

SCOTTISH NOTES AND QUERIES

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ABERDEEN, MAY, 1888.

PERSONAL NOTE.

THE close of our first year’s work warrants a few words about ourselves, and we are pleased to note that the experiment has in most respects justified itself. Our anticipations of a friendly reception have not been deceived. Pleasant things have been said of us, both in the public Press and privately, to encourage us to go on. We are grateful for this, and especially do we owe the numerous contributors of notes and queries who, for love, have so ably helped to invest our columns with real interest. Many articles have appeared that will, we trust, be found to be of permanent value. One complaint, and a just one, has been urged against us, and that is that we are too local in character. We have felt this; but whilst we have cultivated every prospect of *de*-localizing ourselves, we cannot and would not desire wholly to divest ourselves of a degree of local interest. Indeed it is to such provincial publications that we look for the embodying of information that would be otherwise neglected and eventually lost. We had to begin somewhere, but to judge by the way our little Argus is feeling its way about, we anti-

pate a growing breadth of interest-area for our subject matter. The fact of our having had to reprint the first three numbers, and to enlarge several late numbers, are far more pleasing proofs of growing favour than of financial results. We start on our new voyage with more confidence than last, feeling assured of having gained the ear of an appreciative and sympathetic auditory.

We have been urged on various hands to a more frequent issue—fortnightly at least—as a period not too long to permit the interest to flag, and not too short to admit of well considered replies. We think, however, that this proposal may stand aside probably for a year. The only alteration we intend to make is to keep at least 16 pages of literary matter free from the intrusion of advertisements. On this new footing we invite the renewal of old and the addition of new subscribers, for the ensuing year.

THE EDITOR.

THE AUMBRY AT MONYMUSK.

IN trying to fix the date of this small but interesting architectural feature, it may be well to say a few words as to the progress of the lands of Monymusk and their possessors from the time of their first mention in our records.

They are said to have been granted by King Malcolm in the eleventh century to the Priory—afterwards Bishopric—of St. Andrews, but, later, we find a Priory existing at Monymusk itself, and endowed with ample territory for its maintenance, of which the barony of Monymusk formed an important part. Towards the end of the thirteenth century, a family, taking its name from the lands, appears in the records, holding, of course, from the Prior as over-lord, but its last male representative, Sir John Monymusk of that ilk, died before the year 1400. After this there is not, I believe, any distinct evidence that the land was held by any family, continuously, as vassals of the Priory, until the year 1549, when the Prior David and his coadjutor made over

the manor of Monymusk and its pertinents by charter to Duncan Forbes (called in the deed "magister") and his wife Agnes Gray, for a rent, to be paid (a rather unusual thing) in money only, viz., consideration of a sum of money down, and a yearly rent—24 pounds Scots for the manor or mains (manerie) and 13 ducats (solidorum) and 4 pence (denariorum) for the other lands, with certain reservations by the Prior, in consideration of the fact that "the place and monastery, called Priory of Monymusk, now stands uninhabited and ruined. . . also as no residence or house fit for present habitation exists in propinquity to the said Monastery—that the ruinous edifices should be rebuilt, and, also for the increasing of the revenue of the said Monastery," &c., &c. (See the Charters, printed in Collection for the shires of Aberdeen, *sub voce* "Religious Houses," p. 179 *et infra*). The charter states that the Priory had already received considerable sums from Duncan, besides valuable services in the conduct of their affairs.

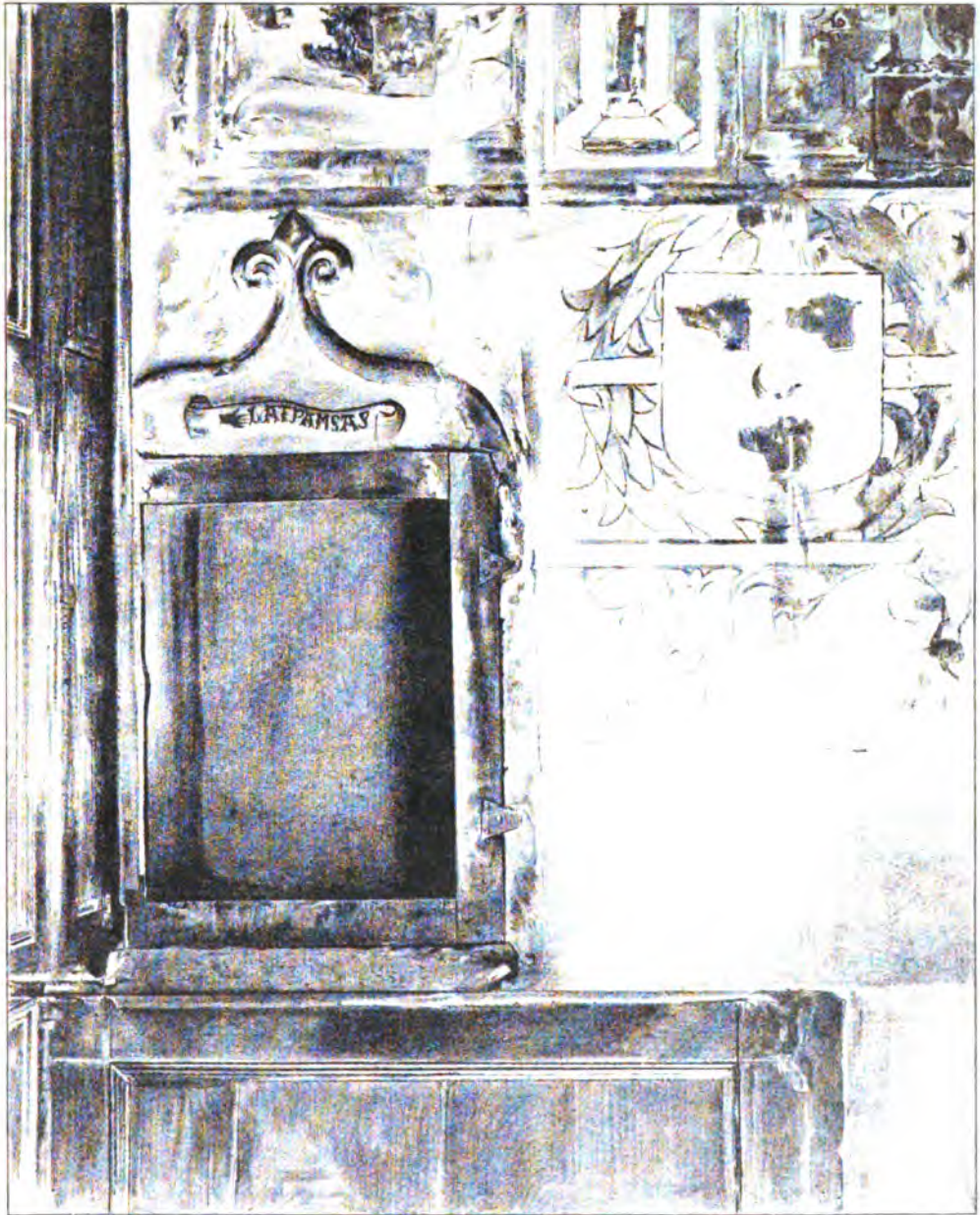
This evidence disposes of the tradition that "this Priory was seized by Duncan, son to [William] Forbes of Corsinda, who, it seems, built the manour of Monimusk out of the stones of this Monastery, and founded the family of Forbes of Monimusk, baronet." There were some half truths in the legend, but tradition, as is too often the case, had distorted and falsified the facts. Duncan Forbes died in 1587, and it was his son and successor, William Forbes, who had a charter from "Robert, Commendator off Monymusk," of "the whole ruined houses and buildings of the said Monastery," with some ground adjoining them, which had been reserved by the Prior in the sale to Duncan Forbes. If, then, the Castle of Monymusk was built entirely from the materials of the ruined Priory buildings it must certainly have been the work of William Forbes, the second laird. There is nothing in the state of the architecture to make this impossible, and it is worthy of remark that, in the charter to Duncan Forbes and Agnes Gray, there is no mention of any "tower or fortalice," while in the charter by the Canons, confirming that of the Prior and Coadjutor, and which is in the vernacular, they speak only of "our landis off the Manis of Munymosk, with their pendiclis and pertinents." We have no direct evidence from other sources that Duncan Forbes built at Monymusk, but I confess that I think it likely that he did, and that William had carried on his father's work.

On the same wall in which the Aumbry is placed are a series of heraldic decorations, which are interesting, and may help a little towards probabilities. Over the fireplace in the centre,

the place of honour is assigned to the arms of Agnes Gray (daughter of Baillie William Gray of Aberdeen, one of the Grays of Schives), with her initials. Higher up, on the right, are those of her husband, with the initials M. D. F. (Magister Duncan Forbes). To the left of the fireplace, between it and the Aumbry, which is in the corner, are the Forbes arms again, being those of William Forbes, son of Duncan and Agnes, which are balanced on the other side of the fireplace by those of his wife, a daughter of the Earl of Angus. Above the Aumbry is a Shield bearing the arms of England and France, quarterly, which appears to have been painted over another coat. These last are on the same line (I think) as those of Mr. Duncan Forbes. There are the remains of an inscription in large letters above the arms of Agnes Gray, which probably read "God Save the King," or something similar. I think it probable that the Royal arms of Scotland had been over it, but the upper part of the painting has been so obliterated, partly, no doubt, in putting up the plaster cornice in the last century, that it is impossible to make out what had been there, while the cornice covers a considerable depth of wall. It is believed that Agnes Gray brought her husband a considerable fortune, and this is probable from the way in which her name occurs in the charter of sale, and also from the prominent position which her arms occupy amid the heraldic decorations. The date which is incorporated with them is 1618, but it seems to me that the painting, in some of its details, is of different dates, and that it is possible the arms of Agnes Gray were placed there by her husband. If this were so, then the placing of the "aumbry" would be referable to Duncan Forbes, assuming that there was no ruinous building there before his time, which had been built on by him. But there is a feature connected with the "aumbry" which makes it likely that it is not now as it was originally. The four stones which enclose the opening, that is the lintel, the jambs, and the stone crossing below the jambs, are of quite a different character and appearance from the ogee-shaped and floriated stone which tops the whole, and the narrow stones outside of those which I am describing, and which are evidently the original sides, &c., of the "aumbry." As regards the Aumbry itself, I would venture to suggest three possible origins, and hope that they may draw remarks from some of your readers more competent to pronounce judgment:—

First,—That Duncan Forbes and Agnes Gray built the earlier part of the castle and put in the aumbry,—reason for the motto thereon unknown.

