

St. Brit.

HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION.

TENTH REPORT

OF THE

ROYAL COMMISSION ON HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS.



DARLINGTON:

PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
BY NORTH OF ENGLAND NEWSPAPER CO., LTD.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
WYMAN AND SONS LTD., FETTER LANE, E.C.; and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
OLIVER & BOYD, EDINBURGH; or
E. PONSONBY, 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1885.

RE-ISSUED 1906.

Price 8d.

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TENTH REPORT

OF THE

ROYAL COMMISSION ON HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

WE, Your Majesty's Commissioners appointed by Your Royal Commission to inquire what papers and manuscripts belonging to private families would be useful in illustrating Constitutional Law, Science, and the General History of this country, and to which their respective possessors would be willing to give access, respectfully beg leave to submit this our Tenth Report to Your Majesty.

The death of Lord Houghton has caused a vacancy among Your Commissioners which it will be difficult to fill. His many services to historical and general literature are too well known to require special mention in this Report.

The ordinary work of inspection since the publication of our Ninth Report has been carried on by Mr. J. C. Jeaffreson, Mr W. O. Hewlett, Mr. H. C. Maxwell Lyte, Mr. H. B. Tomkins, the Rev. J. A. Bennett, and the Rev. Joseph Stevenson for England; by Dr. Fraser for Scotland; and by Mr. Gilbert for Ireland. Mr. E. F. Taylor and Mr. F. Skene have continued their work on the manuscripts of the House of Lords.

To Mr. Walter Rye Your Commissioners are under obligations for an account of the valuable *Gawdy MSS.* in his possession; and Mr. R. N. Worth has contributed a supplementary report on the Records of Plymouth Corporation.

The chief collections of manuscripts upon which reports have been completed since the submission of the Ninth Report to Your Majesty, are the following:—

England.—Marquis of Abergavenny, Earl of Kilmorey, Earl of Powis, Earl of Westmorland, Lord Braye, Lord Muncaster, Lord Stafford, Sir P. T. Mainwaring, Bart., Sir N. W. Throckmorton, Bart., Captain J. F. Bagot, the Misses Boycott, George Browne, Esq., G. Wingfield Digby, Esq., E. L. Gatacre, Esq., Stanley Leighton, Esq., M.P., S. Z. Lloyd, Esq., G. F. Luttrell, Esq., the Rev. C. R. Manning, N. Storey Maskelyne, Esq., M.P.,

A. Salwey, Esq., the Rev. W. H. Sewell, J. L. Parkinson, Esq., Capt. Stewart, of Alltyrodyn, C. F. Weston Underwood, Esq., &c., &c.; Wells Cathedral, Stonyhurst College, the counties of Essex and Middlesex, and the Corporations of Bishop's Castle, Bridgnorth, Eye, Kendal, Plymouth, Southampton, &c.

Scotland.—The Duke of Hamilton, The Earl of Eglinton and Winton, Sir John Stirling Maxwell, Bart., and C. S. H. Drummond Moray, Esq., &c.

Ireland.—Marquis of Ormonde, Earl of Fingall, the Sees of Dublin and Ossory, the Corporations of Galway and Waterford, the Jesuits' Archives, &c., &c.

Your Commissioners beg to subjoin a brief account of many of the above-named collections. Full particulars of each will be given in the supplementary reports to be submitted to Your Majesty during the current year.

The Earl of Westmorland.—Lord Westmorland allowed to be deposited in the Public Record Office, for the Commissioners' inspection, some volumes of his MSS., consisting of original letters and miscellaneous documents, and some ancient copies (in many cases contemporaneous) of others.

Among the originals the most interesting are those contained in a volume entitled "A collection of curious letters and documents connected with the Westmorland family," lettered from A. to K. Under C. are some letters from William Pitt, the younger, on the subject of his candidature for Cambridge University in 1779, for which constituency, however, he was not returned. Under the same letter is a list of members of the University who were friends of Lord Westmorland in 1776, commencing with Pitt, of Pembroke, and ending with Affleck, of Magdalen.

In the collection lettered H. are the following: a letter from General Sir Thomas Fairfax, in 1649, to the Committee of the West Riding of Yorkshire; a pass signed by the Lord Protector; two letters from the Duke of Marlborough, dated in 1702, from the camps of Assenlen and Great Heppach, and addressed to Lord Westmorland at the Hague; a warrant under the sign manual of Prince George of Denmark, appointing Thomas, 6th Earl of Westmorland, one of the gentlemen of his bedchamber; and letters from the Earl of Sunderland, Lord Godolphin, Mr. Stanhope, and others. In the same collection are copies of two letters from Queen Anne, dated in 1714, to the Princess Sophia of Hanover and to the Elector, afterwards King George I., protesting against Prince George's design of coming to England; there is also a copy of a letter from the Earl of Oxford to the Elector, after the refusal to allow the writ of summons sent to him as Duke of Cambridge. Among others worthy of note in this volume is a letter, dated December 1720, from William Mildmay to the Earl of Westmorland, giving a long account of the state of Italy, in which country he was travelling. In the

bundle docketed K. the most interesting letter is one dated Sep. 29th 1675, from Father Coleman, a Jesuit, to whom sent does not appear, but the person addressed is styled "Your ' Reverence,'" giving a minute and lengthy account of the intrigues carried on by the Jesuits to increase the power of the Roman Catholic Church in England. A great deal of light is thrown on the connexion of the King and the Duke of York with these matters.

Mildmay, 2nd Earl of Westmorland, printed in 1648 a volume of poems entitled "*Otia Sacra*:" among the papers here reported on is a manuscript volume of Latin and English verses, epigrams, acrostics, &c., chiefly of the period of the Interregnum, and written probably by the Earl himself. None are of great interest, the best being perhaps one called "a ballet," and commencing—

" Owld Oliver's gon ! Owld Oliver's gon !
" Ohone, ohone !"

There is also a holograph volume of the memoirs of Thomas, 6th Earl of Westmorland, containing much interesting information, not only of the Fane family and of the Earl himself, but also of the history of the times, for an account of which he had especial facilities, having been an intimate of Prince George of Denmark and one of the gentlemen of his bedchamber.

The remaining original MSS. are two volumes of the journals of Maria, wife of John, 3rd Earl of Clarendon, written whilst she and her husband were travelling in France, Italy, Switzerland, and Austria, in the years 1791 and 1802-3. By reason of her rank Lady Clarendon was brought into connexion with many celebrated people of the time, including Princes Camille and Jules de Rohan, the Princess Santa Croce. Cardinal Berni, the Princess Joseph of Monaco, the Duchess de Fleury, the Duke and Duchess of Fitz James, the Chevalier de Puis-Segur, the Marquis de Coigny, M. de Narbonne, Mme. de Staël, M. and Mme. Neckar, Lavater, Talma, the tragedian, the Duc de Mailly, Mme. Tallien, David the painter, the Emperor and Empress of Austria, the Grand Duke Constantine of Russia, the Duchess of Würtemberg. Lady Clarendon describes graphically the effect of her intercourse with these persons, as well as of their personal appearance.

The principal volume of copies is docketed on the back, "Collection of important State and other documents," and contains a very interesting miscellaneous number of letters, verses, accounts, and other papers, most of them being of the commencement of the seventeenth century.

At folio 6a is a copy warrant from the county magistrates to the constables and borsholders of the hundred of Twyford, in Kent, as to the levying of a special rate in the hundred for the relief of the sufferers by the plague in the hundred of Larkfield, Littlefield, and Twyford; and it may be said that most of the papers in this and the succeeding volume would be interesting and valuable to Kentishmen, as the chief and most favoured seat

of the Mildmay and Fane families was for many years Mereworth Castle, in that county.

There are several papers relating to the great case between Lady Mary Fane and Sir Edward Nevill, both of whom claimed the barony of Bergavenny, and to the subsequent case of precedence between Edward Lord Bergavenny, and Mary, Lady Le Despencer. Some of the most interesting papers relate to the creation of the new title of honour of baronet by King James, and best among them is a long account, at folio 120, of the proceedings before the King upon the two questions, first, whether baronets should be taken to be of the same rank as knights bannerets, and, second, whether they should have precedence of barons' younger sons. The speech and arguments of the new baronets and of peers and others present at what must have been a very disorderly meeting are given almost verbatim.

At folio 124 is "a plaine and trewe relation of those things observed in my Lord's sicknes since his going to the bath," being a most circumstantial account of the last illness and death of Robert (Cecil) Earl of Salisbury, written by a person who accompanied him, probably Mr. Bowle, his chaplain, as the writer appears certainly to have been a clergyman. A similar letter, though not so detailed, is printed in Sir Ralph Winwood's "Memorials" (London, 1725, vol. iii., p. 367), and is from Mr. Fynett to Mr. Trumbull, and dated from Hatfield, on May 28th, 1612.

At folio 137 is a copy of the will of the same Lord Salisbury.

There are also accounts of the trials, dying speeches, and executions of traitors and persons engaged in the conspiracies and rebellions of the early seventeenth century (the Essex and gunpowder plots, &c.), among them being the arraignment of Henry Garnett, superior of the Jesuits in England, in March 1606; the confession of Thomas Duke of Norfolk on Tower Hill, in 1572; and the speeches and confessions of Danvers, Blunt, Raleigh, Brooke, and Ellways. There are several other copies of interesting documents, to which reference will be found in Mr. Hewlett's report, particularly one at folio 42 of the volume, docketed "Political and historical doeuments," which is an amusing letter in verse on the principal performances at the playhouses then in town.

Sir Philip T. Mainwaring, Bart.—At Peover Hall are many early charters and deeds, two of the former being grants by Hugh Kevelioc, Earl of Chester, and by his son and successor Randal Blundeville; a few original letters and diaries; a valuable manuscript history of the Mainwaring family, drawn up by Sir William Dugdale; and ten large folio volumes of correspondence relating to the Post Office in the time of Charles II.

The Misses Mary M. and Margaret A. Boycott, of Hereford.—The manuscripts, or most of them, in the possession of these ladies, once belonged to Erasmus Earle, of Lincoln's Inn, and of Heydon, in Norfolk, who was a Serjeant-at-Law and Recorder

of Norwich. In January, 1645, he was one of the Parliamentary Commissioners who treated with the King's Commissioners at Uxbridge, and he was elected M.P. for Norwich in January, 1646-7. Cromwell appointed him his legal adviser, with the title of "the Lord Protector's Serjeant-at-Law"; and it would seem, from a Council Minute preserved amongst those papers, and from the order in which the signatures are appended to the accompanying legal opinions, that, from being the Protector's Serjeant, he took precedence both of the Attorney and the Solicitor General. These papers also show that Serjeant Earle was twice sent as a Commissioner of Assize, viz., to the county palatine of Lancaster in 1656, and on the North-Western Circuit in 1657.

The first of these papers—in order, but not in date—is dated in 1632, and is curious from its betraying how strong a dislike was felt, both by King Charles the First and by the landed gentry of that time, to the enfranchisement of copyholds.

Two other documents are set out in full, as they give details not previously printed of the rings and robes that were customarily distributed by Serjeants-at-Law on receiving the degree of the coif. A list of Serjeant Earle's law library, and a statement of his travelling expenses, when acting as Justice of Assize on the North-Western Circuit in the summer of 1657, are also curious enough to be given at length.

The other papers reported upon by Mr. H. B. Tomkins do not call for particular mention, but amongst them are business letters from Lord Burghley, Thomas Sydney, Sir Walter Mildmay, and Sir Julius Caesar; and two letters (numbered 29 and 30) which seem to have been written with a view to influencing certain judgments that Serjeant Earle would have to pronounce at the Lancaster and Carlisle Assizes.

Captain Stewart, of Altyrodyn.—Captain Stewart has sent up for the inspection and report of the Commissioners two boxes of MSS. of considerable value, one containing legal instruments and the other letters and papers of more general interest; all of them relate to the family of Moore, of Bank Hall, near Liverpool.

The legal documents not falling within the sphere of the Commissioners' inquiry, it has not been found possible to catalogue them at length, though to a historian of Liverpool and its vicinity such a classification would be of great importance. They range in date from the 12th to the eighteenth century, and relate principally to property in Liverpool, Kirkdale, Bootle, and Walton in Lancashire, to Chester, and to Cockfield and Earl's Halls, in Cockfield, Suffolk. One deed, dated at Flint in 1302-3, which is valuable from its unique character as showing the adoption of an heir, is given in full in Mr. Hewlett's report.

The papers calendared in this report commence in the fifteenth century, and go down to the end of the eighteenth. The earlier documents, however (arranged as Part I., early papers to the reign of King Charles I.), are not sufficiently important his-

torically to be noticed in this place, and are in many cases only copies of originals. Part II. contains letters and papers relating principally to the Civil War and Interregnum, commencing in 1641 and ending in 1665, with some undated papers assignable to the same period, and in this division will be found the most interesting portion of Captain Stewart's MSS. The papers consist chiefly of the correspondence of Colonel John Moore, of Bank Hall, one of Cromwell's best soldiers, who played a considerable part in conjunction with Monk and Michael Jones in the subjection of Ireland, and among whose most noteworthy exploits elsewhere were the siege of Lathom House and the siege and capture of Liverpool. In addition to Colonel Moore's papers, which consist chiefly of drafts of despatches, orders, and letters, and copies of correspondence received by him, are letters from the Protector, Lord Fairfax, Rhoda Lady Fairfax, Sir Thomas Stanley, Colonel Ralph Ashton, Sir William Brereton, Lord Essex, Lord Chief Baron Rigby, Lord Warwick, Lord Byron, the Governor of Chester, Bradshaw, General Jones, Sir John Meldrum, the Speaker Lenthall, the Earl of Northumberland, Thomas Mytton, Lisle, Lord Ormonde, Monk, Lord Salisbury, Judge Thorpe, and other well-known men.

