

THE BUCHANAN COUNTRY

At its south-eastern angle, the loch receives the waters of the Endrick, from a lovely valley celebrated in the song "Sweet Ennerdale", or "The Gallant Grahams". The river separates Dunbartonshire from Stirlingshire, and its mouth, formerly farther to the west, gave the name of Aber to the district already mentioned. The wild and secluded region about its present mouth is notable for its variety of bird-life, among the richest in the country.

Several great families have had their seat on these river banks. Drymen was the original home of the Drummonds, descended, it is said, from a Hungarian who came into the country in the train of the Saxon princess Margaret, the destined queen of Malcolm Canmore. They took their name from the place Druman, the plural of *drum*, a rising ground. Later, in 1282, the first of the Chiefs of the Buchanan Clan obtained from the Earl of Lennox a charter of the lands on the eastern side of the loch from the Endrick northward, along with the island of Clairinch, the name of which became the Buchanan slogan or battle-cry. Of

that clan, the most notable scion was the famous Latinist, George Buchanan. Another was Buchanan of Auchmar, an estate on the slope of the Conic Hill which ends at Balmaha, whose history of his own and other clans is one of the most authentic records of the Highlands. In 1682, the Buchanan lands were purchased by the grandson of the Great Marquess of Montrose, whose son was created a duke in 1707.

The Dukes of Montrose had their seat at the plain old Buchanan House by the Endrick here, till it was burned about 1870 and the present Buchanan Castle was built. One of these dukes, in the early years of the nineteenth century, was bringing home his bride. As they crossed Drymen Bridge, he pointed out her future home, and, much to his surprise, as she looked she burst into tears. In great concern he inquired the cause. It was so bare a place, she said, and such a contrast to the lovely wooded country from which she had come. Next day, the Duke sent for the greatest landscape gardener of the time, "Capability" Brown, and gave him *carte blanche* to lay out policies and plant the valley with trees. As a result, the valley about the Endrick mouth to-day is one of the most beautiful sylvan demesnes in Scotland. A special feature are certain woods on the high, sloping country above the castle. These appear from the distance in the form of the three great schiltrums, or circular bodies

of troops which comprised the Scottish army under Sir William Wallace at the Battle of Falkirk in 1298, when Sir John the Graham, the heroic ancestor of the Dukes of Montrose, was slain.

Besides Buchanan House, the chiefs of the name had a stronghold on Stracashel Point, farther up the loch. The parish, however, was originally known, not as Buchanan, but as Inch Cailleach, the ancient kirk and burying-ground being situated on the beautiful island of that name, off Balmaha. Originally the island itself took its name, the Isle of Women, from the religious house founded there by Kentigerna, the mother of St. Fillan, and till a recent period it was the most sacred burying-place of the clansmen of the loch shores. As already mentioned, the tombstone is still to be seen there which covers an ancestor of Rob Roy.

The present roadway at Balmaha is not the pass through which the famous cateran was wont to drive his stolen cattle. This is to be seen cleaving the mountain barrier higher and farther eastward. In Rob Roy's time this was regarded as one of the main gateways of the Highlands, and during the Jacobite rising of 1715 the Duke of Argyll kept a garrison at Drymen to control it. Even when his herds were safely through the pass, Macgregor had a good many miles to go through the country of the Duke of Montrose before he reached his own patrimony of Craigroyston, along

the rocky foot of Ben Lomond and about Inversnaid. As he had absconded with various sums of money lent by the Duke of Montrose, the latter caused his property at Inversnaid to be legally attached, and, resenting the rigour with which his wife and family had been treated by the military on that occasion, when his house of Craigroyston was burned, Rob took to a sort of war on his former patron. Notably he seized the Duke's factor, who was no less a personage than Graham of Killearn, Sheriff-Substitute of Dunbartonshire, along with certain rents he had just collected, and his books and papers. The captive was confined first in a cave, known as Rob Roy's Prison, still to be seen in the rocks of Craigroyston between Rowardennan and Inversnaid, and then on an island in Loch Katrine. After about a week, as the Duke would pay no ransom, Graham was allowed to go, with his books and bills, but without his cash. To stop such lawlessness, at the Duke's suggestion, in 1713 a fort was built at Inversnaid, regarding which a tradition exists that Captain James Wolfe, afterwards the conqueror of Quebec, once was the commander. But Macgregor evaded all attempts at capture, and died at last in his bed at Inverlocharig in Balquhiddy about the year 1740.