Second,—That their son, William, having purchased the materials of the ruined priory, built



AUMBRY AT MONYMUSK HOUSE

W. Jolly & Sons, Amr.

the main castle and put in the aumbry, possibly brought from the priory, and the motto added.

Third,—That the painting on the walls was first done by William, 2nd Laird, who, Douglas says, “died before 1618”—(*Baronage*, p. 40,—but gives no authority)—when he built the house, and was possibly done up afresh and date added by William, 3rd Laird and 1st Baronet, in 1618, who may have re-lined the aumbry. There is another view of the thing which *might* be taken, that, as there is no indication of *hinges* to the aumbry, it seems to have been intended, latterly, at least, after the fitting in of the four stones above mentioned, to be open. Could it therefore have been used by the Forbeses as a niche for a crucifix, an image of the Virgin, or such like? The motto would then have a meaning. I do not know whether there is any record of the Forbeses of Monymusk being dealt with by the Presbytery,—but I remember that, in the *Life of George Lesley, Capuchin*, called “Archangel,” there is mention of a chapel in the *Castle of Monymusk*, where that veracious biography tells us that Lesley lived with his mother. As, however, that lady was wife to the Laird of *Balquhain*, there seems some confusion not quite explainable.

The year 1618 saw much building and remodelling in the district, at Castle Fraser, Drum, Craigievar, &c., and to this date I would venture to ascribe the high square turret at Monymusk, intended for a view not for defence. I hope some one versed in old alphabetical character will give an opinion as to the date of those of the inscription—“Latyamsay.” I have, I fear, forgotten a good deal,—but I think they might well go back to the year 1500, and the “ogee” might be earlier.

C. E. DALRYMPLE.

THE ABERDEEN PRINTERS.

EDWARD RABAN TO JAMES NICOL.

1620-1736.

(Continued from p. 171.)

JAMES BROWN.

1650.

REASONS OF A Fast, | Appoynted by the Commission | of the Generall Assemblie: | To bee kept through all the Kirks of this | Kingdom, on the Lords Day; | December 22. 1650. |
4°. No titlepage. A—D°. pp. 1-15, last verso is blank.

In a volume of Pamphlets which formerly belonged to Andrew Cant, his name being on many of them. From the Whitefoord Mackenzie library.

A. D. Morice, Esq.

THESES, 1649-50. See *A. P.*, p. 83. For James Cromie, read James Browne. This correction removes all difficulty from the extract given at the above reference.

JOHN FORBES, AND JOHN FORBES, YOUNGER.

In the *A. P.*, p. lv., the return made by Forbes, for the Poll Tax of 1696, is given. The under-noted is for the year 1699, from the original document in the possession of Mr. A. M. Munro.

“John Forbes printer in Aber. hath no fortoune but for printing presses printing letters books and othr household plenishing betuix 500 marks scots and 5000 thousand

hath a wife and 5 children

hath ane servant lass who gets 14 marks yeirly

JOHN FORBES”

[Docket] “Poll | John Forbes | Printer | 1699 | 5”

1662.

COVENANT, General Demands, &c. See *A. P.*, pp. 101, 103-104, 215-216. Professor Robert Forbes’s Petition at the last reference, led to the passing of an Act of Parliament, 12 and 13 Charles II. Cap. 365.

FORBES, *John*. Cantus, | Songs and Fancies. | To Thre, Foure, or | Five Partes, | both apt for Voices | and Viols. | With a briefe Introduc- | tion of Musick, As is taught in the Mu- | sick-Schole of Aber- | dene by T. D. Mr. | of Musick. |

Aberdene | Printed by Iohn Forbes, and are to be sold at his | Shop. Anno Dom. M, DC, LXII. |

Oblong 4° 2 ll. + ¶, ¶¶, ¶¶¶, ¶¶¶¶, A-Bb, two leaves each. 1^a Title, within quaint woodcut border, as in 2nd and 3rd editions. 1^b, Bon-Accord Arms with w. G., one letter on each side. 2—¶1^a pp. [3]. Dedication to Provost William Gray, and to the Baillies and Councillors of Aberdeen. Signed Iohn Forbes. ¶1^b Woodcut of hand. ¶2^a The Scale of the Gam. ¶2^b—¶¶¶ 2^b pp. [13]. Treatise on Music. A—Bb2 Cantus. The last two pages, and part of the third from end, are occupied with a Table. There is no paging. There are 61 songs in all in this edition. See *A. P.*, p. 101. *Britwell.*

1663.

PROGRAMS for a Master to the Grammar School, ordered to be printed.

Aberdeen Council Register, vol. liv. p. 424.

1666.

PSALM Tunes. [Psalmes Tunes to four voices.] Obl. 4°. Eight leaves. 1^a I Old Common Tune, 1^b II Kings Tune, 2^a III Dukes Tune, 2^b IV English Tune, 3^a V French Tune, 3^b VI London Tune, 4^a VII Stilt Tune, 4^b VIII Dumfermling Tune, 5^a IX Dundie Tune, 5^b X Abbay Tune, 6^a XI Martyrs Tune, 6^b XII Elgine Tune, 7^a Bon-Accord Tune, 7^b Psal. XXV. I lift mine heart to thee [Tribble Counter], 8^a Psal. XXV. [Tenor Bassus], 8^b [Arms of the City of Aberdeen] “Aberdene, Printed by Iohn Forbes, | and are to be sold at his Shop, 1666. | ” underneath the woodcut.

There is no titlepage, and there is neither paging, catchwords, or signatures. See *A. P.* p. 107. David Laing’s copy, now at

Britwell.

1669.

PROGRAMS for a Master to the Grammar School, ordered to be printed.

Aberdeen Council Register, vol. lv. p. 178.

1674.

ALMANAC. A New | Prognostication, | For this Year of our Redemption, 1674. | Being the second after Leap-Year. | Wherein is containd fully, the whole State | of the Year, (according to custom.) | Serving most fitly for the whole Kingdom of Scotland, but especially for the Meridian and Latitude of the honorable City of Aberdeen, | whose Lat. is 57 degr. 12 min. Long. 22 d. 30. m. | Set forth by an Ancient and expert Mathematician.

[Arms of the City of Aberdeen, with initials R F one letter on each side. Along the side of the woodcut—]

For this year.—No Almanacks are from Aberdeen, But where there Armes are to be seen :

It having been our Badge of Old Of Loyaltie, and Bon-Accord.

[At foot of the page—]

Printed in Aberdeen, by Iohn Forbes younger, 1674. |

Octavo. A fragment, consisting of one leaf ; recto, title-page as above, verso "The Vulgar Notes for this year," and "A Chronology of some remarkable Battells."

A. D. Morice, Esq.

1675.

QUAKERISM Canvassed, &c. See *A.P.* p. 120.

From the last paragraph on p. 134 of "Quakerism Canvassed," it appears that the work was not printed at Aberdeen. "We shall conclude with the Reason, why this small treatise came no sooner abroad ; it is not any defect on our part, who, as the Printers with whom we dealt and also several other Gentlemen who were privy to our transactions, can declare, offered them long since to the Press, yea, and within lesse then eight dayes after the Q[ua]kers published their counterfeit Narration, we offered them to the Printer at *Aberdene* : but the real cause is the many difficulties we have met with at the Press, being forced to Print at a great distance, and for a long time to exchange Letters with our printers there, before we could bargain with them."

1679.

PROGRAMS for a Master to the Grammar School, ordered to be printed.

Aberdeen Council Register, vol. lvi. p. 418.

1681.

FORBES, *John*. Festival | Songs | Or, Certain | Hymns, | Adopted to the principall | Christian Solemnities, of, | Christmas, the Passion, | Easter, the Ascension | and Pentecost. | Whereunto are adjoined | some Lines of a | Letany. | By Iohn Forbes | Printer to the famous Ci- | ty of Bon-Accord, | and University. |

Printed by the | Author, 1681. |

Octavo, printed in black, italic, and roman letter, with paging, catchwords, and signatures A—C^a. Col-lation :—A1^a, woodcut ornament with signature letter A in centre ; A1^b, Arms of the City of Aberdeen, with the verses underneath—"Apelles, staring long," &c. ; A2^a, Title within a rich architectural border, at foot of the page signed A2 ; verso blank, A 3-4 pp. 6—8 (p. 6 is on A3^b). To the Christian Reader, signed Iohn Forbes. B1—C4 pp. 9—24, the hymns. For an account of this work, see "Bards of Bon-Accord," by William Walker, p. 642.

From the Whitefoord Mackenzie Library, and be- lieved to be unique.

A. D. Morice, Esq.

1682.

PROGRAMS for a Master to the Grammar School, ordered to be printed.

Aberdeen, Council Register, vol. lvi. p. 656.

1686.

BURNET, *Thomas*. Thesis.

"Thomas Burnet, professor of philosophy, pub- lished a Thesis at Aberdeen in 1686."