The first noteworthy paper in order of date is a copy of the letter from Oxford, dated January 27th, 1643, addressed to the Earl of Essex and signed by forty-six chiefs of the King's party, among others by the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York, proposing a treaty of peace; a letter dated January 6th, 1644, to Colonel Moore announces the execution of Sir John Hotham, and the agreement of the House of Lords to the ordinance condemning Archbishop Laud to death. In the spring of 1644 Colonel Moore was besieging Lord Derby in Lathom House; some letters from him to the Lords Commissioners and the Earl of Warwick, dated respectively March 24th and April 4th, mention his want of reinforcements and the progress of the siege.

An unaddressed letter from Moore, dated November 1st, 1644, announces the surrender of Liverpool to Sir John Meldrum, and a copy of a letter from Sir John to the same effect states that he had put the command of the garrison into the hands of Colonel Moore (who was at that time Vice-Admiral for the counties of Lancaster and Westmoreland), of whose courage and other qualifications he bears ample testimony: following these are orders for the maintenance of the garrison, signed by Meldrum, Ashton, Moore, Bradshaw, Egerton, and others.

A letter of December 29th, 1645, from the Earl of Northumberland to Colonel Moore, mentions the receipt of an offer from the King to come to London to treat with the Parliament, and to put the militia into the hands of several Commissioners; "of which," adds the Earl, "he names one halfe of the number, being of such lords and others as are and have beeene all this while engaged against the Parliament, in whose hands I beleieve we shall hardly ever trust ourselves, these conditions are nothing satisfactorie." There is a copy by Moore of a

letter dated at Newark on May 5th, 1646, addressed to the Speaker, announcing the King's arrival in the Scottish camp, and enclosing a letter from Lord Lothian to the same effect, expressing his strong hopes of a favourable result from the King's move. "We canot thinke," writes Lord Lothian, "y^t he would have been soe unadvised in his resolucons to have cast himselfe upon us wthout a reall intencion to give full satisfaction to both kingdoms in all y^r just and reasonable demands in all those things y^t concerne religione and righteousness." Dated June 10th, 1646, is a copy declaration at Newcastle addressed to the Speaker of the House of Peers *pro tem.* that he is willing to treat for peace, and annexing orders for disbanding of the Royal garrisons of Oxford, Lichfield, Worcester, Wallingford, and other places.

In the summer of 1647 Moore was Governor of county Louth and of Dundalk in Ireland, and in August marched from that town for the relief of Trim. An interesting diary relates the principal events of the march, and an engagement with the enemy near Dublin, and another diary of a march from Dundalk in the October following, through Drogheda, Duleek, Trim, Athboy, Kells, and the neighbouring country, for the purpose apparently of the subjection of all the enemy's strongholds, has also been selected for publication. Most of the letters of the years 1647 and 1648 relate Colonel Moore's movements in Ireland, of which he was appointed one of the Lords Commissioners, and among the undated letters of this period are his orders for the garrison of Dundalk, and his notes of the depositions of one Captain Andrew Ashton relating to the loss of Liverpool by the Parliamentary party, shortly after its surrender to Sir John Meldrum in 1644. Moore died in May, 1650, and in this collection is preserved, according to the statement of his son endorsed on the back, his last letter, dated from Trim, May 3rd, 1650.

An undated copy of the conditions offered by Sir John Meldrum to Sir Robert Byron in 1644 for the surrender of Liverpool, and two undated original letters from Colonel Moore's wife, complete that portion of the collection which relates for the most part to the Civil War. The remainder of the second portion of Part II. relates to the affairs of the country under the Commonwealth, after the death of Moore, and at the termination of the Civil War. The letters of this part of the collection are more interesting locally than generally; among others are some from the Protector, Sir Gilbert Gerard, Lord Meath, and Joan Countess of Kildare.

Part III. contains "Letters and papers relating to Edward Moore, and upon general subjects," A.D. 1650 to 1673. Edward Moore, the eldest son of Colonel John, does not appear to have emulated the example of his distinguished father. During the Commonwealth he spent most of his time in petitioning Parliament for payment of arrears due to his father's estate, and there is evidence that he was continually in pecuniary difficulties.

He married Dorothy, one of the daughters and co-heirs of Sir William Fenwick, of Wallington, a celebrated Royalist, who also lost the greater part of his fortune through his devotion to the opposite cause to that of his son-in-law. At the Restoration Edward Moore's estate was forfeited and granted to his wife; and there is a long undated memorandum in Moore's writing of his wife's claims upon the Royal bounty, in which he endeavours to prove that she was a Protestant, but that she and her family were Catholics is evident from these papers; included also is a copy of a petition from Mrs. Moore to the House of Lords setting forth her own sufferings and those of her family on behalf of King Charles I., and praying they may be brought to the King's notice. The result of these efforts has already been stated. There is a large number of letters from various relatives and friends of Edward and Dorothy Moore which have not been thought of sufficient interest to describe at length. A letter of August 29th, 1651, from Moore's bailiff to his master gives an account of Lord Derby's rising in that year, and of an engagement between him and Colonel Lilburne. A letter of November 15th, 1662, from Moore to his wife, describes Queen Catherine of Braganza in most enthusiastic terms. Another letter to Moore gives effect to the apprehensions as to the Duke of Monmouth's being declared the King's heir to the throne; and among undated papers is an interesting and full report of the examination of witnesses before a Committee of the House of Commons appointed to inquire into the origin of the Great Fire. Most of the witnesses ascribe it to the Papists; among other evidence is that of Hubert of Rouen, who (as noticed by Pepys) "acknowledged he was one of those y^t fired y^e house of Mr. 'Farriner, a baker in Puding Lane."

Part IV. contains family and miscellaneous letters and papers, 1670 to 1800, none being of especial interest. A fac-simile of the London penny post mark is given in the report. The earliest instance of the use of the mark is a letter of Dec. 9th, 1681, from the Bishop of London to Sir John Moore, the founder of Appleby School, then Lord Mayor, and further instances occur down to the year 1754. According to Haydn's Dictionary of Dates this post was established by Murray in 1681. There is a letter dated from Scotland Yard, March 28th, 1693, from Sir Christopher Wren to Sir John Moore as to the designs for Appleby School, of which Sir Christopher was the architect. A letter from Pepys to Sir John, dated York Buildings, September 18th, 1695, follows.

The last letters of interest are: one dated in 1747 from Simon Frazer, the eldest son of Simon, 12th Lord Lovat, written from Edinburgh Castle as a prisoner owing to the part he took in the '45 rebellion, and another dated from Berwick, January 19th, 1745, referring to a phase of the same event, and recording a defeat sustained by the King's troops.

N. Storey Maskelyne, Esq., M.P.—The manuscripts in Mr. Maskelyne's collection are mainly composed of letters addressed

to Edward Proger, attached to the Court of Charles II., who died in 1713. The collection is small but contains some interesting holograph letters of Charles II., Prince Rupert, the first Duke of Hamilton, the Marquis of Montrose, and others.

C. F. Weston Underwood, Esq.—The most interesting of the despatches preserved in this collection is one written in 1757 by the elder Pitt to Sir Benjamin Keene, directing him to treat with the Court of Spain concerning an exchange of Gibraltar for the Island of Minorca. Here, too, is preserved a copy of the paper which Lord Temple and Mr. Pitt presented to King George the Third on September 18th, 1761, in which they urged an immediate declaration of war with Spain, and which led to their resignation through their advice not being acted on.

The earliest of the Weston letters noticed by Mr. H. B. Tomkins in his report is a long one from Lord Townshend to King George the First, written in 1722 to 1723, describing the state of the nation, and urging the King to postpone his projected visit to Hanover till the following year.

Lady Townshend, writing to Mr. Weston, describes the way in which the King and his court spent their time when taking the waters at Pyrmont in the summer of 1725. She writes:—
 “ We was just a week at Hannover before we came to this place,
 “ the King begun the waters the day after and is mighty well.
 “ We live a most regular life. The King is at the
 “ place they drink the waters every morning between five or six
 “ o’clock, and almost everybody’s there at the same time except
 “ myself, and it is generally a little after seven before I get
 “ there. I walk with his Majesty till ten and then come home
 “ to dress; at one go to dine with the King, where we stay till
 “ about three: then come home, and at six go to court again;
 “ and at nine the King always goes to supper, and this is our
 “ constant way of liveing every day.”

On June 28th, 1728, the Duke of Wharton writes to Horatio Walpole in Paris that he hopes to obtain a pardon, and that the clemency with which he had been treated by the Government was in a great measure owing to Sir Robert Walpole’s regard for the memory of his father. In consequence of this move on the part of the Duke, Sir Robert Walpole writes a few days later to Lord Townshend:—“ I am sorry the Duke of Wharton
 “ mentions me in particular, w^{ch} puts me under some difficulty,
 “ but I cannot forbear saying I see no reason for his Majesty’s
 “ altering the Orders He has allready given . . . If His
 “ Majesty should ever be induc’d to think of pardoning the
 “ Duke of Wharton tis surely now advisable to carry on the
 “ Prosecution, when there are legal and full evidences, w^{ch} may
 “ afterwards be hard to come at & mercy is no lesse in y^e King’s
 “ Power after conviction.”

In 1729 Dr. Gibson, Bishop of London, writes to Lord Townshend:—“ I gave Dr. Tyrwhitt Institution to y^e Rectory of St.
 “ James’s yesterday, and have left y^e Jermyn Family to seek
 “ their remedy at Law, if they think it worth their while to

" contest the right of Patronage; but I think I shall hear no more of them. It was very happy for y^e publick that they had it not in their power to plant an eager Tory in so large a Parish, and so near y^e King's Palace."

Some interesting letters are preserved in this collection from Lord Chesterfield to Lord Harrington, written in 1730-31, when the former was ambassador at the Hague, and was negotiating a treaty with the Emperor. He writes in one of these:—"I find from the accounts from Berlin that the King of Prussia is frightn'd out of his wits, if he ever had any; and wants to be friends with the King, and for that reason desires a Minister may be sent there; which in my opinion should not be done; for he takes every instance of complaisance to be an indication of fear, and grows insolent upon it; whereas if he is really frightn'd as I believe he is, there is no imaginable meanness to which he will not stoop, for his security; and I should think it would be better to make him take some of those steps first, before he meets with the least return from his Majesty." In another letter he writes:—"I am likewise farr from being perswaded, that our Electorall demands are made much more reasonable than they were," and he quotes, without expressing dissent, Count Sinzendorf's declaration that "The present King demands ten times more as Elector of Hannover than ever the late King did."

Several letters and papers give particulars of the Scottish invasion of 1745, and of the suppression of the revolt in 1746. Robert Wightman, writing from Edinburgh soon after the battle of Falkirk, says that battle "was doubtless misconducted, and would have been a total Defeat on our part if Generall Huske had not acted like himself and retrieved matters." General Cholmondeley and the Duke of Cumberland describe minutely the battles of Falkirk and Culloden, and Mr. Weston has preserved several papers relating to the prisoners taken after the latter engagement. General Ligonier, writing from Lichfield on Nov. 28th, 1745 (whilst the rebels were marching towards Derby), was so confident that the Duke of Cumberland would put down the rebellion that he writes:—"Advise all your friends to buy stocks." Bishop Sherlock, writing in the summer of 1746, expresses strong and statesmanlike views about the pacification of the Highlands, and he argues that the Highland estates which were forfeited in consequence of Mar's Rebellion ought not to have been parted with by the Crown. In one letter he writes:—"The country of the Rebellious Clans, is a vast tract of country now forfeited to the Crown, and lying contiguous in the heart of the Highlands, it divides the well-affected Clans, some of them lying to the North and some to the South. The forfeited country being put under a proper Government, supported by a sufficient military force, would not only be kept quiet itself and in time civilised; but it would be a barrier against the *now* well affected Clans, should they ever alter their mind; to which there wants nothing but

" an alteration in the affection of the Chief; which may happen
 " when the present Chiefs dye and make way for new ones.
 " Nothing can be done at present with the well-affected Clans,
 " their rights must remain as they are—but a proper use made of
 " the forfeited country, will be in effect, for the reason before men-
 " tioned, a regulation of the *whole* Highlands. It will require
 " time, perhaps more than can be spared this Session, to settle a
 " Civil and Military Government, (I mean a military govern-
 " ment only so far as to enable the Civil power to execute the
 " law,) but then I should hope the King would consent to a
 " clause against making any grants of these forfeitures to any
 " person whatever: without such a clause he will be teized out
 " of them: and the next election for a new parliament in Scot-
 " land would probably sweep them all [up].” A few days later
 Bishop Sherlock writes again:—“ For my own part I am not
 " for parting with an acre of the forfeited lands: retaining the
 " property in the Crown is the only thing that can give the
 " King & parliament the power they want, to make a perfect
 " Settlement of the Highlands. In the year 1715 the forfeitures
 " in Scotland were very great, but little or nothing came to the
 " publick—the chief reason was that the Rebels had made
 " voluntary Settlements & Incumbrances, many of them to the
 " full value of their lands. The same thing has been, I question
 " not, done now. The Commissioners in 1715 had full power
 " to enquire into these Settlements; but then the proof lay
 " upon them—to shew the Fraud. There is no way to prevent
 " this, but to put the proof upon the Incumbrancers, to prove
 " their rights to have accrued by *bonâ fide* contracts.”

In 1748 Mr. (afterwards Sir James) Porter, British Minister at Constantinople, writes to Mr. Weston:—“ I had some serious
 " talk with a learned and very intelligent Turk concerning the
 " situation of the Grand Seignor’s library, he gave me some
 " lights which as he is well known, and very circumspect in his
 " information, I am inclined to believe. He assures me that all
 " the MSS. which were in possession of the Greek Emperors are
 " yet in the Seraglio, that the room is adjoining the Harem or
 " the Women’s appartement, that it lies in absolute Confusion,
 " and is never entered into, that the Condition they are in is
 " very bad, no Turk knows what to make of them, and it is
 " impossible to admit a Frank into that interior receptacle of
 " the Seraglio. I have devised every method possible to have
 " some nearer information, but in the desperate state [of] sus-
 " picion and ignorance among the Eunuchs and the body of this
 " people the difficulties seem insuperable.”

