

CHAP VIII.

THE CHIEF TOWN OF THE LORDS OF THE ISLES.

Campbelton Law. — A good Confession. — The joint Farmers and the 'cute Chamberlain. — Law is Justice for once. — A royal Burgh. — Andrew Fairservice's Opinion. — The modern Town. — Its Trade and Distilleries. — Whiskey. — The Busses. — Fisheries. — Scenery of the Harbour. — Lime Craigs. — The Dowager Duchess. — Her Craft. — She is outwitted by a Servant. — The Trench Battery. — Castlehill Church. — Macdonald's Castle. — The Lords of the Isles. — James the Fifth's Visit. — Coll Kittoch, "the Left-handed." — A Relief Church. — The Descendants of the Covenanters. — Cannie Scots. — Malcolm's Advice. — Scotch Wit. — The Campbelton Oracle.

SCENE. — *Main Street, Campbelton; Author and Friend strolling towards the Quay.*

Author. — Now for my legend touching the town-house of Campbelton. Once upon a time two Cantire farmers fell out, and resolved to settle their dispute by law. So they went to the sheriff of Campbelton to state their case: and he inquired what was the nature of their dispute. Then said one farmer, "He was hasty, and I was a briar! that is the foundation of the whole matter." Said the sheriff, "Then I will soon end this

case. Go home together, drink one glass of whiskey each, and shake hands; and I declare the law to be settled." They did as the sheriff advised, and were good friends ever after.

Friend. — They must have been sensible people in those days — Solons and not solans. "He was hasty, and I was a briar," was a good confession.

Author. — Hear yet another tale connected with Campbelton law. There were two farmers that worked a joint farm. The one had a large family of young children who could not help him; the family of the other was grown up, and could assist in farm labour, so that his portion of the farm was better tended than that of his poorer companion. The lease being out, the man in good circumstances, who was a hard and covetous man, wished the new lease to be made out entirely for him, and that the poor man should be ejected. So he came to Campbelton, and told the chamberlain that he wished to take the other man's part of the farm, as he was better able to work it. Now the chamberlain was 'cute, and perfectly understood the whole case; so he replied, "If you are desirous to take the other portion of the farm, and to work it, you shall have it; and I will see that the lease is made out accordingly." So the man returned home with great joy, and told his poorer neighbour that he and his family must now turn out, for that he had taken the whole farm on a new

lease. Thereupon the poor man, in great dejection, came to Campbelton, to lay before the chamberlain his sad case. "It is very true," said the chamberlain, "that I have let your part of the farm to your neighbour, and the new lease is made out accordingly. But I said nothing to him about his own portion of the farm, which I have reserved for you, and here is the lease that will confirm it to you." And thus was the poor man installed in the covetous man's place; and the Campbelton chamberlain was commended for the Scotch shrewdness shown in his decision.

Friend.— "A second Daniel come to judgment!"

Author.— And now let me presume that you are sufficiently interested in Campbelton, to wish to know something more of its history. As we stand here upon the quay, we see how the town encircles the head of the bay. From this circumstance, when the Dalruadhinian times had passed away, it was called *Ceann Loch*, "the head," or "end of the Loch," and the Gaelic-speaking people still call it by this name. It was also called *Ceann Loch chille Chiaran*, or "the Head of the Loch of Kilkerran." Soon after the Reformation, the four parishes of Kilkerran, Kilmichael, Kilkivan*, and Kilchousland, were united under the

* Probably by an error of the press, Kilkerran is again given (instead of Kilkivan) in the "Statistical Account of Campbelton" (p. 453).

title of Loch-head. But in 1700 the town finally changed its name into Campbelton, out of compliment to the Duke of Argyle, who was (and whose successor is) the chief landowner. Campbelton is one of the three royal burghs (the other two being Inverlochry and Stornoway) that were created by James VI. for the civilisation of "the stern Scottish Hielands." The statute 15 James VI. c. 267, ordains "for the better entertaining and continuing of civility and policy within the Hielandes and Iles," "that there be erected and builded within the bounds thereof, three burghes and burrowe-towns in the maist convenient and commodious partes meet for the same; to wit, ane in Kintyre, another in Lochaber, and the third in the Lewis;" and gives as reasons for the erection, that Inverary, distant about sixty miles, was then the only royal burgh in Argyleshire; that the burgh of Campbelton was a very fit and convenient place to be erected into a royal burgh; and that the Earl of Argyle, to whom the same belonged in fee, was anxious for the erection. The charter for raising the old burgh or barony of Loch-head to the dignity and privileges of the royal burgh of Campbelton was granted by William III. April 19th, 1700. The town, however, had been known by its present name for some years, by the act of the people themselves, out of respect for the family of Argyle. From the Justiciary books of Argyle-