Rob's three sons, James, Duncan, and Robin Oig, for a time carried on their father's business of cateran, but their career was brought to an end by an act which

could not be tolerated. Robin Oig's wife, a daughter of Graham of Drunkie, having died, the brothers plotted to make their fortunes by securing an heiress for him. On a December night in 1750, they beset the house of Edinbelly near Balfron, overpowered the male inmates, and carried off a rich young widow, Jean Kay or Wright. Bringing her to Rowardennan, they put her through a form of irregular marriage with Robin Oig. Their father had carried off his wife, Helen, in a similar fashion, and no doubt the brothers thought they had done a fine thing; but the Government decided that the achievement was now an anachronism. The three Macgregors were captured; James escaped from Edinburgh Castle, Duncan was dismissed, and Robin Oig was hanged. Strangely enough, Jean Kay herself to the last refused to prosecute.

It is worth noting how, more vivid than the actual historic events—the burning of Macgregor's house of Craigroyston, or the capture of his son Robin Oig at Inversnaid—seems to-day the scene described by Sir Walter Scott, of Rob Roy bidding farewell here to his kinsman, the pawky and cautious, but kind and stout-hearted Bailie Nicol Jarvie. Some seventy years later, occurred the visit of Wordsworth, his sister Dorothy, and the visionary Coleridge. They got their clothes dried after a wet day, then parted company, Coleridge to go home “in a kind of huff”; while Wordsworth was

to immortalize the Highland girl whom he saw reaping and singing amid the lovely surroundings of "the lake, the bay, the waterfall". Sixty years later, Alexander Smith, the Glasgow poet, reached Inversnaid, wet and weary after a three days' tramp, and at night by the chimney nook in the inn wrote his sonnet on "Wordsworth's Inversneyd". But still it is the figure of "the bold Rob Roy" which dominates the scene.

THE COLQUHOUN COUNTRY

The traveller leaving Balloch for Luss to-day, on one of the handsome little steamers which ply to the head of the loch, has his interest attracted by a succession of picturesque mansions—surely, for situation, among their beautiful wooded parks, with the hill-sides rising behind, and the lovely islanded waters of the loch below, among the most delectable dwelling-places in the kingdom. Each of these has some literary, historic, or other interest.

Tullichewan or Tully-Colquhoun has already been mentioned. Originally, from its name, a Colquhoun possession, it belonged in 1543 to a member of the great Dennistoun family, Patrick Dennistoun of Dalvait. A century later it was acquired by Alexander, third son of Sir John Colquhoun of Luss, by Lady Lillas Graham, sister of the famous Marquess of Montrose. When Sir Humphrey Colquhoun of Luss died in 1718 without male issue, the Tullichewan family came to represent the male line of the Colquhouns, with curious results to be detailed later.

Cameron, on the loch-side a mile farther north, was

also an ancient possession of the Dennistouns. In 1612 it was acquired from Walter Dennistoun of Colgrain by Sir Alexander Colquhoun of Luss, who disposed of it as a feu. In 1696 the feu was purchased by Donald Govan, the "Old Admiral" of *Humphry Clinker*, and in 1763 Commissary James Smollett of Bonhill became its possessor. There he entertained his cousin, Tobias Smollett, in 1766, and Dr. Samuel Johnson in 1773. On his death it was inherited, with the Bonhill estate, by Tobias Smollett's sister Jane, wife of Alexander Telfer of Scotston, and from that time its owners have been her descendants, Telfer-Smolletts.

Auchendennan, the next mansion and estate, is the only one retaining the name of the three ancient Auchendennans—

Auchendennan Lindsay and Auchendennan Righ
And Auchendennan Dennistoun, the best of the three.

Once, as its name implies, a part of the royal hunting demesne formed by Robert the Bruce when he lived at Cardross, and afterwards a church possession of Dunbarton, Auchendennan-Righ was feued about the time of Flodden to one of the Dennistouns, Andrew of Cardross, whose descendants held it for a hundred years. For another hundred years it was owned by the Napiers of Kilmahew, a branch of the famous family which inherited a fourth of the Lennox. Early in the nineteenth century a Glasgow merchant, William

Rouet, built on the rising ground an Italian villa which he named Belretiro, and which was replaced later by George Martin, another Glasgow merchant, with the present mansion of Auchendennan.