Edinburgh Academical Annual for 1840.

TABLE of Customs. *A. P.* p. 125. The order to print is minuted in Council Register, vol. lvi. p. 400.

TABLE of Dues. See *A. P.* p. 222. The order to print is minuted in Council Register, vol. lvi. p. 404.

1687.

ALMANAC. Vox Uranie, | Or, | Aberdeen's true Astral Gazet : | And Nevv | Prognostication, | For the Year of our Lord, 1687. | Calculated exactly from Mr. Iohn Gadbury's Ephemerides and the best Tables, (with approbation) for the Use | of this An- cient Kingdom of Scotland : | cum Aliis Necessariis. | [Woodcut of the Arms of the City of Aberdeen, with the following two lines running along the right hand side of the cut.]

O King of Kings ! preserve Our Gracious King, | And let His Kingdoms flourish in His Reign. | [Underneath the cut] Printed in Aberdeen by Iohn Forbes, Printer to that | Famous City and Kings- University, cum privilegio. |

Octavo, eight leaves, 1^a Title, 1^b Moveable Feasts &c, 2-3 wanting, 4^a Termly Quarters, Head-Courts, Dismall Days, &c. 4^b Tyde-Table, 5-8^a Notes for each month, &c, 8^b Advertisements of Fairs.

The tract closes with this announcement :—"As for the rest of the Fairs in the Kingdom of Scotland, they are all printed into a book by themselves, with the *Iewes Everlasting Almanack*, or *Countrie-Mans Guid*, according to their several shyes, which are to be sold by our noble Chapmen for 16d. F:16N817S quod FORBES. God save the KING."

See *A. P.* p. 137.

J. C. Ogilvie-Forbes, Esq.
of *Boyndlie*.

1689.

HIS MAJESTY'S SPEECH. His Majesty's | Most Gracious | Speech. | In the House of Lords, To the Lords and Commons Assembled at Westminster | the Eighteenth Day of February, 1688. |

[At foot] Reprinted in the Year. 1689. |

Folio. Broadsheet, 1 leaf verso blank. No place or printer's name, but Aberdeen, Iohn Forbes, Yr.

Earl of Erroll,

Slains Castle.

PROCLAMATION. A Proclamation | For Adjourning the Parliament from the eighth of October next, to the twentieth of December thereafter. |

Folio. Broadsheet, 1 leaf verso blank, no place or printer's name, but Aberdeen, Iohn Forbes, Yr.

Earl of Erroll,

Slains Castle.

1692.

ALMANAC. Vox Uranie, | Or, Aberdeen's true Astral Gazet, | And New | Prognostication, | For the

Year of our Lord, 1692. | Being Bisextile or Leap Year. |

Now, when the Year doth Leap,
Beware of Shrews and Sheep.

Exactly calculated according to Art, for the Meridian of the famous City of Aberdeen, | whose Latitude is 57 deg. 10 min. serving in | general for the use of this Ancient King- | dom of Scotland. | Ps. LXXII. | [Woodcut of David, enthroned, playing the harp.]

Lord give thy Judgements to
the King ;
therein instruct Him well ;
And with his Royal Princely Queen
Lord let thy Justice dwell.
That They may govern uprightly,
and rule these Lands aright ;
And so defend with Equity,
the Poor which have no Might.

O Lord of Hosts, look down upon these Lands,
And still preserve Us, from our En'mies Hands.

Printed in Aberdeen by John Forbes, | Printer to the City and University. |

Octavo, eight leaves. | 1^a Title, 1^b-2^a Notes of the moveable Feasts, Eclipses, and Seasons. 2^b-3^a Termly Quarters, Head Courts, and Computation of Time. 3^b "The Anatomie of Man's Bodie, as the parts thereof are said to be governed by the twelve Cœlestial Signs of the Zodiack," with a woodcut 4^a Tide table. 4^b-7^b Notes on the Months, 8^a New Fairs, 8^b "An Ancient Prediction, for the year 1692" in verse. At the foot of the page "Finis quod Forbes, | God Save King William and Queen Mary. | Post Bellum Pax, Amen." | A. D. Morice, Esq.

1699.

PROGRAMS for a Master to the Grammar School, ordered to be printed.

Aberdeen Council Register, vol. lvii. p. 457.

1700.

PROGRAM for Grammar School, ordered to be printed 23d Oct. 1700.

Aberdeen Council Register, vol. lvii. p. 756.

KEITH FAMILY. "A short relation of the origin of the Keiths in Scotland, with a list of the predecessors of the present earl Marischal of that Kingdome, being ane abstract of the history of that noble family, Anno Domini 1690.

Aberdeen, X die Aprilis, An. Dom. 1700."

Chambers's Eminent Scotsmen, 1st Ed. iii. 295, note.

1700.

[RECEIPT for Subsidy Tax.] "At Aberdeen the day of 170 years, . . . [End] from Whitsunday 1699, to Whitsunday 1700 years. I say, Received by" Slip of paper, oblong, measuring 8 x 2½ inches. Printed on one side.

1703.

ALMANAC. Gloria Deo in Excelsis. | Good News from the Stars. 1703. | Or, Aberdeen's New | Prognostication |.

Aberdeen . . . John Forbes . . . |

Library of Society of Antiquaries, Scotland.

J. P. EDMOND.

62 Bon-Accord Street, Aberdeen.

(To be continued.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF INVERNESS NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS.

(Continued from page 169.)

1849. *The Inverness Advertiser, Ross-shire Chronicle, and General Gazette for the Counties of Elgin, Nairn, Cromarty, Sutherland, Caithness, and the Isles.* Price 4½d., stamped. A weekly newspaper of 8 pages double crown folio. The first number was issued on 19th June, 1849, bearing imprint—"Printed every Tuesday Morning, by Gavin Tait, and published by him for the Proprietor, James M'Cosh." Mr. M'Cosh came to Inverness from Dundee, where he had conducted the *Northern Warder*. He was well known on the Evangelical side of the Non-intrusion controversy. *The Wheat and the Chaff*, a pamphlet which he published at the Disruption, exposing the flaming profession as Non-intrusionists of many of those who remained in the Church of Scotland, is well known to collectors. The success of the *Advertiser* was great, but Mr. M'Cosh lived only for a few months after its start. On his death it was carried on by his representatives, the editorship being undertaken temporarily by Mr. Thomas Mulock, father of the late Mrs. Craik, authoress of *John Halifax, Gentleman*, and numerous other works. Mr. Mulock had first brought himself into notice in the North by a series of letters and articles which appeared in the *Advertiser* on Highland evictions. These articles were afterwards reprinted (1850) under the title *The Western Highlands and Islands of Scotland Socially Considered with reference to Proprietors and People*. Those fond of pursuing researches into the byeways of literature will find an interesting notice of Thomas Mulock, as founder of a new religious sect, in *Tait's Edinburgh Magazine* (circa 1844),—his rough treatment by a mob of students at Oxford, and his attempts to propagate his peculiar views in the Pottery districts. I think the paper was written by William Howitt. In 1850 the *Advertiser* was purchased from the relatives of Mr. M'Cosh by the late George France of Silverwells, Inverness, the number of 8th October of that year being the first with his name as proprietor. He had successively as editors Mr. Dundas Scott, a translator of several works from the French; Mr. Robert Gossip, now connected with the newspaper press in Glasgow; and latterly Mr. J. B. Gillies, now a printer, and town councillor of Edinburgh. In November, 1855, the plant and copyright of the *Advertiser* was bought by the late Ebenezer Forsyth, who before coming to Inverness had connection with several newspapers in Edinburgh. For upwards of a year after this purchase the *Advertiser* was edited by Mr. Donald MacLennan, now a Barrister in London, when Mr. Forsyth took the reins of office, and retained the same till his death, in May, 1873. He was succeeded by his son, W. Banks Forsyth, who conducted the paper till it was discontinued in December, 1885, when the copyright was purchased by the pro-

prietors of the *Inverness Courier*. The *Advertiser*, it may be noted, was issued from its commencement on 19th June, 1849, till 3rd February, 1860, as a weekly paper. From this last date till 16th September, 1882, as a tri-weekly (Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday). The Saturday issue was numbered independently, and in this day's publication, it may be mentioned, first appeared the valuable *Antiquarian Notes* of Mr. Fraser-Mackintosh, M.P., which ultimately developed into a large volume with this title, printed in 1865. Another volume, reprinted from serial articles which appeared in this day's publication, was the *Notes on Shakespeare*, by the editor, Mr. Forsyth. The *Advertiser* from 22nd September, 1882, till it stopped, on 25th December, 1885, was resumed as a weekly.

1853. *Caraid nan Gaidheal: or the Highland Friend for the Highlands and Islands of Scotland*. A Monthly Magazine of 16 demy 8vo pages, with printed cover, price 6d. No. 1. was published in July, 1853, by Gavin Tait, printer, 76, Church Street (the same office as at which the *Advertiser* was printed), and sold by K. Douglas, W. Smith, C. Keith, and D. Fraser, Inverness. The proprietor and editor of this short-lived periodical was James Ross, a working journeyman shoemaker with an employer in Castle Street, Inverness. He furnishes one more example of many contributors to literature of the sons of St. Crispin, and the "pursuit of knowledge under difficulties." Mr. Ross afterwards became manager of the Reformatory, Inverness. The contents of *The Highland Friend*, No. 1., are about three-fourths printed in the Gaelic language: the articles are of a moral and religious character. One of the articles in English by the Editor—*Familiar Words across the Counter*—is really lessons to a beginner in Gaelic. The instructions, if not useful to the learner, are, at least, both novel and amusing to the reader. Mr. Ross thus curiously set forth his aim in starting *Caraid nan Gaidheal* in his address "To our Readers" on cover. While he admits that various publications in Gaelic have been published in the south of Scotland, but the whole of them had only a short reign, he claims for his periodical—"This is the first of its kind ever attempted in the Highlands." "Inverness" (he continues) "is a little spoken of as a favourable place for new speculations, but we will not say much in case our own reign may be far shorter than any of the above. By what wonderful means do we think to succeed. Is it by our superior talents, etc.? No. Is it by trying to work wonders in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation? No. Is it by attempting to knock down all opposition, as a butcher unmercifully does an ox? No; for, strange to say, there is no opposition; but if we dig deep till we find the 'gold,' we shall, undoubtedly, share the same fate with the California MILLER (sic) ? Miner." So much for the editor's style! *The Highland Friend* was fated to live a much shorter life than even its southern

predecessors. No. 1 was published; No. 2 never saw the light of publication.