shire and the Isles, it appears that a Circuit Court of Justiciary was held at Campbelton in August, 1680. This is the earliest period that the modern name has been found in writing; and the first time thereafter that the Presbytery of Cantire met, it was at Campbelton, on the 9th of November, 1687. Previous to this there had been no entry in the record for twenty-seven years. The last previous entry is dated March 6, 1660, and the town is then called Loch-head. By the 59th Act of the sixth Parliament of James IV. in 1503, the "Loch-head of Kilkerran" was declared to be the seat of justice for the South Isles.

Friend. — These royal burghs were, in the eyes of Andrew Fairservice, one of Scotland's boasts. "Sae mony royal boroughs," he said, "yoked on end to end, like ropes of ingans, with their hie-streets, and their booths nae doubt, and their kræmes, and houses of stane, and lime, and forestairs."

Author. — In this respect Campbelton sustains that flavour of royalty with which she was filled when she was Dalruadh, the capital of the old Scottish monarchy. The ancient places of the town that are still identified by their modern names, are Fisher's Point, Parliament Close, Dalaruan, and Dalintober. There is the suburb of Dalintober, over against us, on the opposite side of the harbour, with its little quay, and the houses of the fishermen, and their rusty-looking nets

hung out on large poles. This old quay of Campbelton is about to be widened some ten or twelve feet, a necessary improvement towards meeting the demands of the increasing commerce. The population of the town is between six and seven thousand; of the burgh and parish, upwards of ten thousand. As to the public buildings and institutions, besides those we have already seen, there are eight places of worship — churches, chapels, and meeting-houses, with a Roman Catholic chapel, chiefly used by the Irish inhabitants; there are Sunday schools, and a ragged school, and a grammar school, and private schools. There are two banks, a custom-house, and an excise office; there are reading-rooms, an Athenæum, and a public library, and all the conveniences and comforts of a good provincial town. Here is McEwing's, the chief bookseller and printer. He publishes a newspaper, called "The Argyleshire Herald," which has a large circulation, and is very well edited. Let us go into his shop and possess ourselves of a copy, and see how the world wags in Campbelton. So: let us run our eyes over the advertisements. Here is Neil Sinclair, the seedsman and florist; Alexander McPhail, the painter and paperhanger; Mrs. McCallum, the milliner, who intimates that she has returned from Glasgow with the latest fashions; William Dickson, the wine-merchant; William Hunter, the jeweller and

watchmaker; and Robert Simpson, with his concentrated manures. Here, too, is the Campbelton Apothecary Hall, offering to prevent our sea-sickness with a dose of their Bicolotyne. Here, too, are the sales by auction, or "Public Roup;" the "Cows and Queys, calved and to calve, and a few Quey Calves," at the farm of Mid Craigs; the Ayrshire bulls, and Milk Boynes, Chessets, &c., at the farm of Low Drumore; the furniture, including "a large Napery chest" at Askomill Walk; the Ayrshire cows, queys, and bulls, the "potale cart, churters," &c., and the "prize bull, belonging to Mr. M'Conachy, Knockrioch," to be sold at Kilwhipnach; the "paling stobs from Largie;" the "excellent Tidy Cows, the property of Mr. Duncan M'Tarish;" and the "Cargo of dissolved Bones, arrived per schooner Robert," in the corner of which advertisement, you will perceive, in capital letters, the words "No Bosh;" which shows that Eastern slang has penetrated into the Western Highlands. The word "that" appears to be expressively used. Among the "To Lets" is "That house," "That shop," "That business." And there have been lost, somewhere between Westport and Ballachantee, "Three white-faced Wedder Hoggs, double back bit far lug. Ewe, single back bit far lug." If we find these singular creatures, we are permitted to claim a reward from Mr. McKenzie of the Argyle Arms. So much for an analysis of the