Next along the shore, Auchenheglish, the "Field of the Kirk", takes its name from an ancient chapel which the clergy of Dunbarton built on their property here. There is a tradition that the kirk stood on ground now covered by the waters of the loch. A perch off the shore marks the spot. During periods of drought a heap of stones appears above the surface, and wrought wood is said to have been taken off the roof as recently as the year 1760 by Thomas Nairn of Balloch. The existing mansion was built by Mr. Brock, first manager of the Clydesdale Bank.

Still farther north, the lands of Auchendennan-Dennistoun, with the Colquhoun property of Bannachra behind, were purchased in 1770 by a Glasgow merchant, George Buchanan, who changed the name of the estate to Arden. About 1860 this was acquired by Sir James Lumsden, Lord Provost of Glasgow, who built the present stately residence on the spot.

The old castle of Bannachra, the ruin of which stands on the rising ground in the mouth of Glenfruin behind, was in 1592 the scene of a tragic incident. In one of the feuds of the time, Sir Humphrey, chief of the Colquhouns, was beset by his enemies here. His

servant was induced to betray him, and in lighting him up a stair so shone a candle on him as to make him a mark for those outside, who shot him with an arrow through a loophole. The deed has been blamed upon the Macgregors and Macfarlanes, but in Birrell's *Diary* it is stated that on "Nov. 30 John Cachoune was beheidit at the Crosse of Edinburghe for murthuring of his auen brother, the Laird of Lusse", and as it was not John Colquhoun but the next brother Alexander who succeeded Sir Humphrey, Birrell's statement seems to point to the truth.

This Sir Alexander, who succeeded, was the chief who took part, eleven years later, in the conflict with the Macgregors, known as the battle of Glenfruin. The ruin of Bannachra overlooks the scene. According to the Macgregors the feud was caused by the Colquhoun Chief hanging two Macgregors who had stolen and suppered off a sheep, though they afterwards offered to pay for it. There is evidence, however, that Clan Gregor was really set on by the Earl of Argyll, who was Colquhoun's bitter enemy. Some three hundred were engaged on each side, but Alastair Macgregor, more practised in war than his opponent, divided his forces, attacked the Colquhouns in front and rear, and soon threw them into confusion. He pursued them to the gates of Rossdhu, and slew a hundred and forty of them, while he himself lost only

two followers, including his brother John. Sir Walter Scott, in *The Lady of the Lake*, curiously antedates the conflict by putting into the mouths of the boatmen of Roderick Dhu, some sixty years before it took place, a song of triumph on the subject:

Proudly our pibroch has thrilled in Glen Fruin,
And Bannochar's groans to our slogan replied;
Glen Luss and Rosisdhu, they are smoking in ruin,
And the best of Loch Lomond lie dead on her side.
Widow and Saxon maid
Long shall lament our raid,
Think of Clan Alpin with fear and with woe;
Lennox and Leven-glen
Shake when they hear again
Roderich Vich-Alpin Dhu, ho! ieroe!

But the Macgregors themselves had, after all, the most fearful cause to lament the exploit. They followed up their victory by burning and ravishing the whole lands of Luss, and one of them, Dugald Ciar Mhor of Glengyle, set to watch a party of schoolboys who had come from Dunbarton to see the fight, cut short his charge by slaying them all. When Alastair his chief met him rushing to the plunder, and asked what he had done with the students, Dugald held up his bloody dirk and said: "Ask that!"

Such deeds were bound to bring retribution. A band of sixty Colquhoun widows paraded before James VI at Stirling with their husbands' bloody shirts on poles, and the horrified King gave instant orders for the punishment of Clan Gregor. Their houses were

burned, their name was proscribed, and they were hunted like wild beasts in the hills. A year later Alastair Macgregor himself was betrayed by Argyll. The Earl undertook to convey him safely out of Scotland, fulfilled the letter of his promise by carrying him to Berwick, then arrested him, and brought him back to Edinburgh where he was tried, condemned, and executed. Assuredly Clan Gregor had ample reason to curse the hour in which "the black wedder with the white tail was ever lambled". Scott has put their resentment with vigour into another of his songs, "Macgregor's Gathering":

Through the depths of Loch Katrine the steed shall career,
O'er the peak of Ben Lomond the galley shall steer,
And the rocks of Craig-Royston like icicles melt,
Ere our wrongs be forgot or our vengeance unfelt!

The ruin of the old castle of Rosdhu still stands beside the modern mansion of the name on the loch-side. Among those who have been entertained within its walls was Mary Queen of Scots, who paid a special visit here and stayed over night on 15th July, 1563.