- 1855-59. *Inverness Times and North of Scotland General Advertiser*. A weekly newspaper of 4 pages, double crown folio, printed and published by Charles Merrilees and Son, 2 Church Street, and latterly at 45 High Street. At its first start three pages of the paper were printed in London. The front page, printed in Inverness, contained advertisements, local news, with prose and poetical contributions. About eighteen months after its commencement two pages were printed in Inverness. Its editing for a time was haphazard—chiefly by Mr. Merrilees, junior, while in 1857-59 the chief contributors were two or three young men, members of a local Debating Society, who at the time were strongly infected with "*Cacathes Scribendi*." These aspirants got up the local leaders, tales, poems, and even a novel that ran for some months. The latter was contributed by the chief of the trio. It was done with considerable power, and while appearing it was with some amusement to those who were in the "know" that the hero in course of moving incidents by "flood and field" was landed in the great Metropolis, "near where the shadow of St. Paul's throws itself across the way"—a city in which the author had then never been. Years after, one of these young men, on his first visit to the great city, made his way purposely to St. Paul's in search of the spot where Mac's hero was so suddenly transplanted. As might be expected from young men fresh from the inspiration of Plutarch, and the oratorical displays at the Inverness Literary and Debating Society, the leaders were strongly flavoured with a dash of Radicalism. Twice or thrice a week meetings were held, where articles, correspondence, etc., were considered and decided on. These meetings still live green in the memories of two at least of the contributors, who, though separated by nearly twenty years' wanderings in two hemispheres, some three years ago had, on the banks of the Ness, an opportunity of renewing with much glee a talk over the lucubrations at these symposiums and their connection with "The Times" in earlier years. In the summer of 1859 the publishers got into difficulties financially, and the "Time(s) was no more!"

- 1856-58. *The Inverness Reformer*. A weekly newspaper of 4 pages, double demy folio, price 2d. Like its contemporary *The Times*, as already mentioned, the *Reformer* was only partially printed in Inverness—the front page only—three pages coming from London. The imprint, however, bore as "printed for the proprietor, by John Reid, 9 Church Street, Inverness." The ostensible Editor of the *Reformer* was the late Kennedy M'Nab. In the original prospectus, now before me, the principles on which the *Reformer* was started are set forth as "thoroughly independent of all local influence. It will take the Liberal or rather Ultra-Liberal side in politics.

It will advocate extension of the suffrage, vote by ballot, shortening the duration of Parliament, etc; the union of the Free and United Presbyterian Churches, as the sure and effectual means of overthrowing the Establishment, as an Establishment, and with it all religious endowments." Abstract reports of the Town Council were only to be given, unless any comedies or farces are enacted in the Town Hall, when full reports will be given and the Actors mercilessly ridiculed and satirised." It was not long before the *Reformer* and its editor were in a sea of troubles, legal and financial, and the publication was frequently interrupted and delayed, until finally the editor was laid up by the heels, the result of an action, and the paper was stopped, at least for a time (1857.) The *Reformer* was probably unique in Scottish journalism—its violent personal attacks on prominent public men—its satirical notes on the peculiarities and angularities of quiet and inoffensive citizens, who were easily recognised through the thin veil of anonymity thrown over them—even the very family circle was invaded—and to many the *Reformer* became intolerable and looked on as a nuisance to be put down. I have heard an irascible citizen at this period, who was asked if he had read, it express himself—"Read it, Sir!—No, Sir! I would not touch it with the tongs!" He, however, was hardly an unprejudiced witness—he figured in the columns of that morning's issue of the *Reformer*. As above stated, the attacks on public men laid the editor open to several actions, and in course of the processes, the sheets of the *Reformer*, received from London, were several times arrested at the Railway Station. As showing the sonorous Junian hand of the editor's writing, I may quote from a handbill issued by him on one of these occasions. It is dated 24th Nov., 1856, with M'Nab's name as Editor of *Reformer* at bottom. The bill is headed—*The Lawyers of Inverness.—Notice to the Public.*—The arrestment is denounced as a regular combined attempt on the part of a number of members of the bar to crush *The Reformer*. "The Editor has a little story to tell his legal friends:—"Once upon a time an indignant Irish orator in the Parliament at College Green, was venting his wrath against some one, when a cry got up to take down his words. His answer was 'Stop a little and I'll give you something worth taking down' and then went on ten times worse than before. Now, we tell the lawyers, stop a little and we'll give you something worth stopping the *Reformer* for. Let them look out for the next number. We pledge ourselves to shiver their reputation to atoms by telling the *Truth*. Even the threat of "giving wood engravings of not a few of them, in proper attitudes," did not save the persecuted *Reformer* at this time. After several months' suspension it, however, reappeared. To give a favourite quotation of the Editor's—"It springs again like a Phoenix from its ashes," and he promises "it will be regularly continued. Legal oppression will not put it down." It had now become more a magazine, a weekly periodical of 16 pages,

8vo, entitled *Macnab's Inverness Reformer and Review*, No. 1 appearing on Friday, 5th March, 1858, price 2d, and "printed for the Proprietors by Kennedy Macnab, Ramsay & Co., 13 Petty Street, Inverness." The sheet was really printed in Edinburgh. It was but short lived. Whether from the failure of the sinews of war, or that the soothing effect of the discipline the editor had undergone had helped to tone down the acerbity of his pen, the paper ceased to sell up to the paying point, and at the third number of the new issue it came to an end—wood engravings nevertheless. The last number is dated 19th March, 1858. It contains a woodcut portrait of Alex. Campbell of Monzie, then a candidate for the representation of the Inverness Burghs in Parliament. Another cut in this number is intended for a portrait of an unpopular factor in a Northern Isle. The Inverness bar escaped being portrayed in the "PROPER ATTITUDES."

1857-58. *Merrilees' Pictorial Monthly Magazine of Instruction and General Entertainment*. Demy 8vo, with printed cover, price 2d. The early numbers extend to 20 pages, but ultimately enlarged to 24 pages. Of these at first only 4 pages, and on extension 8 pages, were printed by the publishers, Charles Merrilees & Son, at the *Times* office, 45 High Street. Sixteen pages, with woodcuts throughout all the numbers, was a sheet issued by Cassell of London. The original papers printed in this periodical contained contributions by C. H. Morine, late professor of music, Inverness, Mr. Findlay, Reelig, etc., but the majority of articles were contributed by the same trio as in the *Times* Newspaper, published by this firm. A series of articles on events in the Early History of Inverness, short tales and poems, were their chief contributions to its pages. The periodical was only short lived, about 9 or 10 numbers. The last, now before me, is dated MARCH, 1858. A curious circumstance in connection with the printing office, and as showing how sometimes most valuable historical documents disappear, may be here mentioned. This place, a year or two preceding had formed part of the chambers of the Town Clerk for the time being. At his death a quantity of papers connected with the Burgh were stored in an underground cellar. When the premises were relet, they had been overlooked or forgotten on the removal of the other effects. One day a visitor to the printing office, looking at a small hand-press which a boy was working at, discovered that the tympan, of vellum or parchment, had some old writing on it, and asking the party in charge as to it, was told with a chuckle that "they did not require to purchase tympan now," as the P. D. of the establishment had discovered a find, and was making use of papers in the cellar for lighting his fire, etc. The visitor warned them of the seriousness of what they were doing, as well as the Vandalism they were guilty of.

JOHN NOBLE.

(To be continued.)

THE ADVOCATES IN ABERDEEN.

No. 10.

THE subjoined excerpts from the Society's Minute Book refer to circumstances of much public importance at the time, and not without interest now.

NORVAL CLYNE.

At a General Meeting of the Society of Procurators in Aberdeen, held within the house of Joseph Mitchell, Vintner in Aberdeen, upon the eight day of November 1782. Sederunt—Mr. Gordon of Craig, President; Alex. Innes, Sen.; John Durno, Ar. Dingwall Fordyce, John Marshall, Alex. Bean, Thomas Duncan, James Thomson, William Smith, James Strachan, Charles Tait, Hary Lumsden, George Forbes, James Watson, John Innes, John Ross, William Burnett.

The President laid before the Meeting an application addressed to him from the Lord Provost of Aberdeen mentioning the unfortunate State of the Town and Country, and the situation of the Crop which in general remains in the fields uncut, And the present scarcity of meal thereby arising, And that a subscription was commenced among all ranks and Individuals, Societies, and Corporations for importation of Grain wherever it can be found either at home or abroad, for which purpose people were despatched Southward to purchase Grain, and Commissions were likewise sent abroad, And the Lord Provost concludes his Letter by asking the aid of the Society of Procurators. The Society having considered the said letter are unanimously of opinion and resolve that they ought to give a liberal Contribution in this extraordinary season of calamity and distress for so laudable a purpose as the life and support of themselves, their fellow citizens, and the inhabitants of the town and Country, And therefore, over and above the subscriptions already made by the members of the Society as individuals, the Meeting hereby recommend to and empower Mr. Gordon of Craig the President of the Society to subscribe One Hundred Guineas to be paid by the Treasurer from the funds of the Society for the purpose mentioned in the Letter from the Provost of Aberdeen. But as they consider the funds belonging to the Society as a Sacred Deposit under their Care for charitable purposes only, they hereby declare that the Contribution now ordered shall never be urged as a precedent for any future encroachment except upon such occasions of Urgent and General Distress as the present, which calls upon every member of society for charitable aid.