Alderman Porter, the brother of the writer just quoted, writing to Mr. Weston in October 1749, says that the 3 per cents. were then at 101 $\frac{1}{4}$, showing how low the interest of money was at that time, and suggesting that profitable investments were then very scarce.

With reference to the trial of Admiral Byng, this correspondence shows that until a very few days before his execution

people generally believed that his sentence would not be carried out. Edward Owen, writing to Mr. Weston on March 5th, 1757, adds a postscript to say:—"All the Court Martial seemed terrified at their being examined before the Lords, except old Admiral Holbourn, who curst and swore at the Bar of that House, because Byng was not shot out of the way, without giving him the trouble of coming from Portsmouth."

Mr. Richard Cox, Secretary to the Ordnance, after relating the mistake that Lord George Sackville committed at the battle of Minden and his consequent disgrace, adds, "So finishes the career of a man who was within ten minutes of being the first man in his profession in this kingdom, whenever it had pleased God to take Lord Ligonier from this world."

The British Chargé d'Affaires at Maestricht sends a present of eau de Cologne for Mrs. Weston in 1762, and writes:—"I am fully persuaded she will banish all Hungary Waters as soon as she has tried the Cologne, and found out half the virtues of it."

In 1763 Lord Halifax writes to Mr. Weston:—"The Empress of Russia in her behaviour with respect to the Dutchy of Courland seems to act as imperiously and cruelly with respect to the King of Poland's family as the King of Prussia himself does in other quarters. How miserable is the state of that unfortunate house to suffer the same calamities in different places from friend and foe. In my retirement it has occasioned some observations on the condition of Kings; but for the present I do not intend to carry them down to their ministers; for I should be wond'rous sorry to be as sick of being secretary of State to the King of Great Britain, as I should be of being King of Poland."

With reference to the Peace of Paris of 1763, the British envoy at Copenhagen writes whilst the negociations were in progress:—"France generally lays the Scheme of a New War immediately upon the conclusion of Peace; though I suppose after such a Drawback [the loss of Canada], she will not speedily be in a Condition of executing any Hostile Project. And Spain will be much more quiet for the future, duly keeping in Mind the Specimen She has lately had both of our Force & Moderation; so that this Agreement will probably be of some duration. It will last for Our Time at least; and as for future Wars & future Victorys—*Carpent ea Poma Nepotes.*" Sir Joseph Yorke, British Minister at the Hague, writing in 1764, says:—"I really never wonder at the attempts to overreaching & Cunning in a French Ambassador. It is the ruling passion of their Court, and an Experience of 17 years has sufficiently proved to me, the absurdity of expecting anything better; Frankness, Candour, & Moderation have to my Certain Knowledge no effect upon them, & after having been witness to a Solemn promise made by Louis XV. to Lord Albemarle for the evacuation of the Neutral Islands. which was not only never fulfilled but never intended, I can never treat with that Court

“ but with the greatest reserve, [et,] s'il m'est permis de la dire,
 “ [avec] la canne levée. No other argument has weight. I hope
 “ in God we shall long hold, as we now do, the right end of the
 “ Staff.” In the same year Colonel Crawford and Admiral
 Cornish refute in interesting memorials certain preposterous
 claims made by France and Spain with respect to the British
 conquests of Belleisle and Manilla; and the following year Sir
 James Porter, writing from Brussels, says:—“ I cannot but
 “ observe from this Polish Election the essential necessity there
 “ is of keeping France low to keep her quiet. She did what
 “ she could to disturb and excite disorder, but was overcome by
 “ impotency. She barked and could not bite; had she been
 “ prosperous she would have inverted the very vitals of Poland
 “ [and have] excited a bloody civil war.” Again, with reference
 to the Canada Bills, Sir James Porter writes:—“ If France re-
 “ fuses to depart at all from what she has done, I fear the poor
 “ Canada Creditors are in a deplorable situation, for this country
 “ will hardly go to War to procure them satisfaction, I suppose.
 “ But I reckon France's game will be to neglect & delay, with-
 “ out refusing, till She herself is ripe for War, and then cancell
 “ at once all her Other unperformed Engagements.” Mr. Sedg-
 wick, one of the Under Secretaries of State, writing to Mr.
 Weston in 1767, says:—“ It becomes the more evident every
 “ day, that this Our Country is so clearly in the high Road to
 “ destruction, that nothing, as it seems, but a Miracle can save
 “ it;” and soon afterwards he says:—“ The Seasons are totally
 “ changed in this Country, and one of them is quite done away.
 “ We are not now to expect warm weather till the Autumn, and
 “ may therefore as well dismiss the word Summer from our
 “ Language, as being no longer of any use, in reference to our
 “ own Country at least.” He elsewhere mentions as a well-
 recognised fact “ The general Alteration of Seasons and Climates
 “ in all Europe for some years past;” and a Mr. Waite, writing
 from Dublin Castle in the summer of 1770, says:—“ Surely the
 “ Seasons were more warm & kindly & regular when I was a
 “ Boy. The Great Globe itself, as well as Those who it inhabit,
 “ seems hastening to its final period!” Mr. Sedgwick strongly
 reprobates the bribery that was so prevalent at parliamentary
 elections, and with reference to the Northampton Election in
 1767 writes:—“ A Blow indeed was aimed at his Lordship [Lord
 “ Halifax] by a drunken clergyman who headed the adverse
 “ Mob; but a faithful servant, I am told, defended his Master
 “ from the Stroke, & beat the Parson within an inch of his
 “ Life.”

The Weston letters also give many particulars about the Chevalier d'Eon and Mr. Wilkes.

The Gawdy MSS. are a collection of letters and documents formed by Peter Le Neve, Norroy King-at-arms (born 1661, died 1729), relating chiefly to the Norfolk families of Gawdy, Knyvet, Hobart, Hare, and Le Neve. The MSS. are contained in 17 vols. and number 3,276. They extend over the reigns of

Queen Elizabeth, James I., Charles I., Charles II., and James II.

The Gawdy letters are the earliest in date and give an interesting description of the domestic and social life of the period. The Gawdys were a well-to-do family living at Harling, not far from Norwich; several of them were High Sheriffs for the county, and one, Framlingham Gawdy, sat in the Long Parliament. Bassingbourn, William, Charles, John, and others were all knighted and took a prominent part in county affairs. There are 1,222 letters belonging to the Gawdy period. Of these many are from friends and relations appointing meetings, discussing the merits of their hawks and hounds, inviting to "bankets," and relating domestic news and affairs. But there are others of political interest, and three are from the Earls of Nottingham and Essex, and Robert Earl of Leicester.

At the end of the volume are several closely written newsletters or gazettes treating mostly of political matters.

The collection contains some early post-marks, also seals and coats-of-arms.

The next largest portion of the letters after the Gawdys are those addressed to Oliver Le Neve, brother of Peter, who married Anne, daughter and heiress of Sir John Gawdy and Anne de Grey.

The Knyvet, Hare, and Hobart letters are fewer in number, but have the same general characteristics as the others.

Plymouth Corporation.—The supplementary report upon the records of the Corporation of Plymouth drawn up by Mr. R. N. Worth, shows that a large number of books and papers have been brought to light subsequently to, and as a result of, Mr. Jeaffreson's visit. The most valuable of these is a volume of Receivers' Accounts showing the income and expenditure of the Corporation during the important reigns of Elizabeth, James I., Charles I., and the Commonwealth, and containing a large number of entries affecting matters of national history.

Mr. Vidler.—Mr. J. W. C. Vidler, of Rye, has sent to Your Majesty's Commissioners for inspection a manuscript volume entitled "The Method of Building, Rigging, Apparelling and " Furnishing His Maties Ships of Warr according to their Rates
 " Also the Charge of Wages, Victualls, and Neces-
 " saries . . . The Number and Charge of Officers and
 " Workmen at each Dockyard The Salaries and
 " Allowances granted to Commissioners and Officers of Her
 " Maties Navy, And the whole of the same for one year." The
 nature of the volume is sufficiently shown by its title. At the
 beginning is an elaborate and lengthy dedication to James, Duke
 of York, dated December 23rd, 1684, and signed by "Edw^d
 Battine." The most interesting portion of the work is a List
 of the Navy at that time, giving the names of about 140
 ships of war, including ketches, sloops, and yachts, their dimen-
 sions, burthen, draught of water, total cost, and showing when,
 where, and by whom they were built.

Lord Muncaster.—The most important of the manuscripts at Muncaster Castle are two volumes of transcripts made in the reigns of James I. and Charles I. The first of them contains copies of numerous letters and papers concerning the mixed Commission appointed in 1605 for the pacification and government of the borderland of England and Scotland. It serves to connect and illustrate the scattered notices of the Commission that are to be found in the Calendars of State Papers and elsewhere. A full calendar of its contents, prepared by Mr. H. Maxwell Lyte, is therefore printed in one of the supplementary reports to Your Majesty. The transportation of the most turbulent of the Grahams to Flushing and Brill, their early return to their old haunts, and their subsequent plantation in Ireland, led to a considerable amount of correspondence between the different members of the Commission. At times too it was found necessary to obtain specific instructions from the chief officers of State. The English Commissioners frequently complained that their Scottish colleagues were not sufficiently zealous in the search for malefactors, especially for those who happened to be their own countrymen. Some of the earlier letters relate to Thomas Percy, the traitor, and others enumerate the exploits of Hutchin Graham and other marauders who caused the people of Cumberland to “abhor and fear the name ‘of Graham.’” Near the end of the volume there are copies of several characteristic letters from Lord William Howard, well known as “Belted Will,” a very energetic repressor of disorders. Sir Wilfrid Lawson, the most active of the English Commissioners, kept the original letters and papers relating to their proceedings, and this volume appears to have been transcribed for one of his colleagues, Joseph Pennington of Muncaster.

The other volume contains the “smooth logs” of Admiral John Pennington during the years between 1631 and 1636 inclusive. Numerous extracts from it will be found in the Appendix. They serve to illustrate the letters concerning the Royal Navy, of which abstracts are given in the Calendars of Domestic State Papers for those years. They also afford an interesting view of nautical life in the middle of the seventeenth century. It was the primary duty of the Admiral guarding the narrow seas to keep them clear of pirates, but he had also to arrange for the transport of important personages across the straits of Dover. In 1631, Admiral Pennington conveyed the Earl of Leicester and his suite on an embassy to the court of Denmark. Many of the entries describe the steps taken for exacting due salutes from the ships of all countries. Some of those for the year 1635 show the arrangements that were made in the fleet with a view to naval action against the French.

Another volume, of much earlier date, gives a curious list of the holy places visited by pilgrims to Jerusalem in the fifteenth century. Among the detached deeds at Muncaster Castle there are some English “dooms,” or awards, of the fifteenth century, and an agreement to perform military service under the Earl of

Westmoreland in the reign of Henry IV. A letter of the year 1745 describes the march of the Duke of Perth's army through Lancaster and Kendal.

The Corporation of Kendal.—None of the documents in the custody of the Town Clerk of Kendal refer to events prior to the incorporation of the borough by Queen Elizabeth. Among the earliest of them are some letters of her reign concerning the defence of the English border against the inroads of the Scots. Several of them are proclamations issued by the Lord Warden of the Western Marches, ordering watch to be kept for the firing of the beacons at critical times. A small piece of paper, signed by four justices of the peace on the 20th of March 1600, is an order to the Alderman of Kendal to cause the beacons to be fired, and to warn all the country to repair to Carlisle without delay, upon pain of death. A somewhat similar order was issued six days after the death of Elizabeth.

With the exception of a few bonds for the good behaviour of suspected persons, the Corporation has no documents concerning the civil war in the time of Charles I. The municipal customs and social life of Kendal in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries are well illustrated by many entries in a volume known as the Book of Record. Besides the rules of the twelve companies of traders, it contains curious orders for the regulation of games and of feasts at weddings, at churchings, and on other occasions. One of them, issued in 1586, relates to the Corpus Christi plays, which were still popular, although discountenanced by the Corporation.

Captain Josceline F. Bagot.—A number of deeds of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, preserved in the muniment room at Levens Hall, near Kendal, are valuable, as being some of the earliest records of Westmoreland now extant. Although they are for the most part ordinary conveyances of land, they supply much information of interest to the topographer and the genealogist. Some of them relate to the Hospital of St. Peter, at York, others to the Abbey of Byland, and others to the Abbey of Whitby. A few mediaeval deeds of later date are of secondary importance.

After an interval of more than four centuries, the muniment room at Levens again furnishes materials for history, in the correspondence of Colonel Graham, the younger brother of Viscount Preston. During the reigns of Charles II. and James II., Colonel Graham held various offices in connexion with the court, and he was greatly trusted by the latter monarch. He accompanied James II. in his flight to Rochester, and returned thence to London in order to recover for him certain strong boxes and documents of importance which had been left behind at the palace. Among the papers at Levens there is a draft in the King's own hand of the manifesto issued from Rochester to explain his reasons for withdrawal. There is also the first letter written by him after his landing at Boulogne. It is in a feigned hand, and, by way of further precaution, Colonel Graham en-

dorsed it—"Mr. Banks' 1st letter after his going to Oxford." In many other letters the dethroned king is mentioned under the name of "Mr. Banks," and "Oxford" was a pseudonym for "France." A small piece of paper headed "My Oxford cypher," gives the key to the secret parts of some letters from abroad. It is very difficult, however, to extract positive historical information from this section of Colonel Graham's correspondence, inasmuch as the Jacobite letters addressed to him are for the most part undated, and studiously vague. James II. openly transferred to him some stock of the Royal African Company and of the East India Company, in 1689, and it is possible that a collection of coins and medals offered for sale by Colonel Graham ten years later belonged to his former master.