The owners of the old tower date their origin from Humphrey of Kilpatrick, who acquired the barony of Colquhoun on Clydeside in the reign of Alexander II and built the stronghold of Dunglass Castle there. His great-grandson, Sir Robert, married the heiress of Luss, and his great-grandson again, Sir John Col-

quhoun, was Chamberlain of Scotland, Sheriff of Dunbartonshire, and Governor of Dunbarton Castle for James III. One chief married a daughter of the first Darnley Earl of Lennox, and another a sister of the Great Marquess of Montrose. The last-named was made a baronet of Nova Scotia by Charles I, absconded with his wife's sister, Lady Catherine Graham, and by his wild living brought the fortunes of his family to the verge of ruin.

The senior male line of the Colquhouns ended with the fourteenth chief, Sir Humphrey Colquhoun, M.P., who died in 1718. He entailed the Luss estates on his daughter Anne and her husband James, son of the Laird of Grant, and since that day the Colquhouns of Luss have been really Grants by the male descent. In 1786 trouble arose over the baronetcy, which could not have its destiny altered like the estates, and had actually passed to Colquhoun of Tullichewan, and a new patent was granted to Sir James Colquhoun. It was he who built the present mansion of Rossshu, and who founded Helensburgh on the Gareloch and named it after his wife, a daughter of Lord Strathnaver, son of the Earl of Sutherland. More recently the family has distinguished itself in the literary world. John Colquhoun, grandfather of the present baronet, was the noted sportsman who wrote *The Moor and the Loch*, and one of his daughters is Mrs. Walford, author of many charming novels.

One of the most memorable tragedies of Loch Lomond occurred on a December day in 1873. Sir James Colquhoun, the fourth baronet, was returning from Inch Lonaig, the Colquhoun deer island, with his keepers and a load of venison for distribution to the people on the estate. From Luss the boat was seen to pass behind Inch Connachan on its way to Rossdhu, and neither it nor Sir James himself was ever seen again.

The ruined chapel near Rossdhu, in which the Colquhouns are buried, dates from the beginning of the twelfth century, a hundred years before Alwyn, second Earl of Lennox, granted the estate of Luss to his kinsman Maldowen, Dean of Lennox, ancestor of the original Luss family. Older yet are the memories of the rude stone figure preserved at Rossdhu, which represents St. Kessog, the patron saint of the parish. A stone coffin, believed to be that of the holy man, was dug up many years ago in the village kirkyard at Luss itself. Another stone coffin, unearthed at the same time, was believed to be that of a certain Baroness M'Auslan, wife of a noted leader at the siege of Tournay. On her death in France her body was brought home and buried in Luss kirkyard, and from the fleurs-de-luce strewn on her coffin plants grew up. These proved efficacious in staying a pestilence then raging, and from them the parish is said to have taken its name.

Luss village by the loch-side, at the foot of its mountain glen, is one of the prettiest in Scotland. It was mostly rebuilt in the latter half of the nineteenth century, and with its rustic cottages covered with roses and tropæolum all summer long, is an altogether ideal spot.

THE ISLANDS

When Wordsworth tried to depreciate the beauty of Loch Lomond by comparison with the smaller waters of the English Lake District, there is reason to believe that he did not sufficiently take into account the many islands which strew its surface with their sylvan loveliness. Of these islands there are some thirty-three, from mile-long domains like Inch Murren and Inch Cailleach, to mere spots of greenery like Aber Island and the Isle of Vou. An ancient jingle credits Loch Lomond with possession of "a wave without a wind, a fish without a fin, and a floating island". Of these marvels no satisfactory data has been furnished, though there are waves without wind at every burn mouth, and, apart from the oaken crannog said to have been built by Keith Macandoll, the contemporary of Fingal, there are masses of water weed that float to the surface in certain seasons, like the lovely white-blossoming ranunculus in Balmaha bay, and rafts of timber from the islands used frequently to be floated down the Leven. As for the "fish", it may have been an adder or an eel—schools of immense eels have sometimes been seen

sunning themselves in the sandy shallows off the Endrick's mouth; or the reference may be a corrupted allusion to the "powan", or fresh-water herring, which is peculiar to Loch Lomond and one or two other waters, like Lough Neagh in Ireland.