(Signed) JOHN GORDON.

At Aberdeen the 14th day of February, 1798, at a General Meeting of the Society, called by the President. Present:—Dr. Dawney (the President) Messrs. Gordon of Craig, Carnegie, William Burnett, John Davidson, Hary Lumsden, William Copland, Alexander Sheriffs, A. Davidson, P. Ferguson, C. Bannerman, C. Gordon, J. Duncan, William Carnegie, R. Morice, W. Kennedy, Charles Tait, John Watson, John Low, T. Burnet, W. Adam,

William Stirling, D. Hutcheon, F. Gordon, James Thomson.

The President stated to the Meeting that he had thought it his duty to submit to the consideration of the Society the expediency of their showing their loyalty and public spirit in the present crisis of affairs, by contributing collectively towards the exigencies of Government of which so many Corporations in this kingdom as well as individuals have already set the laudable example. He presumed that the propriety of the measure admitted of no question, And therefore moved that the Meeting would proceed to determine, first, the quantum of the contribution, and secondly, the means of raising it in a manner the most equal and least burdensome to the Society, but so as to avoid any encroachment upon the public funds, which he was humbly of opinion ought to be applied solely for the charitable purposes of the Society's institution. The Meeting after maturely considering the foregoing motion, unanimously resolved that there should be a contribution from the Society for the above purpose of One Hundred Guineas, to be in the meantime borrowed from the funds and repaid by an addition of Ten Shillings per annum to the present contribution of the Members until the debt is extinguished, and that the Library Contribution shall cease.

They authorise the Treasurer accordingly, and to remit the money how soon he finds similar contributions are in the course of being remitted. The present Resolution to be put in execution at the sight of the Committee of Funds.

(Signed) AL. DAUNEY.

At a General Meeting of the Society of Advocates in Aberdeen held at Aberdeen the seventeenth of February, 1798. Present:—Dr. Dauneay, Messrs. Charles Bannerman, James Thomson; W. Adam, R. Morice, T. Burnet, Andrew Jopp, John Low, D. Hutcheon, W. Jamieson, T. Duncan, Hugh Hutcheon, Al. Sheriffs, Kennedy, C. Gordon, F. Gordon, Al. Carnegie, Hary Lumsden, W. Carnegie, A. Webster, A. Thom, D. Davidson, W. Stirling.

The President stated that in consequence of a notification from the Magistrates yesterday, it had been suggested that the sum to be given by the Society towards the expences of Government should be added to the subscriptions of the Citizens at large, in which view what was ordered at last meeting was by many of the Members thought inadequate, he therefore, at the desire of Six Members of the Society, had called this Meeting that they might give such directions as they judged proper.

The Meeting having resumed the consideration of this business, and being satisfied of the expediency of making a liberal contribution, unanimously resolved that One Hundred Guineas should be added to the former subscription of the Society, and to be raised in the same manner as the hundred Guineas mentioned in last Sederunt, and they authorised the President to subscribe the said sum of two hundred Guineas in name of the Society accordingly.

(Signed) AL. DAUNEY.

EPITAPHS AND INSCRIPTIONS IN
ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH AND
CHURCHYARD.

COLLISON'S AISLE.

THE north Aisle of the old parish church of St. Nicholas was known in pre-Reformation times as the Aisle of the Holy Blood. In the Kirk and Bridge Work Accounts after that date it is almost invariably referred to simply as the "north yle," but at what period it came to be named after the Collison family I am unable to say. John Collison, who was Provost in 1594, in consideration that his ancestral burying place was within the Aisle, repaired the greater part of it including the beautiful window, a good specimen of the Early Pointed Period.

The Collisons were a very old burgh family, and members of it had at various times held important civic offices, and on two occasions, viz., in 1521 and 1594, they occupied the chair. The rounded arch at the north-east corner of the Aisle marks their place of sepulchre, and the recess in which the effigies of Provost John Collison (1521) and his lady should lie is presently occupied with that of Provost Robert Davidson, whose place of interment was likewise in this Aisle before the altar of St. Ann¹, a spot now wholly conjectural. The story is told² that when certain alterations were made on the Aisle in 1811 Davidson's tombstone was placed for preservation with its face downwards at the spot where it then lay, which would presumably have marked the site of St. Ann's altar. When the operations took place for the restoration of the Aisle, after the disastrous fire of 1874, search was made for this tombstone, but without success. The result of the restoration of 1876 has been to bring back this ancient remnant of the old church to something like its former self, and though much more might have been done with advantage, yet we must rest thankful for the vast improvement that has taken place in the appearance of the Aisle since 1874. As the oldest part of the fabric of the Church of St. Nicholas is it but natural that we should look here for the earliest monuments, and by a curious chance five of the oldest monumental stones, formerly in the East Church, have now found an appropriate resting place on the west wall of this Aisle.

The first stone, which is cut in high relief, contains under a helmet a coat of arms—a fess between three martlets in chief, and three holly leaves banded in base, with the initials A. C., and below

ANDREAS CVLLE[N] | PREPOSITUS. ABD.
[Andrew Cullen, Provost of Aberdeen.]

This record, though brief, is still enough to enable us to say that the monument was erected for Andrew Cullen, Provost at Michaelmas, 1506, and again in 1535. The Cullens are one of those families whose actions bulk largely in the history of the infant burgh, but we are indebted for much of what we know of the family to the fact that Walter Cullen, Vicar and Reader of Aberdeen, and a grandson of Provost Cullen, took a particular pride in recording¹ its importance as testified to by the number and honourableness of the many civic offices which had been filled by members of the family.

Provost Cullen was the second son of Robert Cullen, baillie, and his elder brother John had previously held the civic chair for one year from Michaelmas, 1491. The calling of the provost, like the majority of the burgesses of distinction of his day, was that of a merchant, and from Halyburton's Ledger we learn that he carried on a pretty considerable trade with the Low Countries. His exports are chiefly wool and salmon, the staple articles of export at that period, and in return he received such commodities as "gyngar, pipper, cloys, massis, fin ssucur, saip," &c. The returns, however, on some occasions were not so large as they might have been, for an entry in the Ledger explains the low price obtained for some of the salmon by the fact that they were "something lopy," *i.e.*, soft. His two sons, Walter and Andrew, have also left their mark on the page of local history the former being a Baillie in 1531, and the father of the future Vicar, while the latter, from being Parson of Fetterneir, died Vicar of St. Nicholas Church, in which office he was succeeded by his nephew Walter.

Provost Cullen, on the authority of his grandson, departed this life on the 27th day of January, 1540-1, or probably 1541-2.

The next stone, besides being better preserved, is a much more ambitious effort of the sculptor's chisel, and consists of two panels, the first containing, under a knight's helmet, a shield bearing the Menzies arms—ermine a chief, and flanked by the initials T.M. The second panel has the initials M.R., and on a shield the Menzies arms, impaled with those of the Reids of Pitfodells—quarterly, 1st and 4th [Reid], a chevron between two mullets in chief, and a cross crosslet, fitché in base, 2nd and 3rd [Stewart] a fess checky. The latter shield is surmounted by a dove with outspread wings, and above, the motto, NIHIL AMANTE DVRVM. [Nothing is hard for one who loves.] On the upper ledge of the monument there is cut—M.R.S. IVS. DEO, and on the ledge forming the base, SPERA IN DEO ET IPSE FACIET. [Trust in God and He will perform.] This elaborate stone had, doubtless, formed part

¹ Chartulary of St. Nicholas, folio 6
² Selected Writings of John Ramsay, p. 211.

¹ Chronicle of Aberdeen—Miscellany of Spalding Club, Vol. ii.

of a monument to the memory of Thomas Menzies of Pitfoddels, and his spouse, Marione Reid, the missing portion of which has long since disappeared.

The Thomas Menzies whose initials appear on the stone was the eldest son of Provost Gilbert Menzies of Findon—"Banison Gib"—and Marjorie Chalmer, his wife. His influence for over half-a-century in all matters connected with local, as well as national affairs, marks him out as being a man of more than ordinary parts. His father, who was a pretty large money-lender, had a heavy wadset over the estate of Pitfoddels, and it seems an arrangement had been come to between the laird, Provost Alexander Reid, and "Gib," whereby the former's only daughter, Marione, should wed the latter's eldest son. Reid died while his daughter was a minor, and his widow does not appear to have favoured the proposed union, and considerable litigation took place in the local courts over the custody of the young heiress, and the matter was only finally settled by Menzies producing the King's letter in his favour, granting him the ward and marriage of Marione, in terms of the previous arrangement with Reid.

On the 12th January, 1520-1, the marriage ceremony was performed, and the estate of Pitfoddels passed into the hands of the Menzies, and gave the family their designation for more than three centuries. At Michaelmas, 1525, Menzies was elected Provost, and during the next fifty years he held the chair for the long period of forty years, only demitting the office to allow some member of his family to enjoy it for a short period. To recount the history of his régime would be to enumerate all the stirring events which led to the downfall of the old church, and to record the many difficulties which attended the establishment of the new faith. He was on several occasions chosen to represent the burgh in Parliament; in 1538 he acted as Marischal Depute of Scotland; and in 1543 he was Comptroller of the royal household, an office which he seems to have held for several years. Shortly before this, viz., on 5th November, 1543¹ he obtained a renewal of a former grant, erecting the lands of Pitfoddels into a free barony, with the Castlehill of Middleton of Pitfoddels as principal message.