advertising columns. As for the local news, we will study that hereafter. You see it is a thoroughly complete newspaper, with its weekly column of "Town-talk, by our London Correspondent," a gentleman who sees farther into a millstone than you can be aware of, and who will open the eyes of the West Highlanders to various interesting circumstances of which they might otherwise have remained in ignorance. Here, for instance, he tells them, how their Lord of the Isles, the Prince of Wales, "takes hold of the cantle of the saddle when he jumps," plays the violin, has an excellent appetite, and likes a cigar; "but that taste is not approved of at Windsor." May the "Argyleshire Herald" and its London Correspondent continue to flourish! for a newspaper in any country district, — and *à fortiori*, in a West Highland one, — is a mighty engine for good, and is frequently the only printed document that can gain a footing in a cottage. We may look then, on the "Argyleshire Herald" as a pioneer of progress and civilisation; and may sincerely and heartily wish it God-speed.

Friend. — Now that we are in the street again, tell me about the trade of the town.

Author. — Campbelton possesses tan-works, woollen manufactories, a salt manufactory, bleach-fields, and rope-walks; but the chief trade of the place is now in whiskey. There are about thirty large distilleries, paying

not far from a hundred thousand a year in duty; and probably there is not a vessel that leaves this harbour without its stock of whiskey on board. Glasgow is the principal market for it. In fact Campbelton has gradually drawn to itself the supply of Glasgow and other towns of the Clyde. Its vicinity to the principal barley lands of Cantire renders its situation far preferable to that of Glasgow for the manufacture; and the easy and perpetual intercourse by steamboats has brought the market to its doors. The manufacture of spirits, and consequent trade, have influenced the import as well as the export; and although barley and bear, which is an inferior kind of barley, have become the staple produce of Cantire, they are still insufficient for the supply of the distilleries.*

Friend. — Bear with me while I recite a quotation anent bear, though you well know the lines:—

“The rough bur-thistle, spreading wide
 Among the bearded bear,
 I turn'd the weeding-hook aside,
 An' spared the symbol dear.”

Author. — If Burns had abstained from the produce

* See Lord Teignmouth's "Scotland" (p. 379), where the subject is pursued at much length, and where statistical tables are given as to the distillation, consumption, illicit traffic, effects upon crime and social progress, &c. &c. During 1860 there has been a great falling off in the revenue from duties on Highland whiskey.

of the bear, as well as from the thistle, it would have been the better for him. But to return to my muttons. The joint operation of the legal distilleries and of the excise has been the diminution of the illicit trade, which is now almost extinct. Formerly malting was much carried on at Campbelton, and proved a principal source of encouragement to smuggling, as those who were engaged in the illicit traffic brought their grain to the regular establishments to be malted, and paid for it after the sale of their whiskey. Women had a large share in this traffic, and were notoriously continually drunken. The temptation to drink whiskey when every one manufactured it, was irresistible; but few could pay for the manufactured article. Lord Teignmouth, who inquired deeply into these particulars, comes to the conclusion, that, with the diminution, almost amounting to extinction, of illegal distillation in the Highlands and Islands, there was a corresponding decrease of profligacy and crime. The return from Campbelton of the comparative amount of duty on spirits distilled, and of convictions, places this conclusion in a striking light. The diminution of convictions, notwithstanding the enormous increase of legal distillation in the town, proves that its demoralising effects must not necessarily be sought where it is carried on, whilst its immediate influence in suppressing the illegal practice is undoubtedly beneficial. The whiskey trade has

now supplanted the fisheries for which Campbelton was once celebrated. Its harbour, as the old Gazetteers tell us, was "the rendezvous for the busses."

Friend. — A sort of Elephant and Castle, or King's Cross.

Author. — No; these busses instead of plying on the land, plied on the deep.

Friend. — Then (to interrupt you with a bad joke) those busses were light smacks.

Author (with severity). — They were vessels from twenty to ninety tons burden, the best size being about eighty. You will see a full description of them in Pennant.* He tells us that a buss of eighty tons ought to take out ten lasts, or a hundred and twenty barrels of herrings at one guinea a barrel, in order to clear expenses. A vessel of that size ought to have eighteen men, three boats, and 20,000 square yards of nets. A bounty of thirty shillings per ton, which was finally increased to fifty shillings, was allowed for the encouragement of British adventurers, and was allowed to such as claimed it at the appointed rendezvous. Campbelton was formerly the harbour appointed for this purpose, and as many as 260 busses have been seen here at one time. Whole fleets of boats and busses were formerly built here, and sent from hence on this trade; and, in a single year, as many as

* Hebrides, p. 319.