Among several hundred letters, mostly relating to business matters, there are some which bear upon public affairs in the reigns of William III., Anne, and George I. From these Mr. H. Maxwell Lyte has made notes and abstracts. Some supply information about successive contests in Westmoreland between the representatives of the noble houses of Lowther and Tufton. Together with other local news, there are some accounts of the riots at Kendal in consequence of the regulation of the coinage in 1696. There are also short contemporary notices of the battles of Blenheim and Ramillies. The Duke of Hamilton expresses his political sentiments in a series of letters to Colonel Graham, and Bolingbroke contributes three characteristic letters. Several other men of note were friends and correspondents of Colonel Graham.

George Browne, Esq.—Mr. Browne, of Troutbeck, has a collection of papers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, relating almost exclusively to affairs in the county of Westmoreland. Some of them describe the hardships suffered by the Scottish rebels who were taken in the rising of 1715, one letter stating that the prisoners at Carlisle died "in droves, like rotten sheep," and that their bodies were flung into the castle ditch. Mr. Browne has also an interesting volume of private prayers and meditations written by, or for, Thomas Percy, Duke of Northumberland, who was executed for treason in 1572. Some of the political and doctrinal passages in it are curious, as illustrating the views held by an educated nobleman at a period of transition.

The Earl of Kilmorey.—The manuscripts at Shavington consist chiefly of deeds and legal documents. There are, however, a few letters and papers of the seventeenth century relating to public affairs. One of them describes the political situation at Christmas, 1659, in some detail. Many others relate to the military organisation of Cheshire and Shropshire. Among these is a curious proposal made by the Earl of Northampton in 1618 for the establishment of a riding school in Ludlow Castle for the sons and servants of the neighbouring gentry. He states

that the gentlemen of France greatly surpass the English in horsemanship. Another paper refers to an anticipated rising of the Presbyterians in Cheshire and the adjoining counties in 1663.

Stanley Leighton, Esq., M.P.—Mr. Leighton has made a small collection of manuscripts, for the most part relating to affairs in Shropshire. One volume among them gives some historical notices of Shrewsbury, and a minute account of the visit of James II. to that town in 1686. A contemporary letter mentions that as early as the 24th of March 1660, some English ships displayed the royal colours, and that “all the frogs that ‘crawled in King’s Chambers’ had been commanded to quit Whitehall, which was being richly furnished in anticipation of the restoration of Charles II.

The Corporation of Oswestry.—The muniments of the Corporation of Oswestry have been so fully catalogued and described elsewhere by Mr. Stanley Leighton, M.P., that it has not been considered necessary to include any detailed account of them in the present report.

The Earl of Powis.—In some bundles of miscellaneous papers in the muniment-room at Powis Castle, Mr. H. Maxwell Lyte discovered a number of interesting letters, chiefly of the seventeenth century, which have since been arranged, calendared, and bound. One volume now consists of part of the political correspondence of Sir Edward Herbert, the well-known Lord Herbert of Cherbury. Many of the letters relate to the war of the Palatinate. Writing in 1619, Sir E. Herbert says that the news of the coronation of the Elector Palatine as King of Bohemia was received “with incredible joy” by the Protestants at Paris and by the people called “*Bons François*.” A few weeks later, Lord Doncaster gives a long account of his mission to the Imperial Court in Germany. Some of the letters relate to the breach between Lewis XIII. and his mother, the Queen-Regent. Others notice the project for a marriage between the Prince of Wales and the Spanish Infanta, and one of them give particulars of the Prince’s return from his adventurous visit to Madrid. The correspondence illustrates the venality of the courts of England and France, and shows the difficulty which Sir E. Herbert experienced in obtaining payment of his allowance as an Ambassador.

Another volume consists of miscellaneous papers, the earliest of which is an account of the examination of Mary Queen of Scots at Fotheringay, differing from that published by Camden. A letter of September, 1640, gives particulars of the encounter between the English and the Scots on the banks of the Tyne. Some letters of later date contain passing notices of political events.

The Corporation of Bishop’s Castle.—The entries in a minute-book of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries belonging to the Corporation of Bishop’s Castle are for the most part of

purely local interest. Among them is an order of the year 1613 that no inferior person conversing in public with the Bailiff or any of the fifteen Head Burgesses of this small borough, or their wives, should presume to have his head covered. There are several notes about the representation of Bishop's Castle in Parliament, the chief care of the electors being apparently that their representatives should not claim any charges or fees for attendance at Westminster. A curious letter addressed to the members of the Corporation in 1646—in the thick of the Civil War—by Samuel More, a distinguished officer in the Parliamentary army, recommends them to elect his own brother and his cousin, on personal grounds. In the reign of James I., the choice of Members of Parliament for Bishop's Castle seems to have lain with the powerful Earl of Northampton.

R. Jasper More, Esq.—Mr. More has a very curious illuminated letter from James I. to the Emperor of China, requesting his protection for British subjects engaged in commerce in the eastern parts of the world.

W. F. Plowden, Esq.—The manuscripts at Plowden Hall do not call for special notice. Mr. Plowden has two grants of annuities to Edmund Plowden, the famous lawyer, in consideration of his professional services, but none of his correspondence.

The Rev. J. D. Corbet.—In the library at Sundorne Castle there is a fine cartulary of the neighbouring abbey of Haughmond, and an early roll of statutes.

Alfred Salwey, Esq.—Mr. Salwey, of Overton, has a number of letters of the second half of the seventeenth century, for the most part addressed to his ancestor, Major Richard Salwey, a prominent politician. Among them is a holograph of Oliver Cromwell, desiring him to go on an embassy to Sweden. Some few others relate to public affairs, but the correspondence is mainly occupied with matters of business and sport. A series of letters from abroad gives entertaining accounts of journeys through France, and of the condition and amusement of the English factory at Smyrna in the reign of Charles II.

J. Lechmere Parkinson, Esq.—The muniments at Ludford House, near Ludlow, consist chiefly of old deeds relating to property in the counties of Salop, Hereford, and Montgomery. There are also some quaint family letters of the eighteenth century, one of which describes the conduct of George I. soon after his accession to the throne of England.

The Rev. John Walcot.—There are at Bitterley Court a few semi-political papers of the seventeenth century.

The Corporation of Wenlock.—The records of the Corporation of Wenlock are scanty and unimportant, but a careful search through the bundles of constables' presentments of the seventeenth century would probably yield information of local interest.

The Corporation of Bridgenorth.—Besides several volumes containing lists of freemen and orders for the government of the town, the Corporation of Bridgenorth has a series of 'Chamberlains' Accounts, extending, with only a few breaks, from 1550 to the present time. Mr. Maxwell Lyte has examined nearly a hundred of these, and has made from them a series of extracts. Most of them are illustrative of social life in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, but some also refer to political events. Among the former may be mentioned payments for stage-plays, rope-dancing, and the like, for the local assizes and the punishment of offenders, and for the entertainment of various persons of eminence. Among the latter may be mentioned payments for keeping watch in November, 1641, when a general insurrection of papists was expected, for the fortification of the town, and sending soldiers to the King at Shrewsbury in 1642, for providing refreshments for Prince Rupert and Prince Maurice, and for dismantling the town-hall and the tower of the church, at the time of the siege.

E. Lloyd Gatacre, Esq.—Mr. Gatacre, of Gatacre, has a few mediæval deeds relating to property in Shropshire, and a book of orders regulating the navigation of the river Severn, issued in the reign of Elizabeth. He has also a commonplace book, dating from the latter part of the sixteenth century, which contains English ballads about the campaign in the Low Countries, verses about husbandry, and miscellaneous notes on law, history, and heraldry.

S. Zachary Lloyd, Esq.—Mr. Zachary Lloyd has a small collection of family letters of the sixteenth and subsequent centuries. One of the earliest of them gives some particulars of the siege of Terouenne. Two others, dated from the Fleet prison, mention the ravages of the sweating sickness. A fourth describes the elaborate preparations made in London for the reception of Cardinal Campeggio in 1518. He was to be entertained as nobly as if he were the Pope himself. Among the luxuries provided for him by Wolsey was a pair of the greatest organs ever seen in England, "and many other instruments within the same." A letter written early in the reign of Edward VI. states that mass was said in some churches according to the old fashion, and in others according to the new. The reign of Mary is represented by a proclamation announcing the suppression of Wyatt's rebellion. A long letter of June, 1666, gives particulars of severe engagements between the fleets of England and Holland.

The late W. Bromley Davenport, Esq., M.P.—The earliest deeds at Baginton Hall have been sent up to Your Commissioners for examination. Some of them date from the middle of the twelfth century, and others from the thirteenth. All of them relate to property in Warwickshire. John Shakespere of Wraxale, son and heir of Richard Shakespere, occurs as the grantor of land at Shrewsbury in 1492.

Lord Braye.—The manuscripts at Stanford Park are derived from various sources. Some of them belonged to John Browne, the clerk of the Long Parliament, others were inherited from the Caves of Stanford; others were transcribed in the eighteenth century from originals elsewhere; others again were purchased at Rome within the last fifty years. Since Mr. H. Maxwell Lyte's first visit to Stanford on behalf of the Commission, the more important documents have been collected together, and some of them have been bound.

By oversight, or for some unknown purpose, John Browne retained a certain number of the official documents that passed through his hands, and thus his descendant, Lord Braye, has many papers which would otherwise have been placed among the archives of the House of Lords. Many of these were duly transcribed into the journals of that assembly which have since been printed, but the originals are not without an interest of their own. At Stanford are preserved Lord Digby's anonymous letter to Sir Lewis Dyves, which was produced as evidence against him, Sir John Hotham's letters to the Speaker of the House of Commons concerning the King's attempt to enter Hull, and the intercepted letter from the young Duke of York, making arrangements for his intended escape from England. Some of the documents, however, have not been printed in any of the historical collections relating to the reign of Charles I. Abstracts of these will be found in Mr. Maxwell Lyte's report and a few only can be noticed here. Under date of October 1640, there is a long account of the negotiations then proceeding at Ripon. There is also a petition from the Earl of Strafford to his peers, which, although endorsed as read in the House of Lords on the 5th day of May 1641, does not appear in the journals. A long letter written from Colchester in August 1642 gives a contemporary account of the attack on the residence of Sir John Lucas. Your Commissioners have more than once directed attention to the secret correspondence between Charles I. and Henrietta Maria, of which a portion only was published by the Parliament after the capture of the King's cabinet at Naseby. They are therefore pleased to be able to report the discovery of John Browne's transcript of one of the suppressed letters. It is dated at Oxford on the 17th of April 1645, and expresses hope of military success, and warm approval of the steps taken by the Queen. Some letters written from Scotland in the autumn of the year 1648, gave particulars of Cromwell's proceedings in that country. John Browne's collections also include a long series of draft journals of Parliament, differing somewhat from the printed version, notes of the trial of Archbishop Laud taken down briefly from day to day, and the original manuscript of the Westminster Confession of Faith, subscribed by the chief members of the Assembly of Divines.

The Cave manuscripts consist for the most part of deeds and other legal documents, but among the family letters there have been found two narratives of the battle of Worcester by an eye-

witness, and contemporary notices of the battle of Oudenarde and the riots in London in 1710. A transcript of letters concerning the military organisation of Northamptonshire in the early part of the reign of Charles I. tends to illustrate the condition of the country. Several bundles of letters and papers relate to Parliamentary elections in Leicestershire in the eighteenth century. It is probable that the heraldic manuscripts at Stanford were acquired by Sir Thomas Cave, who was much interested in antiquarian researches.

Sir Thomas Cave was certainly the purchaser of the manuscripts of Francis Peck, the author of the "Annals of Stamford," and other historical works. They consist almost exclusively of transcripts made by Peck himself and by his friend Zachary Grey, a holograph letter of Charles I. being perhaps the only exception. Many of Grey's transcripts are printed in the "Desiderata Curiosa," but others, omitted from that collection, illustrate the history of the civil war of the seventeenth century. Among the papers transcribed by Peck are copies of the numerous political letters that passed between John Mordaunt and Sir Edward Hyde, shortly before the restoration of Charles II.

The Stuart papers now at Stanford seem to have been overlooked a few years ago when the late Miss Otway Cave presented to the British Museum the voluminous diaries and correspondence of Cardinal York, purchased by her mother Lady Braye at Rome in 1842. Among them are two narratives of the adventurous journey of Princess Sobieski before her marriage to the Old Pretender, copies of letters that passed between them, various papers concerning the property of the exiled Stuarts, and a number of letters concerning the pension granted by George III. to Cardinal York, illustrating the relations between the two rival representatives of the royal line of Great Britain.

B. R. T. Balfour, Esq.—Among other relics of the exiled house of Stuart preserved at Townley Hall, near Drogheda, Mr. Balfour has a book of prayers and meditations in the hand of James II., and the formal certificate of the marriage of the Old Pretender with Princess Clementina Sobieski. The former contains some allusions to political events, and some entries illustrative of the deposed King's private sentiments. Mr. Balfour has also a few interesting letters of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries from Sir Isaac Newton and others.

P. Pleydell Bouverie, Esq.—Mr. Bouverie has a number of old letters inherited from the families of Pym and Hales, among which are several letters addressed to John Pym, the famous Parliamentary leader. A selection of John Pym's papers was presented to the British Museum in 1840 by the late Hon. P. P. Bouverie, and those which remain at Brymore relate almost exclusively to public affairs in the autumn and winter of the year 1642. Among them are several letters describing the condition and the movements of the armies in England and Ireland. The only one from a royalist source is a letter from Secretary

Nicholas at Shrewsbury, which may have been intercepted on its way to the Hague. There are letters from the Earl of Essex, Viscount Mandeville, Sir Hugh Cholmeley, and others acting on behalf of the Parliament. The first of these, being denounced as a traitor, declared to the Committee for the Safety of the Kingdom that he intended to sell his head "at such a rate" that "the buyers should be no great purchasers." A series of letters from Walter Strickland at the Hague give particulars of the warlike preparations made by Queen Henrietta Maria in Holland, and of his own ineffectual attempts to restrain the despatch of soldiers, arms, and ammunition to England. Mr. H. Maxwell Lyte's report contains abstracts of these and other letters of the seventeenth century.