The Chronicle of Aberdeen, under date 20th September, 1551, records that, after a wedded life of 29 years, "Marione Reid, spouse to Thomas Menzies, prouest of Aberdeen, departitt." From the same authority we learn that Menzies married as his second wife, Elizabeth Forbes, by whom he was survived, for the Provost died about December, 1576, while the following entry records his second wife's death :

"Elisabeth Forbes, Lady Towe, and spouse to Thomas Menzies of Petfodellis, prouest, departitt 12 Janur. 1584-5."

The third stone has been placed immediately below that of the Menzies, so that they now present the appearance of being one monument instead of two, as they really are. The inscription, so far as legible, reads—

PROUDUS ET HONORABILIS VIR ALEXANDER DE CAMERA | DE MURTHILL PREPOSITUS HUIUS BURGII DE ABERDENE QUI | OBIT VIII DIE MENSIS OCTOBRIS ANNO DNI. | M^oCCCC^oLXIII
[. a prudent and honourable man, Alexander Chalmers of Murthill, provost of this burgh of Aberdeen, who died on the eighth day of October, A.D. 1463.]

A part of the inscription, consisting apparently of five words, is not given, as I have been unable to transcribe them, nor can I find that better success has attended the endeavours of others, since the words are omitted in the various renderings of the inscription which I have seen.

Menteith, in his *Theater of Mortality*, gives the date of the inscription as 1413, and this has been faithfully copied by subsequent writers who have noticed the inscription, although the fact is, that the figure taken for x is really a combination of l and x, and must stand for lx, as there was no Provost Alexander Chalmer before 1443.

Alexander Chalmer was the son of Provost Thomas Chalmer of Murthill and his spouse Elizabeth Blinshill, and grandson of William Chalmer of Findon, whose election as alderman, in 1398, is the earliest municipal minute on record of an election connected with the Scotch burghs, Alexander was elected to the civic chair on two occasions, viz., at Michaelmas, 1443, and 1446. Murthill, the estate from which the family took its designation, was originally in the possession of the Bishops of Aberdeen, but, in 1388,¹ Bishop Adam, in consideration of a yearly payment of ten merks, granted the barony for life in favour of William of Findon. The assedation was renewed to Thomas Chalmer, his son, in 1402, by Bishop Gilbert, and for several generations the family retained possession on payment of the yearly tack duty. The Provost was succeeded by his son Alexander, who likewise held the office of Provost for several years.

The next stone, like Cullen's monument, is a sculptured stone with a coat of arms, the charging on which has almost been entirely defaced, but from what is left it appears to have been a fess charged with three martlets between mullets in chief and a chevron in base. Above the knight's helmet, there is the following inscription :—

DNO. IOHNS. RUD^rFURD DE TARLAN | DE PREPOSITUS DE ABDN.

[Sir John Rutherford of Tarland, Provost of Aberdeen.]

¹ Reg. Mag. Sig., vol. liii., p. 658.

¹ Reg. Epic. Aberdon, vol. i., p. 183.

Rutherford was elected Provost at Michaelmas 1483, and thereafter every alternate year till 1492, and again from 1496 to 1500. In 1490, a complaint was made to James IV. by certain burgesses that Rutherford was too often Provost, but the answer received put an end to any hope of redress, for the king in his reply desired to be informed of the grounds of their complaint against "*his friend Sir John*." It is scarcely to be supposed that any complaint was forthcoming after a request couched in such terms. During the period of his Provostship and afterwards, we find him representing the burgh in Parliament, and in 1513 he was one of the Commissioners who were allowed 40 merks for their expenses, which seems a moderate enough charge when we learn that the Commissioners on that occasion had ten horsemen in their train. In 1485, he had a charter under the Great Seal¹ of the lands of East town and Tarland in Cromar, extending to the annual rent of £20, but ten years later,² he resigned the lands of Tarland in favour of Alexander Irvine of Drum. Rutherford gave in his adhesion to the powerful Gordon party, and, on 8th December, 1490, he granted a bond of manrent, obliging himself "to be bundyne and stratlie oblist . . . in the stratast stile of obligation tile ane nobill and mychtie lorde, Alexander lorde Gordon."³

The date of his death is not recorded on the stone, but from various circumstances I am inclined to think he died about 1520.

ALEX. M. MUNRO.

(To be continued.)

THE SCULPTURED STONE VASE FOUND AT WESTHALL.

THERE can be no doubt that this vase, so accurately described by Mr. Cadenhead, found in one of the fish-ponds at Westhall, had been among the ornamental objects which were placed in the pleasure-grounds there, when they were laid out in the end of the 17th and beginning of the 18th century.

Mr. John Horn, the then proprietor (son of the Rev. James Horne, Vicar of Elgin, who purchased the lands of Westhall and Pitmedden in 1681), having been educated in Holland and at Paris, acquired a taste for the formal and grandiose style of laying out gardens and pleasure-grounds, so much the fashion in the time of Louis XIV.; a taste, indeed, which became general throughout Western Europe. He determined to lay out Westhall in this way, and, to judge by the original plans, which still exist,

and by the description handed down by those of a former generation, as also by the remains that could still be traced fifty or sixty years ago, he was very successful in his design. He planted several long-extending avenues, with formal groves intermixed, mostly of beech, which the fine soil caused to grow rapidly and attain a great size. He formed many alleys, bordered with clipped hedges of yew and holly,—with which, also, he marked out a "wilderness,"—and these he embellished with statues, vases, sun-dials, &c. Two large fish-ponds were also made,—and are still to be traced, a few hundred yards north from the Mansion House.

Unfortunately this expenditure of taste, care, and expense was fated, in only two generations, to come to naught, from circumstances which cannot well be said to have been avoidable. Mr. John Horn's only child, a daughter, heiress to his property, married, in 1714, an Edinburgh advocate, afterwards a judge, who lived much at his place near Edinburgh. She died, comparatively young, and her son, Colonel Robert Dalrymple Horn (afterwards "General Horn"), who succeeded to the estates at her death, having married the heiress of Logie Elphinstone, adopted that place as the family residence, when in the North. He was, however, much away on service, and his wife, also, having died young, he lived latterly a good deal in or near Edinburgh.

These details are given to shew how Westhall came to fall into a state of neglect, which in no long time changed its appearance greatly, although in some ways increasing its beauty. For though the walks grew up with grass and the gardens relapsed into a state of nature—all but the limited space required by the tenant of the home-farm, who occupied the old Castle, yet the wild luxuriance of the evergreens, which grew to a great size, and the stately avenues of noble trees, as in a century they became, made Westhall a very beautiful and interesting place, even in its decay, increased by the quaint picturesqueness of the battlemented house, embowered among the masses of foliage.

Absence and neglect, no doubt, hastened also the ruin of the ornamental objects, the vases, dials, &c., which embellished the pleasure-grounds; but the statues may claim a nook in local history. Being made of lead they were looked on as a prize by the followers of Lord Lewis Gordon, in "the '45," (not the less so, perhaps, that the family in possession were Whigs, and in the service of the Elector of Hanover), who carried some of them off to melt them down into bullets. It was not for some decades later, however, that the place was allowed to fall into decay, but by 1780-90, it was far gone. Everything had gradually disappeared that savoured of orna-

¹ Reg. Mag. Sig., vol. ii., p. 340.

² *Ibid.* p. 476.

³ Miscell. Spalding Club., vol. iv., p. 186.

ment, and no doubt this vase had been wrecked like the rest.

As regards its design, the artistic stone-workers of our Augustan age adopted, or adapted, classical and Renaissance patterns, and their designs often possess considerable grace and beauty, though not of course of the highest order.

Mr. Cadenhead's remark, that the material of which the vase is composed might "give a clue to where it was brought from," is a valuable one. An experienced geologist might throw light on this point, and give an idea whether it is of British or Continental origin.

C. E. DALRYMPLE.

JOHN MOWAT.

IN No. 1 of *S. N. & Q.*, an article and illustration appeared, by Mr. Kelly, on the Belfry of S. Fithack's, Nigg. Information regarding the founder of the bell, John Mowat, Old Aberdeen, was asked. The following extracts relating to him are taken from the Trades' Records of Old Aberdeen:—

The Court of the Hammermen trade of Old Aberdeen, holdene within the Councill house of the sd. city, upon the fourteenth day of August, Seventeen Hundred and Seventeen years. Present—Alex. Sinclair Skinner, yr., Deacon, Adam Thomson, Town Clerk of the sd. city, Clerk, and William Anderson, Officer.

The said day compeared John Mowat, Blacksmith, and gave in a bill disyreing to be admitted freeman of Trade, and payed unto the Boxmaster Fourtie Shillings Scots therewith. Which being read, the Deacon, forsd. Masters, and haill other members accepted thereof, and appointed him to make for ane essay ane iron lock for ane door, three bridged, to open on both sydes with ane key, conform to order of work, being two brass works at least. And appoints William Smith, elder, and Andrew Smith, Blacksmith, his essay masters, and the Deacon overseer, and appoynts the essay to be readie against the twenty-sixth day of October next, to come under the failzie of ten pounds Scots money, ffor the hail which performance John Sluthers, Merch. in Old Aberdeen became Caur., and the sd. John Mowat obliedged him to free, relieve, and skaitless keep his sd. Caur. of the proymss, and of all that may follow thereon.

+ S JOHN MOWATT.

