

## THE PUBLISHER'S PREFACE.

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FROM the period of time that has elapsed since the date of the first advertisement of the proposed publication of this (3d) edition of *THE MORAY FLOODS*, now nearly ten years ago, the Publisher deems it necessary to explain to his Subscribers and the Public the reason of the delay.

It may be desirable to remind the reader, that in the year 1862, the Publisher applied to the late Sir John Dick Lauder, Bart., son of the gifted Author, for liberty to publish a new edition of the *WOLFE OF BADENOCH*, a request which the worthy Baronet not only cordially granted, but leave was also accorded to publish the whole of the works of his late father. "I am well aware," said Sir John, in a letter dated 6th September, 1862, "of the scarcity of *THE WOLFE OF BADENOCH*, *LOCHANDHU*, and *THE MORAY FLOODS*. . . There are also the *HIGHLAND RAMBLES* and *LEGENDS OF THE HIGHLANDS*, which, I am sure, would sell well." Subsequently Sir John wrote—"You are at perfect liberty to publish an edition of *THE WOLFE OF BADENOCH*, and, if you find that succeed, it may be an inducement to publish some of the other works." The Publisher, after the publication of *THE WOLFE OF BADENOCH*, set about making his arrangements for the publication of *THE FLOODS*. Considerable difficulty was experienced in finding the plates, and it was only after a search of some months, that they were found. The satisfaction which this fortunate discovery afforded was participated in by Sir John, who wrote, on 8th June, 1864—"I am glad to hear that you have suc-

ceeded in getting possession of the plates for **THE FLOODS.**" The way then seemed, to all appearance, clear; but when **THE MORAY FLOODS** was advertised for publication, it was found that Mr. Murray, the London publisher, had, unknown to Sir John, an interest in the copyright, and a threatened injunction at law to prevent any interference with his rights, put a temporary stop to the proceedings. Last year, however, Mr. Murray's copyright expired, and the Publisher immediately set about recovering his position.

One circumstance, which will serve to reconcile the reader to the delay, is that of Miss Dick Lauder having written a Preface to this Edition, which forms one of the most attractive features of the publication. The Preface will be read with much interest, not only as being written by the daughter of the gifted author of the work, and as containing interesting personal reminiscences connected with the memorable "Flood," not noticed before, but as showing how much the writer has inherited of the genial spirit and literary ability of her late father.

Believing that it would greatly interest the reader to possess a genealogical notice of the Lauder family, the Publisher applied to Miss Dick Lauder for the same, but, with the genuine modesty allied to true nobility, that lady declined to enter on that subject. The desideratum is therefore shortly supplied from "Debrett's Baronetage":—

#### DICK LAUDER.

Creation 1628, FOUNTAINHALL, Haddingtonshire.

Seats—Fountainhall, Pencaitland, N.B.; The Grange House, Edinburgh, N.B.

This family, which is in direct descent from the Royal House of Plantagenet, is of Norman origin, De Lavedre being mentioned among the barons who accompanied Malcolm Canmore into Scotland. Sir Robert de Lawedre was a companion in arms of Sir William Wallace, and several times ambassador to England from Robert I. Many of the family attained knightly honours; and the second baronet was a senator of the College of Justice, as Lord Fountainhall.

The family, it will be seen, is a very old one, Sir Thomas, the author of this work, having been seventh Baronet, while the present Sir Thomas is the ninth. The following additional particulars regarding it are quoted from an interesting biographical sketch in the "Edinburgh Encyclopædia":—

Sir John, the second Baronet, having early displayed a predilection for the bar, he went abroad to finish his education at Leyden, and afterwards returned to his native country to prepare himself for the profession he had chosen, and passed advocate in 1668. He was one of those fifty advocates, who, disgusted with the partiality of the judges at that time composing the Court of Session, and more particularly with their arbitrary endeavours to crush appeals from their sentences to the King and Parliament, were so spirited as to desert the Court in a body, in February, 1678, and who were, in consequence of this determined step, deprived of the power of exercising the functions of their profession. He was afterwards restored, along with his companions, in January, 1679. Soon after this, he had the honour of Knighthood conferred upon him. Upon the occasion of Argyle's trial for the alleged treasonable interpretation of the test, in 1681, Lauder, with seven others of his brethren, who formed the Earl's counsel, had nearly been subjected to imprisonment by the tyrannical Scottish Administration of the time, for having, merely as an ordinary piece of duty to their client, signed a favourable opinion as to the meaning of his expressions. In 1685, he was returned to the Scotch Parliament for East-Lothian, which county he continued to represent for twenty-two years; and in 1689 he was created a Lord of Session, under the title of Lord Fountainhall, by King William and Queen Mary; and in 1690 he was made one of the Lords of Justiciary. At that period the office of Lord Advocate was frequently held in conjunction with a seat on the Bench. This situation was offered to Fountainhall in 1692, and was refused by him, because he was denied permission to prosecute the inhuman perpetrators of the diabolical Massacre of Glencoe.

It would be ungracious to omit to notice the exertions of others in the same field. No sooner had the copyright of *THE FLOODS* expired, and the way been thus made clear to all-comers, than an enterprising young Publisher in this town (according to an introductory note to his publication, written by a much respected scientific and literary gentleman in the

neighbourhood) applied to "the present Honourable Baronet of Fountainhall" for *leave* to reprint the work ! It is not very easy to account for this altogether unnecessary and rather extraordinary application ; but whatever may have been the motives that induced it, one thing seems evident, that Sir Thomas had not been duly apprised of the circumstances connected with this work of his grandfather's, for the introductory note alluded to goes on to state that the worthy Baronet actually *gave permission*. Armed with this sanction, the spirited young Publisher above referred to, according to the introductory note, forthwith makes "another search for the plates." That he was "successful in finding them" is not at all wonderful, seeing they had been left, nine years before, in the hands of the original publishers—Messrs. A. & C. Black, of Edinburgh, under an arrangement distinctly entered into with them, that, for a specified sum, the Publisher of the present edition should have the use of them for his contemplated reprint of *THE FLOODS*, whenever Mr. Murray's copyright expired. This young Publisher, having thus on two occasions "slain the slain," then proceeded with his operations, and so quietly and industriously did he make progress, that the work was nearly finished before the world was the wiser of his intentions.

The Publisher has thought it expedient to notice the circumstance above referred to, in order to place the facts, which have been much confused and jumbled by the advertisements, and by the introductory note above alluded to, fairly before the public.