very favourable report from Lieutenant Flyn, also stating that he had secured vessels. Everything is now ready for embarking, and the whole of the regiment may be embarked in one day with ease; as the regiment may march from Glasgow in two divisions—one division to be at Stewarton, and the other at Beith, the first night. By this means both may arrive at Ardrossan and be embarked the same day. I will write you upon the Crinan Rock, &c., probably by to-morrow's post. You are mistaken in some points with regard to it. Nautical men have but one opinion upon it. I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

EGLINTON.

THE BURNS FESTIVAL, p. 94.—The following is the felicitous address of the late Lord Eglinton in moving the primary sentiment at this great commemorative ovation—"The memory of Burns;" and which, notwithstanding the magnificent and matchless oration pronounced by the late talented and distinguished Professor Wilson, seemed, at least for the moment, to carry away with it the entire heart and feeling of the vast assemblage to whom it was expressed:—

"Ladies and Gentlemen,—The subject of the toast which

I have now the honour to bring before your notice, is one of such paramount importance on this occasion, and is so deeply interesting, not only to those whom I am addressing, but to all to whom genius is dear, that I could have wished that it had been committed to more worthy hands; more especially when I see the great assemblage collected here—the distinguished persons who grace our board to-day. It is only because I conceive that my official position renders me the most formal and fitting, though most inefficient, mouthpiece of the inhabitants of this county, that I have ventured to present myself before you on this occasion, and to undertake the onerous, though most gratifying duty of proposing, in such an assemblage, the thrilling toast—"The Memory of Burns." This is not a meeting for the purpose of recreation and amusement—it is not a banquet at which a certain number of toasts are placed on paper, which must be received with due marks of approbation—it is the enthusiastic desire of a whole people to pay honour to their greatest countryman. It is the spontaneous outpouring of a nation's feeling towards the illustrious dead, and the wish to extend the hand of welcome and of friendship to those whom he has left behind. Here on the very spot where the Poet first drew breath, on the very ground which his genius has hallowed, beside the Old Kirk which his verse has immortalized, beneath the monument which an admiring and repentent people have raised to his memory, we meet after the lapse of years, to pay our homage at the shrine of genius. The master-mind who has sung the "Isle of Palms"—who has revelled in the immortal "Noctes"—and who has already done that justice to the memory of Burns which a brother poet alone can do—Christopher himself is here, anxious to pay his tribute of admiration to a kindred spirit. The historian who has depicted, with a Gibbon's hand, the eventful period of the French empire, and the glorious victories of Wellington, is here—a Clio, as it were, offering a garland to Erato. The distinguished head of the Scottish bench is here. In short, every

town and every district, every class and every age, has come forward to pay homage to their poet. The honest lads whom he so praised, and whose greatest boast it is that they belong to the land of Burns, are here. The fair lasses whom he so loved and sung, have flocked hither to justify, by their loveliness, the poet's words. While the descendant of those who dwelt in the "Castle o' Montgomerie," feels himself only too highly honoured by being permitted to propose the memory of him who wandered then unknown along the banks of Fail. How little could the pious old man who dwelt in yon humble cottage, when he read the "big ha' bible"—"his lyart haffets wearing thin and bare"—have guessed that the infant prattling on his knee was to be the pride and admiration of his country; that that infant was to be enrolled a chief among the poetic band; that he was to take his place as one of the brightest planets that glitter round the mighty sun of the Bard of Avon! In originality second to none, in the fervent expression of deep feeling, and in the keen perception of the beauties of nature, equal to any who ever revelled in the bright fairy land of poesy. Well may we rejoice that Burns is our own—well may we rejoice that no other land can claim to be the birthplace of our Homer other than the hallowed spot on which we stand! Oh! that he could have foreseen the futurity of fame he has created to himself—oh! that he could have foreseen this day, when the poet and the historian, the manly and the fair, the peer and the peasant, vie with each other in paying their tribute of admiration to the untaught but mighty genius whom we hail as the first of Scottish poets! It might have alleviated the dreary days of his sojourn at Mossgiel—it might have lightened the last hours of his pilgrimage on earth. And well does he deserve such homage. He who portrayed the "Cottar's Saturday Night" in strains that are unrivalled in simplicity, and yet full of fervour—in solemnity, and in truth—He who breathed forth the patriotic words which tell of the glories of Wallace, and immortalize alike the poet and the hero—He who culled

inspiration from the modest daisy, and yet thundered forth the heroic strains of "The Song of Death"—He who murmured words which appear the very incarnation of poetry and of love, and yet hurled forth the bitterest shafts of satire—a Poet by the hand of nature, despising, as it were, the rules of art, and yet triumphant over those very rules which he set at nought—at whose name every Scottish heart beats high—whose name has become the household word in the cottage as in the palace—to whom shall we pay our homage, of whom shall we be proud, if it is not our own immortal Burns? But I feel that I am detaining you too long. I feel that in the presence of a Wilson and an Alison, I am not a fit person to dilate upon the genius of Burns. I am but an admirer of the poet like yourselves. There are those present who are brother poets and geniuses—men who, like Burns, have gained for themselves a glorious immortality. To them will I commit the grateful task of more fully displaying before you, decked out by their eloquence, the excellencies of the poet, the genius of the man, and to welcome his sons to the land of their father: and I will only ask you, in their presence—on the ground which his genius has rendered sacred—on the "banks and braes o' bonny Doon"—to join with me in drinking an overflowing bumper, and giving it every expression of enthusiasm which you can, to "The Memory of Burns!"

THE END