31 October, 1717.—The said day compeared John Mowatt, Blacksmith, and gave in his essay, being ane iron lock, three bridged, opening on both sydes with ane key, all conform to order of work, which essay being tried and sighted, not only by the Deacon and essay masters, and also by the haill trade, and being found sufficient, the haill members of trade did declare the said John Mowat member in the said incorporation, and did ordain him to pay to the Boxmaster Sixteen pounds Scots for Composition and Dinner, which he instantly payed, and he and his Caur. were discharged, etc., etc.

1 November, 1729.—The Deacons and Masters of the Hammermen, and Wrights, and Coopers of Old Aberdeen having seen the accmpts of the publick management until the said trades were divided by a grant from His Majesty, King George the Second found the sd accs just, fair, and true [Signed by] John Mowat [and seven others.]

This Book, and the other Books belonging to the Hammermen of Old Aberdeen before the were divided, are to be lodged the one year in the hands of the Wrights and Coupers, and the other year in the hands of the Deacon of the Hammermen in all tyme coming, they being lodged in the hands of the Deacon of the Wrights and Coupers from this tyme to the next election, in witness whereof thir pa. are subyt by us, John Mowate, Deacon of the Hammermen, and Patrick Cristall, Deacon of the Wrights and Coupers, at Old Abdn. the Eighteenth day of Apryle, seventeen hundred and thirtie years, and both parties are to have access to the sd books upon Receipt. John Mowat, Deacon; Pat. Cristall, Deacon.

It is lykways agreed be both parties that whatever papers are in the Box are to be divided equally betwix both, and both parties are to have access to the same upon a Receipt. John Mowat, Pat. Cristall.

List of some persons employed by John Mowat who payed their entry monie a merk.

6 Nov., 1718.—Robert Mowat and Alex. Booth, Jurneymen.

25 June, 1720.—Wm. Gray, Servant.

25 June, 1720.—Alexander Grubb, Servant.

21 Oct. 1721.—John Lucas, Jurneymen.

Sept. 23, 1724.—Samvoll Henderson, Servant; Donald Mackenzie, Servant; William Tam, Servant; John Lumsdall, Prentise.

26 October, 1724.—James Dumber, Watchmaker, Servant to John Mowat, Blacksmith, payed a merk of entry money.

4 May, 1725.—Alex Hardie, Jurneymen.

Miss Noble, Ellishill, Rosemount, has an eight day (grandfather's) clock in oak case with arched brass dial, inscribed John Mowat, Old Aberdeen, No. 55, on dial name plate.

The writer has a weight timepiece, with a round engraved brass dial, named across the centre, "John Mowatt, Old Abd. No. 102."

This timepiece is said to have been in the Cathedral previous to the alterations, but as there are strong reasons for doubting the statement, the writer will be glad to learn whether any one remembers seeing such a thing. Until lately it was in the hands of a private person in the Aulton.

The bell in the Parish Church of Kildrummie is said to have been made by John Mowat.

Query.—When and where was this worthy born? In what part of the Aulton was his shop or shops? He is said to have died in 1771. Is this known to be correct? Where was he buried?

W. A. J.

A RAMBLE ON THE EAST COAST OF BUCHAN.

(Continued from page 178.)

WE now enter the fishing village of Old Slains Castle from the north. To the right there is a steep green mound, tapering to a point, evidently artificially shaped, which may have been formed in the days of old for the double purposes of raising a beacon to guide the distressed mariner, and a summons, aided by a blast from the green horn of the chief of the castle, to his vassals to repulse, it may be, a greater tyrant than the one they served. These were the times when, if a poor vassal made an attempt to assert his rights, his lord and master would give imperative orders to have him gibbeted in the first place, and drowned after. Passing through the village, we came upon two young fishermen excavating materials for house-building purposes. They had just unearthed some very fine specimens of dressed stones, with only one piece wanting to make a complete arch. In clearing away the *debris* from what had been an archway, they came upon a large square of fixed stone pavement, finely jointed, at the farthest corner of which two slabs were incised for fixing wooden pillars. This may indicate that the structure might have been a wine cellar or meat safe. In raising the pavement in question, they came upon large pieces of charcoal at the foundation, showing that the castle had been demolished by fire. Prior to 1820, there was a secret vault in connection with the castle built into a precipice facing the "Blin'-man" rock, narrow at the entrance, but extending to a pretty large chamber, which was a receptacle for Holland gin and French brandy, and Jeems Cormack visited the "Stores" every day before or after his voyage. One morning he missed a parcel of French embroidered silk, and an anker of gin. He knew where it was, and told his wife that he was going to get it restored and to belabour the depredator. His wife said—"Oh, na, Jeems, dinn pit on yer han's: Johnny 'ill be punisht for't in anither warl." Jeems said—"Na, na, 'oman, I'll belabour him *here*. I dinna wunt 'im to be punisht for't in the *ill place*."

To the north of the village we have a picturesque view of the Castle bay, resorted to annually by pleasure-seeking parties. It is sheltered from the west and north with grassy cliffs, some of which are almost perpendicular, ranging from two hundred and fifty to three hundred feet above the level of the sea. In this neighbourhood there is a large current of spring water, which for magnitude and purity is perhaps unsurpassed in Aberdeenshire, spending itself in the sea. The beach is semi-circular, extending to about three-fourths of a mile, and is beautified with pebbles, rounded and polished by the action of water. At the termination of the beach to the east, there is a huge block of rock, reminding one of rude mason work, called "Jan's Crag," and here we ascended to have a look at three "barrows," or raised circles, indicating ancient sepulture. They were opened seventy years ago, but without finding any traces of bones or ashes. According to Dr. Pratt's *Buchan*, they were also exhumed by General Moore and party, in 1858, with the same result. The likelihood is that they had been

despoiled of their contents anterior to the dates mentioned. Dr. Wilson, in his *Pre-historic Annals*, says that these species of "barrows" belong to a comparatively late era, and their correspondence to some of the most common sepulchral memorials of Norway and Sweden suggests the probability of a Scandinavian origin.

Taking leave of these interesting memorials, we ascend by a rugged valley to climb a steep, green cliff, approaching to perpendicularity, about four hundred feet high, where we have a very extensive view, both by sea and land. Then down to the footpaths leading to the "Dripping Cave," and after many windings we come in sight of an old landslip which happened in the winter of 1828. For years it remained scarcely accessible, till opened by some parties on a scientific research. The footprints found on the marshy descent indicate the approach to the cave, and on alighting on a grassy platform we are struck with the appearance of a stream of water, which is strongly charged with calcareous matter, falling over a precipice, and covering the rocks with a limey incrustation. Here we prepare light for the darkness before us, and crawl in a stooping posture for a few yards, holding on to the slimy walls, till the light begins to show headroom. Then we walk through the rugged archways, the water percolating from above all the way to the termination, at which there is a "rocky altar," containing burnt wood and the embers of paper, for the lighting up of the cells. This cave differs from "Cave Arthur" in that it occurs in limestone. We are told that at one time the stalactites were continuous from top to bottom, and that they had been removed for the manufacture of lime, and that there is a creek a little to the east of the cave, called the "Limekilns," and that James Millar, one of the inhabitants of the lands of Clochtow,¹ is described in the *Poll Book* of date 1656 as "lymer," meaning a lime burner. On the way out from this wonderful sunless cave, we descant on the milk-white stalactites incrusting on the rocks, ledge upon ledge from the top to the bottom, the whole plutonic scene of rugged arches and gloomy passages, goblin-like imagery, the slimy cells, and constant drippings, and came to the conclusion that our exploration of the "Dripping Cave" was an incident that we could not readily forget. The walk of a few minutes over boulders brings us to another cave, facing the sea, known as the "Tinkers' Cave." It is resorted to annually by tin-plate workers and basket makers, and more than once they have been stormed out by an easterly gale. The remains of burnt wood and paling wire bespoke the freebooting propensities of these wandering arabs. Taking our stand on the pebbly beach in the neighbourhood of this cave, we look back to the grey tower of old Slains Castle, somewhat enlivened by a hamlet of fishermen's cottages. This romantic background, combined with the bold, jutting rocks, and precipitous green cliffs, is a sight which the poet and painter may long linger over unwearyed.

Ascending the ravine, we pass a "cast-away sailor boy's grave," overgrown with cowslips and sea daisies.

J. DALGARNO.

¹ Clach-dhu, black-rock.

Queries.

NOTE.—Each paragraph, containing one or more Queries, will receive a consecutive number, to which Correspondents may conveniently refer.

112. "THE DEIL CAM O'ER JOCK WEBSTER."—I have found this phrase several times in Sir Walter Scott—twice at least in *The Antiquary*, and once or twice elsewhere. Can any one say as to its meaning, and if it is still current in any part of Scotland?

St. Stephen's Club, London. H. B. C.

113. OLD NAMES FOR DRUGS.—What are *Lapis Coniæ* and *Perrosen*, names for chemicals or drugs, found in old books? I have heard country people speak of "Burgander pik," and "Oxycroton," as an excellent cure for colds. What is "Oxycroton"?

ÆSCULAPIUS.

114. STEWART OF HISLESIDE.—Is anything known of this family, who held Hisleside in Douglas, Lanarkshire, about the middle of the 17th century? Did it merge into the Baillie family the ancestors of John Hunter?

J. MALCOLM BULLOCH.

115. SHINTY GAME TERMS.—The game known over Scotland as Shinty was in my youth known to the boys on the coast of Buchan as Cutesoo. Can any one suggest a derivation for this word? I think it must be French, between whom and the Scotch at one time their existed very intimate political and commercial relations. Another word which was always used when playing the game, may, I think, be easily traced to its French original. When the ball, or *scuddie*, as it used to be named, got into a ditch or other place where a free stroke could not be given, anyone was at liberty to cry out "*Hiperell*." If the chance of getting a fair *lick* was hopeless, the one who cried out took up the ball, and asked if it was to be a high *lick* or a low? If the answer by the opposite side was *high lick*, the ball was thrown up, all engaged in the game watching a chance for a stroke. Am I right in supposing that *Appareil* (Fr.), meaning show, display, is the word corrupted into *Hiperell*?