30,000 barrels have been exported. When the Government wished to encourage men to enter the navy, they withdrew the herring bounty, a circumstance which, while it for a time brought great loss to Campbelton, gave hundreds of fine fellows to man our wooden walls. A great part of the capital formerly embarked in the herring fishery by the Campbelton merchants, was then invested in distilleries, and the fishery consequently declined; but of late years it has considerably revived, and now that steamers can convey the fish fresh to Glasgow, the trade has greatly increased.* We shall, however, see more of the herring fishery when we get to Tarbert, on Loch Fyne. Cod and ling and other fish are also shipped from this port in great quantities. One of the articles of export is called *druff*; it is the refuse of the grain from the distilleries, and is usually sold for pig-meal.

Friend. — What an excellent harbour it is, and how beautiful is the view from it!

Author. — The bay, you perceive, comes in from the east, and on the western side of the town is low ground about three miles in width, extending to Machrihanish Bay, on the Atlantic shore. This plain is now cultivated, and traversed by a canal leading to a coal mine (at the village of Dalvaddy) that supplies the town

* The report by the "Commissioners for the British Fisheries," gives the latest statistics concerning the Campbelton fisheries.

with fuel *; but from the alluvial character of the soil, and from the general appearance of this tract of land, it is easy to perceive that it was once covered by the sea, and that this spot on which we are now standing, and from it all round to the Mull, was once an island, or at any rate was like the Isle of Davar, which we see yonder, and which is an island at high water. The hills that overhang the town on its north and south sides vary from 800 to 1000 feet high. The hill over against us is called Cnoc Scalapil. On this side, towards the island of Davar, are the Glenramskill hills, heathery and beloved of sportsmen. At their foot, near to the harbour, is the Glenramskill distillery. The hill of Bengullion, which, I am told, is about 1500 feet in height, is seen a little further south. Here, in this harbour, in January, 1853, lay H. M. S. *Hereules*, a seventy-four, for the reception of 840 emigrants, who came chiefly from the Isle of Skye. No less than 3000 people emigrated from the Western Highlands and Islands about that time, two thirds of whom came from Skye; they were enabled to do this chiefly through the assistance of the Highland and Island Emigration Society. Just on the slope of the hill, on this side the harbour, behind the little battery, you see Limecraigs, the Duke of Argyle's house, or rather, you see the

* The coal is of an inferior quality. The dip of the coal corresponds in inclination and quality with that found at Ballycastle, in Ireland.

avenues of fine trees that front it. They were planted more than 180 years ago, by Elizabeth Tollemache, Duchess of Argyle, and mother of the great Duke John. The old Duchess was more partial to Cantire and Campbelton than many of her descendants have been *, and she delighted to live here in company with several young ladies of rank, whom she watched with Argus-eyed vigilance, lest they should stoop to an alliance with the lairds of Cantire. She was foiled, however, in her stratagems, although she was a more than ordinarily cunning old lady, to say nothing worse of her, as the following story may suggest. When Argyle had subdued the Macdonalds, and gained possession of Cantire, he gave several estates to the members of his clan. The old Duchess wished for these scattered possessions to be taken from their owners, and given back again to her own family. She therefore borrowed their charters from the several Campbells, under pretence of revising them; but when once she had got them in her hands, she destroyed them, and the Campbells having nothing to show to prove their titles to the estates, were compelled to give them up to the Argyle family, who thus revoked their original grants. It is delightful to know that this crafty old Duchess was outwitted by the shrewdness of a common (or rather,

* Lord Teignmouth (who also gives this anecdote) says that the late Duke of Argyle only paid one visit to Cantire.

an uncommon) servant. He suspected some evil design, and having abstracted his master's charter before it could be placed in the hands of the Duchess, made off with it, and did not restore it until time had exposed the old woman's fraud. This was at Kildalloig, a pleasant estate, on the outside of the bay, on the other side of the Isle of Davar, and still held by a Campbell.

Friend. — That crafty old Duchess would be a famous subject for Thackeray's scalpel.* But what was that very mild-looking little battery for?