G. F. Luttrell, Esq.—Since the cursory examination of the muniments of Dunster Castle by the late Mr. Horwood, a small roll of parchment has been found there giving a list of the Scottish nobles and knights who were taken or slain at the battle of Homildon Hill. This will be printed at length in a supplementary report, together with abstracts of some early deeds relating to the families of Fitz-Urse and Courtenay and others. Abstracts are also given of some documents relating to the Priory of Bruton and the port of Minehead.

The Rev. T. S. Hill.—A cartulary of Blythburgh and some other documents formerly belonging to that priory are now in the possession of the Rev. T. S. Hill, Rector of Thorington. They relate almost exclusively to property in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk.

The Borough of Petersfield.—The records of the ancient borough of Petersfield are singularly scanty. Few charters of any importance now remain.

The Marquis of Abergavenny.—The Marquis of Abergavenny has about seven hundred letters and papers forming part of the correspondence of his great-grandfather John Robinson, an active politician who for many years had a considerable share in the management of public affairs, without ever holding any office higher than that of Secretary of the Treasury. During Lord North's administration, John Robinson was entrusted with the conduct of the most delicate negotiations, especially those relating to Parliamentary elections. For some time he was the depositary of the Prime Minister's political correspondence, and many important letters addressed to Lord North still remain among his papers. Few men were more thoroughly trusted by George III., and it was through him that the King used to pay large sums to promote the political interests of Lord North.

It was John Robinson who suggested that the King should pay the private debts of that minister. Some passages in the correspondence of George III. with Lord North, printed by Mr. Donne in 1867, have fostered the belief that the money which passed through John Robinson's hands was expended in the

direct bribery of members of Parliament. (See Sir E. May's "Constitutional History of England," and Wraxall's "Memoirs." It is clear, however, from this correspondence and from book of accounts at Eridge Castle that the secret fund under the management of John Robinson was devoted to securing the election to Parliament of candidates who were favourable to the policy of the Government. The price of a close borough seems to have ranged between 2,000*l.* and 3,000*l.* On one occasion, an arrangement between Lord North and Lord Falmouth concerning seats in Cornwall nearly failed because the latter claimed to be paid in guineas.

Throughout his career, John Robinson took an active interest in the affairs of the East India Company, and his correspondence includes long letters on Indian affairs from Warren Hastings, R. Barwell, Sir T. Rumbold, and others. There is a very instructive letter from Lord North in which he attempts to justify his change of policy with regard to the proposed recall of Warren Hastings. The war in America is of course frequently mentioned in the correspondence, and there are some important letters relating to it from General Burgoyne, William Eden, afterwards Lord Auckland, and others. A few letters only deal with the affairs of Ireland.

John Robinson was often consulted as to the appointment of ministers of the Crown. Thus in 1776, the King asked him to suggest to Lord North "any decent peer" to be Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in preference to Lord Hillsborough. Several letters of the years 1779 and 1780 give particulars of the abortive negotiations for a coalition between Lord North and a section of his opponents. Others relate to the unexpected dissolution of Parliament in the autumn of the latter year. At this period, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Thurlow, wrote more than once to John Robinson complaining of his own exclusion from "that sacred circle in which the measures of Government are formed." There are many interesting and characteristic letters from the Lord Advocate, Henry Dundas, afterwards Viscount Melville. In March 1782, he wrote at great length suggesting two alternative schemes for the reconstruction of the Ministry. In one of these he inserted the name of William Pitt as a suitable Treasurer of the Navy. This was five days before the remarkable declaration of Pitt that he "never would accept a subordinate situation." The fall of the Ministry appears to have been partly due to the despondency of Lord North himself.

Soon after Lord Shelburne's accession to office, it was arranged that he, like his predecessor, should have the benefit of John Robinson's unrivalled knowledge of the circumstances, opinions and aspirations of the different members of Parliament, the King desiring that "every honest man" should exert himself "to counteract the activity of Mr. Fox," and "to keep him out of power." As soon as John Robinson saw that Lord North was inclined to unite with Fox for the overthrow of the

overnment, he wrote earnestly to dissuade him from entering into so dishonourable an alliance. The private letters addressed to him in the months of February and March 1783 give particulars of the negotiations for the formation of a new Ministry. One of his correspondents at this juncture pronounces Pitt's notions of the purity and steadiness of political principle "to be "absolutely incompatible with the morals, manners, and grounds of attachment of those by whose means alone the government of this country can be carried on."

The final breach between Lord North and John Robinson did not come until after the defeat of the Coalition Ministry on the East India Bill. By that time the latter was in favour with Pitt, to whom, like the rest of the King's friends in Parliament, he thenceforth attached himself. Pitt was the third Prime Minister who was indebted to John Robinson for elaborate tables showing the state of the House of Commons. He also obtained from him some assistance with regard to a scheme of Parliamentary reform.

It is unfortunate that many of John Robinson's letters have been either destroyed or mislaid. Those that remain at Eridge Castle have been arranged in chronological order by Mr. H. Maxwell Lyte, who has prepared a calendar of them, giving in many cases the exact words of the originals. Notwithstanding its fragmentary character, this correspondence will be found to throw considerable light on many political passages in the earlier part of the reign of George III., the contributors to it being, with few exceptions, thoroughly conversant with the state of public affairs, and, in some cases, themselves the principal actors.

Lord Stafford.—The manuscripts at Cossey Hall, which were examined by the Rev. J. Stevenson at the request of the late Lord Stafford, comprise many early deeds and grants, rentals and receivers' accounts in various counties of great topographical value; some original letters to Sir Henry Jerningham on public business in the reigns of Mary and Elizabeth, with a few of later date; and some curious wills and inventories.

Stonyhurst College.—In a supplemental account of the manuscripts at Stonyhurst College, the Rev. J. Stevenson has described an important collection there of original returns of Popish recusants in the county of Oxford in 1705 and 1706, and has given an abstract of the original wills of various priests of the Society of Jesus deposited in the College. These latter are very numerous, and have great biographical interest.

Sir N. W. Throckmorton, Bart.—The papers at Coughton Court, belonging to Sir N. W. Throckmorton, were described some years ago in the Third Report of Your Commissioners. Other family documents preserved at Buckland House have recently been made accessible to Mr. Stevenson. Of public interest among these is a volume of letters and papers dealing

with the plot of Titus Oates; also worthy of notice is a poetical Life of Sir Nicholas Throckmorton, and a fifteenth century Missal used in Buckland church.

The Rev. C. R. Manning.—Together with records touching the parish, at whose rectory they are preserved, the manuscripts in the possession of the Reverend C. R. Manning, M.A., rector of Diss, co. Norfolk, are described by Mr. Jeaffreson as comprising—(a.) a Book of Extents and Accounts of Sibton Abbey, co. Suffolk, *temp.* Edward II. and III.; (b.) a collection of writings (including Grants and Yearly Accounts, and Licences and Pardons under the Great Seal), relating to the College and Chantry of St. Mary of Mottingham, co. Suffolk, *temp.* Edward III. to *temp.* Henry VIII., and formerly pertaining to the Master and Chaplains of the said College and Chantry; (c.) the Testamentum and Ultima Voluntas, with certificate of Probate dated 19 October 1507, of Richard Brawnche, clk., Master of Mottingham College; and (d.) a noteworthy Register (1549 to 1657) of marriages, christenings, and burials in the parish of the destroyed church of St. Peter of Dunwich, co. Suffolk; the new initial fly-leaf of the volume exhibiting copy of the Memorandum (dated 11 March 1698, by Thomas Leman, esq., Wenhampton) of the several times at which the chancel and steeple “fell downe y^e Cliffe, so y^t y^e sea in ‘9 yeares space (1688-97) gott that church which was near as long as Blyburgh.”

The Rev. W. H. Sewell.—At the vicarage of Yaxley, Suffolk, Mr. Sewell has a few original deeds of local interest, dated in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

Corporation of Eye, Suffolk.—Besides Charters, Court-Books, Assembly-Books, Account-Books, Books and Files of Freemen's Admissions, and other such writings as form the bulk of every collection of municipal archives, the small collection of MSS. in the possession of the Corporation of Eye, co. Suffolk, comprises: (a.) an unusually interesting French Indenture of an agreement, dated at London on 8 February, 2 Henry IV., between Michael de la Pole, earl of Suffolk, of the one part, and Mons. William Berdewell of the other part; setting forth minutely the terms on which the said Mons. William Berdewell undertakes to serve as one of the Earl's retinue, as well in time of war as in time of peace, and as well beyond as within the seas, “ove un Esquier, ‘deux Vadlettes & un Garcion & cynk chivaux;” and (b.) a Municipal Chartulary (*temp.* Elizabeth) containing, together with copies of Testaments and Last Wills and other evidences touching the possessions of the Corporation, the transcript of a letter, dated on 11 August 1557, from the Bishop of Norwich to Cardinal Pole. Whilst the evidence, afforded by these archives, that from King John's time to the present century the borough has been styled Heye *alias* Eye, points clearly to the origin and meaning of the term “High Suffolk” (a matter of long-standing dispute with the antiquaries of the county), it shows no less con-

clusively that the boundaries of High Suffolk were in former time identical with the boundaries of the Royal Honour of Heye. But though the examination of the Eye records has settled these two questions for East Anglian archæologists, it has failed to come upon any further particulars respecting the long-lost Red Book of Eye, mentioned by Leland in the "Collectanea." Whilst he was at Eye, the inspector, Mr. Jeaffreson, took occasion to examine certain writings, touching the history and ancient usages of the Royal Honour and Borough, that were courteously offered to him for perusal by their possessor, the Reverend Thomas Lee French, M.A., rector of Thrandeston, co. Suffolk, passages from which manuscripts appear in the ensuing account of the Eye manuscripts.

County of Essex.—Though inferior in number and diversity of evidences to the other accumulations of Sessional Municments that have come under the notice of Your Commissioners, the fragmentary collection of records at the Chelmsford Shire Hall—comprising (a.) Bridge and Order Books from 1557 to 1736 A.D., (b.) an imperfect series of Sessions' Bundles from the time of Philip and Mary, (c.) Enrolments of Deeds 23 Henry VIII. to 21 James I., (d.) Commissions of Peace *temp.* Charles I. and Charles II., and (e.) Hearth-Money Records 23-4 Charles II.—affords several matters of historical moment, together with a large body of writings that will be perused with interest and advantage by the antiquaries and social historians of the county. Showing that the word "spinster" was used as a designation of gentility and honour in Elizabeth's time, the numerous Elizabethan presentments of persons for non-attendance at church or any other usual place of Common Prayer, yield testimony that, besides being employed for the description of single-women who had never married, the title was retained as an indication of their parental quality by wives and widows. For instance, "Margareta Tirrell spinster, alias "dicta Margareta Tirrell uxor Thome Tirrell armigeri," and "Maria domina Petre de Westhorndon, co. Essex, spinster, alias "dicta Maria domina Petre uxor Johannis Petre de Westhorndon "predict' militis," are amongst the gentlewomen presented for non-attendance at divine service in 23 Elizabeth; and a writ of 7 Elizabeth gives the name and style of "Joan Lambe widow of "London spynster." Affording a large number of particulars for the information of students desirous of estimating the numerical strength of the Catholic recusants and other non-conformists of Essex in Elizabethan times, the writings that refer to public observance of religion comprise also the "Trewe Certificate," dated by the Bishop of London on 6 April 1605, of persons presented to him "for not cominge to Churche within the county "of Essex,"—a comprehensive and precise return from the clergy, churchwardens, and sidemen of the several parishes of the county, showing conclusively how, during the long reign of James the First's immediate precursor on the throne, the resolute and obsti-

nate recusants of Essex had dwindled from a numerous and powerful party to a mere handful of scattered individuals. It having been the practice of successive Clerks of the Peace to put examinations, petitions, loose memoranda and miscellaneous papers on the same file with indictments and presentments, the Sessional bundles, throughout the first hundred years of the period covered by the records, yield an unusual proportion of letters by Lords of the Council, the more active magistrates of the county, and other official personages. The series of seventeenth-century Commissions of the Peace is the more interesting and noteworthy, because some of the Commissions pertain to the period of the great gap in the Patent Roll. Persons interested in the history of place-names will find much to engage their attention in the various spellings of the names of many of the Essex parishes, such as Chicknall Trenchoyle, *alias* Chicknall Smeley, *alias* Trenchoyle, *alias* Chignal Smealey; Eythropp-Roodinge, *alias* Roding Aythorpe; Kelloweden, *alias* Kelvedon; and Gynge Margarett, *alias* Gyngmargarett, *alias* Margaretting.

Wells Cathedral.—For the purpose of his report upon the Wells Cathedral MSS. Mr. Bennett examined first the three well-known volumes described by Mr. Riley in the first report of Your Commissioners, viz.:—Liber Albus, marked I.; Liber Ruber, marked II.; Liber Albus, marked III., and made a note, longer or shorter, of every entry, except in the latter part of Liber Ruber, which had been already examined by Mr. H. E. Reynolds.

Liber Albus I. contains 299 vellum folios, and about 1,300 separate entries.

Liber Ruber II., 77 vellum folios, with about 136 entries, and 146 folios on paper.

Liber Albus III. contains 456 folios on vellum, and about 860 different entries.

These volumes form both a cartulary and register of Chapter Acts from a very early date.