In early times the islands of Loch Lomond were probably used as places of security. In the year 1263 they are said to have been full of people when Hakon of Norway, by way of quickening negotiations with Alexander III, detached Olaf of Man with sixty ships from his fleet in Millport Bay, and sent him up Loch Long. The narrow neck of land between Arrochar and Loch Lomond probably got its name of Tarbet, or the Boat Pass, from Olaf's enterprise. It was a fearful day for these inland shores when Olaf dragged his ships over that two-mile rise, launched them on Loch Lomond, and swept the islands, and all the Lennox eastward and southward, with sword and fire. In that fierce slaughter and conflagration the little nunnery on Inch Cailleach, founded in the seventh century by Kentigerna, mother of St. Fillan, must have gone down in blood and smoke, as well as the monastery on Inch Tavanach, the hermitage on Eilean Vou, and little chapels such as those at Glenmollachan and Rossthru on the eastern shore and Shenagles in Kilmaronock.

The islands of Loch Lomond, however, still continued to be used for retreat and defence. We have

seen how the Duchess Isabella in 1425 retired to the stronghold of the Earls of Lennox on Inch Murren; the Macfarlane chiefs had strongholds on the island of Inveruglas and on Eilean Vou; and the Galbraiths had a castle on the islet south of the Straits of Luss which bears their name.

Like the Dennistouns, these Galbraiths were at one time a powerful race which played a noted part in the destinies of the Lennox. The chartulary of the earlier Earls of Lennox shows many grants of lands to the Galbraith chiefs in the early part of the thirteenth century. In 1443, when the arrogance of the Earls of Douglas was beginning to set itself up against the authority of the Crown, Patrick Galbraith, as a partisan of the Douglasses, took possession of Dunbarton Castle. He was driven out by Sir Robert Sempill, the Deputy-Governor and Deputy Sheriff of the county, but returned next day with a stronger force, captured the fortress, slew Sempill, and made himself governor. In 1563 Robert Galbraith of Garscadden was summoned, with Archbishop Hamilton and forty-seven others, for assisting at the celebration of Mass in the chapel of his own house. Thirty years later Robert Galbraith of Culcreuch was reported to the Privy Council as bearing "haitrent and malice" against Alexander Colquhoun of Luss, a man on each side having been slain in the feud between them. The Galbraiths, in

fact, seem to have had a fatal tendency to espouse a losing cause, and to this may be attributed their downfall. Many of their names still live on the shores of Loch Lomond, but the stronghold of the ancient chiefs on Inch Galbraith has long been a picturesque ruin.

Other interests associated with the islands are the facts that Clairinch, near Balmaha, which was the first possession of the Buchanan chiefs in the district, furnished the slogan, or battle-cry, of that clan, and that the yew trees on Inch Lonaig, opposite Luss, are said to have been originally planted by King Robert the Bruce, to furnish bows for the Scottish archers. Whether or not the earlier Scottish patriot ever found refuge there, the name of Wallace's Isle is still given to an islet in the northern part of the loch, and—a relic of different sort—on Eilean Vou still grows an early-flowering species of daffodil, probably cultivated in a bygone century by the priest of the chapel there for the Easter decoration of his altar.

In addition to their associations, however, the islands of Loch Lomond are endowed with a perennial natural charm. Nothing, surely, could be lovelier in its way than the winding narrows between Inch Tavanach and Inch Conachan known as the Straits of Luss.

While most of the islands, and all the larger ones, lie in the lower and wider part of the loch where the depth is only some sixty feet, no little part of the beauty of

the upper waters, where the loch, under Ben Lomond, is narrowest and deepest—612 feet—and the banks are steepest and wildest, is owed to the rocky islets which rise from its surface. This is indeed the most romantic part of Loch Lomond. Thus, at any rate, it seems to have impressed Wordsworth, who made Eilean Vou the scene of his poems, "The Brownie" and "The Brownie's Cell".

Wordsworth painted his brownie as a Covenanting refugee, but the real object of the tradition of the spot was more probably one of the wild Uruisgs. In his *Traditions of Arrochar and Tarbet and the Clan MacFarlane* the Rev. H. S. Winchester recounts the legend. The wife of a MacFarlane chief who lived in the stronghold on Eilean Vou being unable to nurse her son, MacFarlane carried off the wife of the Uruisg who lived on the mainland close by, and installed her as foster-mother. The Uruisg resented this forcible abduction, and the story of his revenge and its consequences is one of the wildest tragedies of Loch Lomond's shores.