Author. — For intimidation. It is called "The Trench," and was raised for the reception of Alexander Macdonald, *alias* Alister MacColl, who came over with a party of Irish to assist Montrose, the Earl of Antrim being expected at the same time. It does duty now as a saluting battery, and makes itself of great importance at the Campbelton regattas. But let us stroll back up Main Street and by the old cross. We have heard already a good deal about the Macdonalds, at Saddell, at Dunaverty, and here. They were the ruling powers of the district. The conventicle-looking building that terminates the vista of

* "At the south corner of the now roofless Loland Kirk, are interred the remains of Elizabeth Tollemache, Duchess of Argyle, mother of the great Duke John and Duke Archibald, and Lady Anne, who married the Earl of Bute. She lived for more than twenty years at Limecraigs, during the early part of the eighteenth century, having Kintyre as her jointure." — *Statistical Account of Campbelton*, p. 462.

our view of Main Street, is called the Castlehill Church, and occupies the site of the ancient castle of the Macdonalds of Ceann-Loch. When, as we have already seen, the seat of government was removed from Dalruadhain to Forteviot, in 843, this remote and deserted part became a prey to foreign invaders. The Danes and Norwegians had already got firm possession of the greater part of the Western Isles, and, by making frequent inroads into the heart of the kingdom, put it entirely out of the sovereign's power to pay any attention to the frontiers. Cantire suffered the same fate with the other islands with which it was classed, and became the asylum for pirates. About the end of the ninth century, Harold Harfager, King of Denmark, made an expedition in person to Cantire, in order to reduce the pirates to obedience. He also appointed a governor over them; for, as Cantire and the Isles were chiefly inhabited by his subjects, he began to consider them as a portion of his kingdom. These governors, or viceroys, were not contented with deputed royalty; and, in 1164, Somerled, a powerful chieftain in Cantire,—“the mighty Somerled” of Scott*,—formed a matrimonial alliance with one of the viceroys, by marrying the grand-daughter of Harold, and made a descent upon the Clyde with a fleet of one hun-

* For further particulars of him see the notes to “The Lord of the Isles.”

dred and twenty sail, but was defeated and slain at Renfrew by Malcolm IV. This defeat was long felt by Somerled's descendants, preventing them not only from attempting new conquests, but even scarcely enabling them to preserve the territories of their fathers. Accordingly we find, at different periods, the Kings of Norway, of Scotland, and sometimes of England, laying claim to the sovereignty of Cantire and the Isles. Now the son of "mighty Somerled" was Reginald, a more powerful prince even than his father, for he formed alliances with the kings of England; and he was the ancestor of those Macdonalds of Cantire whom we have already encountered here, and at Dunaverty, and at Saddell, and with whom we shall meet elsewhere. For centuries they reigned as lords of the Isles.* Cantire paid them a yearly tribute of five hundred cows; Islay contributed another five hundred, and the other isles in like proportion. One of the Macdonalds of whom we heard when we were near Saddell, was surnamed Angus Oig, and was the friend and protector of the gallant Bruce in his adversity, and was that self-same —

"Ronald, from many a hero sprung,
The fair, the valiant, and the young,

* They assumed regal powers and held parliaments. Lord Hales says, that in one of these parliaments (held at Artornish), Macdonald received a regular embassy from the King of Scotland.

Lord of the Isles, whose lofty name
A thousand bards have given to fame.
The mate of monarchs, and allied
On equal terms with England's pride."

His grandson John at first espoused the cause of Baliol, but returned to his allegiance, and was married to a daughter of Robert II., King of Scotland. Of this marriage there were four sons: Donald, Lord of the Isles, John of Antrim, Alexander, and Allan. Donald, in right of his wife, succeeded to the earldom of Ross. It was when one of his descendants, John, Earl of Ross, had offended the King by his daring conduct, that the King sent an army against him under the Earl of Athol, to whom he gave, as a parting command, that laconic phrase that has since formed the family motto: "Furth, fortune, and fill the fetters!" meaning, "Go forth! may good fortune attend you, and may you bring back many prisoners." James IV. held a parliament in Campbelton, on the spot that still retains the name of "Parliament Close," where he emancipated a part of the vassals of the Macdonalds, and granted them *de novo* charters, holding of the crown; but, in 1536, to curb the license and subdue the haughty spirit of the chieftains and their vassals, James V. found it necessary to make a voyage to Cantire and the Isles. During this expedition the King repaired the fortalice of Kilkerran, close by here,

and left in it a garrison wherewith to overawe Macdonald. But before the King had got clear of the harbour, Macdonald sallied out of his castle, took possession of the fortalice, and, in the sight of the King, hung the new governor from the walls as an unmistakable proof of their conquest.