They contain many Saxon charters which are printed in *Codex Diplomaticus*, but there are sundry points of difference between the MSS. and the printed edition. In three instances where this is most marked the original has been extracted at full length, as is the case also with a charter of Eadric, about Swinford, called Burheline's boe, and in that of a very curious document, a letter of William I. to Wm. de Courcelle in *Saxon*, about Peter's Pence, both of which are believed to be unknown in print.

Also given at length is a will of Bishop Hugh (II.) of Lincoln, not his last will.

These volumes also contain copies of *Magna Charta*, *Charta de Forestis*, the Statutes of Merton, Kenilworth, Marlborough, Westminster; the Perambulations of the Somersetshire Forests and Windsor; the original MS. of the *Canonicus Wellensis* printed in the *Anglia Sacra*, and numberless references to

matters of great value for the history of the church and kingdom generally.

The latter half of *Liber Ruber* contains a distinct register of Chapter Acts from A.D. 1487-A.D. 1513, without any admixture of charters, &c.

From this latter date until circ. A.D. 1693, it has been supposed for the last 150 years that the Chapter Acts were lost, but Mr. Bennett had the good fortune to find another volume which fills in the gap between circ. 1560-1593. Much that was wanting in Henry VIII.'s reign has been supplied from several large volumes of indentures, &c., which had not apparently been examined before. Amongst other things may be mentioned two letters from the King to the Chapter, one thanking them for their loyal choice of his faithful servant Thomas Cromwell to be their Dean, and another calling for men for a French war.

These volumes also supply many evidences of the unscrupulous dealings of Edward VI.'s reign, such as the appropriation to himself by the Duke of Somerset of the Bishop's palace and properties, and transference of the Deanery to the Bishop in lieu thereof, together with some cash. Belonging to the seventeenth century are letters from Charles I. and Laud. After the Restoration the examination has been carried into James II.'s reign, and ends with an account of the mischief done by the Duke of Monmouth's men in the cathedral, and a thanksgiving for their defeat at Sedgmoor a day or so later.

In addition to all these MS. books the Chapter have some 1,100 original charters, &c., many of them of very great interest and value. Several have been printed in facsimile by the Ordnance Survey Department. These have been carefully arranged and catalogued by Mr. de Gray Birch. Little more has been done with them than to give a list of them copied from his report. An examination has also been made of some 50 Communar Rolls between the years 1327-1539; 36 Escheators' Rolls, between the years 1372-1560; eight Fabric Rolls, between 1390-1565, and extracts have been taken (sometimes very full) so as to show the items of receipt and expenditure, and to indicate the many points of historical and architectural interest upon which they throw light.

The latest document noticed is a modern copy of a very curious custumal of the Manor of North Curry.

Besides completing reports on the above-described collections of manuscripts in England, Your Commissioners have made considerable progress with the second part of the Calendar of the Marquis of Salisbury's papers at Hatfield, and with a further report on the manuscripts of the House of Lords. The large collections of family papers belonging to the Duke of Rutland, the Marquis Townshend, and the Earl of Dartmouth have been examined and partly calendared; and preliminary inspections have been made of the archives of Lord Dormer, Lord Hothfield,

Mr. Augustus W. Savile, of Rufford, and others. Reports upon the Corporation records of King's Lynn and Reading are also in preparation. One of the most important and complete collections of historical documents hitherto made accessible to Your Commissioners is preserved at Melbourne Hall, Derbyshire; it consists of the entire correspondence of Sir John Coke, Secretary of State in the time of Charles I., and of his descendants down to Queen Anne's reign, besides some Elizabethan papers, and by the courtesy of its owner, Earl Cowper, a full account of its contents will be made known. Mr. William D. Fane, who resides at Melbourne Hall, has for some time been engaged, as a labour of love, on a calendar of these papers, and has very generously, with the assent of Lord Cowper, placed the result of his work at the service of Your Commissioners. It is expected that the first portion of Mr. Fane's Calendar will be ready for presentation to Your Majesty in the course of next year.

Of the work done in Scotland since the presentation to Your Majesty of your Commissioners' last Report, the following summary may be given:—

The Earl of Eglinton and Winton.—The muniments of the Earl of Eglinton and Winton at Eglinton Castle in the county of Ayr, reported on by Dr. Fraser, are selected from a large and miscellaneous collection. Unhappily the Charters now extant are not so ancient as might be expected in the Charter chest of a family whose earliest ancestor in Scotland settled there about the middle of the 12th century. This was Robert of Montgomerie, who, according to Dr. Fraser, was a descendant of the famous Roger of Montgomerie, Earl of Shrewsbury, the kinsman and companion of William the Conqueror. Robert Montgomerie received from Walter Fitz-Alan, Steward of Scotland, about the year 1157 the lands of Eaglesham, in the county of Renfrew, which continued to be one of the principal estates of the family for nearly 700 years, when it was sold by the late Earl of Eglinton. From that Robert Montgomerie is lineally descended the present Earl of Eglinton. The family of Montgomerie in Scotland contracted alliances with other families in the neighbourhood also of ancient lineage; the Eglintons of Eglinton and Ardrossans of Ardrossan, and the Charters of these houses might have been expected to yield a rich harvest to the antiquary and historian. Unhappily this is not so, as Eglinton Castle was in 1528 burned and destroyed during one of those terrible and long continued feuds which so often in Scotland raged between neighbouring baronial families. The early writs of the family of Montgomerie were then destroyed with the Castle, and this fact deprives the present collection of much of the value that would have attached to it but for the loss of the earlier portions; enough remains, however, to be of interest and to throw light on passing events and on the manners and customs during the period embraced by the papers now reported on. Numerous

names of persons in all ranks of life have been preserved in the Charters, which are fully recorded in Dr. Fraser's report, and may be found useful in tracing the history of families in the ancient barony of Renfrew, the heritage of the royal Stewart race, and in Ayrshire and in the west of Scotland generally.

The earlier Charters make frequent mention of a Sir Hugh Eglinton whose daughter married Sir John Montgomerie, ninth of Eaglesham. Sir Hugh has, according to some writers, special claims to notice as one of the earliest of Scottish poets. He is commemorated by William Dunbar in his lament for the Makars or poets, and his works were highly esteemed by the Scottish historian Wyntown, if, as has been alleged, he is identical with "Hucheon of the Awle Ryall."

Sir Hugh Eglinton married the sister of Robert High Steward of Scotland, afterwards King Robert the Second, and received from his royal brother-in-law many grants of land. The terms of his marriage contract are not recorded, but from the conditions in several of such writs noted by Dr. Fraser, the father of a bride in the fifteenth century was often laid under contribution to support not only his daughter but his son-in-law for a term of years. Such a provision, to choose a particular instance, was made in 1425 between Sir John Montgomerie, of Ardrossan, and Sir Robert Cunningham, of Kilmaurs, who married Sir John's daughter. The daughter and son-in-law in this case were to be maintained for two years, and in another case for five years. Other examples will be found in these papers. It is probable that out of the marriage contract with Sir Robert Cunningham arose in later years the feud between the Cunninghams and Montgomeries of which a sketch is given in Dr. Fraser's preface. The grant of the office of the bailiary of the district of Cunningham then made to Sir Robert, for his life only, was the foundation of the claim afterwards made by his descendants with such disastrous results.

The Castle of Eglinton was burned by the Cunninghams in 1528, but previous to that date, in 1523, a long list of mutual raids on the part both of Montgomeries and Cunninghams is recorded. Very few bonds of manrent are preserved among these papers, but it was probably on account of these feuds that the Master of Eglinton enlisted the services of the Macfarlanes, a Dumbartonshire clan. They bind themselves to serve the Master and are to be supported either by pay or by being allowed to take their "sustentatioun on his (the Master's) inymies in the Lawland," a provision of considerable significance. The son of the Master of Eglinton became third Earl of Eglinton, and married Lady Jean Hamilton, daughter of the Earl of Arran, then Governor of Scotland. They were divorced in 1562 on the ground of consanguinity, and the proofs adduced in evidence reveal an interesting fact regarding one of the daughters of King James the First of Scotland. From the evidence adduced in the divorce suit, it appears that the King's

third daughter Joanna, who in 1458 married James Douglas Earl of Morton, was dumb. She was known as the dumb or silent Lady of Dalkeith. This "muta domina" was the ancestress of both the third Earl of Eglinton and his wife, who were thus within the forbidden degrees.

Among the papers now reported on is one which is of interest to the masonic craft, being the statutes, &c. to be observed by the master masons throughout Scotland, drawn up in 1599 by the King's master of works. These statutes provide for honest dealing among the masons, and regulate somewhat minutely their relations to each other, their "prentices" and the public. Non-unionism is forbidden, and strife among masters or prentices is to be cured by enforced idleness until they "submitt thame-selffis to reasoun." A special provision is directed to secure the safety of workmen and others, and masters negligent as to their scaffolding and footways were liable to degradation. Money penalties were to be devoted to "pious uses."

We have a glimpse of a court lady's wardrobe in one document, dated in 1603. King James the Sixth had just set out from his northern, to take possession of his southern kingdom, arriving in London on the 6th of May in that year. This account begins with an entry dated 9th June at Newcastle. No name appears on the document, but as it is found in the Eglinton chest, it probably refers to the expenses of Lady Anna Livingstone, eldest daughter of Alexander first Earl of Linlithgow, one of the maids of honour to Queen Anne of Denmark, and afterwards Countess of Alexander sixth Earl of Eglinton. She was still maid of honour in December 1605 when King James wrote to her father commanding her conduct at court and promising to pay her dower should a fit marriage arise for her. The lady enumerates various articles of female dress, head dresses, French and English "rouffs" and their materials, "quhallbon" bodies, "vardingells," &c. Among other items is a payment for "ane vyer to my haed with nyne pykis, xs.;" "item for ane perewyk of har to couer the vyer, vs." For "ane treming to my gown with gret hornis of gould and sillk" "and federis, the hornis my auen, xs." (all sterling money). She pays on an average 2s. 6d. for a pair of gloves and the same sum for a pair of shoes; for a pair of night gloves 9d.; for a beaver hat with feather and string 52s.; for two fans, one of paper and the other of parchment, 5s., &c. She pays, in Coombe, for two necklaces of black jet 3s. For the washing of her own and her page's clothes from June to Martinmas, she pays only 20s.; among miscellaneous items are a Bible 12s.; a French book 1s.; a French New Testament with a French book 6s., with various other entries of interest to be found in the account itself.

It is well known that King James the Sixth, following what he himself described as a "salmond-like instinct," paid a visit to his "native soyle" in the year 1617. During his sojourn in Scotland the King was for part of the time the guest of the

sixth Earl of Eglinton; both in Edinburgh and Glasgow. That Earl was popularly known as Gray Steel, and shortly before had come into collision with the King about his succession to the Eglinton peerages and estates. At the time of the royal visit to Lord Eglinton we have entries in a factor's account of provisions and other things expended on His Majesty's entertainment. From this account we also learn that Lady Eglinton was a musician and played upon "virginellis." Several inventories of jewels and similar articles give some idea of the wealth of the family. "Two *musik boxes*" and several watches are noted. In regard to drinking customs we find a considerable quantity of ale and wine entered in one account, about 1646-47, for each day's consumption. Ladies also consumed a good deal of wine at suppers and at four o'clock meetings.

A document of considerable antiquarian interest and somewhat unusual character is the Contract dated in 1630 between Hugh Montgomerie, Viscount Montgomerie of the great Airds in Ireland, and the sixth Earl of Eglinton. As suggested by Dr. Fraser the Earl probably entered into this agreement with a view to secure himself against any doubt that he was the head of the house of Eglinton, as the Viscount was a direct male heir of an uncle of the first Earl of Eglinton. But the Viscount readily agreed to accept the Earl as his chief, and he agreed that his heirs "in perpetual remembrance" of their "love and dutie" should, within one year after entry to their lands, freely deliver one "faire horse" value 30*l.*, to the Earl or his heirs, the latter having power to sue for the money in default. The Viscount doubtless consented to this arrangement the more willingly in hope of his kinsman's aid amid the then disturbed condition of Ireland. That country a few years later broke into open rebellion, and the Earl of Eglinton with troops under his command succeeded in so far protecting the Scotch settlers.

From the correspondence reported on in this collection a variety of popular items may be noted. The difficulties of carriage transit, even when perhaps aided by lanterns of "Moscouia glas;" school fees, doctors' fees, school books, &c., domestic servants and such like. Some of the letters refer to matters of a historical character and deal with military affairs on the continent, in Ireland, and nearer home, between the King and the Parliament.

In conclusion reference may be made to a document, apparently of little importance in itself, but which, as remarked by Dr. Fraser, illustrates the value of preserving old papers. On 15 December 1642, John sixth Earl of Cassillis wrote inviting the Earl of Eglinton to be present at the funeral of the writer's wife, who was Lady Jane Hamilton, daughter of the first Earl of Haddington, and married to Cassillis in 1621. Regarding this lady a romantic story has been constructed telling of her elopement with a person styled Sir John Faa of Dunbar, or

according to others with a veritable gipsy named Faa. During her husband's absence at the Parliament at Westminster, it is said, the gipsies "coost their glamourie owre her," and she went off with her "Gypsie Laddie." The pair were however caught and were punished, the knight by hanging and the lady by imprisonment for life. Such is the story of which more than one version exists, but it is proved to be false, and the aspersions on the lady's character shown to be wholly undeserved, by this letter now reported on, in which her husband speaks of her with affection after 21 years of married life, and which moreover is written before the Earl's departure for Westminster in 1643.

Sir John Maxwell Stirling-Maxwell, Baronet.—The muniments at Keir House, in the county of Perth, belonging to Sir John Stirling Maxwell, also reported on by Dr. Fraser, are described as a large collection, but containing few documents which have much claim to be historical. It may be noted also that very little of the history of the family now in possession of the writs is to be found in them, the earlier Charters having, as will be shown, special reference to an older branch of the Stirrings. The family of Stirling is said to date from the 12th century, but the first of the name who acquired the estate of Keir was Luke Stirling, who exchanged certain lands for Keir about 1448. His grandfather John Stirling is the first of the family commemorated in the papers now reported on. He married, as appears from the first Charter, Mary, aunt of John of Argyll, Lord of Lorne, who was the last of the male line of the ancient Lords of Lorne.