MORMOND.

Answers.

63. FUNERALS.—On making inquiries as to the use of chairs at funerals as trestles for the coffin, I was told that the chairs are thrown over whenever the coffin is lifted, and are allowed to lie as they fall until after sunset. In some places, the chairs are removed after the funeral party has left the house; but, in all cases, both chairs must be thrown over. The reason given for this overthrowing of the chairs was, that if a person sat on the chairs which had been used, before sunset, it foreboded that the chairs would be used for a similar purpose at no distant date.

Lerwick.

JAS. ROBSON.

90. JOSEPH ROBERTSON AND JOHN ROBERTSON.—Joseph Robertson's grandfather and John Robertson's grandmother were brother and sister, children of Robertson of Shiel, Leochel-Cushnie. The sister married a man of the name of Yule, and their daughter married a man Robertson, and had issue the John

Robertson mentioned above. Thus, Joseph Robertson and John Robertson were second cousins through Joseph's father and John's mother, their fathers being no relation. Joseph Robertson was the third of the same name.

Kemnay.

JEANIE M. LAING.

94. SURNAMES.—According to Cosmo Innes, surnames became general in France about A.D. 1000. They were introduced into England by the Normans at the time of the Conquest, half a century later. In Scotland, they did not come into general use until the twelfth century, or even a much later period. In the Highlands, indeed, the members of several of the clans, according to the same authority, had no fixed name until near the beginning of the eighteenth century. In 1465, an Act of the Parliament of Ireland (*Statute 5, Edward IV., c. 3*) enacted—"That any Irishman, dwelling betwixt or among Englishmen, in the counties of Dublin, Myeth, Uriel, and Vuldare, should go like to one Englishman in apparel, . . . and should take to him an English surname of a town, as Sutton, Chester, Tryne; . . . or colour, as White, Blacke, Browne; or arte or science, as Smith, or Carpenter; or office, as Cooke or Butler; and that he and his issue shall use this name under payne of forfeiting of his goodes yearly till the premises be done." At first, it was only the powerful Norman baron or Saxon thane who aspired to the dignity of an hereditary cognomen; gradually—as far as the middle and lower classes were concerned, very gradually—in order to prevent confusion, and in compliance with the custom which, in course of time, recognised the necessity for every man having a fixed family name, those titles, which originally merely distinguished individuals, became permanent and hereditary. So slow was the process, however, that a period of nearly five hundred years elapsed from the time of their introduction until the lowest stratum of society had been reached. A short list of works dealing with this interesting subject may be of service to "M. A.," and will, perhaps, render similar queries unnecessary:—*Concerning some Scotch Surnames* (a lecture by Prof. Cosmo Innes), Edinburgh, 1860. It covers the whole ground, and is an excellent and entertaining introduction to the subject. *Surnames in England and Wales*, *Cornhill Mag.*, vol. 17, 1868. *The Teutonic Name-system*, by Robert Ferguson; London, 1864. *Lower's Patronymica Britannica* is a very valuable contribution, and a standard work on the subject. *Personal and Family Names*, by H. A. Long; London, 1883. It gives the meaning of many thousands of names, including all periods and countries. Much original matter, and many curious fugitive members of the large family of British surnames, which comprises some 35,000 or 40,000 distinct appellations, will be found in the volumes of *Notes & Queries* (London). In a series of (three) articles contributed to the *North British Advertiser* (and dated respectively Oct. 31st, Nov. 7th, and Dec. 7th, 1885), the present writer gave a popular sketch of the origin, history, meanings, and varieties of British surnames.

Edinburgh.

J. W. SCOTT.

99. THE PULPIT NOTICE OF COMMUNION.—The late Dr. James Forsyth believed that the Pulpit Notice

of Communion used in the churches of Aberdeen was composed by one of his predecessors in the West Kirk—Principal Campbell. JOHN DAVIDSON, D.D.

100. GORDON OF AUCHENDOLLY.—Little is known of this family beyond the fact that they branched from the Gordons of Earlston, and, through them, claim descent from the Lochinvar stem. James Gordon, owner of Auchendolly, c. 1690, was succeeded by Robert Gordon, c. 1720. His son, Dr. Alexander Gordon, was in turn succeeded by William Gordon, whose son, Robert, married, in 1809, Elizabeth Cox. He sold the family property, and it is now owned by Archibald Hume, who married, in 1865, Agnes Walker of Miteside in Cumberland. S. S.

101. ORD FAMILY.—“Andrew de Ord had the lands of Ord in this parish (Banff), a part of the thanedom, by grant from Robert the Bruce, dated 3rd Jan., and 21st year of his reign. They continued in possession nearly three hundred years, when about 1590 they exchanged Ord for Finachty, with the family of Deskford.” From MS. of William Rose of Montcoffer, in the Advocates' Library, Aberdeen. In the Charter-room of Cullen House is an “Inventory of the writes of the Tenendry of Ord, comprehending the Newtown and Oldtown of Ord, Mill of Ord, &c., the earliest of which writs is a charter of alienation by Elizabeth Ord, portioner, of that ilk, to George Ogilvie of Dunlugus, of the Newtown of Ord, &c., 1580. Alexander Ord, apparent of Findochty, is referred to in 1594. In 1617 Alexander Ord of Findochty resigned the lands of Ord in favour of George Ogilvie of Dunlugus. As a detailed list of the Cullen House charters will shortly be deposited in the Library of the New Spalding Club, it is unnecessary to furnish further particulars. From vol. v. of *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, it appears that in 1596 Alexander Ord of that ilk, and Walter Ord in Banff, wrongfully raised letters against Walter Currou of Inchedrou and others. Among several Cautions by the Ords that appear in the same volume, is one of date 1594 by Alexander Ord of that ilk, for Walter Ord, burgess of Banff, Thomas Ord in Findochty, &c., not to harm William Gordon of Craig. In the Sheriff Court Books of Banff reference is made, in the year 1622, to Alexander Ord of Findochtie and his brother John, and in the year 1676 appear William Ord elder of Findochtie, William Ord younger, and his spouse Jean Keith. John Ord, Bailie of Cullen, can scarcely be said to have his name associated with pleasant memories from the part he took in the “Sweeping Charter,” 1748. There is a tombstone in the Churchyard of Cullen, erected by John Ord in 1744, and there are four tombstones to Ords in Banff Churchyard. The name is now comparatively rare in this locality.

Cullen.

C.

105. AULD REEKIE.—Though not a direct answer to the question as put, let me quote the following from the late James Grant's *Old and New Edinburgh*. “Auld Reekie,” a *soubriquet* which, though attributed to James VI., the afore-named writer [Chambers] affirms cannot be traced beyond the reign of Charles II., and assigns it to an old Fifeshire gentleman, Durham of Largo, who regulated the hour

of family worship and his children's bedtime as he saw the smoke of evening gather over the summits of the venerable city.”—Vol. III., p. 122. Sir Walter Scott evidently considered the appellation of “Auld Reekie” due to the smoke which was continually hanging over the city, as witness the following speech of Adam Woodcock, the falconer, as he and Roland Græme came in sight of the capital:—“Yonder stands Auld Reekie—you may see the smoke hover over her at twenty miles' distance, as the goss-hawk hangs over a plump of young wild ducks.”—*The Abbot*, ch. xvii. W. J. CALDER ROSS.

106. FASKEN.—This name is probably derived from Farskane (pronounced Fasken), a small estate in the neighbourhood of Cullen. It was formerly a place of some importance, a church existed there for some centuries subsequent to 1236. The site of the church and churchyard is still to be seen. Faskine is also a locality in Old Monkland, Lanarkshire. The surname Fasken is of rare occurrence in the N. E. counties. It will perhaps not be easy to give much information additional to what is found under “Inveikething” in Mr. Jervise's *Epitaphs in the N. E. of Scotland*. The association of the name with the locality is prior to all existing records, for since the Reformation Farskane has been held only by Hays, Ogilvies, Gordons, and the Seafeld family.

Cullen.

C.

112. BATTLE OF ALFORD.—The bibliography of this battle is pretty extensive, but it includes no local guide books. Of course, Mark Napier's books on Montrose and the Covenanted struggle are the great sources of information on the subject. A capital account of the battle from the opposite camp is to be found in King's admirable *Covenanters in the North*, 1846. The *Statistical Account* is dumb on the subject, while a patched up set of shreds is given in Smith's *New History of Aberdeenshire*, 1875. *The Thistle of Scotland* contains the ballad of the battle, reprinted with notes in Child's *English & Scotch Ballads*, vol. 8. A slight description is also given in the poem *Dom*, 1655. Spalding tantalizingly breaks his narrative just a month before the battle. Local tradition has found a good deal to say about the battle, although, as usual, it is totally unreliable. Many years ago, a man in armour sitting on a horse was found preserved in a moss, and tradition at once called him Lord George Gordon, but that unfortunate young nobleman was duly interred beside the bones of his fathers in Old Machar Cathedral, a few days after the battle.

J. MALCOLM BULLOCH.

In answer 89 (H. W. L.'s), in last number, for *Eminent read Ancient*; and, in answer 95 (H. W. L.'s), for *jaciant read faciant*.

Several articles in type unavoidably postponed till our next.

Title and Index to Vol. I. of S. N. & Q. now ready, and may be had from the Publishers, price 3d. The June number commences a new volume. Subscribers desirous of continuing are requested to remit the amount for the year 1888-89.