Friend.— Which was adding insult to injury. And this Castlehill church is built upon the site of Macdonald's castle, and, by its name, reminds us thereof?

Author.— Yes. It was James Macdonald who was the hero of the surprise of Kilkerran. He was succeeded by his son Angus, who lived chiefly here, but occasionally at Largie and Dumaverty, whose castle he had put in a state of repair. He carried on a bloody feud with Maclean of Duart. In 1591 they were prevailed upon to go to court, in order that their differences might be settled. The King settled them by clapping them both in prison, in Edinburgh Castle, though they were afterwards released on paying a fine. Angus behaved with great cruelty, and repeatedly resisted and defied the government. His Protestant neighbours complained of him, and the Earl of Argyle, who was then engaged in suppressing an insurrection, was ordered to march against him. At his approach Angus and his son James, with their followers, fled to Ireland, and Argyle took possession of his castle of Ceann-Loch, and of the rest of Cantire. The lands of

the Macdonalds were then forfeited to the crown, and bestowed by James VI. on the Earl of Argyle. Angus was afterwards pardoned, and a pension was bestowed on his son, who was knighted; but the lands were never restored. Sir James Macdonald died without issue, and the lands were claimed by Coll Macdonald, surnamed Coll Kittoch, "the left-handed." Some believe him to have been a natural son of the Earl of Antrim; but, according to tradition, he was the son and lawful heir of Sir James. He was noted for his strength and prowess, and left no means untried to harass Argyle. His son Alexander commanded the auxiliaries sent by Lord Antrim to assist the royal cause in the struggle between Charles I. and his Parliament. Alexander served under Montrose as his major-general; and, immediately after the battle of Inverlochy, where Argyle was defeated on the 2nd of Feb. 1644, his father Coll invaded Cantire (from Colonsay, of which he had taken violent possession), and claimed it as his inheritance. When Montrose was appointed Captain-general of Scotland, he conferred the honour of knighthood on his major-general; and, after the battle of Philiphaugh, the Earl of Huntley in the north, and Sir Alexander Macdonald in the south, were the only chieftains who remained in arms against the Covenanters. When Lieutenant-General Leslie had subdued the Earl of Huntley, he marched

south against Sir Alexander Macdonald, who retreated to Dunaverty. Then followed that dreadful massacre at "The Rock of Blood," and the downfall of the Macdonalds. Sir Alexander was killed in Ireland. Coll Macdonald was hanged at Dunstaffnage. Neither he nor his son left issue, and Cantire was never afterwards claimed by the heirs of mighty Somerled, the descendants of the powerful Lords of the Isles. So this castle of Ceann-Loch passed away from the Macdonalds into the possession of the Earls of Argyle; and here, in 1685, the unfortunate Earl of Argyle issued his declaration of hostilities against James II. Thus that old castle of old Campbelton saw its fierce and stormy days; and now, as has been appropriately said, "the ministers of Campbelton enjoy the satisfaction of preaching that gospel which speaks peace on earth and good-will to the sons of men, on the same spot where the Lords of the Isles issued their stern and arbitrary mandates." This Castlehill church, as it is now called, is one of the two parish churches of Campbelton; the service here is in English, at the other kirk in Gaelic. The Gaelic Kirk has sittings for 1860 worshippers; the English Kirk for 1200. At the Relief Church there are sittings for 1600. It possesses the unusual ornament of a tall tower of five stages, with pinnacles, built in a species of Gothic, which, with the spire of the town-house, form the

two most conspicuous features in the views of the town.

Friend. — I hear also of a kirk in this place called “The United Secession Church,”* which seems a queer title. But what do you mean by a Relief Church?

Author. — I will answer you out of book. This is what Lord Teignmouth says: “The people of Campbelton and its neighbourhood are divided into two distinct classes; generally distinguished as Highlanders and Lowlanders; the former belonging to the Kirk, the latter to the Relief; the former speaking Gaelic, the latter English; though the gradual diffusion of English has tended in a great measure to obliterate the difference. The Relief are much less numerous than the Kirk. They have no chapel in Argyleshire except at Campbelton and Southend, and very few of their persuasion except in these parishes. They are the remnant of a colony of Covenanters, introduced during the religious wars by Argyle; and it is singular that to this day they steadily maintain their separate existence, names, religion, and associations, though some Highlanders have joined their communion. They intermarry almost exclusively, and bury their dead in a separate cemetery near Campbelton; though the Roman Catholics, less bigoted in this respect, mingle their