John Stirling and his wife received from her nephew in 1338 a charter of various lands in Lorne, known as the lands of Rathorane. In the following year John Stirling was killed at the siege of Perth, then held by the English, where he was in command of a company of archers. He was succeeded in Rathorane by his son William and his grandson Luke, who, as stated, was the first to acquire the estate of Keir. The place, or mansion house of the estate, according to statistical writers was one of a chain of rude hill forts that ran along the face of the Strath or valley of Menteith—the etymology of the word being from the British *Caer*, signifying a fort.

The most prominent member of the family, according to Dr. Fraser, was Sir William Stirling, who held Keir from 1471 to 1503. He consolidated his possessions by obtaining their erection into a barony called the barony of Keir. When a party of the Scottish nobles, with Prince James at their head, rose in insurrection against his father King James the Third in 1488, Sir William Stirling became a partisan of the Prince. During a skirmish, not noticed by any historian, between the royal forces and those of the Prince, the latter were driven across the bridge of Stirling, and the place of Keir was burned. For this

and for the loss of his muniments Sir William was, as shown in these papers, afterwards indemnified, but the destruction of Keir sufficiently explains the loss of the more ancient writs, which might have been looked for in this collection. The pecuniary recompense which was awarded by King James the Fourth for the loss of his mansion house was only the very modest sum of 100*l*, as appears from the accounts of the King's Treasurer. The mansion house of Keir in 1488 was no doubt a contrast to the modern mansion which the late accomplished Sir William Stirling Maxwell made one of the finest in Scotland. In the "Lady of the Lake," Sir Walter Scott makes allusion to the "lofty brow of ancient Keir."

The grandson of Sir William Stirling whose mansion was destroyed was James Stirling, who married about 1534 Janet Stirling, heiress of Andrew Stirling of Cawder in the county of Lanark, which had been in the Stirling family from the time of King William the Lion, and the Cawder estate has remained in the Keir family ever since, which accounts for the fact that so many of the writs now reported on relate to Cawder. From James Stirling the line of descent of the family of Keir and Cawder is unbroken to the present proprietor, but no other Laird of Keir need be specially noted in this place.

The bulk of the documents in this collection are of a miscellaneous rather than a historical character, but some of them invite attention from references to local usages or legal peculiarities. Thus the Charter in 1338 by John of Argyll reminds us that the system of land denominations used in the western parts of Scotland entirely differed from the system followed in the eastern half of the island. On the eastern side land was divided into davochs, ploughgates, and oxgates—the ploughgate being usually estimated at 10*4* acres. In the west of Scotland, especially in the Western Highlands north of the Forth and Clyde, the davoch was also used, but there it was divided into merklands, penny lands, and even, as found in some charters noted in previous Reports, into halfpenny lands and farthing lands. This distinction between the land division in the east and west respectively is a relic of the Norwegian rule, which at an early period of history prevailed for a time on the western coast and in the western islands of Scotland. The penny lands are said to have been so called because under the Norwegian rule each homestead paid one penny as "scat," but as divisions of land twenty penny lands formed a davoch, thus making five penny lands equal to a ploughgate, though this value was probably fluctuating.

One or two peculiar forms of tenure which appear in these writs may be noticed. Of these the oldest and most remarkable form of holding is that referred to in the pedigree of the family of Lany, dated about 1560. The writer states that the ancient family of Lany held their lands of the same name without any infestment or charter save "ane litill auld sourd" given to a

former ancestor and "ane auld relict callit Sant Fillanis twithe." In 1227, as proved by the original charter printed by Lord Hailes, King Alexander II. confirmed to the heiress of Lany her lands, to be held "by virtue of the little sword which " King Culen formerly symbolically (symbolice) gave to her " predecessor Gillespic Moir, for his singular service." King " Culen" reigned over a portion of Scotland from 967 to 971, so that even admitting that he was not the actual bestower of the sword, the tradition shows that the sword had a respectable antiquity in 1227. The saint's tooth does not seem to have survived, but, according to Dr. Fraser, the little old sword, described as of silver, and two and a half inches in length, was in existence in 1789 and was figured in the *Archæologia* of 1792, though it has since been lost.

The other holdings which may be noticed are the "scarlet hose" exacted from a vassal on his entry, by Malcolm Earl of Lennox in 1279. A silver penny was a common form of blench holding, but the time of payment was not always defined so minutely as that required in 1414, by the Countess Palatine of Strathern to be paid at "the dinner hour" on Whitsunday. Another somewhat unusual form of blench duty was a roe-buck's head, payable yearly to the lord of Stragartney in Men-teith, as stated in a charter of 1448. It was symbolic of a hunting country, Straghartney having been a royal forest.

Other forms of investiture and dealing with land appear in some writs dated about 1446 and 1447. Thus the Bishop of Glasgow in reinvesting a vassal in certain lands on behalf of his wife, gives a glove in name of the wife. The same vassal, however, and his wife were in the following year ejected from other lands, and we learn that this was done by first expelling the man and wife, then removing their animals and goods, and finally breaking a plate and extinguishing the fire within the house. Again in 1514 in a dispute between two proprietors as to their joint right to particular lands, the right being admitted, the question of which half of the lands belonged to each was decided by lot. The method followed in such cases was described in the last Report of Your Commissioners. [Ninth Report, Part II., pp. 231, 232.]

Attention may be directed to the wardrobe of Lady Stirling of Keir in 1633, where the lady's gowns are valued at very considerable prices, and the reader will not be surprised to learn that her debts at her decease greatly exceeded her assets. Among the letters now reported on one or two touch upon historical events. There is a reference in 1641 to the execution of Lord Strafford, and in 1661 to that of the Earl of Argyll. A characteristic letter of Robert Leighton, Bishop of Dunblane, is also given. A letter of 1675 contains a reference to the war between France and Holland and the part played at the battle of Strasbourg by the Douglas Regiment in the French service.

This regiment consisted largely of Scots, and had been commanded by the famous Sir John Hepburn, and then by his nephew Sir James. It was then known as the regiment of Hepburn, but its name was in 1637 changed to that of Douglas in honour of its newly appointed Colonel, Lord James Douglas, a younger son of William first Marquis of Douglas. It continued to bear the name of Douglas for many years, and about the time referred to in the letter was under the command of another son of the Marquis, Lord George Douglas, created by King Charles II. Earl of Dumbarton.

Charles Stirling Home-Drummond Moray, Esq.—In treating of this collection of papers, reported on by Dr. Fraser, and preserved partly at Blair Drummond and partly at Ardoch, both in the county of Perth, we have a much wider circle of interest than in the two preceding collections. The papers which relate directly to the family are comparatively few in number, while those which have come into possession of various predecessors of Mr. Drummond Moray are peculiarly interesting. For a sketch of the family of Drummond of Blair-Drummond, reference may be made to Dr. Fraser's preface to his report, which also explains the distinction made between Division I. of the collection preserved at Blair Drummond and Division II. preserved at Ardoch.

Before considering the correspondence and other papers of the family of Drummond, attention may be directed to the letters and original drafts of letters to and from the famous Sir George Villiers, Earl, Marquis, and Duke of Buckingham, preserved at Blair Drummond. The value of these letters, included in part of Section 3 and the whole of Section 4 of the first division of the Report, is somewhat impaired by their want of date, but when compared with other papers of same period they may aid in elucidating history. Among the earlier letters are several from Sir Ralph Winwood, Secretary of State, which from certain references appear to have been written in 1617 while King James I. was in Scotland. They refer to a Jesuit who came to England pretending to divulge an important plot affecting the King. Sir Henry Wotton, the English Ambassador at Venice, was the original negotiator with this person, who seems to have had one or two aliases. The Jesuit, however, after making some statement, seems to have been anxious to be gone, and Winwood was afraid he would escape. In these letters some allusions show the relations of England to various foreign countries, especially the Low Countries, then under the Spanish Archdukes, and where many Catholic plotters found refuge, the Court of Venice and others. The Archbishop of Spalato [Antonio de Dominis] is also mentioned as dedicating a book to the King. He was a pretended convert from the Popish faith, but soon returned to his allegiance, though after his death his body was burned as heretical.

One or two letters from the unfortunate Elizabeth, wife of the Elector Palatine, and some time Queen of Bohemia, addressed to Buckingham appear in this report. The contrast between the first letter announcing the reception of her and her husband by the people of Prague, compared with her subsequent misfortunes, is pathetic. In a letter by Buckingham to Sir Edward Herbert (English Ambassador in France), dated in September 1620, the intentions of King James I. as to the Palatinate are touched upon, although in this and in others on the subject the King's temporising policy is visible. The wars on the continent between the United Provinces and the Catholic Princes are also referred to.

As stated by Dr. Fraser it is impossible to fix with accuracy even the approximate dates of many of the Buckingham letters, and doubtless it will be found many of the conjectural dates assigned in this report will be erroneous, especially in the letters in which Buckingham shows himself so intimately connected with the private relations between King Charles I. and Queen Henrietta. The letters on this subject and on the relations with France in this collection indicate that there was some dread of papal influence and that of the Court of France being brought to bear in England through the young Queen.

Of miscellaneous letters in this section, one written to Monsieur de Tilliers, the French Ambassador, though the date endorsed is apparently erroneous, seems to bear on the allegation that Queen Anne of Denmark, wife of James I., was inclined to Roman Catholicism. The person, Pierre Hugon, named in the letter, had sent, in the name of the Queen, then deceased, money and other things to a nunnery and to the Jesuits to cause prayers to be offered for her soul. It is possible that such things were done at the instigation of the French government, to give credence to the reports that Queen Anne was a Catholic, though it is known that on her deathbed she professed herself a sound Protestant. Another letter relates to a matter of interest to the Heralds' College, as it appoints a reference in a question between the Earl Marshal of England and two heralds as to fees, they having appealed from his Court. A letter to the King of Denmark refers to the exertions made by the Earl of Nithsdale to raise troops in Scotland for service under the King in Germany. This letter must therefore have been written in 1627, and probably about the same time—perhaps earlier—were drawn up the overtures made by the Duke of Saxe Weimar for a plan of warfare to be carried out by Denmark and England.

Turning from the Buckingham letters, the chief interest of this report consists in the Jacobite papers and correspondence referred to in both divisions of this collection. Before touching on these, however, the miscellaneous papers preserved at Blair Drummond may be noted which are comprehended in Section 6

of the first division. The first of these is a letter written by James Lord Drummond, afterwards Earl and Duke of Perth, which contains an interesting reference to Sir Thomas Browne's works on "Urn burial," and "Vulgar Errors," and also narrates the finding of a ring of gold and a quantity of Roman coins near Ardoch.

The papers of John Drummond of Lundin (afterwards Earl of Melfort), Master of the Ordnance, give information as to the standing army of Scotland during 1684 and 1685, and the cannon at Dumbarton Castle. The adventures of Captain Slezer, author of the topographical work, "Theatrum Scotiæ," who was sent to Holland in search of properly qualified gunners, are detailed in his letters to Mr. Drummond. The letters show that at that period neither were there any sufficiently qualified men in Scotland nor was any gun foundry then in existence in that country. Among the letters relating to the Earl of Perth, some time Chancellor of Scotland, and his imprisonment in 1689, there is nothing specially noteworthy, while those of his daughter-in-law, Jean Gordon, Lady Drummond, tell their own story as to the troubles of a Jacobite family after the insurrection of 1715. Two letters from Mr. Drummond of Blair Drummond, in August and September 1717, show the disturbed state of the Highlands and the insecurity of such property as horses and cattle.

The letters addressed to Mr. John Drummond of Quarrel contain references to the campaign under Marlborough in 1711, and to the treaty of Utrecht in 1713. The letters from the camp before Bouchain give some account of the siege operations at that place, the taking of which was the last event of Marlborough's service in the field. Mr. Drummond also enjoyed the friendship of Lord Orrery, the famous Lord Chesterfield, Lord Strafford, and other prominent men of his time, including the hero of Blenheim himself, and letters from each of these will be found in this section of the report. The two last letters refer respectively to an incident of personal adventure in 1732 off the coast of Bombay; and to an episode of the Jacobite rising in 1746.

That rising, with the previous insurrection of 1715, and the hopes and fears which between the two dates engaged the minds of the Jacobites abroad, are well illustrated in the papers and correspondence previously referred to which for a considerable proportion of the report. Those Jacobite papers preserved at Blair Drummond will be found in Division I. § 3, Nos. 16-20, and in Section 5, and refer chiefly to affairs and military movements in Scotland during 1719 and 1745. The papers preserved at Ardoch, which, as stated by Dr. Fraser, belonged to Admiral Gordon, a staunch adherent of the Stewarts, are contained in Division II. of the report and relate chiefly to affairs on the continent, only a few touching on Scotland. Glancing first at

the Blair Drummond collection, the documents of earliest date are an order by the Spanish Ambassador to Lord Tullibardine to make certain payments out of the sum in his hands, and part of an account of Tullibardine's expenditure during the year 1719, when aided by Spanish gold and troops he and other Jacobite leaders made a descent upon the isles of Scotland. The account shows that he had joined the Earl Marischal at Stornoway on 30th March 1719. Beside payments to the Lord Marischal, Lord Seaforth, Glengarry, Lochiel, Mackintosh of Borlum, and other well known Jacobites, there are in this account entries of sums paid to Rob Roy and his men, which connects that versatile genius with this affair, with which history has not hitherto associated his name. He may, however, have been paid only for intelligence and not for active participation, as in the last section of Admiral Gordon's correspondence is a letter giving an account of the conflict at Glenshiel which closed the campaign, and this letter says nothing of Rob Roy. The writer of the letter narrates some details of the battle in question, differing from current accounts. The skirmish, for it was little more, was fought on the 10th instead of the 11th of June 1719, and the force of the insurgents numbered only 900 Highlanders and 270 Spaniards instead of 1,500 as commonly asserted. Other details of interest will be found in the letter, according to which the Highlanders were at first eager to fight the next day, but this was overruled and the Spaniards were *ordered* to surrender, as they could not endure the fatigue necessary for a prolonged residence among the mountains.

The Highlanders dispersed and their leaders escaped, and ultimately reached France, though they were apparently still in Scotland on 5th November 1719, when Tullibardine, dating from the Isle of Loch Morar, gave orders for embarkation under the charge of his brother Lord George Murray. It is stated that Campbell of Glendaruel was the person who overruled the desire of the Highlanders for a second conflict at Glenshiel, and this may account for the slight jealousy displayed by the Marquis of Tullibardine in his undated letter to Prince James about 1721. The next document relating to the Marquis shows him (under the title of Duke of Atholl) heartily engaged in the rebellion of 1745, beating up for recruits for Prince Charles. He was appointed by the Prince Commander-in-Chief north of the Forth, and the letters now reported on, which are chiefly military orders, are written to or by him in that capacity. One letter from John Campbell of Glenlyon may be noted, in which he intimates that the few men he has, and those but ill armed, will be sent to join the Prince, "togithere," he adds, "with the only son I have left me, being but a stripling of fourteen years age who I hope will do pritty weel, for he'll follow direction and obey orders."

The Jacobite papers which belonged to Admiral Gordon, already referred to, are of a wholly different character from the

preceding. They consist almost wholly of correspondence written by the exiled Prince James and his supporters on the continent, between the years 1716 and 1730, with some miscellaneous papers of a somewhat later date. The first document of the section devoted to Royal letters is one which has not been noted by later historians. It is a copy of a manifesto written by Prince James after his visit to and flight from Scotland in 1716, setting forth his reasons for abandoning his followers in the way he did. The Prince's letters to Admiral Gordon continue under various aliases until 1730, and it is remarkable to notice how he clung to the hope of aid from the Czar and other monarchs in his attempts to regain his kingdom. The death of Peter the Great in 1725 affects the Prince more from a political than a personal point of view, and he is urgent in pressing the Czar's successor to assist him. Even when, writing to his father-in-law, Prince James Sobieski, of Poland, in 1733, he refuses a probable offer of the crown of Poland, he gives, as a reason, that Providence has destined him for another throne. He adds, however, his regret that his second son, the Duke of York (afterwards Henry, Cardinal York), is too young to be elected.

The correspondence of the adherents of the exiled prince with Admiral Gordon is of the same tenor. From the Earl of Mar, writing in 1716, to the writer of the unsigned epistle dated in 1726, each has some scheme for the invasion of Scotland, or for taking advantage of some fancied opening there for the Jacobite cause. Mar's letter refers to a project which at one time caused some alarm among British politicians—the alliance of Russia and Sweden against England on behalf of Prince James Stewart. This scheme was frustrated by the death of Charles XII. in 1719, but others take its place, and equally end in failure.

Besides the correspondence, the other Jacobite papers belonging to Admiral Gordon are of interest. The charges made against Henry St. John, Lord Bolingbroke, are chiefly noteworthy on account of the sarcastic replies made by his lordship. The letter of Francis Atterbury, sometime Bishop of Rochester, addressed to Captain John Hay, of Cromlix, who had been made Lord Inverness, is also full of keen sarcasm directed against Hay's reception into the Roman Catholic Church. The document now reported on is a copy, but as we learn from a letter by the Earl Marischal to his brother, General Keith, in a former Report, copies of the letter were circulated among the Jacobites [9th Report, Part II., p. 222, No. 315]. The papers relating to the "most ancient, the most illustrious, and most noble order of Toboso," reported on in this section, indicate some of the amusements indulged in by the exiled Jacobites.

Besides the letters and papers of a purely Jacobite character, there are several documents relating to Admiral Gordon's own history, and his relations to the Russian Government. He left the British service between 1715 and 1719, and in the latter

year received from Czar Peter the Great a commission as rear-admiral in the Russian fleet. He remained in the Russian service until his death in 1741, although he had asked permission to resign. Several letters to him from the Duke of Liria (grandson of King James VII.) are now reported on, with some of the Admiral's own correspondence, and part of a diary of naval operations in 1734. These were undertaken in connexion with the siege of Dantzic, which was held by French troops and others opposed to the election of Augustus III. as King of Poland. After the fall of Dantzic General James Keith wrote to Admiral Gordon congratulating the latter on the happy success of the expedition.

Among other collections of family muniments in Scotland now under examination by Dr. Fraser, reports upon which will be submitted to Your Majesty in course of time, may be named those of the Duke of Buccleuch, the Duke of Hamilton, the Duke of Athole, the Marquis of Tweeddale, the Earl of Home, the Earl of Haddington, and the Earl of Wemyss.

In Ireland, the work of the Commission has, as hitherto, been efficiently continued by Mr. John T. Gilbert, F.S.A., and reports by him have been prepared on the collections of the Marquis of Ormonde, the Earl of Fingall, the archives of the sees of Dublin and Ossory, of the Jesuits in Ireland and of the municipalities of Waterford and Galway. On these important collections some observations may here be made.

The Marquis of Ormonde.—In this report is included the completion of the Calendar to the unique Registers of Petitions addressed to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, or his deputy, from 1662 to 1669, and now preserved at Kilkenny Castle. Calendars to the first portion of the collection were published with the eighth and ninth Reports of the Commission. The remainder of the petitions are comprised in the present Calendar, and extend from 1666 to 1669. The petitions from May, 1666, to April, 1668, were addressed to the Duke of Ormonde, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. Those dating from May, 1668, to September, 1669, were to the Duke's son, Thomas Earl of Ossory, who, during that period, acted, for the second time, as his deputy in the government of Ireland. These petitions are replete with information of a varied character on many subjects, and, for the times to which they relate, furnish more valuable and interesting materials in illustration of the general and social history of Ireland than have hitherto appeared in print. The portion of the Calendar which contains the petitions to the Earl of Ossory is the only record yet published in connexion with the acts in Ireland of that nobleman, who occupied an eminent position in public affairs both in these countries and on the continent.

Manuscripts of the Earl of Fingall.—This collection contains unpublished writings of high interest relative to the history of

the Roman Catholics of Ireland. Of these manuscripts the most extensive is that entitled "A Light to the Blind, whereby they may see the dethronement of James the Second, King of England, with a brief narrative of his war in Ireland, and of the war between the Emperor and the King of France for the Crown of Spain, A.D. 1711." The work has been ascribed to Nicholas Plunket, member of a family related to that of the Earls of Fingall. It is written in English, and is divided into books, chapters, and sections. Commencing with observations on the change of religion in England and its results, the author, after a retrospect of Irish affairs, describes the career of James II. and narrates various transactions of the times. These include notices of the siege of Londonderry, the state of affairs in different parts of Ireland, the visit of James II. to that country, the battle of the Boyne, the successful defence of Limerick against William III., the battle of Aughrim in 1691, and the subsequent capitulation at Limerick. The author writes as a devoted adherent of James II. and his family, and supplies many details relative to him in France. He also gives a circumstantial account of that King's last illness and death at Saint Germain in 1701. The work furnishes particulars not given by other authors, and is especially valuable as exhibiting the views and hopes entertained by English and Irish adherents of the family of James II. The work does not appear to have been examined by any English historic investigator except Sir James Mackintosh, who intended to have used it in his projected History of the Revolution of 1688 in England, which remained incomplete on his death in 1832. The extracts which Mackintosh made from the manuscript were inspected by Lord Macaulay, who alluded to them in his History. In addition to "Light to the Blind" and the account of the war of the Spanish succession, there are in the collection of Lord Fingall writings in relation to the restoration of the Stuarts, the enactment of penal laws, and other subjects concerning the interests of the Roman Catholics of Ireland. An account in detail of "Light to the Blind," and particulars of other manuscripts in the collection, will be found in the report made on them to the Commission.

Archives of the See of Dublin.—The most ancient extant collection of documents connected with the see of Dublin is that styled "Crede Mihii." It contains writings which range in date from 1178 to the latter part of the thirteenth century, at which period the collection appears to have been made. In addition to instruments specially connected with ecclesiastical affairs, the manuscript contains a considerable number of documents executed by John before he became King of England, and by his successor, Henry III., which are not elsewhere extant. These, and other writings in the collection, afford the most authentic information on the arrangements and relations existing between the Archbishops of Dublin and the Kings of

England, in the early stages of the Anglo-Norman settlement in Ireland. The collection also contains the only copies extant of documents of high interest in relation to Henri, Archbishop of Dublin. He, it may be observed, had been Archdeacon of Stafford, and, while Archbishop of Dublin, took an active part in the affairs of England during the reign of King John. In the "Magna Charta," his name appears next to that of Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury. Hitherto this archiepiscopal collection has been comparatively unknown, except through references to it in the works of Primate Ussher and Sir James Ware, in the seventeenth century. By these erudite investigators it was regarded as the most ancient of its class connected with Ireland. Its contents are now, for the first time, made accessible to the public through the calendar which has been completed for the Commission.

Archives of the See of Ossory.—Next in importance to the records of the archiepiscopal see of Dublin are those of the ancient diocese of Ossory. The chief of these documents which have survived are extant in the "Red Book of Ossory." This manuscript derives additional interest from its associations with Richard de Lederede, or Ledred, Bishop of Ossory, who was prominently engaged in the prosecution of Dame Alice Kiterel and others for witchcraft and sorcery in 1324. The "Red Book" contains the acts of the synod held by Bishop de Lederede for the regulation of his diocese. In it is also a series of Latin verses, or hymns, composed by the Bishop. These, according to the manuscript, were intended by him to be substituted by ecclesiastics for songs then in use. In addition to the writings especially connected with Bishop de Lederede, the "Red Book" contains taxations of the diocese of Ossory and other documents relating to that see; acts of Dublin synods; ordinances by Parliaments in England and Ireland; verses in French; a treatise on aqua-vitae, its virtues, and effects. The "Red Book of Ossory" was referred to by Sir James Ware as one of the chief authorities consulted by him in the preparation of some of his works. An account of the manuscript and its contents will now appear for the first time.

Archives of Jesuits in Ireland.—The documents reported on extending from 1576 to 1698, consist of original letters and papers, mostly in Latin. The earliest letter is that written in 1576 by James Fitz Maurice, who fell in an abortive movement in Ireland against Queen Elizabeth. The next in point of date is that from Cardinal Bellarmine in 1600. The letters of the first half of the seventeenth century in this collection are addressed to Generals of the Jesuits by Roman Catholic prelates of Ireland; by O'Donnell, Earl of Tirconnell; the Earl of Glamorgan; and the Supreme Council of the Irish Confederation. In the second half of the seventeenth century, the letters include those of Peter Talbot, Roman Catholic Archbishop of

Dublin, from Cologne and Paris; of Oliver Plunket, Roman Catholic Primate of Ireland, written in Italian; and of James II., in French, relative to the Irish College at Rome. Among the papers are addresses to Popes Clement VIII. and Innocent X. from Irish Roman Catholics; narrations of affairs in Ireland; a treatise addressed to James I. by Peter Lombard, Roman Catholic Primate of Ireland; and a code of rules for the Irish College at Salamanca.

Municipal Archives of Waterford.—These muniments extend from the twelfth to the eighteenth century. Waterford is known to have been a port of considerable importance before 1171, when it was selected by Henry II. as his landing-place in Ireland. During succeeding centuries it was one of the chief trade centres in the west of Europe, and its citizens were noted for their adherence to the government of England, from which they received many valuable concessions. An unique and most important series of the Waterford records is that now reported on, in which are comprised acts and statutes made by the Mayors and commonalty of Waterford from the fourteenth to the seventeenth century. There are, in addition, particulars of ancient customs, continued within the city and its franchises "time out of mind;" regulations for elections of Mayors and officials; tables of court fees and port duties; incorporations of trade-guilds; and details of transactions between Waterford and the representatives of the English government in Ireland. The collection also contains a series of acts of Mayors and Bailiffs of Waterford, with the names of persons admitted to the freedom of the city. These records will be found of the highest value for illustrating social and commercial history, throwing light on the system of administration of municipal affairs, as well as on the regulations under which the operations of commerce, domestic and foreign, were carried on in past ages. The Waterford Archives have never been used for historical purposes, and until now no calendar has been published to any portion of them.

Municipal Archives of Galway.—These documents, although analogous to those of Waterford, differ from them in most points. They commence in the fifteenth century, and are the sole surviving writings which supply authentic information on the civic, commercial, and social arrangements in past times of the chief town in the western province of Ireland. The arrangements were the more peculiar as, owing to the geographical position of Galway, the internal administration of the town was, to a great extent, beyond the immediate control of the English government at Dublin. These records exhibit details of the arrangements by which the Galway authorities legislated for the civic community within their walls, and regulated transactions with the occasionally hostile people of the adjacent districts as well as with traders from England and the continent.

The only calendar which has ever been prepared to any portion of these interesting archives is that executed for the Commission.

In addition to the preceding, there are other reports in progress on important collections in Ireland, of which particulars will be given hereafter.

ESHER (L.S.).	CARLINGFORD (L.S.)
LOTHIAN (L.S.)	EDMOND FITZMAURICE (L.S.)
SALISBURY (L.S.)	CHARLES LIMERICK (L.S.)
BATH (L.S.)	ACTON (L.S.)
ROSEBERY (L.S.)	GEORGE WEBBE DASENT (L.S.)
CARNARVON (L.S.)	WILLIAM HARDY (L.S.)

JOHN ROMILLY,
Secretary.

J. J. CARTWRIGHT,
Assistant Secretary.

ROLLS HOUSE, LONDON,
August, 1885.