* They form the most considerable body next to the Established Church.

dead promiscuously with those of the Kirk in the cemetery of Kilkerran. In the burial-ground of South-end, a stream separates the dead of the Kirk and the Relief. In this respect, however, they resemble the Highlanders, who are buried together as much as possible in reference to their clans. They have also their own distinct traditions. But the chief difference, for a long time, between the two sects was the language. The Relief belonged to the Kirk till about sixty years ago, when they quitted it on account of the Duke of Hamilton having appointed a minister whom they did not approve" (this was in 1767), "about the time at which the great secession took place throughout Scotland on the score of patronage. They were then possessed of all the malting business, and secured the monopoly of this lucrative employment by admitting none but persons of their own persuasion to a share in it. The inducement was so strong, that it attracted a few Highlanders to their number."

Friend. — The cannie Scots! Truly it might be said of their godliness, that it was great gain.

Author. — "They are characterised by the people," says Lord Teignmouth, "as very strict in their religious tenets, looking down somewhat superciliously on others, and also extremely shrewd in their worldly affairs, and more cautious than the Highlanders, of which proof is afforded by their having obtained pos-

session of nearly all the best farms near Campbelton, and being an opulent body. They are very scrupulous in the selection of their ministers, and prompt in dismissing them, if dissatisfied with them. One was lately discharged for presuming to marry the woman of his choice, in preference to one whom they had marked out for him. The practice of choosing the minister attracts many to their sect. Their minister is well paid." It was about 180*l.* a year when Lord Teignmouth wrote, which was in the year 1827* ; but in 1835 the congregation was split into two ; and a lawsuit as to the occupancy of the Kirk was decided in favour of the party that adhered to the Relief. Penant says that the Relief Kirk "was raised by a voluntary subscription of 2300*l.*, collected chiefly among the posterity of oppressed natives of the Lowlands, encouraged to settle here (in times of persecution) by the Argyle family. These still keep themselves distinct from the old inhabitants, retain the zeal of their ancestors, are obstinately averse to patronage, but are esteemed the most industrious people in the country." There is a tale told of a man named Malcolm Mac Geachy, who lived at Campbelton, and was a very pious and intelligent man. His wife was dead, and his chil-

* Much of his work (but not the Campbelton portion of it) appeared as supplements to "The Saturday Magazine," 1833-4. The work itself was not published till 1836.

dren were scattered abroad. Under the same roof with him lived an old woman named Kate Mac Eachin, but a partition separated their two rooms. It was so thin, however, that they were enabled to converse together without leaving their own rooms and firesides. One day, after a long silence, Malcolm said, "Hallo, Kate!" "What now, Malcolm?" she asked. "I am going to give you a bit of advice, Kate!" said he. "Well," replied Kate, "let me hear it; for you have given me many a good bit of advice." "Then, my advice to you, Kate," said he, "is, that you give up praying." "Give up praying!" cried out Kate; who was a very piously disposed person, and never omitted reading her Bible, and saying her prayers every morning and evening: "Why, what a bad man you must be, Malcolm, to advise me to give up praying!" "Yes, Kate," said he; "you must give up praying, or else, you must give up scolding. I heard you scolding your other neighbour yestreen; and you must either give up scolding, or praying; for, you may depend upon it, they cannot do together." Kate became very thoughtful, and then said that Malcolm was quite right; so she kept her praying, and did away with her scolding.

Friend. — There is much grim humour and shrewdness in the Scotch nature. They can originate wit, even if they cannot appreciate it when they encounter it. I have been reading Dean's Ramsay's book; and I

like to have such old anecdotes as he tells us strictly preserved, for they are useful illustrations of men and customs that are fast disappearing.

Author. — Those old customs and national peculiarities survive in Cantire, when they have long since perished in other parts of the Highlands before the advance of tourists and civilisation. We have already met with many specimens of this, even though we have advanced only thus far into the bowels of the land; and we shall encounter yet more. But enough for the present.

Now, let us go back to the White Hart to dinner; and, as such is the custom of the place, consult the oracle.*

[*Exeunt : the scene closes, and so does this chapter.*]

* “At night am admitted freeman of Campbelton, and, according to the custom of the place, consult the oracle of the Bottle about my future voyage, assisted by a numerous company of brother burgesses.” —PENNANT’S *Voyage to the Hebrides* p. 176.